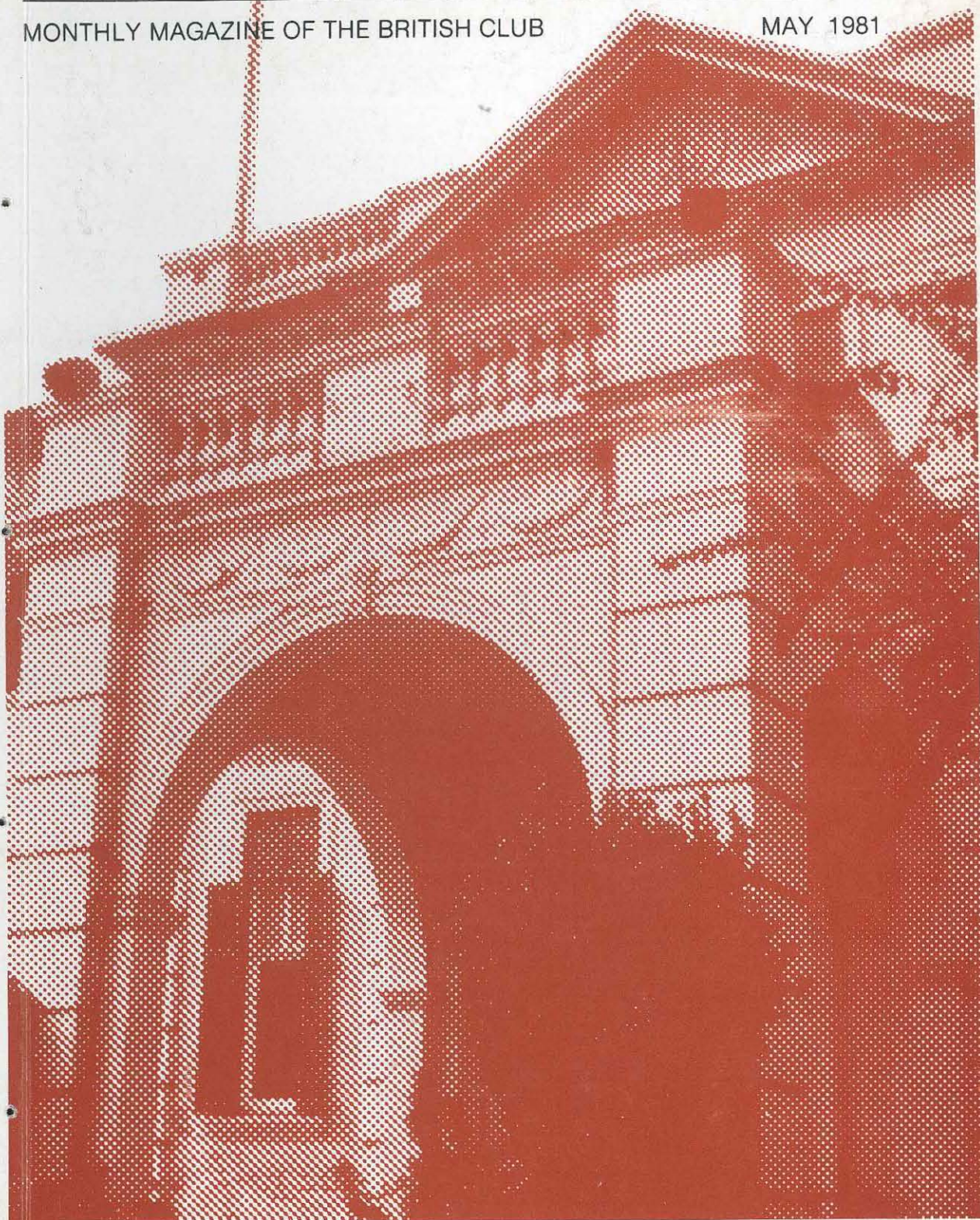


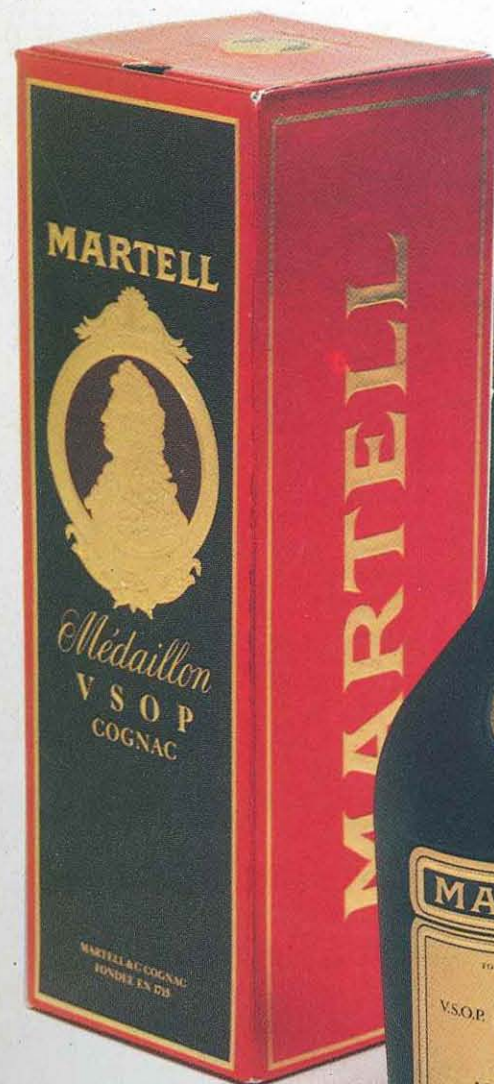
# OUTPOST

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB

MAY 1981



# MARTELL.



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## THE BRITISH CLUB

189 Suriwongse Road

Bangkok

Telephone: 234-0247, 234-2592



Chairman: Mr. C. Stewart

Vice-Chairman: Mr. A.J. Phillips

Hon Treasurer: Mr. R. Barrett

**Outpost** Vol. II No. 15 May 1981

April saw several interesting Club activities.

We were treated to a sparkling exhibition of squash by Steve Balme and Zaman - a ranking Pakistani player which was followed by a poolside barbecue.

The Queen's birthday was duly celebrated with a cocktail party on the Back Lawn with guests being entertained by the band of the Royal Thai Navy. This was followed by a Candlelight Barbecue in the Thai Sala.

Another successful Grand National Pub Night took place on Saturday 4th April with all the atmosphere of a major race meeting! Unfortunately radio reception from London of the big race itself left something to be desired and members will be pleased to learn that the Committee have approved the purchase of a short wave aerial for future use.

Strange wailing sounds have been heard coming from the Suriwong Room on Wednesday evenings. Upon further examination it was found that the British Club Banshee was not on the prowl again but rather it was the star cabaret act rehearsing for the St. George's Night Ball!! Anyone for tickets??

## Public Holidays / Special Days

Friday	1 May	- National Labour Day
Tuesday	5 May	- Coronation Day
Monday	18 May	- Visakha Bucha Day
Friday	22 May	- Arabian Nights

## WEEKLY CLUB EVENTS

MONDAY	7.30 p.m.	- Bridge
	2.00 p.m.	- Children Scottish Dancing
TUESDAY	4.00 p.m.	- Swimming Training
THURSDAY	4.00 p.m.	- Swimming Training
SATURDAY	12.00-15.00	- Buffet Lunch, Dining Room
SUNDAY	12.00-15.00	- Buffet Lunch, Poolside
	18.00-22.00	- Buffet Supper, Dining Room

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

All material, for the June issue must reach the office by 20 May.

Editor : Norman Musgrave 317 7001

The British Club

proudly presents

A LEBANESE NIGHT

of food and entertainment

(provided by the Cedar Restaurant)

Friday, May 22nd - 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

The best food in Thailand of its kind

Mezze - selected plates of vegetable and meats (more than just an appetizer)

Chawarma - succulent slices of marinated meat from the bone

Served with unleaven bread and sauces

Baklawa - special Lebanese almond desert

Coffee - not Maxwell House!!!

Lebanese music and dancers

The evening will be introduced by Xavier Soulhany, the proprietor of the Cedar Restaurant

Dress - Kepis, Kaftans, Clothcaps or Coronets (or casual)

£250 per person - when was the last time you spent so little for an evening like this?

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## FLY

Your Committee has been hard at work during April, Fly understands. Noticeable improvements at the Poolside, for example, have been the fitting of new non-slip pads on the main diving board and, in response to many requests, an indicator board showing Committee members "IN" or "OUT".

To encourage quaffing at the Bar in the early evenings, free snacks will be served between 5.00-6.30 p.m. every evening.

The Bye-Law prohibiting the wearing of shorts in the Dining Room and Bar after 6.00 p.m. has been extended to include the Billiards Room.

It was brought to the Committee's notice that children were arriving at the Club unaccompanied by an adult. Please remember this is not allowed. Children must be under the care of an adult at all times.

More poolside tables and chairs have been ordered and enamel car badges are now available again.

The vexed question of the state of the tennis courts was discussed again. An alternative to hard-courts, which can be unsightly, is artificial grass. This is now being looked at in detail and samples have been obtained.

Finally, what about holding your next function at our New Thai Sala. It's a beautiful building, the bar is there and, as a venue, would be preferable to many hotel facilities. The Club is willing to quote keen rates for hire of the Sala. Please consider it when next deciding where to hold your party.

### ICE CREAM AND CANDY

The cost to the Club of these items have steadily increased over the past few months without any corresponding increases of prices to Members.

We regret that we can no longer absorb these increased costs, with the result that prices of most items will increase from 22nd April 1981.

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## Letters

Dear Sir,

When I took my first tentative look into the British Club from a screaming hot Surawongse Road the impression gained was one of awe that such a green oasis could exist in this traffic-torn city. Further, that restful expanse of the grass tennis courts seemed unparalleled luxury. Since becoming a member, this appreciation of the verdant nature of the place has never diminished.

But a rude shock awaits me. I note from the Annual Report that the incoming committee is recommended to study proposals for the installation of hard courts. The death-knell of this unique green sward has sounded. Is it that it was too good to be allowed to endure? Can the outgoing/incoming committee really be hell-bent on taking up a unique feature of the club, which must give pleasure, albeit subconsciously, to many members and visitors.

What reason could possibly lead to this travesty? It could be that, for an expert player, the lie of the ball on a grass court is not quite as he or she intends. This must affect a minute fraction of the population. Or is it that the courts are not used much, because they are subject to flooding for much of the year. They may indeed be unplayable but I've noticed that the waters do abate after a few hours. Further, when they are available in the dry season they are clearly not heavily-trafficked. Hence there is not much evidence to support these possible premises.

Before we are faced with fait accompli, let each member cast an eye over the lawns when coming in along the drive or from the sala or balcony and in the mind's eye, convert what can now be seen into future asphalt.

The present situation is not perfect but it seems infinitely preferable to the mineral perfection which is intended for the area. To take an engineering analogy, it would be philistine in the extreme to drive a desert highway through an oasis just to obtain a perfect alignment for the road. Similarly the mysterious minority, if they exist at all, for whom the importance of all year round hard-court tennis is paramount, could bend around their problem by playing elsewhere for a couple of months, so that the grass courts, or lawns as they really are, can remain as an invaluable aesthetic feature of the British Club.

Yours faithfully,

J. Simpson - S42 (See Fly in this edition - Ed.)

## SUPPORT YOUR FRIENDLY ....

There have to be rules (is anarchy really a viable alternative?) and most Members appreciate this.

One of the least enviable jobs in the Club falls to the security officer whose brief includes pointing out breaches of Rules and Bylaws which are often just a matter of common sense or consideration for others.

Kamlah knows the Rules and does his best to explain these to erring Members, patiently and politely: he has no authority to waive or alter them (and it would be neither fair nor desirable to give him authority so to do). Despite this, he is frequently subjected to unwarranted reproof from such Members.

Please support him in making the Club -- and particularly the Poolside area -- a place of pleasure, relaxation and safety for all Members.

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### SAMARITANS IN BANGKOK

"Samaritans" in Bangkok is now, as always, very short of suitable volunteers to man even the part-time service which is now offered. More volunteers are urgently needed, ideally persons who, after training, will be able and willing to put in a regular 4-hour shift per week.

"Samaritans" is a secular organisation and is not affiliated to any church. The reason for its existence is to try to prevent suicide: such other help as it may give is secondary to this main purpose.

Volunteers should be people who care about others, not professional counsellors or therapists. Professional advice is available in cases where it is needed. A training course for would-be volunteers will start on the 25th May evening, and will continue each Friday and Monday thereafter for eight sessions. Individual interviews with volunteers will be arranged before and during the course.

If you are interested and would like to help, please write to "The Samaritans", P.O. Box 1185, Bangkok 5. Further information will then be sent to you.

"Samaritans" also welcomes assistance from those interested in its work and in general agreement with its objectives, but who are unable or unwilling to commit themselves to a regular period of duty. If you are of this category, please write and let us know: it is likely that we can use your services.

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**JOHN JULIUS NORWICH**  
**praises the English**  
**country weekend**

When my friend Bill Davis asked me to write an article on "The Weekend", he made it perfectly clear what he had in mind. There are at least 57 varieties of weekends: motoring weekends, walking weekends, sailing weekends and even weekends quite unconnected with any form of transport, including what can often be one of the most enjoyable kind of all -- the sort of weekend where one stays at home, reading a book in the garden and listening to a few of those records one couldn't resist buying but has somehow never quite had the chance to play. But there is only one Weekend: and that is the Weekend spent at the English Country House.

Alas, it is not so frequent as it used to be. The age of the Country House is nearly past, that of the way of life that went with it closer still to extinction. But I am one of the lucky ones. Possessing no land myself -- nay, not so much as a window-box to call my own -- I have enjoyed countless wonderful weekends in my youth and still get invited to the occasional corker today. What better opportunity shall I ever have than this to celebrate them as they deserve, and while there is still time?

First, of course, there has to come the invitation. Nothing formal about it -- weekends in my day have never been formal; a telephone call, or a scrawled postcard beginning "Any chance of..." In my parents' generation, when everybody -- except dashing young gadabouts with sports cars -- still travelled by railway, there would also be a note of the two trains which would be met, in rather different equipages: "3.52 from King's Cross: servants and luggage, 2.18" -- so that, by the time you arrived, your ladies' maid or valet would have already unpacked for you and laid your evening clothes out on the bed. (Well, I mean, naturally: there was a limit to roughing it.) Not, however, in my day, though even then you still never had to unpack yourself. The butler would quietly ask you on arrival for the keys of your suitcase, and half an hour later -- or less, depending on how many other people had arrived at the same time -- you would find the whole thing done.

A word, now, about butlers, that most noble and unfairly maligned group of men. Noble, because they spent -- and still occasionally spend -- their lives in the service of others, with a skill and dedication now seldom seen outside the nursing profession. Maligned, I suspect, largely thanks to the efforts

of P.G. Wodehouse and his imitators, who made them out as awe-inspiring and pompous. Three-quarters of a century ago, perhaps, when they were more like generals, with a hundred or more servants below them, they may have been formidable figures; I can only say that every butler I have known has been a man of honour, sympathy and charm, concerned to put one at one's ease rather than the reverse. None was ever shocked when I confessed that my luggage had no keys; even if he had been, he'd have died sooner than show it.

But even butlers, being men, had their weaknesses, one being almost an occupational hazard: a tendency to tipple. The story is told of Mrs. Ronnie Greville, entertaining the great at Polesden Lacey (in Surrey, now a National Trust property open to the public) who, detecting the well-known signs at a formal dinner-party but not wishing to create a scene, scribbled on the little gold pad that always lay beside her plate: "You are disgustingly drunk - leave the house at once." The butler read it in silence, folded it with care, placed it on a silver salver and passed it deferentially to a Minister of the Government sitting opposite.

Butler or no butler, one probably wants a drink or two oneself on arrival, and then it's time to go up and change for dinner. Not necessarily a dinner-jacket, though I actually like them. The thing to remember about dinner-jackets is that they were invented for relaxation and comfort and to help you forget the cares of your working life. I don't in the least mind what I wear in the evenings, so long as it's different from what I've worn all day. But I do like a hot bath before dinner, and a dinner-jacket or some similar piece of gentle male fantaisie is no more trouble to put on than anything else.

One more drink, and then to the table. That Friday night dinner is -- or should be -- one of the best moments of the Weekend, enjoyed in the knowledge that the whole thing is still only just beginning and that there are two more glorious days to go. (Of course, if the house is icy cold and your hostess a pulverising bore who has invited your worst enemy down at the same time, it can be one of the worst.) The food, with any luck, will be first-class. English food has always had a bad reputation, particularly abroad, entirely because of the nightmare quality -- at least until recently -- of English restaurants. Country House food is something quite different, a fact of which foreigners tend to be unaware since the English, being pathologically xenophobic, scarcely ever invite them inside their houses. Game, well-cooked and well-hung -- I don't shoot, myself, but am simply delighted to consume the results of other people's efforts -- bread sauce, an invention

on a par to that of the wheel, unknown across the Channel; gooseberry fool; feather-light steamed puddings smothered with ice-cold Tiptree strawberry jam; plenty of fresh cream and industrial quantities of cholesterol: these are what have made Country House Weekend cooking one of the great unsung glories of civilisation.

And so to bed. The ideal CHW bedroom is flowery, chintzy and double-bedded, with a smaller single-bedded "dressing-room" leading off it where the husband can sleep if he -- or his wife -- feels so inclined. (Nowadays these tend to have been converted into bathrooms.) A good bedside light on each side, a few enjoyable books, ancient and modern, in case you have forgotten to bring any of your own, a bottle of Malvern water, possibly a few biscuits, and of course, at any time but the highest summer, a hot water bottle in the bed. Weekend hanky-panky? A certain amount, inevitably, as and when the occasion arose, but I suspect a good deal less than many a memoirist would have us believe. Thoughtful hostesses in the know would naturally put Major Fordyce and Lady Brightlingsea in adjoining rooms (if they discreetly intercommunicated, so much the better) but this, after all, was only common courtesy.

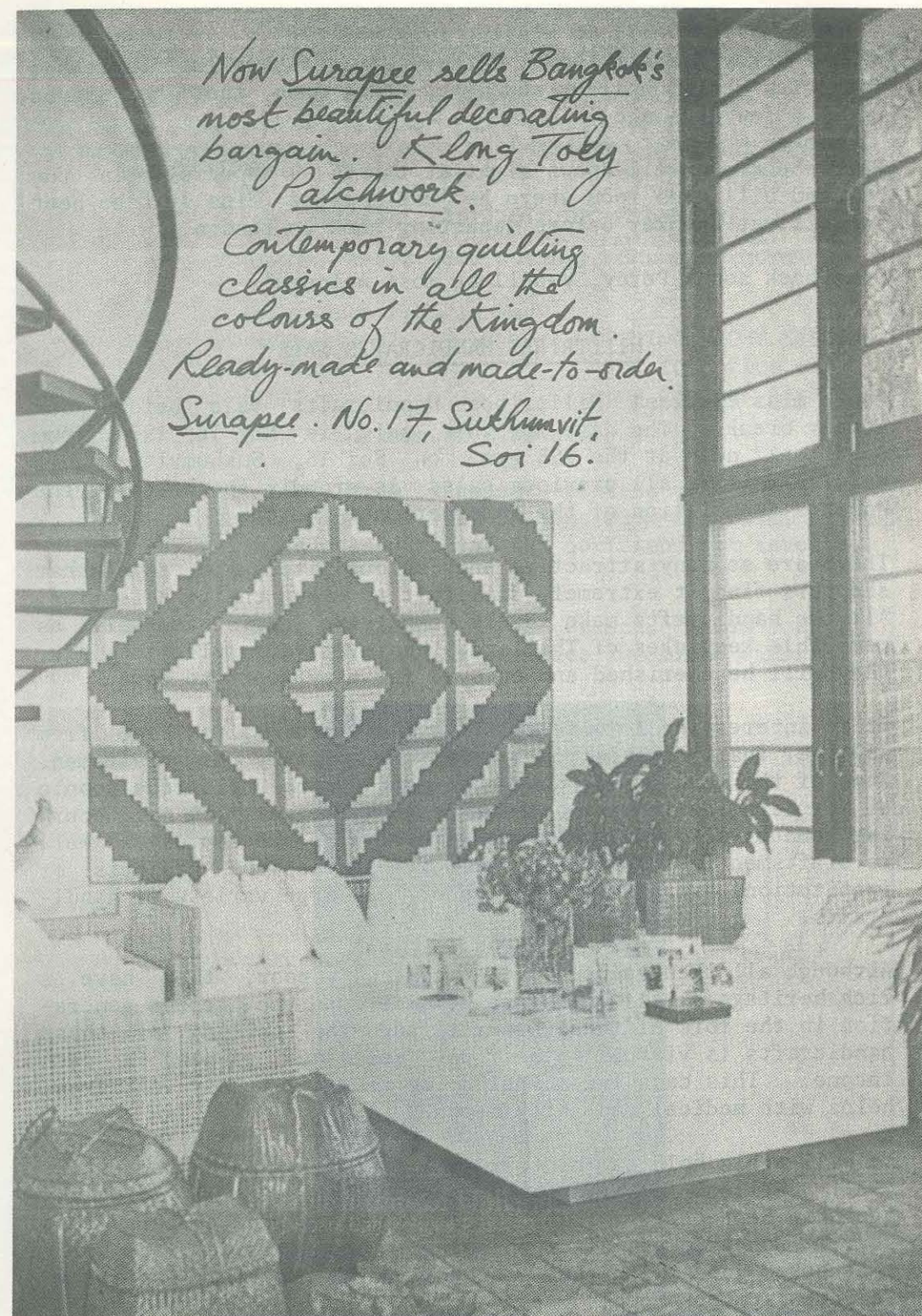
Weekend breakfast varies a lot with the house. The ideal -- still often maintained, even if the hostess has to do the whole thing herself -- is a tray in bed for the ladies, downstairs (though possibly in dressing-gowns) for the men. I can still just remember, at my uncle's huge house-parties in the early 30s, the five or six hot dishes, including always kippers and kedgeree (another sublime English invention unknown in Europe), then a sideboard groaning with cold chicken, turkey and ham, and great mountains of hot home-made scones, with all the butter stamped with the family crest. Nowadays a plate of eggs and bacon is treat enough for me since I never have it at home.

What, apart from eating and drinking and sleeping, does one do? Unless it's a shooting or fishing weekend, not very much, probably: read a lot, write a bit, talk, walk, play tennis, go off and visit some neighbours before lunch or for tea, or drive to some sight worth seeing: a pretty parish church, perhaps, or a beautiful house open to the public. But with this sort of weekend the point is irrelevant. The question is not what one does but how one feels. And the answer to that, if the weekend has come up to expectations -- which, curiously enough, they usually do -- is a simple one. Lapped in unaccustomed luxury, freed for 48 blessed hours from worries or responsibilities, surrounded by kind and hospitable friends, how else would one feel? Content, serene, and at peace with the world.

(Re-printed from British Airways' HIGH LIFE)

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BARrett-less.....

A familiar face will be missing from the Club -- at least for a while. Percy Barrett (Roy's father) arrived here last September for a few weeks' holiday and liked it so much that he stayed until a few days ago!!

Percy became a well-known sight at the BC -- especially in the bar and billiards room where he just managed (finally) to beat Ian Hill at snooker before departing home to London.

Come back soon, Percy, you'll be most welcome!

HILLTRIBES HANDICRAFTS SALE

Don't miss the last Hilltribes Handicrafts Sale before our summer break. The date for this sale is May 16, 1981 from 9:30 to 12 noon at the ISB gym. on Soi 15, Sukhumvit. This sale as well as all previous sales is proudly sponsored by the Women's Association of the International Church.

There are so many attractive and unique items on sale that shoppers find it extremely difficult to make their selection. All the handicrafts make lovely home leave gifts as well as memorable keepsakes of Thailand. Whatever your selections are, they will be cherished and enjoyed for many years to come.

It is interesting to note that all the handicrafts come from all over Thailand and from a very large variety of craftsmen. Some of the handicrafts have been made by the hilltribe people of Northern Thailand, while others by refugees from neighbouring countries. Craftsmen who have or have had leprosy as well as craftsmen from self-help community development projects or institutions are also the makers of the large variety of handicrafts.

Although all these people are economically poor, they have a rich heritage skills which has come down to the present generation in the form of their handicrafts. The selling of these handicrafts is virtually their only means of gaining a cash income. This cash income helps to educate their children, helps with medical and daily needs.

We will again hold our monthly sales starting on September 12, 1981. We look forward to seeing you at the May 16 sale and again in September. Thank you for your patronage this past year. Don't forget after shopping to stop outside for home-made baked goods with the proceeds going to the Christian Children's Happy Home!

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Norman plans a far from innocent weekend away with his sister-in-law. Find out what happens when the wife, the brother-in-law and his wife, and the boyfriend get involved. It's hilarious.

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"Nobody loves me" bewails Norman

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# LONDON CALLING

A high-speed operation....

The millions of words involved in the BBC External Services Newsroom's production of 250 bulletins a day in 39 languages are now processed through a computerised electronic distribution system. Here is how it works and how it has helped the hundred-odd journalists who select, check, write and re-write the news 24 hours a day to get it to you even faster.

The new electronic newsroom has now been in full operation for more than a year. In that time its computer nerve centre has stored and distributed throughout the Bush House headquarters of BBC External Services all the major and minor news judged to be important enough to broadcast in nearly 300 hours of news a week.

Such events as the abortive American military operation to try to rescue the hostages in Iran, the disastrous earthquakes in Algeria and Italy, the election of a new American president and the creation of the new nation of Zimbabwe have been quickly entered by visual display unit keyboard operators into the complex electronic distribution system.

The computer has coded, stored and printed them out on 90 printer terminals within seconds, so that translators and programme organisers throughout the building can see them as quickly as the newsroom itself.

The system means that an urgent story or 'snap' can be dictated to an operator as the details come in, checked and entered. And within seconds machines throughout the newsroom and Bush House will be whirring it out in unison, so that copies are available for rapid translation or immediate broadcasting in English.

And apart from new stories, the electronic distribution system (EDS) stores and handles thousands of transcribed correspondents' despatches used in Radio Newsreel and elsewhere, translations of what foreign radio stations are broadcasting picked up by the BBC Monitoring Service outside London, and volumes of other programme material.

All of this is stored and can be instantly recalled from any of 140 visual display units. Hand distribution, involving walking thousands of miles of corridors in a year, has been made obsolete: and the job of checking material for both news and other programmes is so much easier.

But the newsroom is only as good as its end product. The EDS and the other technology involved between the journalists there and our listeners are merely tools. They help you to hear the news faster, but what is more important is the accuracy of the end product, and the experience, news judgement and consideration behind it.

The first task is to evaluate and select what is important. This involves copytasters and sub-editors sifting through the thousands of sheets of newsagency material and transcriptions of foreign broadcasts, listening to correspondents as they telephone in, and checking background in the news and information library.

And when the decisions are taken and the stories written, facts must be attributed to their source where necessary to enable listeners to use their own judgement.

As well as dealing with the news as it comes in, decisions have to be taken to ask for more detail or verification, or to alert correspondents that their report will be needed for Radio Newsreel.

With the EDS always poised to handle news quickly and efficiently, the newsroom will often delay a story because it is not satisfied with it. There may not be sufficient reliable reports to verify it, or a staff correspondent's opinion of its significance may be needed before it is broadcast. But when we are satisfied that the story is as accurate as it can be, the computer goes into action.

## UNPAID ACCOUNTS - POPULAR EXCUSES/MISCONCEPTIONS

1. "I didn't receive my bill"
2. "I was on leave and even told the office not to bother to send the bill until I got back".

Accounts fall due on 20th of every month but for obvious practical reasons are required to be paid by the end of the month (Bye-Law 8).

Accounts are sent out as a service to Members but the reception of such accounts is not a pre-requisite for paying them.

Similarly, absence from Bangkok is not acceptable as a reason for non-payment. Most Members have a rough idea of what they have spent (a check with the Accounts department will produce an accurate figure) and appropriate cheques can be mailed to the Club, which has no objection to a Member's account being in credit!



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OUTPOST 3/81

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#### BRITISH WOMEN'S GROUP

They strode along Patpong 2, three abreast, patchwork and Ikebana forgotten, their Majhong sets rattling in their handbags. They were off to unravel the mysteries of Bangkok's massage parlours. Not that they'd heard about them from their husbands of course but they had heard rumours from occasional bachelor friends and tourists who seemed to frequent the parlours when passing through.

At La Costa, a worried Mamasan had been giving quick tuition to the girls in massage. Many girls had worked there for over three years without having rubbed a single limb. They were all incredulous - a large group of large ladies were to arrive soon and wanted a 'proper' massage.

In they strode, this mighty throng of British womanhood, proud to lay down their bodies for the noble cause. They were allocated numbers 1-24 at which the first split in the ranks appeared. There was a fight over number 18; Two British ladies insisted they would both like to hear the girl's sad story of how she had sunk so low. With some misgivings they all retired to their cubicles although the committee wondered later who had nobbled the four spare girls they had hired.

One poor unfortunate male, a regular drinker at the BC bar, had wandered down to La Costa soon after lunch to share an afternoon with Noi, his regular, in simple bliss. He understood his wife had gone on a BWG outing.

On a short visit during his session to relieve himself he saw four wives of his friends coming down the corridor. Although he was wearing a towel, his first instinct was to clutch his proudest possession. Was he going mad? Was he dreaming? No, they strode past like prison warders unaware of the trembling figure in the loo door. Then it struck him - his wife was in the same building.

He quickly retraced his steps, dressed and belted for dear life to the Napoleon. His was not the only ashen face ordering double brandies that afternoon in the bar.

The ladies reports after the massage were varied and most could not see what all the fuss was about. The more senior members stressed that they had kept their drawers on, even during the bath, which was why they now felt uncomfortable and wanted to go home. A few said nothing but indicated by the twitching of their lips that the event had moved them.

A resolution was passed later that evening in the BC bar, that BWG members would not be allowed near the men or in the pool (for the children's sake) until 5 days incubation period had passed.



## LADIES' LIAISON GROUP

After having to cancel our "Painting morning on April 1st, we had a very successful combined painting and clay modeling morning on Wednesday April 8th. Over eighty children arrived and spent their time painting or creating something from clay, then after a drink of squash, they enjoyed films in the Suriwong Room. They went home clutching their "original works of art."

Having the painting and clay modeling mornings combined meant a good deal of extra work for Val Conway and Ruth Sherwin, and very many thanks are due to both of them. Also thank-you to Gwladus Adams who cheerfully took it upon herself to fill in a form for every child.

On Wednesday April 15th the children enjoyed a morning of films bringing our Easter activities to a close.

The next Saturday morning activities will be held on May 9th. Please note that this is the second Saturday in May as the first Saturday falls during a holiday weekend. Details will be on the poolside noticeboard well in advance. Finally on the subject of children's activities, a sincere thank-you to those people who have passed on stamps to us, or placed them in the Poolside suggestion box. They are much appreciated.

This month we are very happy to welcome two new members to the Ladies' Liaison Group. They are Ann Blanc and Christine Tyrie. We are delighted that they have joined us, so enabling us to hear, and hopefully reflect, the views of more of the ladies.

Finally, ladies make a note of Monday May 25th when we are hoping to hold a coffee morning. Details later.

## Reception

From Tuesday 14th April, Reception will be the only place where Members may obtain cash coupons, squash stickers, billiards token, towels\* and other non food & beverage impedimenta at present dispensed by the Main Bar and/or Poolside Bar.

Members are asked to cooperate in obtaining these items themselves - staff should not be used as "runners".

In addition, the receptionist will:

- a) Receive cheques and mail.
- b) Issue bar games (playing cards, backgammon boards, darts, dice etc.) against a signature from a Member whose responsibility it is to return any such items and to ensure that such return is noted by the Receptionist - missing items marked out to a Member may be charged to his account.
- c) Keep the suggestions book.
- d) Check that guests and aircrew are signed in.
- e) Register candidates' attendance at the Club.

Reception will be manned from 0800-2200 hours daily, after which time cash coupons and billiards tokens only will be available from the Main Bar.

## Telephones

In the very near future, a pay-phone will be installed in the Clubhouse Lobby. At that time, the Bar telephone will be mechanically barred from making outside calls.

Regrettably, this has become necessary because of the minority of Members who continue to abuse the current system of "free" telephone facilities, resulting in considerable cost to the Club (and thus the other Members).

Once we have established the usage of this pay-phone to the Telephone Organisation, a further pay-phone will be installed at the Poolside.

\* Also available at Poolside.

All the above measures (re Reception and telephones) are designed to cut costs and to protect the Club against loss and abuse: Members' co-operation is requested.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### TEMPORARY MEMBERSHIP

Visitors to Bangkok may be granted Temporary Membership of the Club on the following basis:-

1. They must be citizens of the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada or New Zealand.
2. They must be proposed by an Ordinary or Country Member in the book kept for this purpose in Reception.
3. They are entitled to the use of all the facilities of the Club but may not
  - a) Propose or second candidates for election
  - b) Attend or vote at General Meetings
  - c) Introduce guests to the Club
4. Payments for all goods and services must be by cash coupons which may be purchased from Reception. These coupons carry a surcharge unless a subscription has been paid (see (5) below). Currently, this means that a visitor pays £100 for £80 worth of coupons. The surcharge represents a form of subscription, entrance fee, and deposit which Ordinary Members have to pay.
5. Unless a Temporary Member is also a candidate for full Membership the period of membership may not exceed 30 days in any calendar year. For a period of less than 15 days, no subscription is payable but the coupon surcharge will apply (see (4) above). For a period in excess of 15 days, the relevant monthly subscription is payable but the visitor will not be subject to the coupon surcharge.
6. The general provisions of Temporary Membership also apply to Ladies.

#### BRAHMS MUSIC AT WIGMORE HALL

Written especially for and  
exclusive to 'OUTPOST'

by Camus



BRAHMS.

WHEN you visit London's Wigmore Hall it is more than likely that a Piano Recital of music by a well-known classical composer will be on the programme. It was my good fortune to be specially invited by pianist Tamas Vesmas to be present at the opening programme of three recitals of Brahms piano music he was giving over a period of two weeks.

Born in Romania, Tamas Vesmas began to play the piano at the age of ten, and by the time he was fourteen was giving both solo performances and playing with the Romanian Symphony Orchestra. Eventually he toured all over the world -- I first met him in Northern Ireland playing for an Arts Council series -- including chamber music in his repertoire, and more recently giving much thought to the music of Johannes Brahms.

Main work at the Wigmore Hall on the occasion of my visit was the Brahms Piano Sonata in F Sharp Minor. Immediately the Vesmas feeling for the composer was apparent in the first movement which 'enters like a lion', but has an impassioned second 'tune' which adds bite and contrast to the music. The pianist went on to illustrate the variations of the second movement which certainly exploit the full range of the keyboard, and moved to the scherzo which is adorned with octave trills and other 'devices' of the young Brahms. Although I must confess that I did not notice it in Mr. Vesmas' reading, the finale's exciting fantastic coda -- immaculately played -- is supposed to have 'left its mark' on Brahms' D Minor Concerto.

-- SHORT PIECES --

But most visitors to Wigmore Hall -- especially the 'casuals' -- like to hear the shorter pieces. Here I had no complaint, for the programme included two groups of Brahms "Klavierstücke" (Piano Pieces) and his two "Rhapsodies". The moods are multi-varied in the Klavierstücke, Tamas Vesmas sensing the bleakness of the 'capriccio', the gypsy-flavour of the 'allegro non troppo', the beauty of the picturesque A Flat Intermezzo. His

handling of the difficult cross-rhythms of another fiery 'capriccio' was quite masterly, and the last piece in C Major -- which has a magical moment of 'adagio' before the end -- was imbued with a sparkle and brilliance which was a joy to experience.

Another opus of Klavierstücke was included, but, I really enjoyed the two Rhapsodies, which actually opened the programme. The B Minor has an extremely melodious aura and an intriguing 5-bar 'musette', and the G Minor's 'hand-crossing' episodes were handled with the utmost dexterity.

I enjoyed a most rewarding evening's piano music. If you visit the Wigmore Hall, I am certain you will appreciate it as much as I did.

## AFTER THE CROSSWORD WHAT IS THERE?

### VIDEO!

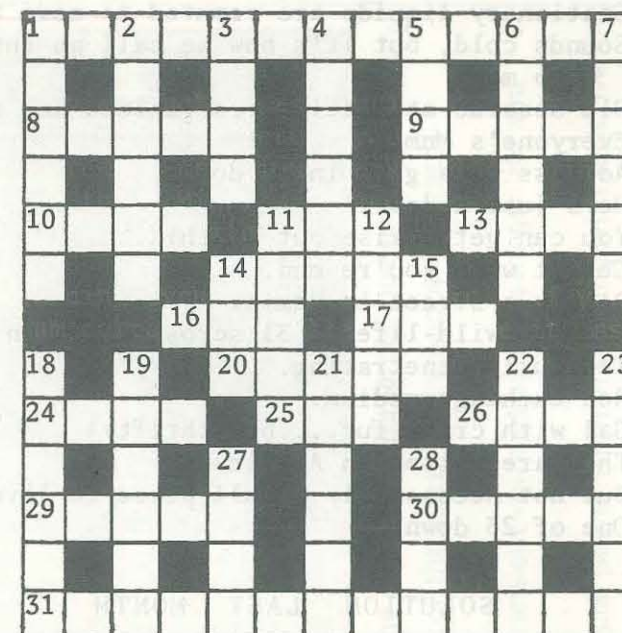
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## CROSSWORD



## CLUES

### Across

- 1 You might stand this, but if it is 31 across you will be mellow (3 words)
- 8 Right in the low joint...but better do it well for 31 across....
- 9 ....and these should go down well too.
- 10 Stagger back for a sexy look.
- 11 The home of the Empress at Blandings Castle.
- 13 Really blue?
- 14 He might be responsible for 1 across.
- 16 Perch for a painter.
- 17 Bird who affectionately named a wartime V.I.P.
- 20 Sounds like Father's, but you can do it in a sentence.
- 24 Press with this, but not in 31 across.
- 25 If you have this, you are underprivileged.
- 26 Right in the Club for a young pest!
- 29 Army exercise material.
- 30 If 31 across is 1 across, then you will be this!
- 31 Just around! (2 words)

**Down**

- 1 Sieve to find an enigma.
- 2 A look we hope is only outward!
- 3 Stationary liquids are reputed to move thus.
- 4 Sounds cold, but it's how we call an entertaining Club man!
- 5 Old seaside attraction reorganised and ready.
- 6 Everyone's Mum!
- 7 Address of a girl in 23 down?
- 11 He's just a devil!
- 12 You can get a rise out of this.
- 14 Get it when you're mad.
- 15 Regret a street in Paris.
- 18 Welcome wild-life in 31 across....watch it!
- 19 Tediously penetrating.
- 21 Red exchange medium.
- 22 Gal with crazy fur....but thrifty!
- 23 They are united in America
- 27 But not necessarily a dull place to live.
- 28 One of 23 down.

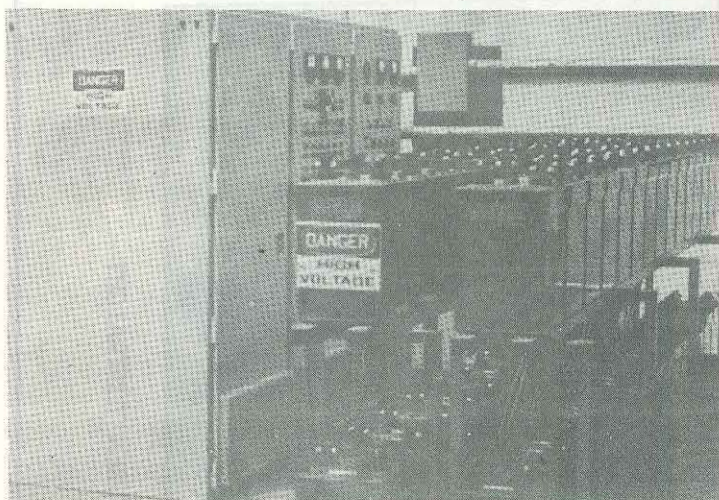
SOLUTION LAST MONTH

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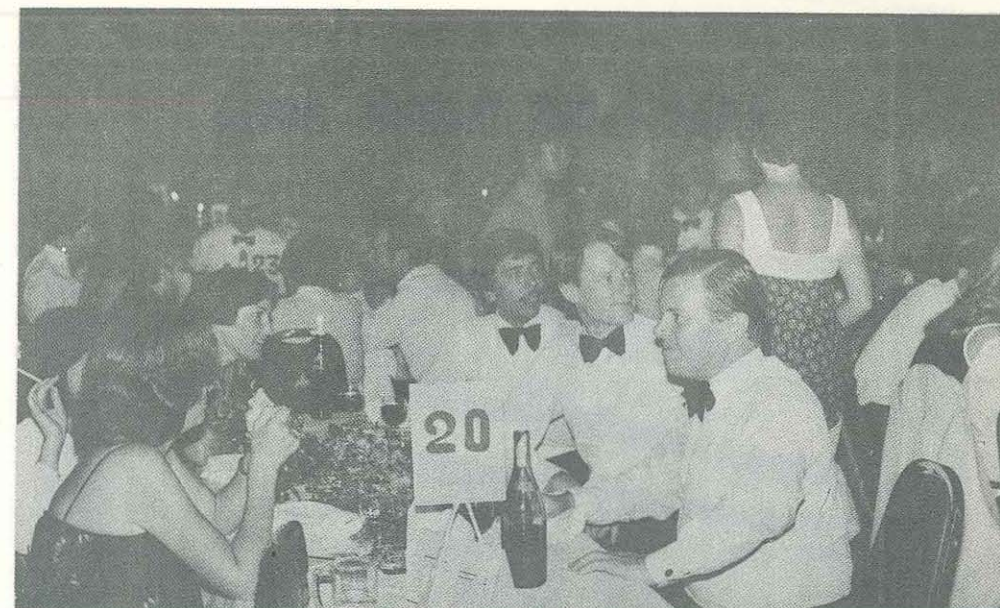
## CANDID CAMERA



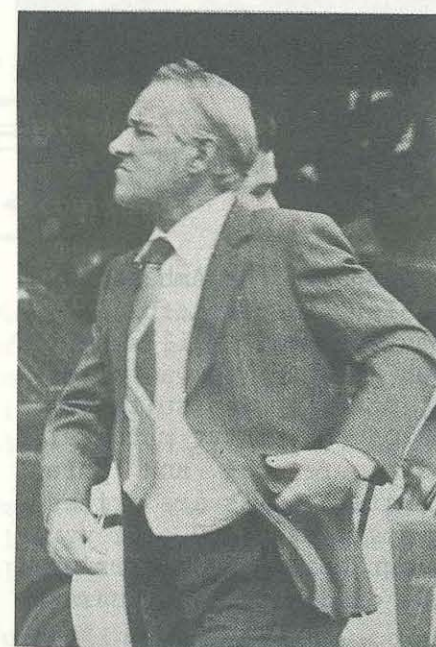
BUT THE WALLS WEREN'T STRAIGHT



..... AND THIS WAS THE ORIGINAL MODEL



DID I HEAR 21%?



Yes! it's that photo again!

Reproduced by courtesy of the Bangkok Post. The now-famous Bob Lumsden en-route to give the Generals a piece of his mind!

"Who's in charge here anyway!"

## AMBASSADOR FASHION HOUSE



### AMBASSADOR FASHION

1/10-11 Soi 11 Sukhumvit Road, opposite the Ambassador Hotel. Price are quite reasonable. The tasteful show-room display of fashionable ready-to-wear will appeal to those not wanting to wait even 24 hours for a tailor-made outfit. Skirts, trousers, safaries and suits etc. are made from a large collection of the best material from all over the world. We have pure wool and pure silk from England and China. Safari suits are priced from \$500 and fully lined suits begin at \$1400. If you want to look your best, we give our best. On referring to this advertisement you get 10% discount. We guarantee your satisfaction.

### News Release

In an exciting exhibition squash match at The British Club on Saturday, April 11, Chams Zaman (Fourth ranked amateur in Pakistan) won 3 games to 2 over Steve Balme (Number one ranked amateur in Thailand).

The first match produced some exciting and aggressive squash of a high standard -- Balme finally won 9-7 after Zaman missed two of his normally excellent reverse drop shots. The second game was totally dominated by Balme who won 9-0. Zaman appeared to be playing too casually while Balme's retrieving was superb. The third game was almost a duplicate of the second, but this time it was Zaman that dominated the proceedings winning 9-0, while Balme appeared somewhat sluggish at this point.

Zaman remained dominant in the fourth game winning 9-2, and so the contest went into the final game with the score 2-2.

At the start of the final game, Balme appeared to have recovered his retrieving ability, and the first six or seven points were hotly contested. Zaman then began to get on top and eventually ran out a comfortable 9-4 winner.

An interesting match which should have provided some useful tips for the appreciative gallery.



## BILLIARDS

During the months of March and April we have attempted to run off a "straight snooker" tournament. All entries were posted and instructions given to "make your own challenge" in the first round. The final rounds would be drawn and played in two nights as all games are to be the best two of three.

Due to the fact that the preliminary round has not been completed, the final rounds will have to be played in May. All players involved will be notified by the snooker section.

You will also see a new tournament posted in May. We hope to get even more entries for the new competition.



## DARTS

Only Ingrid and Bryan Baldwin were able to represent the Club at the end of league banquet held at the Amarin Hotel on 26th March, but both came away with a trophy! Ingrid's for the Lillywhites' first ever league 180 was expected, but your favourite team were also voted as winners of the T.L. Gilbert Sportsmanship Shield for the third time running, and the 4th time in 6 leagues.

The trophy, originally donated to the Bangkok Darts League by Bert Hobson now becomes the property of the British Club and will be a permanent addition to the new cabinet in the lobby.

Norman Burbridge (Nai IX) has taken over the captaincy from Bryan for the 16th League which began on 16th April with our customary start-of-season defeat. This one was caused by too little practice for 2 months and uncertain Amarat levels. Team stalwarts John Sill and the Derby Duo (Brian Heath and Arthur Hawtin) were absent, and we came up against a skillful and enthusiastic new team, P.T.T.

Nevertheless the Lillywhites still stand a good chance of winning a real trophy this time, for newcomer James Kelly, though not on the winning side this time showed enough skill to indicate an appropriately misspent youth. In the 11-6 defeat at the hands of P.T.T., Tom Alderton and David Frost won their singles, and largely due to the form of Chris Andrews. Chris and Bryan Baldwin won their doubles. Tom, Frosty and Peter Prince won their triples when the latter closed X8, but all remaining points went to the Petroleum Authority of Thailand. Tons were scored by Tom and Bryan.

On the facing page is a photograph of members of the British Club Darts Team posing with trophies before the start of the new league.



David Frost, Tom Alderton, Norman Burbridge, Ingrid Baldwin, Bryan Baldwin, James Kelly, Jean Burbridge and Chris Andrews



## LADIES' GOLF

The finals of the Gestetner Trophy Stableford Competition was played on March 24th.

Winner:	Eileen Ford	74 points
R/Up :	Ruth Kennedy	68 "
Best on the 1st Day :	Loretta Parker	37 "
" " " 2nd " :	Joyce Lumsden	37 "

The two days of this Competition was much enjoyed by all, and we thank Gestetner (Thailand) Ltd. for sponsoring this Competition, an Annual event we all look forward to. It was culminated by a Luncheon given by our Lady Captain at her home for all the Players who participated, and everyone enjoyed the kind hospitality and good food Eileen gave us.

Despite temperatures rising, we are still maintaining a good turn out of Ladies on Tuesdays at the Army Golf Club starting at 7.00 a.m. and recently have welcomed four new Ladies.

Judy King:	7-B Sunshine Court Sukhumvit Soi 63
Jennie Tittle:	110/11 Soi Charoenmitr Sukhumvit Soi 63
Pam Hardy:	41/1 Soi Nai Lert Ploenchit Road
Ann Savage:	Apt. A Nantha House South Sathorn

All these Ladies are established Golfers, and we wish them lots of luck and good Golf.

### Programme for May

Please note that May 5th is a Public Holiday and there will be no Golf organised on that day.

#### Tuesday 12th May - Flag Competition

Starter: M. Marshall (251 9558)

#### Tuesday 19th May - Stableford

Starter: E. Ford (252 2074)

#### Tuesday 26th May - Monthly Medal

Starter: J. Lumsden (252 8402)

#### Tuesday 2nd June - Stableford

Starter: M. Marshall (251 9558)

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# SWIMMING

## APRIL SHOWER =====

We didn't have a Gala  
'Cause nobody could come.  
(All swimming down at Pattaya  
And soaking up - the sun?)  
We've had no further 'Swimathon'  
Or Personal Survival,  
But had, in March, a Farewell Tea -  
(That's for leaving - not arrival.)  
The Taits and Clearys, sad to say  
Will quit the Swimming Matches  
For H.K. - U.K. - who knows where?  
And they've got their Leavers' Patches.  
And Hugh - Oh, how we missed you -  
Absent for the speech.  
But - Mai pen rai - for Maggie F.  
Stepped once more into the breach.  
So - what I'm really getting at  
(In case you haven't guessed)  
Is; there's not a lot to say this month.  
Therein my case I rest.

- o -

N.B. There will be a Gala next month: Sunday 10th May, so please make a note in your diaries.

## VACANCY

The present secretary of the  
SWIMMING SECTION

(Whose OUTPOST notes are becoming increasingly vacant in themselves) feels that she has been in the job too long, and is now falling down on it. If anyone is willing to fill this desirable position (Perks: No salary, work one Sunday a month) please - Please - contact Judy Mattinson: 391 2831.

"Judy, please don't go away

Your swimming page - a sunshine ray! (Ed.)



# GOLF

Your committee (which includes Derek Johnson) feels that Derek has won too many prizes recently.

Derek's gross scores in his last 5 rounds on par 72 courses were 80 (handicap 13), 80(12), 81(11), 81(10) and 82(10). His last round included a 9 on a par 4. Truly great golf, except for that one hole. Your handicapper can't keep up with this man who continues to win in spite of his handicap being cut by 3 strokes in the space of 7 weeks.

To achieve a wider distribution of prizes the Golf Committee has decided to apply an "on the spot" handicap reduction for consistent sub-par prize winners.

In future handicaps of players who win 1st prize in either flight with a net sub-par round will be reduced by half the difference between par and their net score. Half a stroke will be rounded off to a full stroke. This reduced handicap will remain in force for 4 outings and will come on top of any normal adjustment under the USGA handicapping system.

## Hua Mark: April 12th

This outing was dominated by David Frost and Sally Vorawarn being seen prancing around the course wearing Hogmanay face masks, in a (successful) attempt to distract the opposition (Miller/Salter) in the first round of the Dunlop Trophy competition. The appeal to the captain against this misdemeanour was not upheld, since no reference could be found in the rule book which mentioned such nefarious activities on a golf course. This, therefore, was probably a 'first' in the annals of golf, and a letter has gone to the R & A St. Andrews, for the record. Another big surprise occurred when Derek Johnson came in as only runner up (to Brian Lewis) on the day, after winning the last 6 meetings outright.

David Frost and Hans Daniels put their balls nearest the pins (and won Chartered Bank prizes) while visitor Pieter Mittman outclassed the field with the best overall score of 39 points. George Walcke's recent comeback received a jolt, his card showing a booby winning 21 points. (Captain Kerr also had a heavy-Saturday-evening-before to contend with, which showed up clearly in all of his 24 points). The hot, overcast, sultry,

/Continued on page 43

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BCN

A MEMBER OF THE REED STENHOUSE GROUP

April Sunday also took its toll on the less young and agile members, and the Vizes, Duggans, Mooneys, Longs, Bonds, Adcocks etc. were noticed to be slightly the worse for wear at the 19th hole, which took somewhat longer to play than normal.

The Club championship commences on May 10th (Hua Mark) at 11:43 a.m. and as usual, this will be sponsored by Commercial Union/Guardian Assurance Companies, those two friendly competitors adjoined specially for the occasion.

## 1981 Societies Golf Tournament

Despite the uncertainties of the previous three days in Bangkok, 66 golfers teed off at Hua Hin, on Saturday 4th April, for the annual Societies Golf Tournament, and a total of 63 players completed two days of Stableford competition.

Hua Hin was very, very hot, and the fairways, very, very hard, but despite this some very good scores were produced.

First Prize, the magnificent new Flemming Kinnaird Trophy, was won by Mike Neville with 74 points.

Second Prize went to Leslie Vize with 73 points, and the Third Prize to Dai Luke with 72 points.

## Inter-Society trophy winners were:-

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| St. George's  | - Auld Reekie Cup   |
| St. Patrick's | - St. David's Cup   |
| St. David's   | - St. George's Cup  |
| St. George's  | - St. Patrick's Cup |

## Individual trophy winners were:-

- |              |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Mike Neville | - Delacour Cup        |
| Leslie Vize  | - J.P. Malone Cup     |
| Bob Lumsden  | - Sybil Donofield Cup |
| Dai Luke     | - E.C. Howell Cup     |

## Other prize winners were:-

- |                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Aggregate Low Gross (Men)    | - Lloyd Thomas   |
| Aggregate Low Gross (Ladies) | - Sheila Neville |

	<u>1st Day</u>	<u>2nd Day</u>
Highest Points	Bob Lumsden	Sheila Neville
Runner-Up	Lloyd Thomas	Terry Moore
Highest Points 1st Nine	Neil Duggan	Joyce Lumsden
Highest Points 2nd Nine	Tom Alderton	Mike Ragless
Nearest the Pin 5th Hole	Simon Edmonds	John Salter
Nearest the Pin 14th Hole	John Salter	Sheila Neville
Longest Drive - Men	John Lenaghan	Tom Ford
Longest Drive - Ladies	Sheila Neville	Sheila Neville
Highest Points Par 3's	Joan Sewell	Alistair Johnstone
Runner-Up	Anthony Parker	Peter Beston
Aggregate <u>Lowest</u> Points	Daicre Raikes	

Prize giving followed a buffet supper on Sunday evening at the Railway Hotel, and thanks to the generosity of a number of companies, it was possible to award prizes to all competitors. The evening ended with disco dancing organised by Brian Heath.

### The Dunlop Cup

Six of the first round matches have now been completed and, those who have won through to the second round can arrange their matches whenever convenient but, preferably by May 10th. The two first round matches that have not yet been completed should be played as soon as possible so as not to inconvenience other players already through to the second round. If it is not possible to arrange these matches by April 26th then they will have to be decided either, by the toss of a coin or, by gentleman's (or ladies) agreement. Neither way offers any personal satisfaction and is not in the spirit of the competition, so we hope you will attempt to complete the matches on schedule.

### Note for your diary

The first round of the Club Championship will be played at the Hua Mark course on May 10th, starting at 11.43 a.m. with the second round following on May 24th, starting at 11:15 a.m. at the same course.

This is expected to be a keenly contested competition to determine the best golfer in the Club. However, there will be prizes for the best net scores on each day, so even the high handicap golfers can compete enthusiastically.

More information will be circulated on the Club Championship in the near future.

### Eagle's Nest

There are now 16 balls in the nest for the next fortunate golfer to get an eagle.

### Note

While we try to encourage new members to join our golf outings, we also enjoy the comradeship and support of our long standing members. Therefore, it is with some concern that we have noticed that some of the previously regular members are not participating as often as we would like to see them. We appreciate that it is becoming extremely expensive to play golf and of course, this is beyond our control. However, if there are other reasons that are within our control, please discuss them with any of the committee members.

### Diary for the remainder of the year

As requested by a number of members, the fixtures for the remainder of the year are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Time</u>
Apr 26	Stableford	Rose Garden	10:42
May 10	Club Championship	Hua Mark	11:43
May 24	Club Championship	Hua Mark	11:15
Jun 14	Stableford	Rose Garden	8:48
Jun 28	Stableford	Railway	8:00
Jul 12	Eclectic	Rose Garden	8:54
Jul 25	Eclectic	Rose Garden	7:48
Aug 9	Eclectic	Rose Garden	8:54
Aug 23	Stableford	-	-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sep 6	Stableford	Rose Garden	8:54
Sep 20	Captain's Day	-	9:42
Oct 4	Stableford	-	-
Oct 18	Stableford	-	-
Nov 1	Stableford	-	-
Nov 15	Stableford	-	9:42
Nov 29	Stableford	Thai Country Club	-
Dec 5/6	-	Hua Hin	-

Please note that only times and courses that have already been booked are firm. The venues and times for the remainder will be advised as bookings are confirmed.



## CRICKET

The season has now finished for British Club players. Due to various circumstances it was not easy to get a full side for the last two games and unfortunately we lost both.

The first was the Marshall Trophy game against RBSC. The holders for the last eight years RBSC batted first and were held to a low score of 130 in their 40 overs. Lanham took six wickets and White two.

BC were well placed to get the runs at 2-89 when Bob Allen got a questionable LBW and was out for 42. Nick White was shortly out for 27. The middle order collapsed to miss out by 18 runs.

The final game was against Nakhon Sawan who scored 187 in their 40 overs, well assisted by dropped catches. Wicket-takers were Symes (1) Mulligan (1) Lanham (2) and Niemczyk (2).

BC then managed only 135 with main rungetters Lanham (45), Niemczyk (20), Green (21) Mulligan (15) and Rod Harris (12 not out).

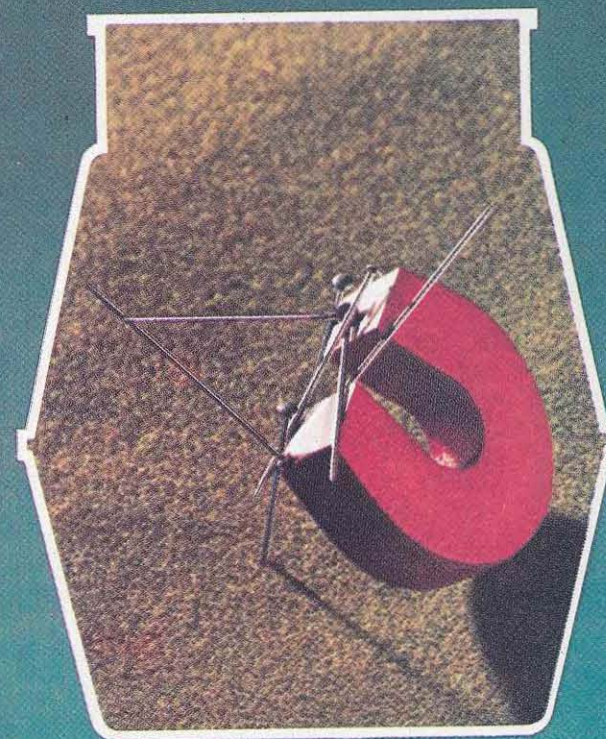
While the last two games were disappointing, the good news was that BC won the 25 over Championship, the premier competition of the Thailand Cricket League. This was just reward for the enthusiasm, dedication and excellent fielding displayed during the season by the B.C. players.

# the great attraction



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# KENT

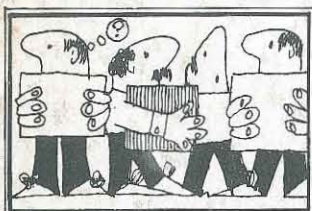
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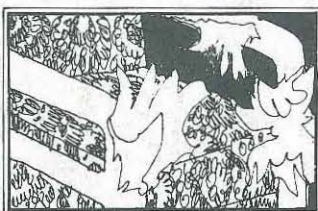
The Company with the experience to prove it.

# Everyone would agree that moving can be troublesome, worrisome and wearisome. Right?

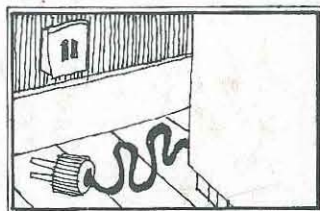
## These useful tips will help you...



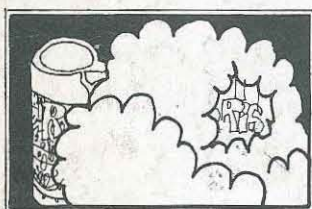
Avoid crowds during packing days by selling unwanted items well in advance. Packing is more secure and faster if only packers are present during packing days.



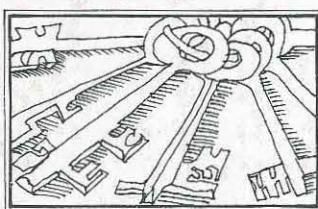
New furniture should be delivered at least two weeks before packing to ensure dry finishes. Furniture should not be oiled during the last two weeks as the oil might seep during transit: wrapping paper may adhere to and spoil finishes.



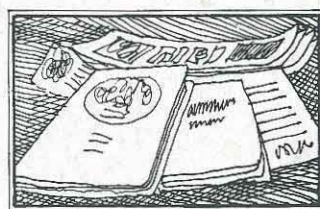
If possible, disconnect all electrical appliances, particularly refrigerators, deep freezers, airconditioners and stoves, the day before packing.



Discard all combustible liquids (such as lighter fuel) and aerosol cans from your belongings.



All furniture keys should be taped to respective items, preferably to the insides of drawers, etc., and you should keep a complete set of duplicate keys for yourself.



Have all your travel documents -- passports, tickets, tax clearances, etc. -- assembled prior to packing.

## And for your smoothest move ever...



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