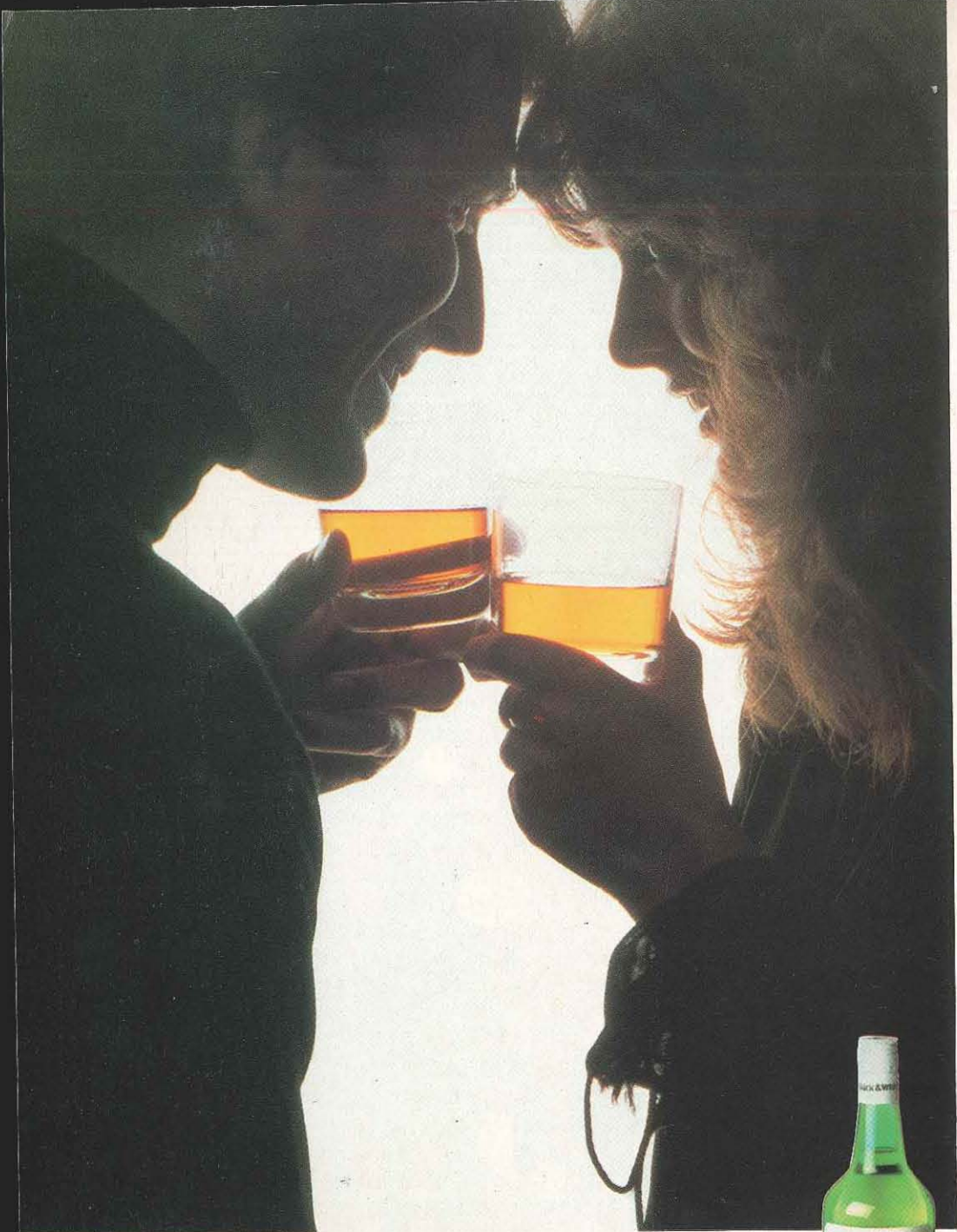


OUTPOST

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB

APRIL 1981





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Vice-Chairman: Mr. A.J. Phillips

Hon Treasurer: Mr. R. Barrett

Outpost Vol. II No. 14 April 1981

With the "hot" (are there others?) season virtually upon us now, patronage at the Poolside increased noticeably during March. The new Thai Sala is proving a worthwhile addition to the Club's facilities - already it's hard to imagine ourselves without it. Plans are in hand to improve facilities at the new bar.

This edition features a beautifully written article by Ingrid Baldwin which illustrates her experiences during a visit to the hilltribes of the north. I'm sure this will be of interest to many members. "Camus" is back with another musical "critique" and an information page is included showing of some regular BBC radio programmes.

The "Queen of Cross-words", Margaret Miller points out that we omitted to black out two squares in last month's puzzle. Sorry! But as Margaret says we have to make it a little more difficult on occasions in view of our offering a bottle of wine as a prize for the first correct entry opened. Submissions to the Editor please - either by mail or pinned to the notice board.

Our "Candid Camera" proved popular so some more photographs this month and a sketch of one of our better known bar frequenters!

Finally - I've been allowed/forced to do this job for another 12 months (massive popular acclaim by Members at the AGM!!) Wellyou've asked for it....!!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

NEW MEMBERS:

The following were elected to membership of the Club in March 1981:

Ordinary

Mr. W.S. Adams	Louis Berger Int.
Mr. J. Greenwood	Transmission Eng. Co.
Mr. P.T. Hodgson	Dulmison (T) Co. Ltd.
Mr. J. Kelly	Seasonplan Co. Ltd.
Mr. E. Maleham	ESCAP
Mr. I.A. Moore	British Embassy
Lt Col D.G. Pagan	British Embassy
Mr. S.R. Prentice	Deemar Company Ltd.
Mr. K.E. Sigrist	World Bank
Mr. P.R. Tyrrie	Rama Tower Hotel

The following was invited to become an Associate Member:

Mr. Joti Bhokavanij East Asiatic Co. (T)

* * * * *

At the end of March, some members of the British Women's Group received - by mail - one of those nasty circulars asking the recipient to copy it 20 times and send it to 20 other people within 4 days!! This particular one was especially obnoxious as it was in the form of a religious tract and intimated that if the instructions were not carried out, the person concerned could suffer illness or even death. Some of the ladies were, quite naturally, upset and some were just plain angry.

Ladies - if you are superstitious, send the 20 copies to Outpost. We know what to do with rubbish like that!!

Articles, drawings, letters, suggestions, ideas, or contributions of any description are invited from anyone.

All material, for the May issue must reach the office by 21 April.

Editor : Norman Musgrave 317 7001

CLUB EVENTS

April

Sat 4 - Grand National Pub Night
Mon 6 - Chakri Day
Tue 7 - Committee Meeting (New Members 5.00-6.00 p.m.)
Mon 13 - Songkran (Thai New Year)
Fri 17 - Good Friday
Tue 21 - HM Queen Elizabeth II's Birthday
(Cocktail Party at Club)

May

Fri 1 - Labour Day
Tue 5 - Coronation Day
Committee Meeting (New Members 5.00-6.00 p.m.)
Mon 18 - Visaka Budha Day
Tue 19 - Committee Meeting (New Members 5.00-6.00 p.m.)

June

Tue 2 - Committee Meeting (New Members 5.00-6.00 p.m.)
Tue 16 - Committee Meeting (New Members 5.00-6.00 p.m.)

JUMBLE SALE

On Wednesday April 15th we are holding a jumble sale in aid of the refugees, if your maids and drivers would like to come along, send them with a letter of permission to the Chartered Bank Compound, Wireless Road at 9.00 o'clock. All are welcome.

FLY

The General Committee met on the evenings of 3rd and 17th March. The New Members Night on 3rd March was the last one in its present form as candidates now follow the procedure approved at the recent EGM by meeting committee members individually over a 90-day period during which they may use the Club as Temporary Members.

During the month, Committee work included discussion on the various sub-committee reports, the Manager's report, the review of both the Clubhouse and Poolside suggestion books, the 1980 accounts, hallway construction and AGM preparation.

Reports were received from several members who indicated that they felt the standard of food in the dining room had risen appreciably over the past few weeks.

Concern has been expressed over the increasing congestion in the Silom Soi. This is a public right of way and, as such, should be cleared of parked vehicles, vendors, charcoal sellers etc. The Club's legal advisors have now received instructions from the Committee to try to get the matter resolved as quickly as possible.

Always with an eye to economy, the Committee has sold some old unusable billiard cues to a model yacht builder.

We intend to keep a stock of darts at the new reception counter in the lobby. These will be issued to Members against signatures on the same basis as towels at the Poolside. The Darts sub-section has advised as to type of darts, quantities etc.

A pay-phone will soon be installed in the lobby.

Following complaints from Members, the Club has switched its purchases of soda-water from F & N to Boonrawd.

And lastly....the Club intends to hold a party on 21st April to celebrate the Queen's Birthday. More details later but put the date in your diary now.

Children's Activities

Scottish Dancing will commence again on Monday 27th April 1981 at 2.30 p.m.

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Aa	Ford Escort 1300L 5-door Hatchback	53.50	69.00	60.50	55.00	
B	Ford Cortina 1600L saloon	56.00	73.00	66.00	60.00	
C	Ford Cortina 1600L Estate car	64.00	80.00	72.00	65.50	
D	Ford Granada 2.8 G.L. Automatic saloon	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	

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Brochures with full details, reservation forms etc. are available at the office of the British Club.

Letters

Dear Sir,

J-Alice-Spring's letter about Club staff arriving by taxi was witty, and offensive. The fact that the staff arrived in comfort - if that is the way to describe taxis in Bangkok - was counted an injury and the 30 Bt. fare an insult. Your correspondent suggested further that sweaty staff could take a dip in the klong on arrival.

There are many things about the British Club in need of reform: principally the Club's eccentric attitude towards women, also the hegemony of children around the pool. But the staff for the most part are exemplary, and the service they provide at private functions and in-house is something the Club can be proud of. I believe in general that they should be paid more and treated better. Jokes at their expense are not called for. As for 'J-Alice-Springs' and his or her diplomatic klong, a good ducking would be an appropriate remedy.

Yours faithfully,

Tim Butchard (B82)

My sentiments precisely! The paraphrasing was mine as the original letter was not intended by the writer for publication. I did try, however, to illustrate the rather unreasonable (in my opinion) attitude and I'm glad you agree....(Ed.)

Letters continued

Dear Sir,

USEFUL TIPS/HELP!

Over lunch yesterday we were discussing ways and means of finding or compensating for bits and pieces that are not readily available in Thailand.

The suggestion was made, not by me, that your columns might be used as a clearing house for passing on useful information and for seeking help to find "the impossible". If my wife and I might set the ball rolling:-

Useful Tips

GRAPEFRUIT SODA: For Owners of "Soda Stream" systems. If you want a non-sweet variant to the patented syrups that Soda Stream supply.

A tea-spoonful of 'Tang' grapefruit crystals straight into the bottle. Top up with water to the line. Squirt away. A funnel is useful to get the crystals into the bottle!

Yes, I'm right. Put the 'Tang' in before adding water and squirting. It won't go all over the place.

"APPLE" SAUCE FOR PORK DISHES AND PIES, ETC.: Acquire one un-ripe green papaya. Peel, depip and chop. Put in saucepan. Squeeze in half a medium sized Lime with enough water to cover plus a bit -- about an inch over the top. Bring to boil then simmer for about an hour to right consistency. Add sugar to taste after cooking. Difficult isn't it? Must admit this is not an original. It was a tip I picked up.

HELP (1)! Where can I buy a TENON SAW and a 45 wood metre block?

HELP (2)! Where can you get Soda Stream Cylinders recharged -- cheaply?

If there is a good response to the Tips and queries are answered a file might be kept with a view to publishing a booklet in due course.

Yours faithfully,

(J.B. Mattinson) - M68

Thanks James - some ideas from other Members please! - Ed.



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Letters continued

Dear Sir,

We, the minors of the British Club must raise a complaint about the lack of facilities for playing, at the British Club.

All that we have is a couple of swings and a creaky roundabout that hardly goes round.

"We" want a cyclone, a roller-coaster and a big wheel (all free of charge of course).

I hope that my comments will be considered as something serious.

Yours faithfully,

Junior Q.

Are there any other of our younger members who have any comments to make about the British Club. Do write in and tell us, if so.

Leave Flat in London

A garden flat in SW6 is available for rent for any period from one week to 6 months.

Buses and underground are three minutes walk away. There is free parking outside the flat.

The smaller of the two bedrooms is currently occupied by a (Thai) housekeeper, who will cook, clean and launder if required. He could also vacate the flat, if necessary, during the period of the let.

Rent: £60 - £85 per week depending on season, length of let etc. Payable in sterling or baht.

For further details contact:

Rupert Russell-Cobb - 234 0247

234 2592

OVERNIGHT IN A HILLTRIBE VILLAGE

IN THE NORTH OF THAILAND

Text by Ingrid Baldwin

The Bangkok train to Chiang Mai leaves at six every evening and arrives at seven o'clock the following morning. I travelled with one girlfriend in a double-berth air-conditioned compartment, while our other girlfriend took the second class sleeper with ceiling fans. We spent the whole evening eating Thai food and drinking the strong local beer in the restaurant car and thoroughly enjoyed the sociable atmosphere which existed between the Thais and the "farangs".

When we stepped off the train in Chiang Mai we sensed immediately quite a drop in temperature and humidity. It was February and in the North the temperature can go down to almost zero degrees celsius at night.

We were received at the station by our guide Khun Opas. He is a one of the fortunate few members of the hill-tribes who received an education. With him was his young cousin. Khun Opas' warm boyish smile made us feel safe and trustful, and besides that, his English was excellent.

After a good egg breakfast we boarded a "chicken bus" (the village folk transport almost everything in these buses) and headed in the direction of Chiang Rai a small town 175 km. further north. After a rather careless and dangerous 70 km. drive we stopped on the main road and prepared ourselves for our first walk to the Moo Sir Dum Village.

To carry a heavy rucksack and a sleeping bag for about 2 hours in the midday sun is quite an experience. We trekked uphill of course and there wasn't much to do except to admire the forest around us.

The Lahu-Shele tribe villagers we approached are some of the estimated 250,000 (or even more) hilltribe people, who emigrated from China, Tibet, Burma or Laos and prefer to live in the deep jungles and northern mountains and valleys. Such tribes are the Meo, the Lahu, the Karen, and the Yao to name just a few.

Surrounded by the high trees of the forest, the village suddenly appeared. About 50 small hard wood houses and simple bamboo huts on stilts with palmleaf and grass roofs glimmered in the afternoon sun. I felt the immense peace that reigns in the hills and mountains. We were greeted by the children who reached us first and who know the guide from previous visits. The villagers with their suntanned round faces (the Burmese and Tibet heritage is obvious) looked at us in a friendly way and the large family we were going to stay with for two nights greeted us with warm smiles (they had visitors before and were accustomed to our looks). Each hilltribe wears colorful clothing and speaks a different dialect, which is mostly unwritten.

Here we admired their beautiful home-made black and white gowns and skirts with its neat embroidery. The women's hair is turned into simple knots, while a few of the children's heads are shaven leaving a bunch of hair in the centre of the head. This is a fashion of some hill tribes. They might think that we have funny hair styles, too!

The well received lunch our guide prepared for us (almost all the ingredients had been brought up from Chiang Mai) was basic Thai food, but very tasty. All the dishes were served on the floor. We were given Chinese spoons and bowls while the villagers ate directly from their serving dishes and used their hands. The villagers live from mountain rice, chillies, vegetables and add pork, chicken or fish as in this more wealthy village. Some poorer tribes are a group of forest dwellers and live a very nomadic life. They go hunting and also live from dog-, frog- and even rat meat.

Generally the hill tribe people do not like town food, because towns are dirty and so is the food. Their livelihood consists of raising poultry, domestic or wild pigs, growing hill rice, fruit and vegetables for their own consumption. They will trade some goods for other necessary things like black cloth, salt etc.

The North of Thailand, the so-called "Golden Triangle" was once the biggest drug trading area of the world. Since 1959 the cultivation and sale of opium is illegal in Thailand, but many tribes are still growing opium poppies for trading, which will be later smuggled out of the country. Now there are government projects to teach the villagers modern methods of agriculture, so that they will be able to remain in one place, instead of moving on after the soil from the cleared forest has become barren.

In the late afternoon we walked down to a nearby waterfall, where we got a glimpse of the thickness of the surrounding jungle. We enjoyed the sound of the beautiful falls as the river plunges down towards the valley. The stream was ice-cold, but we refreshed ourselves and one of my friends had an almost complete wash. While we watched some of the hilltribesmen fishing rather unsuccessfully with their simple equipment, we played with the children. They giggled and yelled and once they got to know us, like all children everywhere, they didn't want the fun to stop.

Coming back to the house where we were going to stay overnight we unpacked our sweets, biscuits, chewing gum and medicine. All villages are very short of medical supplies and we were advised to take what we could carry. Watching the children chewing the gum, playing with it and seeing their happiness at having only one piece of gum was very touching and almost made me cry.

Before darkness came (there is no electricity supply of course) we walked down to the river to wash off the dust, change clothes, and go into the bushes, because there are no toilets anywhere.

The women don't have to carry all the needed water up to the village. Some water from a clean stream is channelled down to a few places in the village; it is quite drinkable and is used for cooking and washing.

After supper we had to wait to see a spiritual dance in the village square and had a round of a real good old scotch whisky which we had brought with us.

The hill tribe people smoke and start drinking home-brewed alcohol at a very young age. We didn't intend to encourage them to drink but had to be polite and offer them some. Surprisingly only a few accepted it (one for a bad stomach and one to try the taste), but there was no smoking of opium at all, only cigarettes made from locally grown tobacco.

The mountain breezes got colder and we had to put warm jackets on. While sitting on the floor of the front veranda of the house, sipping our whisky in the flickering lights of the lanterns Khun Opas patiently answered all our many questions.

The hilltribe people in the North of Thailand are animists and believe in bad and good spirits; through rites and ceremonies they make offerings to the spirits if illness or other hardships occur. The New Year feast which takes place in January

Continued on page 14

We left early to visit a Karen village and our guide wore a typical hill tribe outfit: saggy black trousers with wide hips and small legs. A kind of sword was tied up around his waist. Cameras and water bottles were our only luggage and there was more time to rest and watch the beautiful birds twirling in the trees. The forest is mixed, almost similar to western forests in autumn, but wilder and dry. I especially enjoyed the shady bamboo forest because it was so different.

Trekking is not difficult for the hilltribe people who get used to it at a young age, but for us unfit town people it can be quite a task. We walked through the hilly forest for about three hours and at one stage thought we would never make it back up as we descended to find the Karen "Ka Rieng village" in a small valley. Again a similar scene was visible but poorer, smaller and even quieter.

We rested in a bamboo hut, where our guide knew the people. They wore colourful red and black sarongs and blouses and smiled at us showing their teeth, stained red from chewing betel. The men stared at us with dull eyes and absent minds. They are obviously opium addicts. We were told the villagers here are very poor, and eat only rice and chillies. The women are simply slaves of their menfolk and work from early morning till the evening, while the men gamble and smoke their pipes of opium.

Some Karen girls wore white gowns which is the symbol of virginity. The hill tribe folk have a free sex life, though they cannot express their desire openly. They have to arrange their love affair secretly at night time. If the girl becomes pregnant the couple usually marries to avoid shame. A pregnant unmarried girl will be expelled from her village. She has to go deep into the forest to find a place to have the baby without any help. This is the wish of the spirit and if mother and child survive they can go back home to the village. If a married couple has twins the family has to leave the village for good. To have twins is a sign of a bad spirit around.

Before we left this Karen village we again unpacked our sweets and medicine which our guide had carried for us, bought colourful hand-woven bags and a basket. Some Karen villagers will be happy for a short while but what will the future bring to them?

Our way back went through cropped and burned poppy fields, where one can see the blooming red, white and pink fields in November and December. We had a late sandwich lunch of salty fish in a little bamboo shelter. Here we discovered that our

Continued on page 17

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A MEMBER OF THE REED STENHOUSE GROUP

guide and another Lahu villager, who accompanied us, both carried pistols, because of the big black bears around. Later we learnt that almost every villager who can afford it is in possession of a pistol or rifle. We weren't frightened but something else crossed my mind, that the reason might be the rebels, robbers, communists or terrorists strolling around in the mountains. But we were many days walk away from the borders. So there was no worry our guide assured us.

Our way went back through sugarcane fields, where we refreshed ourselves by sucking the sweetness out of the peeled cane and through vegetable fields, where we collected tomatoes, potatoes etc. to take home for the villagers. We rested again over a mountain fruit, which is similar to that of a papaya but a little sweeter. We slipped downhill through the dust and red sand with the aid of big bamboo walking sticks, drank cool clean water from little bamboo pipes sticking out of the mud somewhere, picked dried poppies and dried grasses for our homes in Bangkok and carried them all the way back to the Lahu village, where we were going to spend our second night.

That night we had the chance to meet the headman of the village, who is a strong healthy hilltribe man with intelligent eyes. He has total responsibility for everything in the village and is the judge of law and order.

The second night we slept in the kitchen, because the fire was out. I think we all slept more peacefully than the first night, although we had all the strange customs of the tribe people in our minds.

The following morning we spent saying good-bye, unpacking the rest of our sweets and clothes to leave behind, to contribute a little bit so that the family will be kept warm at night. We bought some handicraft pieces such as knives, little bags and baskets to take home. Plaited grass bracelets for our wrists were given to us as gifts to bring us luck.

When we left I felt very sad about what could happen to these hill tribe people in the future. Within the next century there may be few of them left as they will probably die away or be absorbed into one of the stronger more civilised races.

His Majesty the King does a tremendous amount to help the hill tribe people in terms of providing a basic education for the children, improving communications through the building of better roads and establishing hospitals. Government and private charity assistance adds to this, but it is still not enough.

These people live in the hills and forests, and from the fruits of that beautiful country. What will happen to them as the forests are stripped for timber and the wildlife, some of it already rare, is hunted out of existence?

A.G.M.

The Club's Annual General Meeting took place on Monday 23rd March 1981.

It was immediately preceded by an Extra-ordinary General Meeting which was called to approve the Minutes of the EGM held on 16th February and also to confirm the Special Resolution passed at the same EGM affecting Rules 1-8 of the Club's constitution. Both points were duly passed.

Attention then focussed on the AGM itself at which Members discussed various items of Club business but in particular amendments to Rule 64 concerning the Schedule of Fees to be levied from 1st April 1981. The new proposals were supported by a colour slide presentation by members of the Committee. After much debate it was agreed that the incoming Committee will review the situation and present new proposals to members.

Members then went on to elect a General Committee for 1981/2. After the balloting was complete the following Members were duly appointed:

Charles Stewart	Marshall Douglas
Arthur Phillips	Don Goodin
Roy Barrett	Hugh Jamieson
Tony Blanc	Norman Musgrave
Simon Brewin	Scott Younger

At a Committee Meeting immediately afterwards, Charles Stewart, Arthur Phillips and Roy Barrett were elected as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Hon Treasurer respectively.



LADIES' LIAISON GROUP

With the Easter holidays approaching we look forward to holding three Wednesday morning activity sessions.

These will be on April 1st, 8th and 15th.

The details at the time of writing are not finalised, but we will have a painting morning, a clay modelling morning and a long feature film.

We will begin at 9.30 a.m. and any mothers who would like to help on any of the mornings will be very welcome.

Please watch the poolside noticeboard for full details.

Fareda King has taken over running the "stamp collecting" at the Saturday morning activities, and Heather Passmore is to take over the sewing. Many thanks to both of them. Our next Saturday morning activities will be on May 9th when we will be putting up the charge from £10 per child to £15 per child.

We do this reluctantly, but we are sure you will understand the need for this as the cost of the materials we use in the various groups rises constantly.

We are looking for someone who would be prepared to coach a group of children in tennis at a time and place to suit their convenience. Could anyone who feels that he/she could help in this way get in touch with one of the Ladies' Liaison Committee or pop a note to that effect in the poolside suggestion box.

We are intending to hold a coffee morning in May for wives of members who have recently joined the British Club. Again, watch the noticeboard for details.

One final point. A plea to the gentlemen in particular to try to gather together stamps from office correspondence. (Hundreds must find their way into secretaries' waste paper baskets).

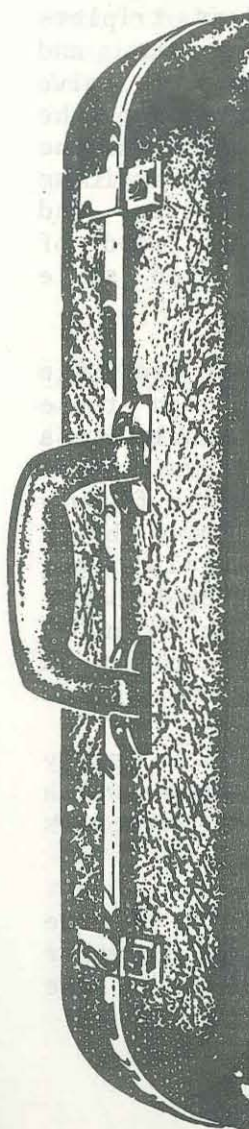
Just put them in an envelope and either place in the suggestion box at the poolside or hand to any of the ladies on the Ladies' Advisory committee. We do have some keen stamp collectors and a little bit of effort on your part could bring them a lot of pleasure. Many thanks.

AMBASSADOR FASHION HOUSE

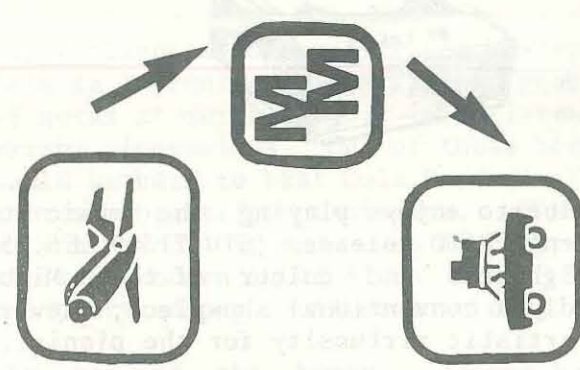



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PARISIAN PIANIST Michael Dalberto enjoys playing the music of Franz Schubert. On a current ERATO release (STU 71309, £5.75) he discovers all the brightness and colour of the D Minor Sonata D. 850 which, if hardly a conventional showpiece, nevertheless has its moments of artistic virtuosity for the pianist.

Those staccato repeated chords and eddying quaver triplets which mark the opening allegro vivace are good examples, and his judicious handling of the dotted notes and triplets give impact to the jaunty air which Schubert envisaged for the thematic make-up of the finale. The tempo adopted in the melodically-inspired con moto permits of appropriate lyricism while maintaining the vitality of the rhythmic structure, and certainly M. Dalberto senses the 'landler' mood -- a mood of which the composer was very fond -- during the relaxed style scherzo.

Continuing with the Sonata in C. Major (D. 340) -- the 'reliquie unfinished' -- the pianist manoeuvres dexterously through those remote keys of the initial movement, and leads eventually via a lengthy coda to the stately climax with which the moderato ends somewhat unexpectedly. The sombre energy of Schubert's favourite rondo form is duly noted in the andante, followed by a pleasant rocking tune which has the semblance of a cradle song though to be twice interrupted by rather fierce explosions. The pianist neatly contrasts the more peaceful mood which ensues with the recurring sombreness which concludes the sonata on a minor note.

M. Dalberto's suitable virile readings of both sonatas is amply blended with a Schubertian affection and tenderness which reveals him as a more-than-interesting exponent of the composer's sonata style.

EIGHTEEN hand-picked tracks from their anthologies gives us the very best of the six musical Cantabrigians who came together informally as Choral Scholars at King's College (This is the King's Singers: EMI THIS 9, £2.99)

The highly-polished style, fine blend, impeccable intonation, amazing range of dynamics, and distinctive interpretative acumen lends enormous variety to everything the group does, this collection of popular ballad-type songs providing entertaining listening at its highest peak. For remarkable clarity of words at quick tempo, just listen to "In a Train", and the crisp, loquacious "One of those Songs" and for vocalblend it would be hard to beat Cole Porter's "I love you Samantha", slow, chordal, beautiful pianissimo. That elegant ballad "Windmills of your mind" is made even more appealing than it is, while the more modern "God Bless Joanna" of Neil Sedaka -- on the periphery of pop -- takes on a new, and improved significance.

The gem of the bunch -- if one has to choose -- must be Jim Webb's ballad "Didn't We". This has everything, sotto voce singing, acute pianissimo, elegance, atmosphere. This is hymn-like, ethereal, expressive beyond compare. This gives one hundred per cent satisfaction. A few 'intruders' are hardly worth their place in the illustrious anthology, but otherwise perfection is guaranteed. Don't miss!

OBSTACLE COURSE

Our thanks are due to the Narai Hotel for the additional hurdle to the Silom Soi.

The comparative case of negotiating the soft-drink and charcoal vendors, the abandoned minibus, assorted parked cars and (depending on the time of day) the exodus of Silom School scholars, has been thoughtfully complemented by the construction of a multi-storey car park - surely to be one of Bangkok's most pleasing landmarks.

Notwithstanding the fact that this splendid facility is provided absolutely free (and the Club could certainly use the revenue by charging, say, ฿15 for half an hour) complaints are, inevitably, being received from Members who consider that the era of compulsory sports ended with their schooldays.

We would suggest that such Members use only the Suriwongse Gate* until the local constabulary have been persuaded, through our lawyers, to take appropriate action.

* Closed from 10.00 p.m. - 6.00 a.m.



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OUTPOST 3/81

INFORMATION

Below are some BBC World Service programmes which feature regularly in their transmissions.

WORLD NEWS - broadcast 17 times a day in the World Service. Daily 0000, 0200, 0300, 0400, 0500, 0600, 0700, 0800, 0900, 1100, 1300, 1600, 1700, 1800, 2000, 2200, 2300; **NEWSDESK**, a half-hour programme including World News, despatches from overseas and UK correspondents, and a Press Review Daily 0400 0600.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS - analysis of the main news of the day, plus review of British Press, Mons to Fris 0509, 0709, 1309, 2009.

THE WORLD TODAY - examines thoroughly one topical aspect of the international scene. Mons to Fris 1645 rep 2209, Tues to Fris 0145 (South Asia), Tues to Sats 0315, 0545, 0915.

COMMENTARY - background to the news from a wide range of specialists. Daily 1609, 2309, Sats Suns 1309, 2009.

RADIO NEWSREEL - news of events as they happen and despatches from BBC correspondents all over the world. Daily 0015, 0215 (South Asia) 1200 (ex Suns), 1500, 1815.

ASSIGNMENT - a major weekly examination of subjects of importance Weds 2030 rep Thurs 0230, 1615, Fris 1130.

OUTLOOK - an up-to-the-minute look at people, events and opinions together with the latest UK news, sport and weather Mons to Fris 1515, 1900, Tues to Sats 0115.

NEWS ABOUT BRITAIN - daily 0009, 0309, 1109, 1809 Sats, Suns 0709.

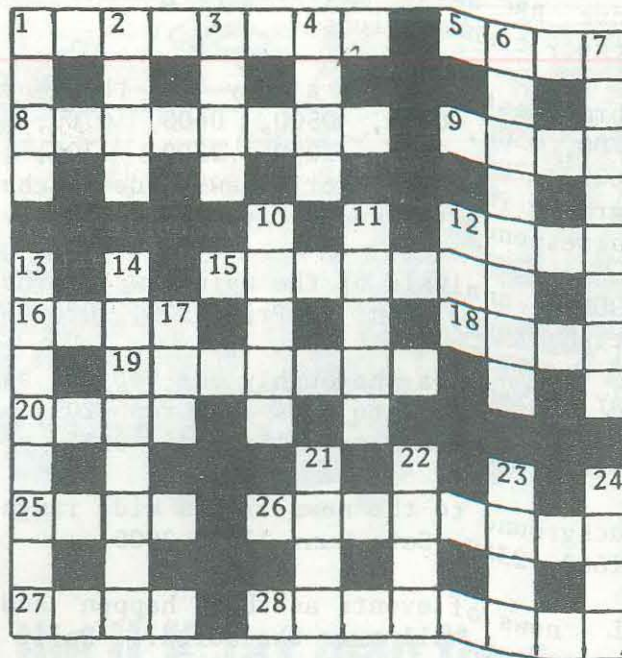
BRITISH PRESS REVIEW - survey of editorial opinion in the Press, Daily 0209, 0909, Sats, Suns, 0509.

FINANCIAL NEWS - including news of commodity prices and significant moves in currency and stock markets. Mons to Fris 2230 rep Tues to Sats 0445, 0930.

FINANCIAL REVIEW - a look back at the financial week. Suns 0445 rep 1709.

STOCK MARKET REPORT - Mons to Fris 1939.

CLUB CROSSWORD



CLUES:

Across

- 1 & 5 Family festival at the Club....but it's bound to be a damper! (2 words)
- 8 Convivial ones are fun....and levelling?
- 9 Allows a rental.
- 12 The street in London.
- 15 Call for one, but not in the bar..... (2 words)
- 16though this might be called there.
- 18 Intrigue for a bit of land.
- 19 Fork out this and you can really put your stamp on something.
- 20 Green land of poets.
- 25 Start with an article to guarantee a repeat from this profit.
- 26 Tell a musician to take it easy!
- 27 & 28 He will be at 1 across (and sometimes reeling in the Club!) (2 words)

Down

- 1 & 13 Join a karate class....or pray? (2 words)
- 2 Mixed up little bit in the newspaper.
- 3 Post or chain.
- 4 Hacks....or tiresome wives?
- 6 Open to suggestion.
- 7 & 24 Unqualified blessing. (2 words)
- 10 More of it slows you up, they say.
- 11 Our Aussie friends say the Poms do it!
- 12 Member of Parliament round an article for a blueprint.
- 14 Some chap will be doing it for Myles de Vries & Co!
- 17 But it's an age!
- 21 Weight in India.
- 22 A sort of fairy is one to each.
- 23 Cool ones can be hot!
- 24 See 7 down.

SOLUTION LAST MONTH

1	C	H	A	R	L	E	S		5	E	D	I	T	7	H
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UK Budget to have small effect on expatriates

The UK Budget presented on Tuesday poses little financial threat to UK expatriates until they return home according to Mr. David Wilkie, Director of Personal Financial Consultants Ltd., an investment advisory service for expatriates.

"The whole emphasis of the Budget was aimed at the reduction of inflation and interest rates through continued and increased control of public expenditure.

"Although there have been no increases in basic and higher rate income taxes, there have been no increases in the level of relief either. These facts together with the substantial increases in indirect taxation on such commodities as cigarettes, beer, spirits and petrol mean effectively that individuals in the UK will be paying more tax", said Mr. Wilkie.

"Therefore, it is even more important for the expatriate returning home to take advantage of the extremely efficient structures for obtaining tax-free income in the UK from capital invested abroad. Following the recent Vestey decision, the British Government announced its attention to amend anti-avoidance legislation to prohibit similar occurrences in the future, but we must await publication of the Finance Bill for details".

Mr. Wilkie noted that the combined effects of increases in the levels of annual and lifetime gifts, constancy in the levels of capital gains taxes and reductions in the lending rate (MLR) by 2% to 12% might create a more bullish climate for UK domestic investment.

"The lending rate reduction was anticipated and has already been largely discounted by the market. The immediate reaction was a 2-cent rise in Sterling against the US Dollar".

"All in all, it's a tough budget for the smoker, the drinker and the driver, but a big incentive to the expatriate to use the financial and investment benefits of his residential status to full effect while he has the opportunity", Mr. Wilkie concluded.

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This soft full Burgundy, with its evidently woody dry finish, has a good fruit flavour.

Arawatta Riesling
This vintage wine has the fresh, clean flavour and fruity bouquet of a German Riesling.

Muroomba Moselle
This distinctively soft and fruity flavour is light and delicate, with a pleasant lingering finish.

Great Western Imperial Reserve Champagne
A Classic Champagne as delicate as any produced in France.

Chalambar Burgundy
A Character that is soft and smooth with a full, round finish.

Moyston Claret
A smooth Claret whose roots stem from the vineyards of the greatest French Chateaux.

Club Wines
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St. Patrick's Night

There is no truth in the rumour that managers of Bangkok hotels met in secret prior to St. Patrick's night to discuss strategy in warding off the dreaded do. However, no one can deny the relief in the hotel world as they heard it would be held at Navathanee. Not even a Paddy can throw a bottle of Guinness that far.

The evening began with the usual round of 12 double whiskeys although some stuck to black velvet and limited their intake to the odd gallon or two. There were only three punch-ups early on, so the evening started quieter than normal.

The buffet dinner was carted all the way out to Navathanee by the Narai Hotel and was remarkably warm if not tasty. After another pint of black velvet and a few hocks and brandies at the tables, the crowd were in fine form for the action. The President rose and said a few words in gaelic or, at least, that's how it sounded. One or two hours later he rose again, to be even less audible, except for one four letter word, golf-balls and a description of another natural function not already described by the four letter word.

There will be no official photographs of the event. The photographer came but the camera would not flash or even click so he was sent packing. Maybe he was distantly related to someone from the Emerald Isle.

Most of the guests did not notice but there was a ceremony of giving a shillelagh to the President (not Ronald-Joe) but, in the darkness, it appeared like another minor scuffle.

A very tall master of ceremonies arose and spoke with somewhat rubbery lips into a microphone, the height of which had been fixed by the singer of the Thai band. Whilst many of us would have simply bent at the knees, he decided to lean over from the waist sideways. It could have been the whiskey but, let's be kind, and assume that the sound was distorted by this unusual method of delivery.

Our M.C. in his semi-horizontal pose sang a song and the band occasionally followed. The words sounded like "Hasby bird day to you" and were sung on a single note and repeated four times.

The cabaret over, the crowd flocked onto the dance floor and were there hours later sweating profusely but unable to return to their seats and remain still because the mosquitoes in Navathanee are the size of small fighter planes.

A good evening was had by all.

Candid Camera

By the way, did you notice a Sunday or two ago that the Bangkok Post (Roger Crutchley's column) quoted our bit about French tarts?

Your Editor is now confidently expecting Rupert Murdoch to fly in for discussions about the future editorial policies to be adopted by the "Times" and the Thompson Organisation is reportedly seeking advice from Outpost on the concepts and effects of multi-national journalism.

Members may be interested to know that British Airways General Manager - John Williams has agreed to supply the Club with Stilton Cheese for our various forthcoming gala events which are to take place this year. The cheese will be flown out from London, cleared through customs etc. by BA at a nominal charge. Thanks John!! Now where's that bottle of port? (Ed.)

IT SHOULDN'T BE NECESSARY to point out that the cushioned seats in the new Sala are not suitable for wet bottoms.

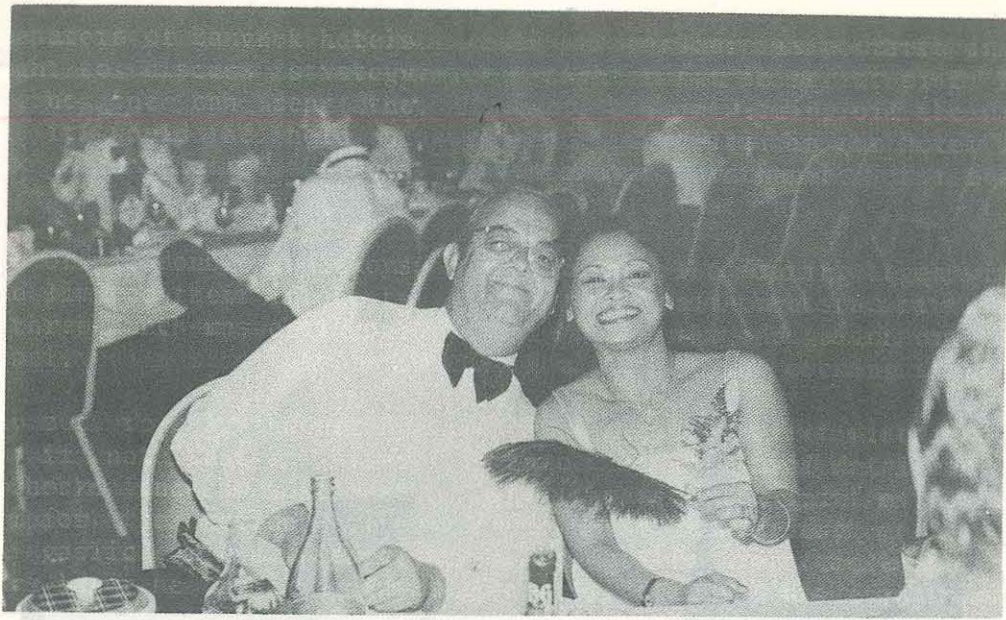
Regrettably, some thoughtless Members and their families are coming straight out of the Pool and flopping into these chairs: not very comfortable for the next dry-bottomed Member.



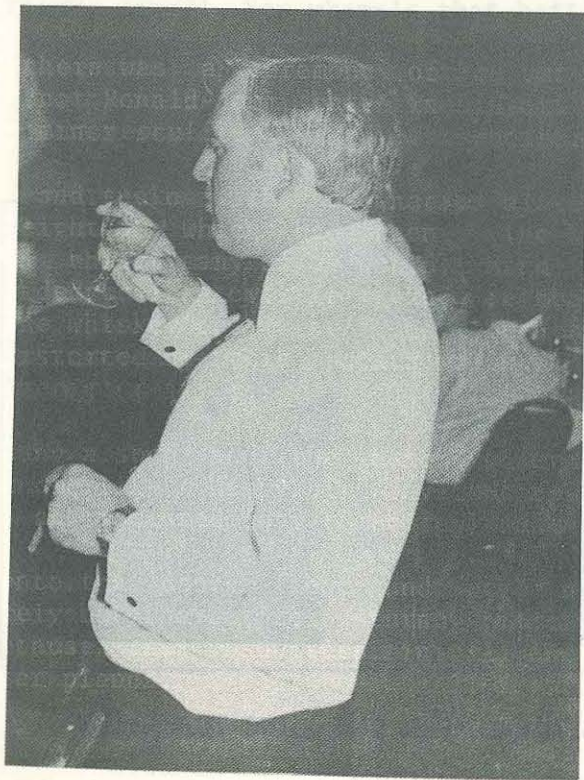
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BILLIARDS

Players may have come up against the problem of how to use the odd five minutes or so of time remaining on that diabolical meter after the black has been dispatched. Here's an entertaining game which many may remember. No prizes, apart from a beer on the loser.

I don't know if it ever had a name but I call it "Fox and Geese". (I must be wrong - who ever heard of red geese or white foxes?)

At each pocket place a pair of reds touching each other, the nearer one as near to the edge of the pocket as possible and both on the centre-line of the pocket entry. Place the cue-ball on the centre spot on the baulk line. Then (one player at a time) try to pocket all twelve reds with as few strokes as possible. There are no other rules.

It is somewhat childish, but tactics and technique are necessary to achieve a good score, let's say twelve strokes or less. On the opening stroke it may be possible to force in both balls at one of the bottom pockets but this will often leave the cue ball in no position to get two balls on the next without rolling a third to a disadvantageous position. A better opener is a good canon off the centre to the top. This can be followed with a similar shot down the opposite side. The more strokes combining two pockets the better, but if the cue ball vanishes, the player loses.

The other day Ray disposed of three reds on his opening stroke. ("How in hell did I do that?"). His next four strokes scored but also caused one errant ball to roll along the cushion.

For the record I have recently pocketed the dozen in ten strokes - twice! Offering this as some kind of target, I hasten to add that I cannot promise to do it again to order! Players may be interested to hear of lower scores so, when the ten is bettered, send a suitable certificate (in triplicate, signed by 10 witnesses under oath) to our Editor.

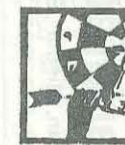
Good luck!

Those meters, by the way, pay for the air conditioning in the Billiards room. Dismiss as baseless any rumour that there's a sizeable rake-off going to our Hon. Treasurer's accounts.

Members are also informed that the question of service in the Billiards room has been considered. It does not appear economic to provide full-time markers nor reasonable to expect markers to both score and serve drinks. Players are therefore requested to score for themselves. The markers will serve the gastronomic and numismatic (those damned meters again!) needs of members. The markers have other duties in the Club and sometimes there will be no attendance in the Billiards room. A bell is to be provided to summon service from the bar, but in the meantime we must fetch for ourselves.

Some minor alterations to the furniture in the Billiards room are in hand: the benches are being fitted into the alcoves to give more room to players. This requires re-siting the cue-racks presently in alcoves onto the flank walls. We hope any inconvenience during alterations will be short-lived.

There is now a blackboard just beside the main door for waiting players to enter their names on a first come, first served basis. When Members are waiting, players are requested to limit their play to the frame being played.



DARTS

As expected, we lost our quarter-final cup match to 20 Hotel on 26th February, our only points in a 14-3 drubbing being scored by Roy Regan and Peter Prince in their doubles, and when Arthur Hawtin closed the team game. Arthur scored 2 tons (138 and 100) and Brian Heath 118.

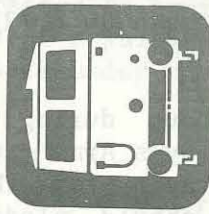
As we go to press, Ingrid Baldwin is about to collect her trophy for a 180 high score at the end-of-league banquet, and dartists are canvassing for some new blood for the new season starting in April. We will certainly miss the consistent skill of John Sill when he moves to UK in the summer, and team selection may be something of a problem for new skipper Norman Burbridge (NAI 9) as we move into the home-leave period.

David Wallace has been a major transfer coup during the close season joining the Lillywhites from Bobby's Arms at a small phenomenal fee! Others interested in playing for the British Club in the 16th Bangkok Darts League should please contact Captain Norman Burbridge on 394 1866, Bryan Baldwin on 221 1895 or Roy Regan on 289 0131.

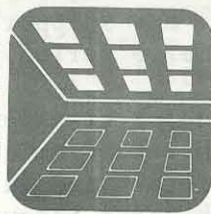
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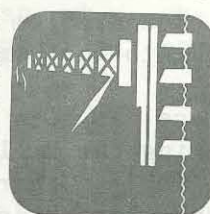
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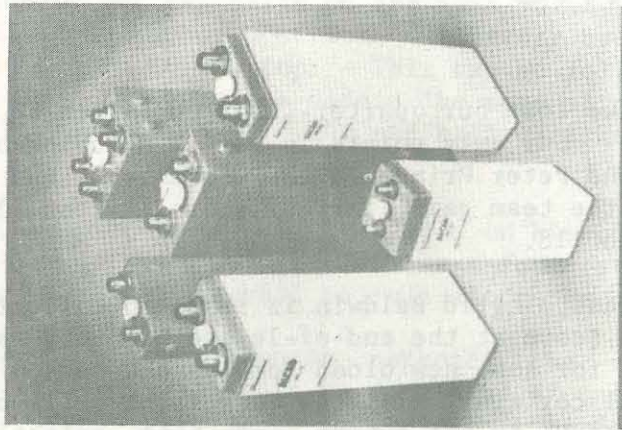
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CRICKET

Time flies when you're winning games. Two days past the deadline, editor tearing his hair out, so this story will be short and sweet. Especially sweet, since British Club won all three games this month, making five in a row and putting us at the top of the 25 over League table.

Game 5 vs RBSC on Saturday 28 February (25 overs)

RBSC batted first and started slowly against a tight attack. In the fifth over, Chris Platt saved his head and removed Malbari by holding onto an incredible catch off a full-blooded drive. Ken Green, playing his first match for the season, replaced White and in his second over he bowled M.C. Nana and Peter Wright with successive balls.

Allen was bowling very tidily at the other end and soon had Sammy S. out leg before. However Myles de Vries and John Buckley put some respectability back into the scoring until Buckley was bowled by Allen. With de Vries continuing his excellent form for the season and Heenan hitting well, RBSC finished at 5-112 from their 25 overs.

The British Club innings was opened by newcomer John Coghill and Bob Dook. They provided a magnificent start of 86 with Coghill thrashing the RBSC bowlers all over the field. This innings included 9 fours and one six. Dook batted steadily at the other end before he was bowled for 15. The run-getting did slow down from there but with Bob Allen at the wicket, the result was sealed.

BC 3-115 (Coghill 69, Dook 15, Allen 19 not out) defeated RBSC 5-112 (de Vries 42 not out, Heenan 21 not out White 1-18, Allen 2-11, Green 2-22).

Game 6 vs Allied/AIT Sunday 1 March (40 overs)

British Club were sent in and a few changes in the batting order were made. The idea was to let a few players who have not had much opportunity this year have a go at the wicket. However, we can't even do that right.

Lockyer was out early but other opener Nick White together with Bob Allen put on 100 for the second wicket. When Allen was out for 42, Chris Platt came in to put together a delightful 28 with 5 fours. He and White added 52 for the third wicket.

White continued happily along to finish with 94 not out with 8 fours and 1 six. This was an excellent innings and he was most unlucky not to score a century. With Lanham adding his 12, the innings finished after 40 overs at 5-197.

Allied/AIT were quickly in trouble and, at 3-14, had little chance of overtaking the BC score. A fourth wicket partnership of 53 made it look better but Dook and Allen struck back, taking four wickets for 14 to make it 7-81.

Another good partnership took the score to 130 but with 9 overs left to bowl, White had 5 of his quota left and Dook had 4 of his. This proved to be too good a combination and White leaned up the tail to give BC an easy win by 62 runs.

BC 5-197 (White 94 not out, Allen 42, Platt 28, Lanham 12) defeated Allied/AIT 135 (Dook 3-17, Thorburn 2-23, White 2-36, Allen 3-26).

Game 7 vs Wanderers Saturday 21 March (25 overs)

Wanderers won the toss and elected to bat briefly. With one man short, no-one there got into double figures and the side was dismissed for 41. Dook and Allen, with four and five wickets respectively, made the mess (sic).

The batting order was once again reversed, more or less, and the runs were gathered for the loss of five wickets. This prompted the Post to say we struggled to get them but the last 5 men to bat were White, O'Donnell, Dook, Allen, Lanham so there was little danger of defeat.

Paul Lockyer again showed his improved form for this season with 23 and Cliff Symes remained 10 not out.

BC 5-42 (Lockyer 23, Symes 10 not out) defeated Wanderers 41 (Dook 4-18, Allen 5-17).



LADIES' GOLF

We are not a large group but are keen and we do enjoy ourselves. Our last big Competition was the ASTRAL CUP played over 2 days at the Army Course on the 17th and 24th February. After the first round, the clear leader was Millie Marshall with a superb nett 66. Second, was Joyce Lumsden with a nett 70 and Third,

Bierthe Nielson with nett 72. The second round proved very exciting: Millie managed to hold her lead, but Joyce and Bierthe were overtaken by Eileen Ford who emerged runner-up, just one stroke behind Millie.

Lever Bros (Thailand) Ltd. sponsored the Competition, presenting a really beautiful gold chain to the Winner, and most generously giving each Competitor a lovely Astral Jewel Box, which the Ladies' greatly appreciated.

The Competition was a great success, being well supported and enjoyed by all who played.



Astral Cup

Winner:	Millie Marshall
R/Up:	Eileen Ford

Our Eclectic ran from 3rd February - 10th March and the Winner of this was:-

Winner:	Eileen Ford	62
R/Up:	Bierthe Nielson	63
Tie for third:	Sheila Neville and Loretta Parker	65

Programme for April

Tuesday 7th April - Blind Partners

Starter: K. Kukielka (252 9315)

Tuesday 14th April - Par Bisque

Starter: E. Ford (252 2074)

* Tuesday 21st April - Better Nines

Starter: S. Kerr (252 6517)

Tuesday 28th April - Medal

Starter: K. Kukielka (252 9315)

* Please note this Competition on 21st will be played at Hua Mark Golf Course due to the Army Course being reserved for the Asian Junior Championships. With May 5th being a Public Holiday our schedule for May will start from 12th May.



GOLF

Rose Garden : March 14th : 06.18 Hours

As the date and time suggest, the attendance was less than full capacity. The date was relevant, since the St. Patrick's celebration was during the night and morning of this outing. Nevertheless 12 golfers aimed their balls down the first fairway into the morning mist. 3 brave Irishmen drove straight from their annual PU, but failed to finish the course, which was irrelevant anyway since they attacked the course back to front (not usually done in golfing circles), and the net result of this was to qualify them for the 3 special booby prizes, which comprised 3 two week holidays in Ireland with free return tickets on Air Lingus. Sobriety prevailed, however, and they quickly donated these to their startled caddies, who cashed them in without delay for 3 bowls of fried rice.

Welcome returns were made by Joe Irwin and Jeremy Watson, and relative newcomers Jeff Moss, Arthur Robinson and Len Carter also returned cards (but have asked that I don't mention their scores). Derek Johnson (just returned from overseas leave and 10 lessons from Christy O'Connor in Ireland) again won (40 pts, gross 80) with Dave Cobbett second (38 pts, gross 96) and Hans Daniels third, (would the handicapper please watch this man Johnson?)

The next meeting is at Hua Mark on April 12th at 10.40 a.m., when it is hoped to complete as many of the 1st round Dunlop tournament matches as possible. Then of course there is the annual Inter-Societies golf weekend at Hua Hin over 4th/5th April, an event which traditionally provides a mixture of bad golf, good fun, and sore heads. If you read this in time.... "see you there".



SWIMMING

The Gala which took place on Sunday 1st March attracted a good number in response to our plea for more competitors. There were altogether 32 entrants in the races, which this month were 'subsidised' by a few novelty events. In the regular races the contenders swum breast-stroke and butterfly. Katherine Walsingham deserves a special mention for winning in the 7/8 year-old girls class, bearing in mind that she is one of the youngest in this age group - if not the youngest?

Katy Sill was the only swimmer who improved on both strokes but was beaten by brother Matthew who did so well he claims the title of Improver of the Month. May I say:

"Congratters, Matters!" No? Alright.

The novelty events included a 'One width - any style' race for the smalls and the older ones competed to peg hats on ropes, swim through hoops and do something extremely intricate with rubber rings. (If you are really interested in this Eve Salinas will be only too pleased to explain its finer points in depth. All the winners went away crunching sweets and clinking with 'real gold' medals (we paid to 3 places this month)

There will be no Gala in April swing to long weekends and easter and similar excuses - the next one will take place on Sunday 10th May. Finally, we wish Helen and Hugh Jamieson "Happy Hols" for the merry months of March/April and look forward to seeing them relaxed and sun-bronzed (tee-hee) in May.

SWIM LESSONS FOR ADULTS

Mums & Dads. So your kids can swim and come to swim training. What about you? Can you swim? If you can, how well and what strokes? If you cannot why not learn? The Swim Section would be prepared to organise lessons.

If you are interested please put your name on the list on the Poolside Swimming Section Notice Board and we will arrange the most convenient time for group lessons. Names should be entered on the list by 15th April.



SOCCER

Featured this month - the first leg of the MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE Cup and the season's agro match.

Maxwell House Cup

B.C. v R.B.S.C. - The boys in blue having thrashed the RBSC 4-0 in a pre-cup friendly, found a new RBSC team, with a Thai International, for the first leg of this New Competition. The BC were also not without selection problems, the Colonel again being unable to get permission to play, Duncan getting stuck on an oil Rig and Tiger visiting Merryweather in Aus.

Nevertheless the BC took the initiative from the kick-off. Capt. Wallace controlled the ball, New signing Frank tackled strongly and constant played steadily. The RBSC looked innocuous but somehow managed to sneak a lucky goal and then, another. The BC were upset by these set backs and even more so, when recently purchased from the UK, Simon Edmonds, appeared on the right Wing for the RBSC!

Despite sterling efforts from Charleyworth in goal, the BC ended the evening in second place 0-5. The second leg in April promises to be a thriller with the BC determined to avenge this narrow defeat.

BC v Indians (Farang League)

A rugged game, on a heavy pitch in very steamy conditions, saw the BC control the play but struggle to score. Nick, Hugh and the Colonel were stalwarts in defence, while the Midfield had almost total possession but the forwards just failed to find the back of the Indian Net.

The Indians had to resort to very negative and niggardly play to hold the boys at bay. Harry had to take an early bath after having difficulty explaining the finer points of football to the Indians, at half time. The second half saw the appearance of Roger, Constant and Frank but the heat really won the day with both teams getting progressively more lethargic. Final result 0-0.

The BC team slightly disgruntled left the pitch to review the match at a team meeting at Udo's and then later at an unknown spudless venue.



SQUASH

1. League 30

Division 2

Derek Johnson	1st
Vic Betteridge	2nd
Mike Holgate	3rd
Brian Thompson	
Blaise McConnell	
Simon Brewin	
John Salter	
Clive Miller	
Brian Lewis	

Division 3

Robert England	1st
David Torrance	2nd
Guy Jillings	3rd
Ken Graham	
Murray McNair	
Colleen Perry	
Terry Jones	
Maria Green	
Nigel Hardy	

Division 4

John Sill	1st
Donald Goodin	2nd
Cary Humphries	3rd
Scott Younger	
Daniel Verpillot	
Arthur Hawtin	
Bob Russell	

Division 5

Bob Boulter	1st
Lionel Demery	2nd
Chris Platt	3rd
Brian Birley	
Bob Lanham	
Paul Nimchezk	
Roy Barrett	

Division 6

Pat Beston	1st
Ron Skeldon	2nd
Rupert Jameson	3rd
Richard Bones	
Marjorie Rennie	
Dick Souter	
Fleming Kinnaird	
Mark Edser	

Division 7

Cliff Symes	1st
Tom McKay	2nd
Jeff Sayer	3rd
Tom Prendergast	
Eddie Rennie	
Tony Erswell	

Division 8

John Shomo	1st
Ken Little	2nd
Ian Hill	3rd
Frank Hamill	
Tony Howorth	
Barry Downs	
Stuart Mathews	

Division 9

Nigel Shannon	1st
Chris Wilson	2nd
Keith Milburn	3rd
Anne Prince	
Bob Denny	
Gail Leisching	
Sue Jillings	
Dave Hill	
Jim Meszes	

Division 10

Gillian Allen 1st
Epp McKay 2nd
Adisak 3rd
Val Hill
Joselyn Grassby
Norman Musgrave

Division 11

Helen Demery 1st
Anne Marie Meszes 2nd
Audrie Sill
Margaret Beston
Karen Edser
Ian Denny
Sandra England

Division 12

Teresa Cooney 1st
Rachel Symes 2nd
Lyn Cook 3rd
Lindsey Tuley
Jim Simpson
Vicky Morris
Pam Stephens

Division 13

Samantha Jones 1st
Eliz Faint 2nd
Valerie Jones 3rd
Carol Anderson
Gloria Douglas
Claire Younger
Joanne Azancot

2. Third Court - will be ready shortly and the front wall of court No. 1 will now be repaired.
3. Spectators - it would be appreciated if spectators keep quiet during matches and keep still during rallies.

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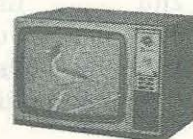
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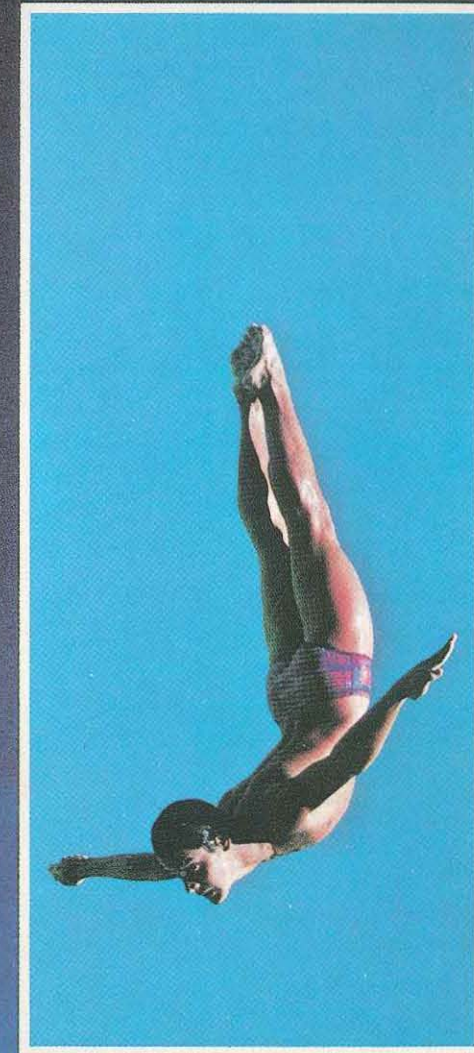
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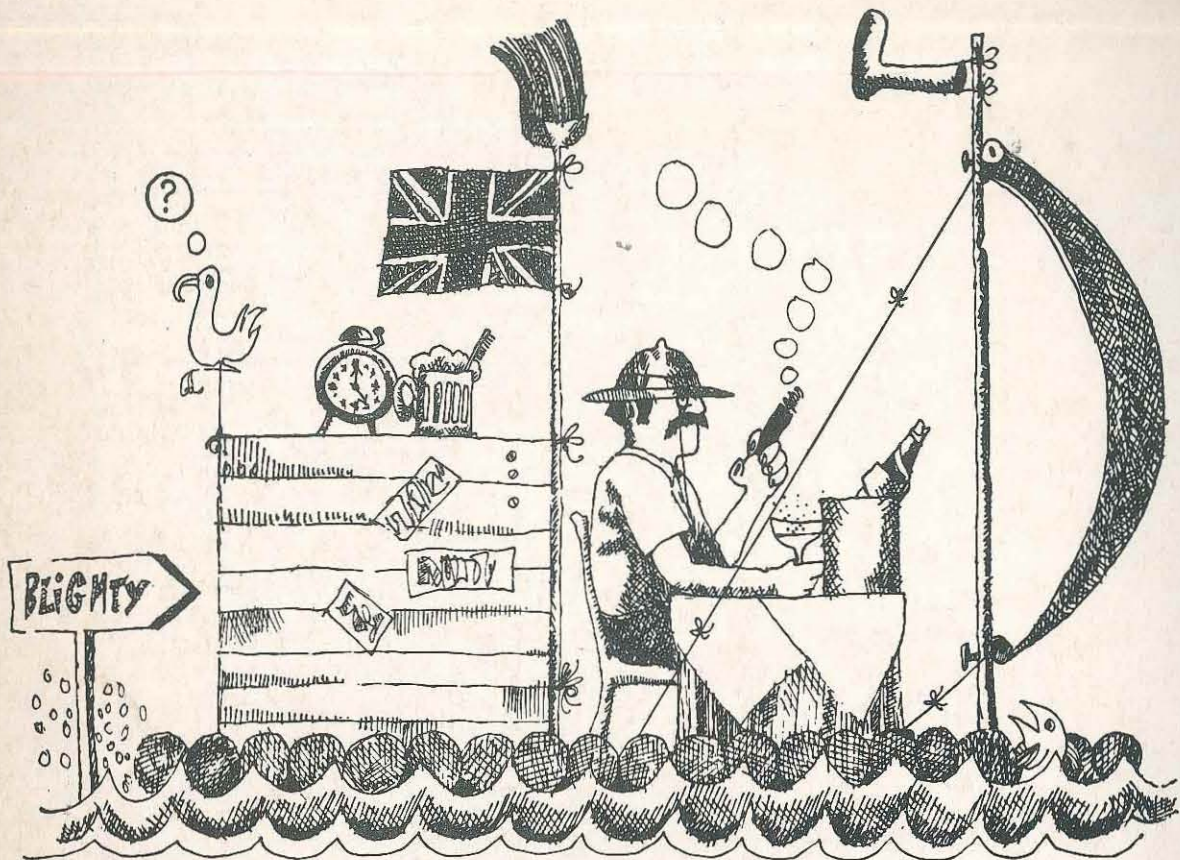
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