

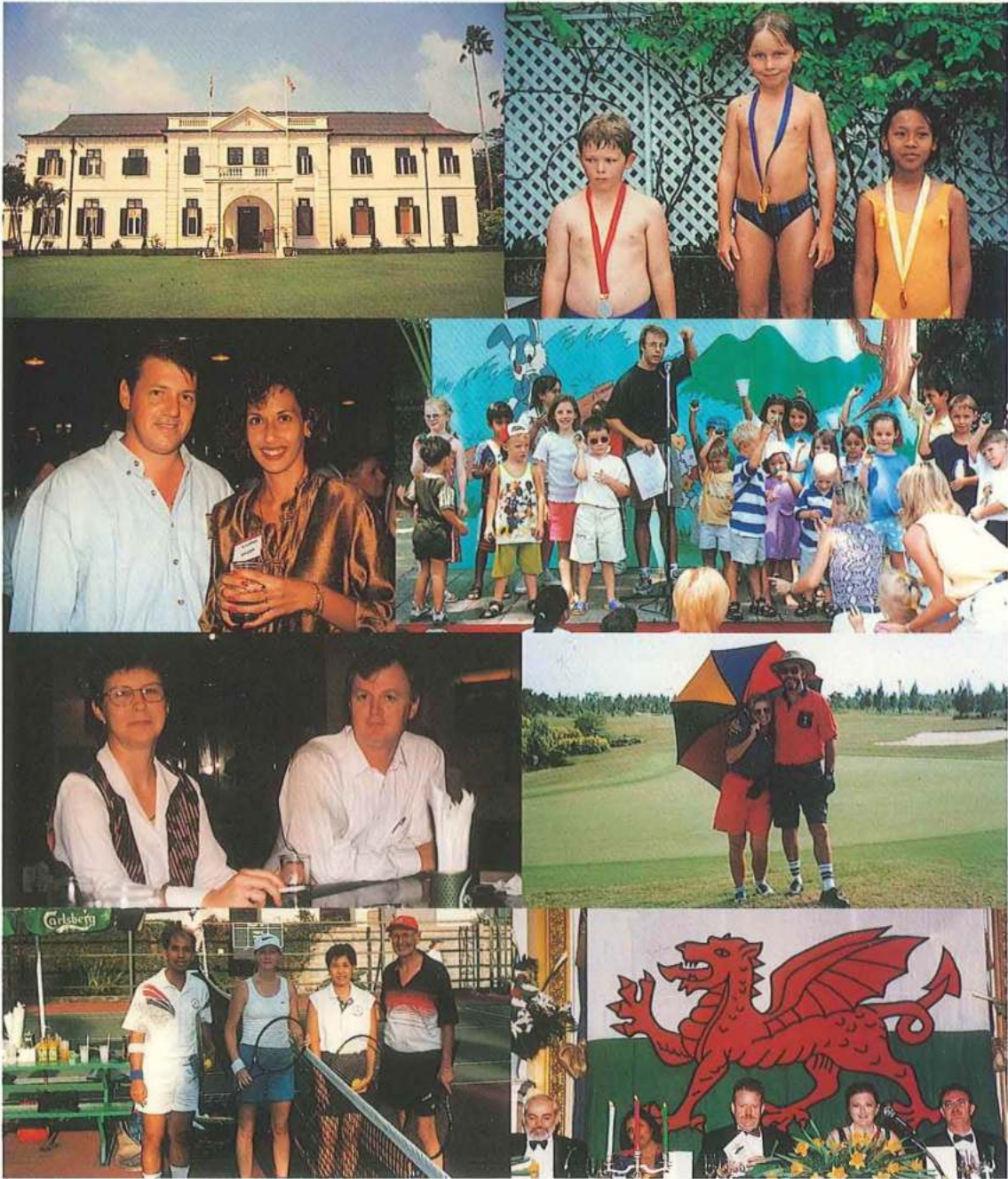


Outpost

May

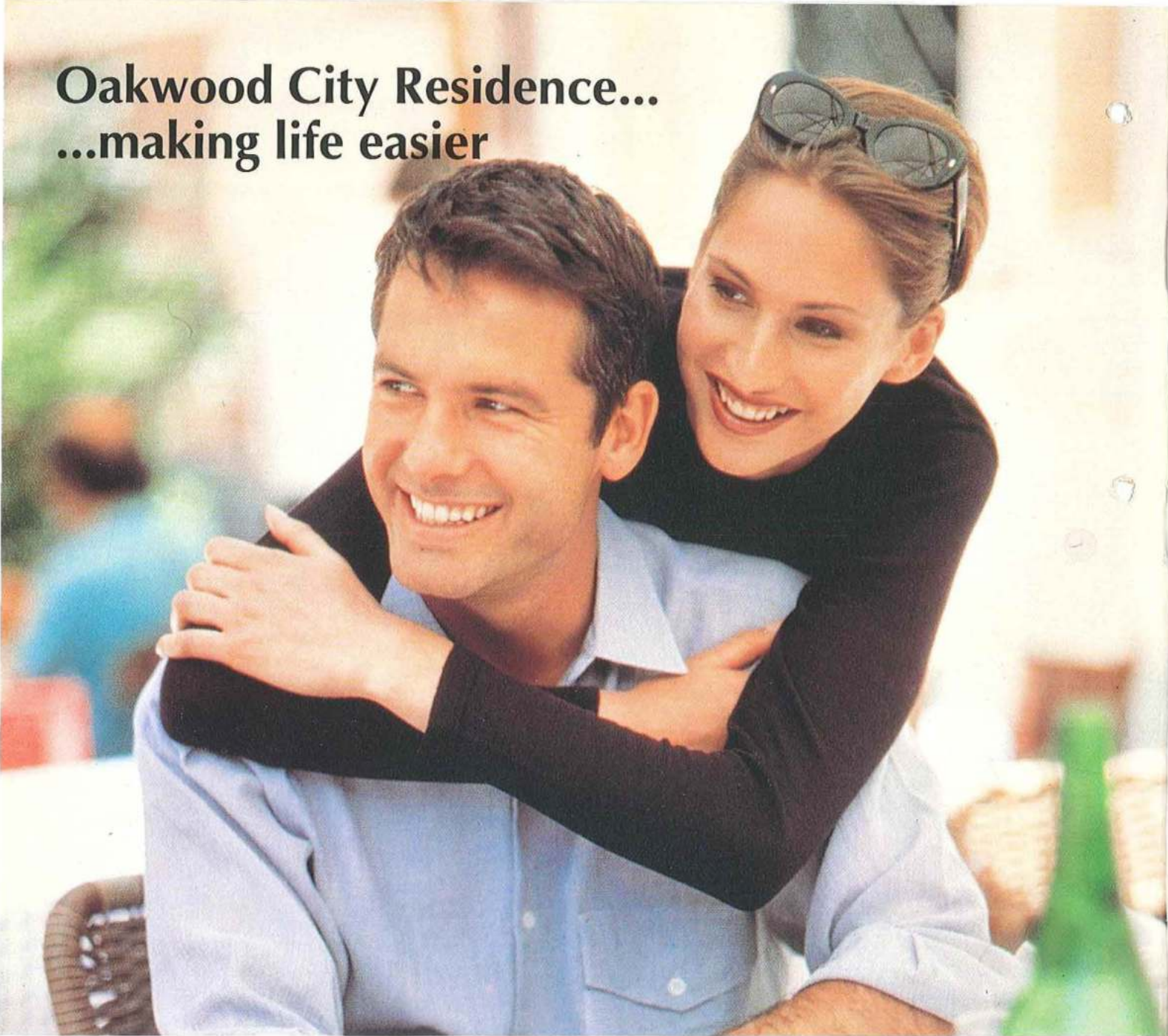
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1999



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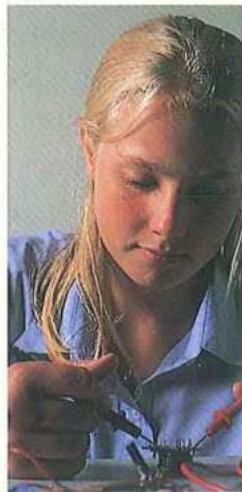
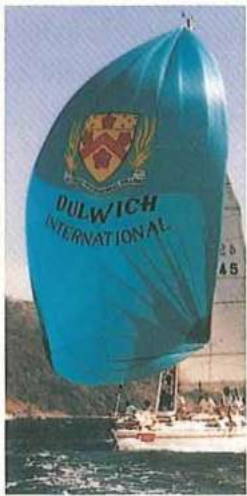


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Consistent with our philosophy of providing children with a rich diversity of experiences, we also offer English Summer Schools in April and July and Sports and Adventure Camps in July. These are open to everyone. Allow us to develop your child's spirit of adventure and discovery.

Dulwich International College



Dulwich International College

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Phuket: tel (66 76) 238-711/20 fax (66 76) 238-750 Bangkok: tel (66 2) 245-5492 fax (66 2) 245-5490

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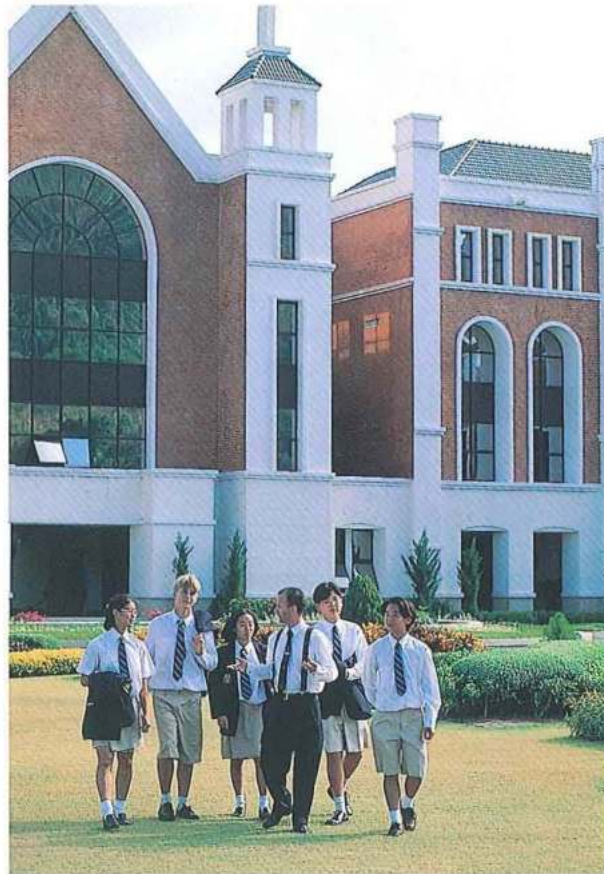
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Sports and Adventure Camp (July 12th to August 1)

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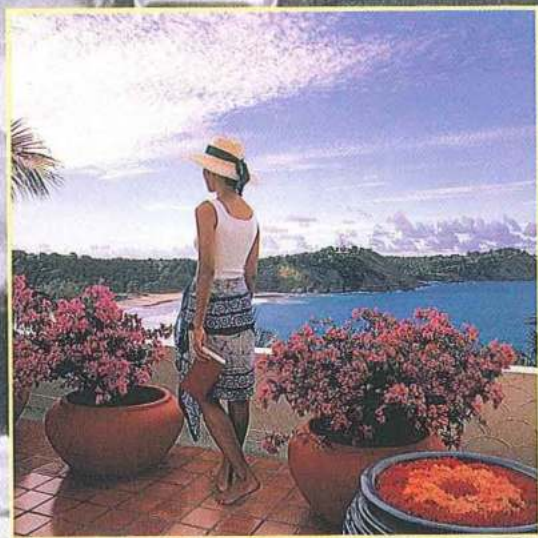
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Contributions

If you would like to contribute to Outpost please contact the Editor, Sherry Conisbee, on Tel: 285 4721-2; Fax: 285 4723



Outpost Magazine

The contents of this magazine are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor, the General Committee or the management.



On the Front Cover:

Judy & Roger, still together on the 18th Top Table at the St. David's Ball

Mixed Doubles Finalists

New Members, Paul & Rovanna Bowden

BC youngsters enjoying Easter festivities

Judy & Andy at Happy Hour

Deserving young medalists

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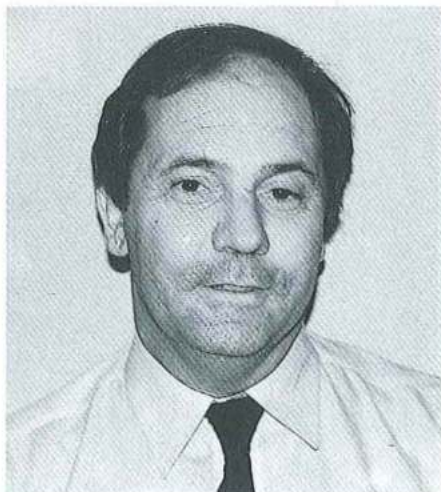
Since I last wrote, the AGM has taken place. I'm sure by now you will have all heard the details of the major decisions taken at the AGM, i.e. to discontinue the Playing Field Fund and transfer it to a general fund for capital developments, and to increase entrance fees and monthly subscriptions. However, if you do need more information, please contact me at the Club. I would like to say welcome to the new committee members with whom I look forward to working, and I add my personal thanks for the time and hard work put into the Club by the three retiring committee members.

I am now into my fourth year as Manager of the Club, having started on 15 April 1996. The first three years have been enjoyable and challenging as the Club has operated on a tight budget and due to the poor economic situation generally in Thailand, cost-cutting has been the order of the day. Restraint will remain a key word for some time to come but the future definitely looks more rosy.

For a start, membership numbers at over 940 are the highest they've ever been. This makes the Club more active and of course the extra monthly subs and spending on F&B doesn't go amiss. The Club now needs a good lick of paint all over and in many instances much more to bring the appearance and maintenance of the facilities up to scratch. Now that the worst of the financial problems seem to be behind us, we will be spending some money on bringing the facilities back into tiptop condition so I hope you will all start to notice the difference in the near future.

A couple of BC trips are planned for the near future. The first is this month - a new trip to Khao Yai, a beautiful mountain area not too far from Bangkok. In November the famous and popular trip to Surin will take place. This year we are hoping to stay in Surin overnight to make the trip more relaxed. More details of these tours can be found later in this issue.

Just a reminder about the 1998 Annual Report and Year Book. These are now available for collection at Reception. We are trying to save on postage by asking you to collect them, but if you live a long way from the Club and are not likely to be visiting for a while, please let me know and we will arrange to send one to you.



Thomas Bain - General Manager

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Bain'.

Thomas Bain
General Manager

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An Egg-sighting Day!

This was an egg-perience not to be missed with over 90 children searching for 80+ eggs on Easter Sunday. To the best of my knowledge all were found - at least the gold and silver ones were.



The kids had a whale of a time searching high and low, but sadly a few late-comers were disappointed - but only temporarily. Their day was saved by a few strategically

placed recycled eggs that I was given (just to hold) by a youngster who went off in search of more. Note to parents - Get There Early Next Year!



Continued on page 25



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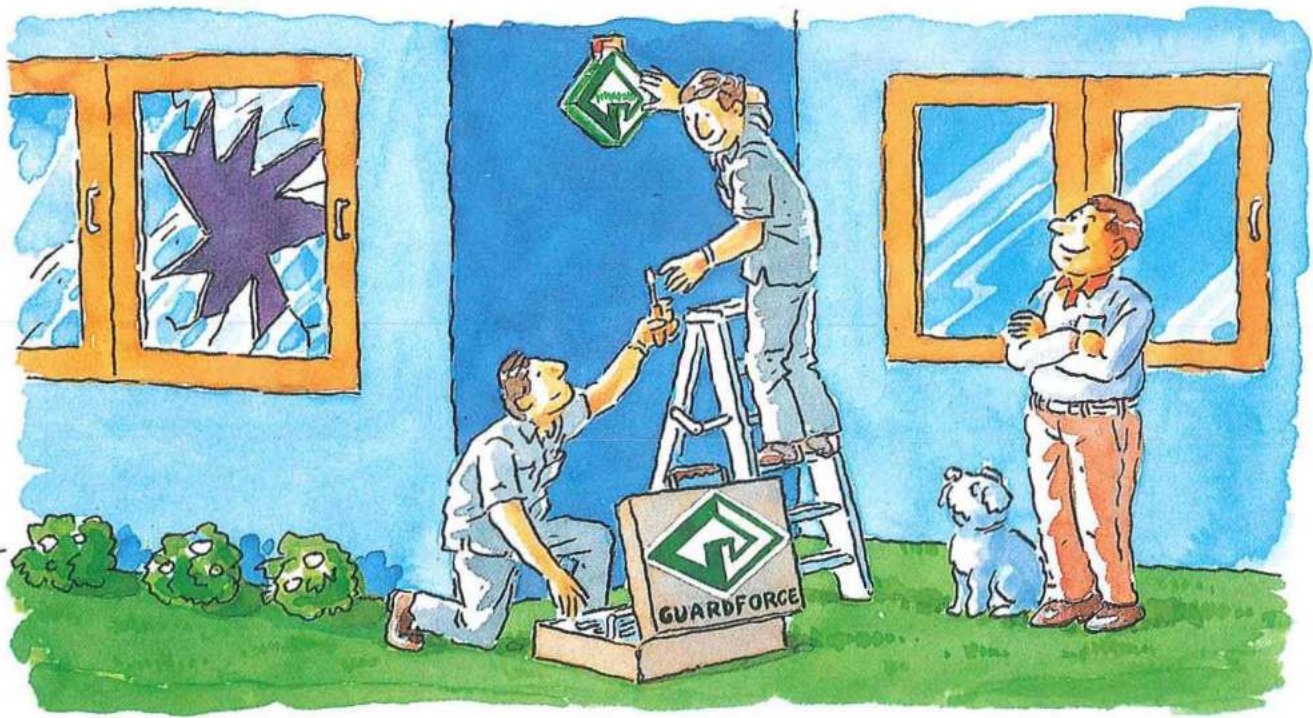
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Khao Yai Trip

Join us for a weekend at the Khao Yai Villa and Mountain Resort from 28th-30th May. The cost is 2,750 baht for adults and 1,850 baht for children and includes full board and tours. Book at Reception! (See page 32)

Surin Trip

The annual BC trip to see the elephants (more than 200 of them!) will take place, as usual, in November. In previous years we have travelled up on the overnight train, spent the following day in and around Surin, returning that evening on the overnight train. A brilliant, but tiring, trip! This year we hope to arrange to stay in Surin overnight to make the trip more relaxed. However this depends on the availability of hotel rooms which are like hen's teeth that weekend! Please keep your eyes open for more details or phone the GM if you wish to know more about our plans. (See page 15)

Special Promotion: Wine & Dine - and win a bottle!

As from 3rd May, the à la carte menu in Lords has been revamped and features new dishes to delight the senses. From hearty and wholesome nourishment to sumptuous delicacies and seafood symphonies, this menu has been created specially by Khun Barry to excite your taste buds and leave you replete - so why not join him? And, what's more, if you come and enjoy a meal in Lords Restaurant for the promotional week of 3rd-9th May and leave your business card, you may be the winner of the lucky draw - a bottle of wine courtesy of **PTK**. The draw will take place on Sunday evening, 9th May.

Suggestion Book

Just a reminder that the Club has two suggestion books for members' use. One is kept at Reception and the other in the fitness centre. I would recommend a personal approach to the GM or one of the other managers if you have a suggestion to make. However, if a written comment is more appropriate we would certainly recommend that you use the suggestion book. All entries will be carefully considered, a reply written and action taken where appropriate. All suggestions will be

brought to the attention of the General Committee.

Friday and Saturday BBQ

As of Friday 30th April we are going to relocate the Friday and Saturday Barbecue to the Silom Sala. Come along between 6pm and 9pm to enjoy this quality BC barbecue. Adults 170 baht, children under 12 just 100 baht. See you there.

F.A. Cup Final - LIVE!

Watch the F.A. Cup live at the BC on Saturday 22nd May. The Football Section is holding a special function to watch the game on the big screen in the Suriwongse Room and the TV will be set up in the Churchill Bar. Come along for a great night of soccer at the Club.

June is Carnival Time in Lords

Lords Restaurant will be more popular than the Copacabana during the forthcoming Brazilian Culinary Carnival. Come and eat as much as you can on Friday 25th & Saturday 26th June (evenings only) or on Sunday 27th (both lunch and dinner). The price is 580 baht

per head for this buffet-style meal - book at Reception or in Lords.

Happy Hour & Wine Prices

Don't forget HAPPY HOUR at the Club every evening from 6pm-8pm in all outlets. Wine prices are also drastically reduced so why not try a bottle when you are next at the Club.

Monthly Subscriptions

At the recent AGM it was decided to increase monthly subscriptions as of 1st April. These increases will be included in your April bill which you will receive mid May. If you have any queries about the increase please contact Khun Mot, the Membership Accountant.

Entrance Fees

These will increase from 1st July 1999 and again from 1st January 2000. Therefore, if you know anyone who is thinking of joining, get them to do so now to beat the price rise!!! For more information about Membership price increases, please contact Khun Goi or Khun Mun in our Membership Sales Department.

Meet the Staff

Happy after 32 years!



Khun Amporn

Behind the bar at the Sala, Khun Amporn Phrumisri, the Surawongse Sala Supervisor, always gives a happy smile and a warm welcome to members. She joined the British Club in June 1967, before some members were even born! Married and living in Rajburana District, she has no children but her younger brother, Khun Somsak, keeps an eye on her! He, too, works at the British Club - in the Churchill Bar.

She told *Outpost* that the British Club was her first job. She has a wealth of memories from the old days when she worked poolside from 8 am to 8 pm. Despite this long 12 hour shift, Khun Amporn would help out almost every night at a private party for one of the members. She recalls how kind some of the members were by offering her a lift home if the party had run into the early hours.

In those days members used the Club frequently and Khun Amporn recalls that the hours between 2-4 pm were particularly hectic. Although she still has a lot of work to do, and more responsibility, she remains very happy to be a member of the BC staff.

Interviewed by:

Khun Ratcharida

(Staff Administration)

For those members unable to attend the AGM at the end of last month, I thought you might be interested in seeing the Chairman's Report I delivered at that meeting: "This has certainly been a challenging year which has much in common with most businesses in Thailand and indeed throughout South East Asia. As a consequence, the focus of the General Committee has been on the financial position of the Club and the impact of the present economic environment. Inevitably the situation over the last 20 months has made an impression on the British Club.

I feel I can virtually repeat Dugal's words of last year which you may remember included comments on the restriction on spending when not absolutely essential and the very tight control of expenses. The Club's management team must take a high degree of credit in these areas. I would also like to thank the General Committee for their considerable efforts over the past year. You are able to read of their achievements in the Year Book, which, for the first time in a number of years, you have available to you tonight. Gentlemen - I'm sorry to say only gentlemen - thank you.

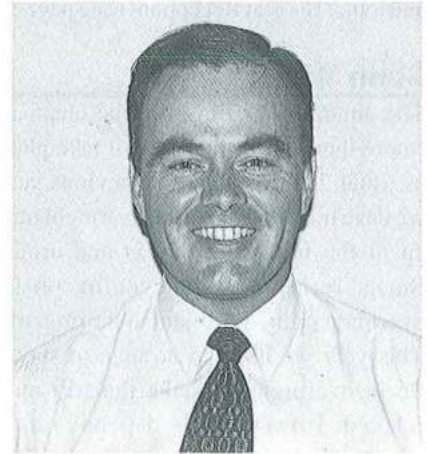
I would also like to express my thanks on behalf of the General Committee and membership for the diligent manner in which Tom Bain and his executive staff have gone about their duties. It has been no easy task to increase the turnover of the Club by increasing the events and functions when you are not permitted to spend any additional money. I think you would agree that this has been an encouraging start in our efforts to provide more frequent and higher quality events and functions.

While talking about the Club management, there have been two significant events this year. Firstly, the sad passing away of Khun Sarakit, the House & Grounds Manager, who was employed by the Club for 33 years. Through the generosity of the membership, we were able to provide significant assistance to his widow. Our thoughts are constantly drawn to the no frills and fuss approach with which Sarakit went about his work. He will continue to be sorely missed by everyone who knew him.

Second, our Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator, Lisa Fitzpatrick, decided the time was right to move on. She recently got engaged, and with her fiancé living in London, the British Club in Bangkok did not represent an ideal location! We wish her well in her new life. The General Committee decided to change the terms of reference of her successor, Damon Nemish. He has been tasked with ensuring that a full range of events and coaching facilities are provided rather than providing them himself. We wish him well in his endeavours.

A special mention must be made of Khun Chirachada (Goi). She boldly took the new position of Membership Marketing Manager in February 1998 and in a very difficult environment has managed to increase the membership from 807 to 940. This success is the only reason the Club is currently not losing a substantial amount of money. Congratulations to Goi and her team and we wish her continued success through 1999. Returning now to the financial position of the Club. The General Committee has sought to develop a strategy to address the predicament in which the Club finds itself. There is a need to establish an enduring financial plan to ensure the well-being of the Club in the future. This involves increasing the income through the membership drive and increased usage of the Club by its members. Together with very tight expense control, we currently believe this will facilitate a situation whereby our income balances with expenditure (less depreciation) by some time next year. We have tried not to burden the existing membership with the cost of the financial recovery. I would like to highlight a few salient points in this regard:

- 1) The only increases in members' subscriptions over the past few years have been the change in the rate of VAT in October 1997 and a rise in line with the Consumer Price Index in January 1995. If the December 1993 level of Baht 1,120 had been increased annually by CPI only, we would currently have subs of Baht 1,480 per month.
- 2) Entrance fees were last raised on 1st December 1992 to accommodate the playing field fund. Other than VAT increases, there has been no change since. If CPI had been applied, they would stand at Baht 58,440.
- 3) Capital Expenditure: With a facility of this age, there is a constant need to spend money on its upkeep as the wear and tear created by members and their families takes its toll. Naturally, modern technology and the passing of time require investment. In the



James Young - Chairman of the General Committee

last 3 years we have only spent Baht 1,480,000. I believe this figure speaks for itself.

In retrospect, we have probably been too concerned about minimising Club development costs. The situation we are now in has required the General Committee to table the agenda you have before you tonight. There is no right time to increase fees and even with the benefit of hindsight, a good case could be made for the actions taken in the recent past.

The position cannot be ducked any longer. The growth in the membership numbers is a one-off gain and finite, a windfall opportunity. This has been needed to support our declining revenues over the last 18-24 months. If the underlying problems are not addressed now, our very existence will be threatened in the not too distant future.

We can debate these issues further under the relevant proposals in the Agenda. A credible strategy must be established to prevent the fabric of our great old Club deteriorating further.

My final comment is reserved for the staff of the Club without whom the unique ambiance we all enjoy would undoubtedly flounder. My sincere thanks for all your efforts on our behalf."

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "James Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James Young
Chairman



Juniors Down But Not Out

Dunlop Junior Tennis Championships 1999

Anyone reading the reports of the Junior Tennis over the last six months will know that we have watched the numbers of participants fall, and that our various incentives to boost entries to tournaments have met with little success.

Entries for the Junior Championships did not look promising. There was certainly no hope of two age group categories or separate groups for boys and girls.

However, the enthusiasm of a few, plus an organisational brainwave by Kate, saved the day! The competition is now one category only - singles, under 14. Instead of having a knock-out, with matches between individuals played at various times, it was decided to have a first round 'round robin' on one afternoon. Thus the players had three good sets each and the competition reached the semi-final stage within 4 hours of the start!

We had 12 entries, all of whom deserve mention. Yanik Tissera and Timmy Weekes, the youngest participants, proved to all those watching that it won't be long before they are winning their matches. James Rodwell, Carly Young, Laura Hughes, Alice Rodwell, Gabby Heron and Khyle Lewis fought hard and collected plenty of game points. They ensured that the selection of semi-finalists was uncertain until the very end of the afternoon. There were some close and exciting matches which generated a lot of court-side support. The four who made it through to the semi-finals were Annelies Boontje, Ploy Siripomthanakul, George Henton and David Weekes.

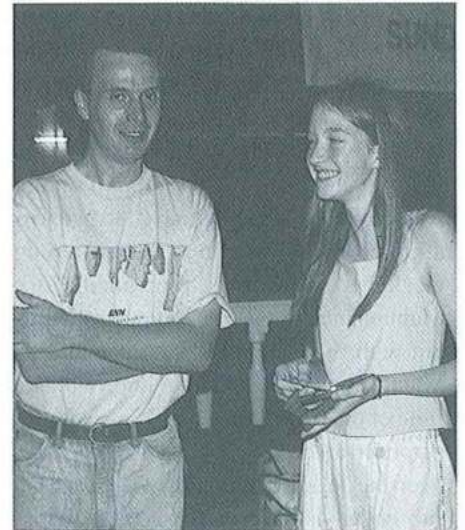
It was a really good afternoon with plenty of good-natured, close-fought matches. Congratulations to all participants - you proved that Junior Tennis at the BC is still

alive and well! Watch this space for the next event.

Semi-Finals: the luck of the Draw

A draw was made out of a hat and the semi-finals, played concurrently on Saturday 13th March, were between David and George, Ploy and Annelies, thus ensuring a mixed final on 21st March.

The match between George and David was all over in 40 minutes with David winning 6-0, 6-1. It wasn't that George didn't have the shots, more that David never gave up and just kept getting them back. Meanwhile, on Centre Court, the two girls fought it out for over 2 hours! Neither felt



Annelies Bontje, worthy runner-up

in control of their serve but both would pull out some stunning shots just when it seemed that things were going against them. It took a final burst of energy for Annelies to clinch the game in the third set.

The Final: battle of the sexes

Annelies had definitely got her serve together for the Final and the first set was very close, with long rallies, ending up at 7-6 to David. Annelies was fired up in the second set and sent some scorching forehands past David but he just kept on getting to the rest and came through to win the second set 6-3. It was a worthy final, and as good to watch as many of the senior matches that day.

Shelagh Weekes



David Weekes, dirty knees and all, winner of the Junior tournament

Farewells

This month, we only have to wave a cheerful goodbye to two members who resigned in March - Anna Bennetts and Martin Fowler. Nine members, however, went 'absent' and we must say a temporary farewell to them: Graham Kean, Bernard Phillips, Natalie Bennette, Nigel Richmond, Ketherine McFarland, George Muldoon, John Guy, Graham Treadwell and Natajack Prayurasiddhi. Hope to see you back at the Club soon!

Having now started to get a handle (though admittedly with a loose grip) on things that happen in and around the British Club, I would like to state for the record that this is a very exciting club you belong to.

The club facilities, active sports sections and the variety of F&B available at the British Club is truly astounding. I think it is fair to say that the British Club is one of a kind. Now, please don't get me wrong, we have a few areas that need work. Maintenance is one of the most obvious, but with the General Committee and the Management committed to improving the state of the Club, you should be pleasantly surprised at the changes that will take place over the following months. The fact that subscriptions have increased also helps - more earned, means more to spend. Keep your eyes open for the improvements although some of these you will not need to look too hard to see!

Summer is coming! - Kids Camps

The Thai summer and hot season is now upon us, and the international summer holidays are soon to come. This is the time of year many people move on to different jobs, different countries or just head 'home' for the holidays. For those of you who are staying in Bangkok, we hope to have a few programmes to keep you and/or your kids busy. The summer holidays should see sport camps, swimming camps and other programmes to use up some of that 'free' time that school holidays create. Keep your eyes peeled on the notice board and for flyers to sign up.

Dance

There was an overwhelmingly positive response to the request for dance lessons - beginner and advanced, in both Latin and Ballroom. You will see these programmes advertised and taking place during the coming months. We will directly inform all those who returned the flyer and will put up posters for those we may have missed.

Tennis

Khun Kaew, one of our 'almost' full time tennis coaches, was recently in a local tennis tournament, the Nike Champion-

ships, which attracted 100 entrants. He made it through qualifying to get into the main draw of 32, but was sadly defeated in the first round. Congratulations Khun Kaew! It is good to know that our coaches keep on top of their games to help our members reach the top of theirs.

Frank Questa: By the time this comes to print, Mr. Questa will have had his free clinic (April 18th) and hopefully he will be well on the way to giving group and private lessons to our members. Frank is a Spanish born player and coach who will add a new dimension to your game. Stop by the Fitness Centre to find out more about learning tennis the Spanish way.

Squash

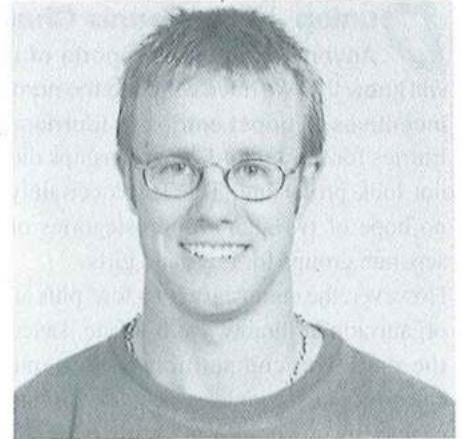
A reminder that on Sunday 16th May, the "Just Try It Junior Squash Day" will take place at the Club. Watch for posters.

Inter-section Sports Day

"The Great Sporting Challenge" returns on 23rd May! Unfortunately, this failed to take place last year, and the Tennis Section - regular champions of this event in the past - are now keen to defeat any and all challengers again this year. This is a sporting challenge between the different sections as they compete against one another in all the BC sports, except their own! Points are tallied and the winner announced. The bitter rivalry is increased when section committee members vie for the right to have a 'Player' support their section and not the other section to which he or she may belong. (Just kidding, there's no such rivalry - but there could be.) If you are interested in partaking/helping out or just cheering, please contact your Sport Section committee members or myself for more information.

Darts

What's that you say???? Yes, the darts section is to be revived with the help of a returning member and avid darts man, Mr. Ian Kane. Many of you may know Ian as he was a regular player in past years and



Damon Nemish - SRC

he still knows who the BC members are who can throw an arrow - so watch out, we will find you. Ian has suggested, and I agree, that we start out with an **INFORMAL DARTS NIGHT** on Tuesdays before the Spoof. If we can get enough players then we can look at organising travelling games and/or inviting teams to the British Club. Side skills, which will be appreciated just as much as a good eye and a steady hand, are a sense of humour and a willingness to have fun. Watch for more information, or ask me for details.

Snooker is Alive!

The inaugural 'Casual Snooker Night' will be held on 14 May at 8pm in the Snooker Room. In celebration of this auspicious occasion, **PTK Management and Marketing** have kindly agreed to be a 'Drinks Sponsor'. Buy one Carlsberg draught beer and receive a glass of Scotch free! Two great snooker beverages if ever there were. I hope to see you all there. No need to sign up but if you're interested, perhaps you could just let me know.

UBC in the Fitness Centre

All you exercise buffs who have been avoiding the Fitness Centre because you may miss your favourite golf, cricket or music programme, need avoid us no longer. We have movies, sports, news, music channels, and for those who need it, Soap Operas. Your channel selections can be made to the Fitness Centre staff but the rule is if you request a 3-hour programme then you have to exercise for

the full 3 hours! (Kidding again, but wouldn't it be nice?)

Triathlon Talk

Mini Triathlon: Don't forget the mini Triathlon to be held on 9th May.

The Phuket Triathlon: Thailand's biggest and most international Triathlon event is to be held in November of this year. The course is 1800m swimming, 55kms cycling and 12kms running. Not a short or easy race by any means, but if you start now and have 45mins to 1½ hours a day to exercise, you can do it too. Honestly, I can show you how. You may not win (actually you won't have a hope in H**L as some of the best in the world come for this race) but you will have some fun and get some southern Thai sun. If there is anyone who is considering this event, now is a good time to start training. Come by and talk to me and I will help steer you in the right direction.

Aquatics

The internal Swimming Gala went very well and plenty of kids showed up to vie for the medals. Not as many as in previous galas but a strong contingent all the same. I did notice that we didn't have any parents swimming but this could be because I forgot to make a point of advertising that parents could also take part. This is an area I would like to see improved and it may help the masters swimming classes grow as well. In all seriousness though, I think it is a great idea to have an adult division. We grown-ups need to have something to strive towards. All we need are more people willing to help out on gala day (many of the parental assistants are also the swimmers). I think it can happen and hopefully we can have a few longer races to entice our kids to increase their training. The dreaded IM 100 is the longest and a killer at that.

It was a great day and will be repeated in the near future. As a note, the overall scores of the swimmers for the year-long competition will be in the next *Outpost* (our calculation team - Rosemary, Janet and Liz - all left me for the Songkran holiday, sorry).

See you all at the next gala - and don't forget: Masters swimming on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7 pm; Junior Squad Training on Friday nights at 5.30 and 6 pm

Dates to remember

May 9th: Mini-Triathlon (not a BCB function but we can and should enter BC teams)

May 14th : Snooker Night

May 16th: "Just Try It Junior Squash Day" which will take place at the Club.

May 23rd: Inter-section Sports Day

Damon Nemish

Surin

BC's Annual Surin Sojourn

A Plethora of Pachyderms

Pack your trunk and don't forget! For very little cost you too can join in the fun with the British Club's annual trip to Surin province on the occasion of the world famous Elephant round-up.

The event, planned for the second weekend in November, is an amazing extravaganza of mammoth proportions, sure to please both young and old. The Club secures prime covered seating from which to watch 200 plus elephants demonstrate their skill and show why they are Thailand's most noble creatures.



The BC group will leave via Hua Lumphong on the overnight air-conditioned sleeper

car and will arrive early the next morning. First a trip to a local school for a shower (Thai style) and a hearty BC breakfast. And then it's off to the show!

Although the final itinerary has yet to be confirmed, other highlights of the trip may include an afternoon trip to the famous Phanom Rung temple which affords a spectacular view of the Buriram plains and the nearby Cambodian border hills. Expect a delicious and well prepared evening meal



with more than enough time left to explore Surin's fascinating night market or take a leisurely walk around the town. This year we hope to arrange to stay in Surin overnight to make the trip more relaxed. However this depends on the availability of hotel rooms which are like hen's teeth that weekend!

The price of the total package has yet to be announced and will depend on the price for the train tickets, bus rental and show entrance. Please keep your eyes open for more details or phone the GM if you wish to know more about our plans.



Dunlop BC Championships '99

This year's British Club Tennis Championships produced many outstanding and closely fought matches. Once again we had a record entry - with an unprecedented 52 men contesting the Men's Singles competition.



Men's Doubles posing for posterity, l to r: Tony and Marc, Bernie (umpire) and Richard and Fons

The Tournament Committee of Bruce Gordon, Gaynor de Wit and David Blowers deserve more than a little credit for organising what without doubt can be considered a successful Championships. Particular praise should be reserved for Bruce who as Tournament Referee put in considerable time and effort to keep the tournament moving forward - undoubtedly at the expense of mounting his normal challenge on all competitions.

Prior to finals day we witnessed some exciting matches with the most outstanding being when Tony Perkovic just edged out Marc Hagelauer over 3 sets. Andrew Robertson gave hope to all league 2/3 players when he knocked out Pat Dean - the number one seed. Other notable matches include: Bruce and Dr. Pongsak running Mark and Tony close in the Men's Doubles Semis, Khun Panee edging out Khun Nisa in the Ladies Singles Semis, and a close call as Khun Wan and Khun Nisa snuck past Khun Chalathip and Khun Patchanee in the Ladies Doubles Semis.

The Singles Finals

As expected Tony Perkovic and Dr. Pongsak produced a high quality Men's Singles Championship Final. Tony, with his fearsome determination to win and his power game working well, won the match

convincingly in two sets: 6-2, 6-2. The Dr. perhaps not finding his best form on the day took his defeat with customary good grace and a re-match next year is already being eagerly anticipated. In the rather long-winded Men's Plate Singles Final, Khun Vachara's superior technique failed to bring him the prize as cramp defeated him in the third set after 2 1/2 hours of battling it out in the full heat of the day with David Blowers. Khun Panee playing her first British Club Championship Final found Khun Chalathip unstoppable on the day. Khun Chalathip - truly the Queen of British Club tennis - displayed her usual class and consistency and took the Ladies Singles Cup for the 9th time. Who can stop her making it ten next year? In the Ladies Plate Singles Final Gaynor de Wit displayed an unforeseen level of consistency, fitness and technique to see off the challenge of Khun Napa: 6-0, 6-2.

The Doubles Finals

In the Men's Doubles Final Marc Hagelauer and Tony Perkovic won with surprising ease against Fons van der Heijden and Richard Ellis: 6-0, 6-3. A close match had been expected but the younger men were in irresistible form. So it was new champions for the Men's Doubles and Tony's second victory of the day - not bad for a squash player! In the Men's Doubles Plate Final

Lawrence Lipman and Andrew Robertson fought off the challenge from the more mature partnership of Tom Callaghan and Roger Fitzgerald. On a hot day the youngsters gradually found their form as Tom and Roger's resistance wilted in the formidable heat.

New champions also for the Ladies Doubles as Joanne Wood and Karen Holloway defeated defending champions Khun Wan and Khun Nisa. Playing excellently as a pair Jo and Karen slowly overcame their opponents to run out comfortable winners: 6-4, 6-1. Gisi van Walbeek and Eileen Bontje took the Ladies Doubles Plate in quick time against Carol-Ann Eastgate and Charlotte Maddox. In the Mixed Doubles Final Dr. Pongsak and Khun Panee always looked to have the better of Bruce Gordon and Joanne Wood. Bruce who had been busy running a hectic Finals Day as Tournament Referee was perhaps unable to find his normal level of match focus and he and Jo needed to be really at their best to compete against such an experienced and talented pair. Ultimately, Dr. Pongsak and Khun Panee ran out quite comfortable winners at 6-1, 6-3. Gaynor de Wit and David Blowers stormed home 6-2, 6-1 in the Mixed Doubles Plate final against Zandra White and a tired Lawrence Lipman.

The Prize-Giving Dinner

After the matches had all finished, another excellent BC Buffet Dinner was enjoyed by players and spectators alike. Bruce Gordon smoothly and swiftly compered the prize-giving process with James Lawden and David Blowers making sure the prizes were awarded correctly and Gaynor performing her usual photography heroics.

Ace Man



A glamorous array of silver, pewter, tin, wood, plastic...



Pongsak and Panee, Mixed Doubles winners, both singles runners-up and a welcome addition to Club tennis



Chairman David and wife Kai with Plate Men's Singles and Mixed Doubles silverware



Joanne and Karen, Ladies Doubles winners, with their well-gotten gains



Veteran Ladies Singles winner, Chalathip, again taking home the gold



Gaynor with her Plate Ladies Singles and Mixed Doubles cups



Eileen holding her and Gisi's Plate Ladies Doubles cups



Tony again, Men's Singles champ for 1999



Men's Doubles Plate finals, 1 to r: Lip and Andrew, Mr Cool Dude with the loud shirt (umpire) and Tom and Roger



A packed sala cheering Mixed Doubles matchpoint

BC Tennis Section Dunlop Club Championships Final Results

Men's Singles

Tony Perkovic bt Pongsak Y: 6-3, 6-3

Ladies Singles

Chalathip D. bt Pancee Y: 6-3, 6-1

Men's Doubles

Marc Hagelauer & Tony Perkovic bt Fons van der Heijden & Richard Ellis: 6-0, 6-3

Ladies Doubles

Karen Holloway & Joanne Wood bt Wan & Nisa Adams: 6-4, 6-1

Mixed Doubles

Pongsak & Pancee Y. bt Bruce Gordon & Joanne Wood: 6-1, 6-3

Plate Finals

Men's Singles

David Blowers bt Vachara Y: 6-3, 5-7, 2-3 ret.

Ladies Singles

Gaynor de Wit bt Napa S: 6-0, 6-2

Men's Doubles

Lawrence Lipman & Andrew Robertson bt Tom Callaghan & Roger Fitzgerald: 3-6, 6-1, 6-1

Ladies Doubles

Eileen Bontje & Gisi van Walbeek bt Carole-Ann Eastgate & Charlotte Maddox (played prior to Finals Day)

Mixed Doubles

David Blowers & Gaynor de Wit bt Lawrence Lipman & Zandra White: 6-2, 6-1

Sponsors

Without a doubt the sponsorship of prizes this year was very generous and the committee on behalf of all the members would like to pay special tribute to all the sponsors of this year's tournament. Special thanks goes to **Dunlop** but a particular note of gratitude should also go to James Lawden, Khun Surin and Khun Chalathip, Khun Vorathep, and Khun Oud. Our generous sponsors were:

Dunlop, Freshfields, Sierra Jewellery, PTK Management and Marketing, Hotel Sofitel Raja Orchid Khon Kaen, Amari Rincome Chiang Mai, Amari Orchid Pattaya, Le Meridien Phuket, Mercure Pattaya Resort, Mercure Hotel Chonburi, Narai Hotel, Novotel Chiang Mai, Novotel Phuket Resort, Pan Pacific Hotel, Regent Resort Chiang Mai, Siam Bayshore Pattaya, Central Village Hua Hin, Dusit Resort Pattaya, Mercure Hotel Bangkok, Rayong Resort, The Westin Chiang Mai, Tok Kwang Jewellery, Shangri-La Hotel, The Barbican, Central Grand Plaza Hotel, Amari Watergate Hotel, Dusit Thani Hotel, Grand Hyatt Erawan, Hilton International, Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, London Brewery Co, Novotel Bangkok on Siam Square, Novotel Bangna, Peninsula Hotel, Rembrandt Hotel, Siam Inter-Continental Hotel, Tawana Ramada Hotel and the Westin Banyan Tree.



New Members Make their Mark

Geddes bowled over

New member Janet Geddes romped home to victory in Bernie's Bowl, defeating a field which included Golfer of the Year, Bernie Adams, and Ray Fazackerley, 1998's most consistent player of the year.



Janet accepting the Bowl

Runner up, Charmaine Bateman, collected a snazzy shoe bag from Captain Gareth. Bridget Snow proved that she could putt as well with one hand as with two, counting only 29 putts in her round.

New members welcome

In spite of the unseasonal rain, a number of new players turned out for New Members Day sponsored by GAB Robins on 6th April. Some even turned up in their tennis gear without clubs but still managed to post a respectable score - well done Stuart. The System 36 handicapping system ensured that even the most casual golfer got a chance to win a prize as everyone's handicap was computed on each individual's performance on that day. However, it was the old members who came away with the top three prizes - John Marten, Laurence Goodliffe and Roger Fitzgerald. The day ended with jokes, curry and Pimms back at the British Club.

Anyone wishing to join the section or who wants to come along to one of the outings to find out what happens, can call me at

work on 235-0576 or fax 234-5667 for further information. Details of events and sign up sheets are posted in the corridor at the British Club. Golf Days are held on weekends and public holidays with early and late tee times on different courses within and outside Bangkok.

A bad day?

You know you're having a bad day when...

- You run over your foot with your own cart
- Other golfers nickname you 'Shank'
- Your shoes are filled with enough sand to open your own private beach club
- You've lifted your head up so much you have a crick in your neck
- The rest of your foursome huddles behind a tree as you tee off
- The course pro introduces you to a tennis instructor
- Birds flying south readjust their flight pattern to let you hit
- People are offering you good prices for your clubs

Next Outing

Please also check the board in the British Club corridor.

27-29 May - Eclectic competition at Majestic Creek, Hua Hin with accommodation at the beach.

Karen Carter



One hand putt Ray



Runner-up Charmaine



What the hell is System 36?



Bridget tickled pink



The Fitzgeralds still together after 18



Bernie describing Charmaine's birdie



John Marten



Laurence Goodliffe



Roger Fitzgerald

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Many expatriates believe, mistakenly, that UK tax concerns only UK residents – **a misconception which can prove expensive**. It is essential to receive expert professional advice if you are to be free of the UK tax net and capitalise on being an expatriate.

Examples of costly mistakes include:

- ◆ Failing to claim the tax refund due for the year of departure.
- ◆ Falling foul of the complicated residence rules which determine UK tax status.
- ◆ Wasting the potential benefit of independent taxation of husband and wife.
 - ◆ Misunderstanding the new Self-Assessment system.
 - ◆ Failing to plan for a return to the UK.

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Our booklet "**The British Expatriate**" provides a guide to the most important ways to make the most of your expatriate status. For your **free copy** simply complete and return the coupon below.



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Please send me more details of your personal tax advisory service, together with my free copy of "The British Expatriate".

Name _____

Address _____

Date of intended return to UK _____



Head Office:
Crescent House, Crescent Road
Worthing, Sussex, BN11 1RN, England
Tel: Worthing (01903) 231545
Fax: (01903) 200868. Offices in Exeter

Calendar

British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - May 1999

Sunday



2

11 am-1 pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12-2 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
1.00pm Squash Mix-In
3-6 pm Tennis Mix-In
5.30 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
6-8 pm Happy Hour

9

11 am-1 pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12-2 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3-6 pm Tennis Mix-In
5.30 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
6-8 pm Happy Hour

Mini - Triathlon

Monday



3

8.00 am BWG Mahjong
9.30 am Aerobics
6-8 pm Happy Hour
7-9 pm Tennis Team Training

10

8.00 am BWG Mahjong
9.30 am Aerobics
6-8 pm Happy Hour
7-9 pm Tennis Team Training
7.30-9.30 pm Latin & Ballroom Dancing (Beginners)

Tuesday



4

7 am Ladies Golf
8-10 am Ladies Tennis
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
6-7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
6-8 pm Happy Hour
7-9 pm Soccer Training
7.30 pm Darts
8-11 pm Friendly Bridge
9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof

11

7 am Ladies Golf
8-10 am Ladies Tennis
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
6-7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
6-8 pm Happy Hour
7-9 pm Soccer Training
7.30 pm Darts
8-11 pm Friendly Bridge
9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof

Wednesday



5

9.30 am Body Shaping
4.30-9pm Squash Coaching
6-8 pm Happy Hour
6-9 pm Tennis Mix-In
6.30 pm Cricket Nets

12

9.30 am Body Shaping
4.30-9pm Squash Coaching
6-8 pm Happy Hour
6-9 pm Tennis Mix-In
6.30 pm Cricket Nets

Thursday



6

8-10 am Ladies Tennis
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
6-7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
6-8 pm Happy Hour
6-9 pm Squash Mix-In
7-9 pm Rugby Training
9-10 pm Hockey

13

8-10 am Ladies Tennis
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
6-7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
6-8 pm Happy Hour
6-9 pm Squash Mix-In
7-9 pm Rugby Training
9-10 pm Hockey

Friday



7

9.30 am Step Aerobics
3.30-9 pm BC Tennis Coaching (Tots - Adults)
5.30 pm Swimming - Junior Squad Training
6-8 pm Happy Hour - All Outlets
6-9 pm Family BBQ, Silom Sala
7 pm Social Darts

14

9.30 am Step Aerobics
3.30-9 pm BC Tennis Coaching (Tots - Adults)
5.30 pm Swimming - Junior Squad Training
6-8 pm Happy Hour - All Outlets
6-9 pm Family BBQ, Silom Sala
7 pm Social Darts
8 pm Snooker Night

Saturday



8

9 am-12 am Squash Coaching
9 am-1 pm BC Swimming Coaching
4.30 pm Casuals Football - Soi 15
6-8 pm Happy Hour
6-9 pm Family BBQ, Silom Sala

15

9 am-12 am Squash Coaching
9 am-1 pm BC Swimming Coaching
4.30 pm Casuals Football - Soi 15
6-8 pm Happy Hour
6-9 pm Family BBQ, Silom Sala

Don't Forget !!

- Book up for the Khao Yai Weekend Break, 28-30 May
- Watch the FA Cup Final Live on TV - 22 May
- Tuesdays at 7.30pm - Friendly Darts in the Churchill Bar
- Make a note: Brazilian Culinary Carnival, 25-27 June
- BBQ, Fridays & Saturdays, now in the Silom Sala

16

11 am-1 pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12-2 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3-6 pm Tennis Mix-In
5.30 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
6-8 pm Happy Hour

"Just Try It Junior Squash Day"

23

11 am-1 pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12-2 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3-6 pm Tennis Mix-In
5.30 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
6-8 pm Happy Hour

Inter-section Sports Day

30

11 am-1 pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12-2 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3-6 pm Tennis Mix-In
5.30 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
6-8 pm Happy Hour

Khao Yai Weekend Break

17

8.00 am BWG Mahjong
9.30 am Aerobics
6-8 pm Happy Hour
7-9 pm Tennis Team Training
7.30-9.30 pm Latin & Ballroom Dancing (Beginners)

24

8.00 am BWG Mahjong
9.30 am Aerobics
6-8 pm Happy Hour
7-9 pm Tennis Team Training
7.30-9.30 pm Latin & Ballroom Dancing (Beginners)

31

8.00 am BWG Mahjong
9.30 am Aerobics
6-8 pm Happy Hour
7-9 pm Tennis Team Training

18

7 am Ladies Golf
8-10 am Ladies Tennis
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
6-7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
6-8 pm Happy Hour
7-9 pm Soccer Training
7.30 pm Darts
8-11 pm Friendly Bridge
9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof

25

7 am Ladies Golf
8-10 am Ladies Tennis
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
6-7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
6-8 pm Happy Hour
7-9 pm Soccer Training
7.30 pm Darts
8-11 pm Friendly Bridge
9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof

For playing sports or watching them, the Club's the place to be in May!

19

9.30 am Body Shaping
4.30-9pm Squash Coaching
6-8 pm Happy Hour
6-9 pm Tennis Mix-In
6.30 pm Cricket Nets

26

9.30 am Body Shaping
4.30-9pm Squash Coaching
6-8 pm Happy Hour
6-9 pm Tennis Mix-In
6.30 pm Cricket Nets

Get away from the city - take a break to Khao Yai with the Club

20

8-10 am Ladies Tennis
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
6-7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
6-8 pm Happy Hour
6-9 pm Squash Mix-In
7-9 pm Rugby Training
9-10 pm Hockey

27

8-10 am Ladies Tennis
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
6-7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
6-8 pm Happy Hour
6-9 pm Squash Mix-In
7-9 pm Rugby Training
9-10 pm Hockey

27th-29th Golf, Hua Hin

Venues

Soi 15	NIST grounds
Soi Nares	Behind Bangrak Police Station
Aerobics	Surawongse Room
Golf	As advertised

21

9.30 am Step Aerobics
3.30-9 pm BC Tennis Coaching (Tots - Adults)
5.30 pm Swimming - Junior Squad Training
6-8 pm Happy Hour - All Outlets
6-9 pm Family BBQ, Silom Sala
7 pm Social Darts
7.30 pm Wine Tasting

28

9.30 am Step Aerobics
3.30-9 pm BC Tennis Coaching (Tots - Adults)
5.30 pm Swimming - Junior Squad Training
6-8 pm Happy Hour - All Outlets
6-9 pm Family BBQ, Silom Sala
7 pm Social Darts

Khao Yai Weekend Break

Opening Times

10 am-11 pm	Churchill Bar
11.30 am-2 pm	Lords Restaurant (Lunch)
6-10 pm	Lords Restaurant (Dinner)
7.30 am-10 pm	Poolside Bar
6 am-9 pm	Fitness Centre (Mon- Sat)
9 am-9 pm	Fitness Centre (Sun/Hols)
9 am-5 pm	Thai Massage (Tues-Sun)

22

9 am-12 am Squash Coaching
9 am-1 pm BC Swimming Coaching
4.30 pm Casuals Football - Soi 15
6-8 pm Happy Hour
6-9 pm Family BBQ, Silom Sala

FA Cup Final - Live!

29

9 am-12 am Squash Coaching
9 am-1 pm BC Swimming Coaching
4.30 pm Casuals Football - Soi 15
6-8 pm Happy Hour
6-9 pm Family BBQ, Silom Sala

Khao Yai Weekend Break

Sports - Contact the following:

Aquatics	Liz Beal	262-9351
Badminton	Anant Leighrahathorn	654-0002-29
Cricket	Nick White	246-0832
Football	Matt Duke	545-5555
Golf	Bernie Adams	861-0608
Rugby	Jon Prichard	662-6376
Scuba	Peter Gary	634-7792
Squash	Peter Corney	381-7240
Tennis	David Blowers	285-4721-2



Close Ties make a Thrilling March Gala

Whoa there! Yet again the Individual Medley just blew us away this gala. We had five heats so next gala it will be a regular age group event! Well done team.

This was Damon's first Gala and I'm sure he feels fully immersed by now. He was announcer and record-keeper so if he looks a bit thinner on top, you know when he was pulling his hair out! All jokes aside, Damon and his trusty staff organised the day for us and it ran very smoothly! Thank you. We had lots of new members and participants - a wet and warm welcome to you all! There were also many new faces in the parent line up as helpers. A very big THANK YOU to our starter John Rodwell and to all those parents time-keeping and our runners.

Sprinkled amongst the events were novelty races for the under 5s and our traditional team relays ended the day. Just take a look at the ties. Adam and Alun made us all sit up and watch the 5-6 yr olds with a smashing tie in the Butterfly! Then Kelsey and Simon stuck to each other like glue and kept us on the edge of our seats during the Individual Medley!

Our Aqua records show a huge improvement in our children's performances. They are not only speeding up but becoming much stronger. We started our galas with 25m races but most are now 50m! A special mention must go to a small but dynamic Alun Simpson this gala. He has managed to knock off mega seconds from each of his previous times and is picking up some different coloured ribbons. Well done Alun! Gala days are a terrific way for children to make friends, build up confidence and form part of a team. No experience is required and participation is engendered throughout the morning. Please feel welcome to come along and have a go.

Our next gala is yet to be scheduled so keep an eye out on the noticeboard and for our flyer. Hope to see you there real soon.

Liz Beal

March Gala Results

13 & Over

50m Freestyle

1. Laura Hughes	35.84
<i>Record holder Ben Quarmby</i>	27.49

11-12 Yrs

50m Freestyle

1. Gabby Herron	39.82
2. Alice Rodwell	43.15
3. Carly Young	43.94
<i>Record holder Laura Hughes</i>	33.92

9-10 Yrs

Boys & Girls 50m Freestyle

1. Lauren Mann	39.64*
2. Joshua Beal	45.56

7-8 Yrs

50m Freestyle

1. Kelsey Moffatt	42.51*
2. Simon Mathews	44.03

7-8 Yrs

25m Freestyle

1. Apanee Wongsakol	25.78
2. Lachlan	27.58

5-6 Yrs

Freestyle

3. Adam Mathews	26.19*
4. Cameron Moffatt	27.08
5. Alun Simpson	31.17

13 & Over

50m Breaststroke

1. Laura Hughes	51.21
<i>Record holder Ben Quarmby</i>	37.32

11-12 Yrs

50m Breaststroke

1. Gabby Herron	50.03
2. Alice Rodwell	54.16
3. Carly Young	58.87
<i>Record Holder Nicola Clark</i>	42.60

9-10 Yrs

50m Breaststroke

1. Lauren Mann	1.00.83*
2. Joshua Beal	1.03.20

8 & Under

50m Breaststroke

1. Kelsey Moffatt	56.93*
2. Simon Mathews	57.14

7-8 Yrs

25m Breaststroke

1. Jordon Cheyne	29.88
2. Lachlan Herron	30.46
3. Christopher Hughes	32.43

5-6 Yrs

25m Breaststroke

1. Alun Simpson	30.87*
2. Cameron Moffatt	31.77
3. Adam Mathews	35.55

13 & Over

Backstroke

1. Laura Hughes	47.88
<i>Record Holder Jessica Beal</i>	47.00

11-12 Yrs

50m Backstroke

1. Gabby Herron	48.31*
2. Alice Rodwell	53.52
3. Carly Young	58.28

9-10 Yrs

50m Backstroke

1. Lauren Mann	53.42*
2. Joshua Beal	58.16

8 & Under

50m Backstroke

1. Simon Mathews	55.35*
2. Kelsey Moffatt	56.11

7-8 Yrs

25m Backstroke

1. Angus Rodwell	26.65
2. Jordan Cheyne	29.35
3. Lachlan Herron	33.01
<i>Record Holder William Scott</i>	25.89

5-6 Yrs

Backstroke

1. Alun Simpson	33.84*
2. Adam Mathews	33.88
3. Cameron Moffatt	34.00

13 & Over

25M Butterfly

1. Laura Hughes	20.89
<i>Record Holder Laura Hughes</i>	20.69

11-12 Yrs

25m Butterfly

1. Gabby Herron	21.22*
2. Courtney Tight	24.07
3. Carly Young	25.00



9-10 Yrs

25m Butterfly

1. Lauren Mann	23.06*
4. Joshua Beal	27.06

7-8 Yrs

25 Butterfly

1. Kelsey Moffatt	25.23*
2. Simon Mathews	25.50
3. Angus Rodwell	32.27

5-6 Yrs

25m Butterfly

1. Cameron Moffatt	33.75*
2. Alun Simpson	37.83
2. Adam Mathews	37.83

13 & Over Girls

Individual Medley

1. Laura Hughes	1.46.28
<i>Record Holder Nicola Clark</i>	<i>1.34</i>

11-12 Girls

Individual Medley

1. Gabby Herron	1.48.47*
2. Alice Rodwell	2.00.98
3. Carly Young	2.02.41

9-10 Yrs

Individual Medley

4. Lauren Mann	2.01.62
<i>Record Holder Craig Ward</i>	<i>1.58.27</i>

7-8 Yrs

Individual Medley

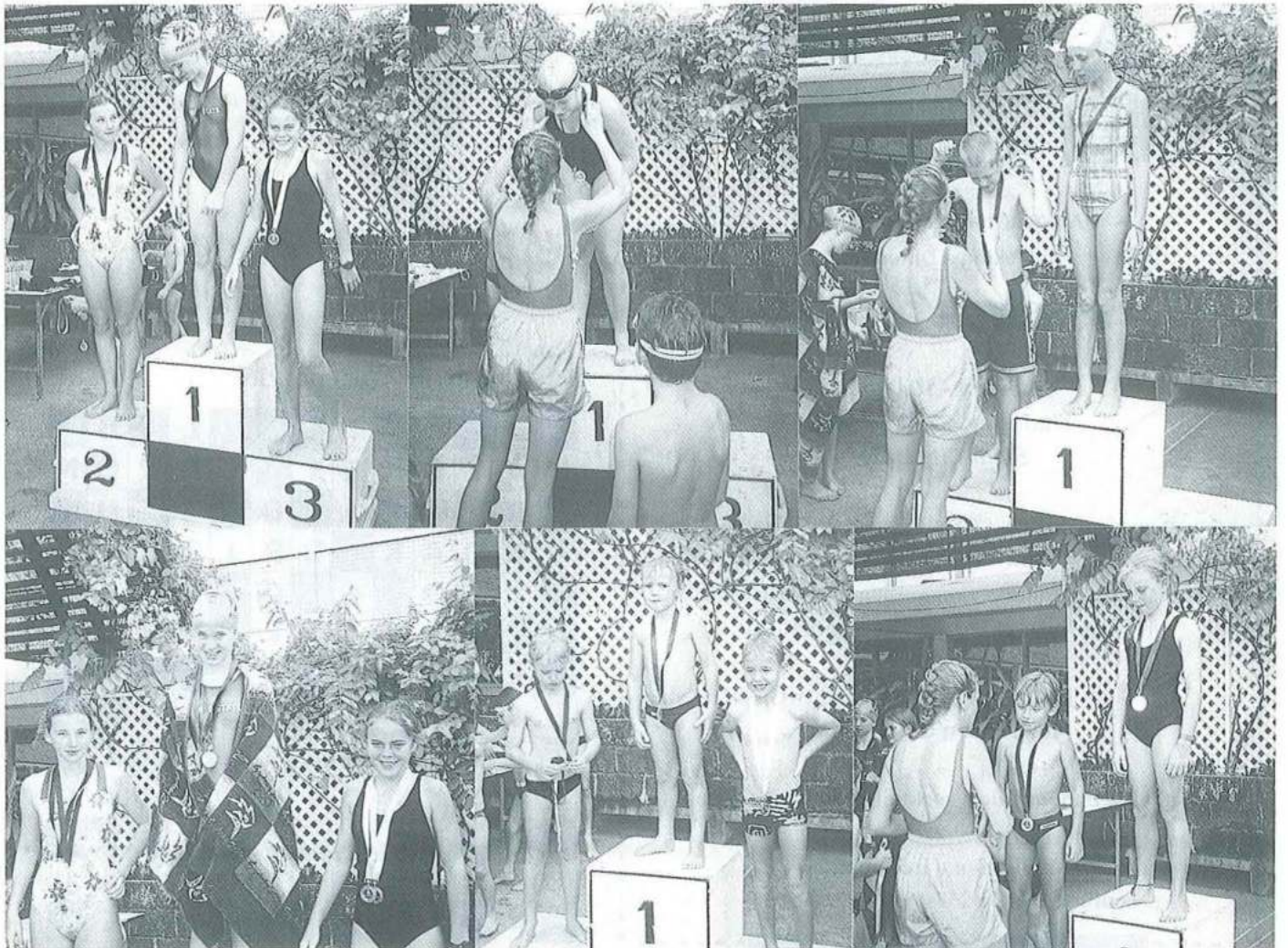
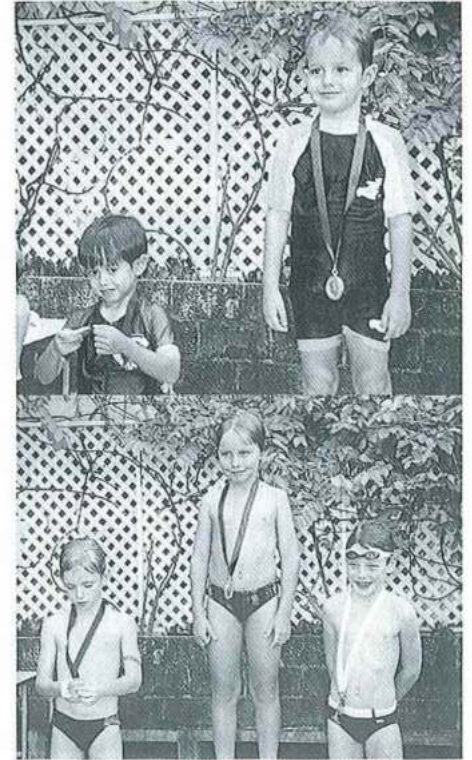
1. Simon Mathews	1.54.67*
1. Kelsey Moffatt	1.54.67*
3. Christopher Hughes	2.29.69

5-6 Yrs

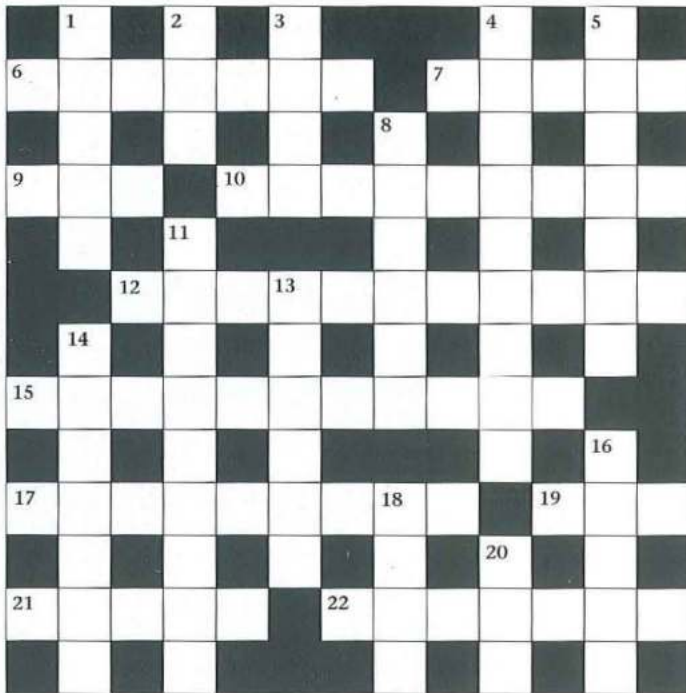
Individual Medley

1. Cameron Moffatt	2.32.79*
2. Alun Simpson	2.46.64

* Denotes new record



Something to Mull Over in May



don't know how she keeps doing it, but she does! Margaret Miller, a think-tank all on her own, has come up with another crossword to keep readers amused in the merry month of May - in fact, she's sent a whole bunch of them to keep *Outpost* going throughout the year. Many thanks Margaret. This month's will have you cross-referencing endlessly - enjoy it!

Clues

Across

- 6 Might be spent in 10 Across.
- 7 Does this kind of singer light up the stage?
- 9 Soaked and soppy!
- 10 Amah icing - the cake? No, the second city in this Kingdom.
- 12 Resting places of our ancestors.
- 15 Courts are where they shine. (6,5)
- 17 These were once a craze that went round. (4,5)
- 19 Subdue the beast!
- 21 Not leaving idle.
- 22 Wilkie Collin's woman was. (2,5)

Down

- 1 You need this to enjoy a good 6 Across...
- 2 ... and with it you can leave this!
- 3 Whip a novice on top of a tree.
- 4 Most birds are.
- 5 Is clear ... they are rich confections.
- 8 Don't dine at home. (3,3)
- 11 Carmel, Cook and Ida are.
- 13,20,16 Affectionate name for 10 Across. (4,2,3,5)
- 14 Will might make you one!
- 16 See 13 Down.
- 18 Flower in 10 Across.
- 20 See 13 Down.



COMMUNITY SERVICES OF BANGKOK

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"ESSENCE OF ASIA"

7.00pm - 10.00pm
Thursday, 27 May, 1999
Siam City Hotel

An art auction to benefit CSB's mental health and welfare services, show-casing over 20 artists from S.E. Asia. Also featuring prominent guest speakers, Khun Kamala Sukosol and H.E. Sir James Hodge.

Viewing: 19-26 May at the Siam City Gallery in the Siam City Hotel.

Tickets: B500 to include a cocktail reception and buffet.

For additional information, contact CSB on 258-4998 or 258-5652.

Solution to the April puzzle



Easter Egg-stravaganza, contd.

Continued from page 9

With the egg hunt behind them, all the children - regardless of whether they had unearthed an egg or not - received a chocolate (imagine that at Easter!?) together with a bubble blower. Those who had found the gold and silver eggs were awarded bigger chocolates, and all went away egg-static. (*Enough of that egg stuff now ...*)

Next in the day's events was a Magic Show with Mr. Derrick and Khun Jeab doing the honours. Mr. Derrick did a great job of keeping the kids (and the parents) entertained while his two young BC assistants did an excellent job of helping out - they also took bravely to being embarrassed. With the show over, it was time for food and lashings of ice cream.

Kids tucked in, played in the Balloon Typhoon, had their faces painted and petted the rabbits (*Note - keep the rabbits separate next year - Ahhem!*) When the food was exhausted, the rabbits no longer interesting, and everyone was well and truly melted from the midday heat, we moved to the Suriwong Room for a movie. "Little Soldiers" was playing and, to the delight of all, the temperature was a degree over freezing from the combination of air-conditioning and whirring ceiling fans. The movie kept most of the kids entertained egg-cept (*it just slipped in*) those who had seen it 3 times before.

All in all the day went very well. The staff from maintenance, fitness and catering, as well as the gardeners all had a hand in

making it a super day. We would like to thank **Nestle** for donating the Ice Cream and **Thai Pure Drink** for the Coca-Cola. If you want to contact the Balloon Typhoon, Derrick the Magician, or Face Painting, please call Khun Barry and he will gladly pass on their details to you.

Damon Nemish

An egg-stra lap in the pool will be awarded to any kids who can spot all my deliberate spelling mistakes ... Answers and correct spellings to the Chick at Outpost!



Sir,

The 'Racket' Club

Because of my time as GM of the Club and therefore with a passing knowledge of the inner workings of the Club I have been asked to write this letter on behalf of the Rugby section in particular.

No doubt you will receive several letters about the demise of the Playing Field Fund (PFF). This letter is not about the closure of the PFF but rather the divisive way this motion was handled by the outgoing General Committee. The farrago of half truths and omissions included in the Committee's preamble to this debate can not go unchallenged. There were so many errors of fact that the deception was almost Clintonesk! Sadly, by bringing matters into the debate which had nothing whatsoever to do with the PFF, the outgoing Committee has given certain parts of the membership the view that they are not welcome at the Club. I am sure this is wrong, indeed the Chairman underlined this was not the case several times during the debate, but the harm has been done and needs to be corrected if the Club as a whole is not too suffer.

The notion that the Tennis and Squash sections are not contributors to the Club, as stated by the Committee, is completely false. The Club provides these facilities for all members to use, but Court refurbishment and maintenance costs are very high. This expenditure is concealed in the presentation of the accounts. For example in the two and a half years I was the Club GM, we rebuilt two squash courts, resurfaced the tennis courts (the hard ones), repainted them again, built a new tennis fence, a tennis practice wall, etc. Surely no-one begrudges the spending of this money as it is spent to support an important part of the membership and maintain Club facilities. But, in that same period, no Club money, other than pitch hire fees and the section grant claimed by all sections as in Club policies, was spent on the Rugby, Football, Golf, Badminton and Cricket Sections. An equally deserving and maybe more numerous group of members? At the AGM the Committee should have presented a true picture about the relative cost to the Club of supporting each Section and it's facilities, and not a slanted report.

Further, the attack by the Committee on the recent tour by the British Club Rugby Section to Manila was unwarranted and inaccurate. Firstly the tour was self-funded - without any support from Club funds. Secondly the number of BC members on the tour was well over the figure of 5 given by the Committee. And lastly what business is it of the Committee's anyway if a group go on a sports trip? The fact that they won the competition and did much for the good name of the Club should be a matter for some praise rather than being held up as an example of breaking Club rules! Not that I am aware of any Club rules governing the numbers of Club members or non Club members allowed to go on self-funded trips! Sports Sections of all types bring new members to the Club. In the past gentle persuasion has normally worked in making playing non-members join the Club. Sadly the Committee may have now alienated the field sports sections to the extent that the problem of non-members playing with the Sports Teams is likely to be exacerbated.

All Sections contribute to the Club's F & B. All Sections use the bar after their sporting or training events and all Sections hold functions at the Club. Probably those Sections fortunate enough to have facilities at the Club contribute more in this area than those Sections who have to play off site, but to make out that some sections are more deserving of support from the Club than others is wrong and detrimental to the Club as a whole. Also no mention was made by the Committee of the revenue brought into the Club by the Sports Sections in the form of sponsorship, etc. These are funds the Club holds until they are spent. In the case of Rugby, that was over B2million of additional turnover for the Club last year. The Committee should have kept to the point and discussed the continued feasibility of the PFF rather than employing the well used tactic of 'divide and conquer'. The Cricket, Soccer and Rugby Sections do not deserve to be treated in this way, especially by the General Committee Member charged with looking after the interests of all sports sections at the Club!

I am sure there is wide acknowledgement that the PFF in its original form was no longer viable but the Committee's presentation, block use of Proxy Votes, and

refusal to compromise with the concerns expressed from the floor by the minority was sad. Even amendments designed to retain unity amongst the Club, as proposed by Gaynor de Wit for example, received scant recognition before being crushed by the power of the proxy votes. Mr. Hastings, the one member of the old General Committee who supported the Field Sports Sections, was also the one Committee member not holding any proxy votes. Presumably this was because he was not given any of the proxy forms which members of the Club always fax in prior to the meeting asking the Chairman to nominate a proxy holder? The question must also be asked as to what happened to the proxy votes sent by fax to the Club by Rugby Section Members, one in particular, instructing the holder to vote against the abolition of the PFF?

Of course measures must be taken to improve the fabric of the Club, of course having B6 million locked up in the PFF is imprudent when matters like Club House rewiring have to be attended to. No one would argue with that but it seems to me that all the Field Sports Sections wanted was an assurance that the General Committee would do their level best to secure a playing field, be it sharing with Patana or wherever. Twice the Committee was asked from the floor to accept a motion including this assurance and twice that chance was rejected. Will the Committee now make that commitment to the Membership?

Congratulations to the supporters of this motion for their organizing skills and to those sports sections which are so well represented on the new Committee. This in stark contrast to the team Sports Sections who failed to get their collective acts together. This whole issue may be thought to be a storm in a teacup which will quickly die down. That may be the case, but some remedial PR from the new General Committee would go a long way in reassuring those parts of the membership who now feel unwelcome and unrepresented.

Two final pleas to the new General Committee, dominated as it appears to be by squash and tennis players. Firstly please consider taking some action to help those who run the Field Sports Sections to keep their sections together, and try to heal the wounds caused not by the demise of the PFF but the way the decision was reached. Secondly please do not add insult to injury by rushing to spend the funds now available on projects such as air-conditioned squash courts, another refurbishment of the tennis courts etc. Serving on the General Committee is a thankless task, and we are all grateful to those who do so, but volunteering for election must impose a responsibility on those elected to cater for the varied interests of all the Club's members.

I would have loved to have made these points at the AGM, but out of consideration for all those present I felt that there would not be enough time that night for me to get through this lot!

David Viccars (V49)

Dear Editor,

As a long-time member of the British Club and a former long-time member of the General Committee I was very saddened by the decision made at the AGM last night to scrap the Playing Field Fund.

When I joined the British Club in 1978, the Club had no Rugby Section, the Cricket team played about 4 or 5 matches a year and the Soccer Section was a shadow of what it is today. The problem, of course, was that although these sports are at the heart of British sporting tradition and culture, the Club had no playing fields of its own. The sections were beholden to the whims of the mighty RBSC for use of their grounds, or other assorted, and generally not very attractive, venues around town were begged and paid for.

In spite of this a Rugby Section was started in the '80s and the Soccer and Cricket Sections have gone through periods of tremendous growth and enthusiasm. British Club members have taken a leading role in developing these sports in Thailand and at times these sections have contributed in very real terms to the Club's fortunes. At the peak of the Cricket Section's fortunes, for example, there were two teams made up almost exclusively of members. We played about 30 matches in a season, had regular training and functions at the Club, and indeed 4 members

Letters from Members

of the team were on the General Committee which I Chaired.

But unfortunately, without our own grounds, this type of success has only been sustainable in short bursts. People come and go, enthusiasm waxes and wanes. It requires a lot of energy and organization to run sections without a permanent and reliable home. The state of these sections as a whole is not particularly strong at the moment, but this is cyclical and good times will return. Based on what has been achieved with so little, I have no doubt that if the Club had had its own field then these sports would have grown dramatically and contributed a great deal to the well-being of the Club as a whole. It always seemed impossible that a club the size of the British Club could ever aspire to acquiring a playing field of its own in modern Bangkok, but 6 or 7 years ago an inspired group of individuals argued that if we always said that it was impossible, then surely nothing would ever happen. They had the idea that if a fund could be started and added to over the years then eventually there might be enough in it to be the catalyst for acquiring a playing field. These far-sighted people called an EGM and in the face of considerable scepticism and opposition managed to establish the now infamous "Playing Field Fund". The concept was simple. By adding 5,000 baht to the Club's entrance fee, a fund would be generated as new members joined the Club. Sections and others would then be encouraged to add to this fund and over time there would be enough to start negotiations.

Nobody expected this to happen overnight and most of the people who promoted this did not expect to benefit from it in their own playing days. Neither was it expected that the fund itself would be enough to buy a ground outright. But there were many, many ways in which such a fund could make the dream come to fruition. Once the fund reached a sizable sum, then it would become the driving force for other fund-raising efforts and would attract partnership propositions from other institutions or businesses. It was always felt that there might be businesses interested in developing joint sports facilities; a deal might be possible with one of the international schools; and maybe leasing land might be feasible even if outright purchase proved impossible. Unfortunately the average club member, with only a short term view and interests, never grasped the vision or the opportunity this fund represented and just about every two years motions were made to scrap the fund. "It will never be possible to buy a playing field" and "let's use the money for something we want now" was always the cry. Until last night the sports sections were able to muster enough numbers to defeat motions to scrap the fund. Unfortunately, last night they did not, and it is now gone. (I personally was very disappointed at the very poor turn out last night from these sections, but this does not affect the basic argument for retaining the fund.)

By last night the fund had grown to over Baht 6 million, and just as it had grown to something worth thinking about, it has been scrapped. Ironically this has happened at a time when there are more potential opportunities for acquiring land and entering into partnerships with schools, businesses or other clubs than for decades. The Committee presentation, however, focused only on deriding the performance and contribution of the members of the Cricket, Rugby and Soccer Sections, pleading that the fund should be robbed to cover the short-term financial needs of the Club.

I was sad to hear the GC representative for sports taking cheap pot-shots at the field sports sections for their failures. As I have said, these sections are perhaps not in great health at the moment, but that is not the point. This fund was about establishing playing fields so that the future British Club would have strong and active Rugby, Cricket and Football Sections. Not that I want to let the current bunch off the hook, but it is almost irrelevant how well or lousily they are contributing at the moment.

Last night several good arguments and proposals were made. It was suggested that this decision should be deferred for a year to give more time for debate and investigation. A very promising proposition for negotiation with Bangkok Patana School was actually tabled. But no, sadly the GC's plea of poverty and the rubbishing of the field sports teams won the day and the short-sighted members decided to rob the savings account to pay for current

deficiencies.

This fund would not even have been there if those far-sighted individuals had not fought for it in 1992. Now that it has gone there will be no incentive left to inspire future thinking on this matter. What does it say about the management of the Club if the only way to fund current needs is to rob its only long-term investment? Why is it that the finances of the Club have not been tackled properly until now? Why is it that suddenly the Club is looking drab and worn out? The Club has to address its underlying financial problems in other ways and some of these were discussed and actioned later in the evening. It was not necessary to rob this fund and its potential to save the Club. Hopefully the discussion last night will encourage the Committee to continue to take the matter seriously and to actively pursue a playing field option. The Chairman gave his assurance of this. But there were no guarantees. It will not be easy and maybe it will turn out that the equation is still not right. If the committee tires and gives up, we will be back to square one. If this fund had been left alone, it would still be there every year reminding everyone of its potential and always being the likely catalyst for action. In two or three years it would have been worth Baht 10 million, in ten years Baht 20 million, even without the additional fund-raising/joint ventures which would inevitably eventually have occurred. It is nonsense to argue that this fund would never have been enough to deliver the dream.

As we approach the Millennium and the Centennial celebrations of the Club, we have thrown away an opportunity to give the Club something new and good to take forward for the next one hundred years. This short-sighted selfishness of the current GC and membership makes me sad and I feel it would have shocked the venerable founders of our Club nearly 100 years ago.

(As a footnote, there were many uninformed opinions expressed last night. In particular I was concerned that Cricket Section seemed to be outside most people's vision for the playing field. Artificial wickets are not expensive to lay or maintain, they have been developed to high standards and are used all over the world, including Thailand. There is no reason why cricket facilities cannot be included in a multi-sports arena.)

Jack Dunford (D44)

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Gentlemen:

Congratulations on your recent election at the AGM. I would appreciate it if you could, as a matter of some urgency, address the following:

1) Although after several hours debate the General Committee's motion to transfer the playing field fund to a general fund to carry out essential club repairs and maintenance was eventually carried, there was at the same time a general consensus from the floor that a playing field for external sports was necessary and desirable and should be leased, as an outright purchase is probably not feasible at this time.

I would implore the Committee to make this an absolute priority for 1999 and take steps immediately to investigate the Patana and other options discussed at the meeting and if possible make some concrete proposal to the membership at the earliest opportunity.

Although I no longer play any field sports, I can recognise the fact that the rugby, soccer and cricket sections, regardless of the ill-informed and rather blunt comments of the General Committee, have - at least since my arrival in 1983 - been the heart and soul of the British Club. Not only have they generated vast sums of food and beverage income and attracted large numbers of new members, but they have also been wonderful ambassadors for the Club in Thailand and throughout S.E. Asia and it's about time we gave them something back!

2) As I stated at the AGM, the reason the General Committee was forced to use the playing field fund was because of our continuing refusal to run the BC using basic member-club accounting principles, i.e.

- a) All monies collected from entrance fees should be placed in a capital fund to be used for club improvements, major repairs and new equipment.
- b) The monies collected from members dues together with catering profits should be set at a level sufficient to cover operating costs.

The British Club has never managed to do this and last year, once again, the operating loss of B6 million was covered by entrance fees, leaving nothing for essential repairs and maintenance.

If we are to give our children and grandchildren the opportunity to enjoy this great club in the new Millennium, I would like to suggest that the Committee action the following:-

Increase member usage

At present the British Club is dirty and poorly maintained, most of the soft furnishings should have been replaced five years ago, the service counters in both salas are a disgrace, the menus are grubby and a lot of the small equipment needs replacing. The Lords Restaurant looks like it was designed by a committee and the style of food and service are similar to a third rate British coastal hotel. It needs a complete revamp by professional designers and caterers.

Until these basics are remedied, the British Club will not be a viable venue to bring business guests or entertain friends, and usage will continue to decline.

Increase dues and food & beverage margins

Until you start charging members at the correct level, you will never be able to build up a capital fund to carry out necessary club improvements. If you wanted to reward regular users of the club and increase member usage you should set the dues at a level sufficient to cover the large majority of operating costs and continue to sell food and beverage at current prices or even lower if you wanted to! As an alternative, instead of increasing dues you could introduce a minimum F&B billing charge which would increase revenues dramatically whilst at the same time encourage club usage. I would be very happy to give the committee more details about this system if required.

Wishing you all the best for your next 12 months in office.

D.C. Williamson (W1)

The Editor,

The 1999 AGM and all that...

The Club AGM has been and gone and a strenuous affair it was; congratulations are surely due to the Chairman for his deft handling of some complex and

emotional issues, which allowed extended debate whilst generally maintaining firm control.

Some Sports Section members were unhappy at the outcome of Agenda Item 4 which was carried and which transferred the Playing Field Fund into a General Development Fund. However the Motion stated specifically that this Fund is to be used to fund Capital & Refurbishment Projects, so it can still be used, at least partly, towards the Playing Field. Also an element of all Membership Entrance Fees will continue to be credited to this General Development Fund. It will require strict governance by the Committee to define uses of this Fund, to ensure it is applied as approved, only to fund CAPEX projects, whilst ensuring general maintenance and OPEX costs are charged elsewhere. Capital Projects are reasonably easy to define; Refurbishment is less clear, and maybe only items which will transfer to the balance sheet should be considered.

The debate on Item 4 was both long and lively, with several proposed amendments to the G.C. Motion being debated. In summary these all sought to place some restriction on the proposed dispersal of the Playing Field Funds, but all were lost, albeit Roy Barrett's amendment to revisit the Patana School (where supposedly the economic crisis may be changing the view of a land owner) could have been successful but for the Committee's block vote including their proxies (by my notes 63-43 Against with 7 Committee casting 21 votes within the 63). Personally I voted For every amendment, not that I was enamoured with all, but equally I was totally disenchanted with the lack of detail presented by the GC on the proposed spending of the General Development Fund; a clear argument was presented on some impractical aspects of the Playing Field scheme, but only vague reference was presented on proposed House electrical systems, upgrading showers & kids playing area and an AC Family Room etc., with neither proper proposals, nor budgets. Finally I voted For the original unamended motion, as it is clear that the Club requires some refurbishing if we are to maintain expected standards, and keeping funds locked up in a Playing Field Fund whilst the Club disintegrates made no sense, regardless that it impinged the original intent of the Playing Field Fund; however it is to be hoped the new Committee will heed the many comments presented at the AGM and bring detailed proposals before the Members at an EGM before entering a spending spree.

Whilst the GC proposed application of the Playing Field Funds was feebly presented, the various Sports Section comments were also vague on efforts made to locate a playing field and raise cash. If the sections had prepared a detailed report on efforts expended over the last 5 years, and made some clear proposals with budgets on what was now possible in these much changed financial times, then better Membership support for their cause may have been forthcoming. Whilst there were some emotive speeches stressing the P.R. and New Membership draw and bar activities which the rugby & football section bring to the Club, there were no clear statistics e.g. how many Members joined in etc.; surprisingly little was made of the B2.3 M fund raised by the rugby section during 1998, even tho' they spent all but B65K, this is a significant sum, and I believe is additional to the Club's general income of B20 M. One could ask why a slice was not set aside for Playing Fields, or indeed Members could ask how much of the Playing Field Fund was raised other than by new members fees. Not much from what I heard. However, assuming comments on new Membership attraction can be verified, recognition of the rugby & football Sports Section contribution to the Club should not be ignored.

Whilst with the pen, the block use of proxy votes by the Committee was disappointing. The Club proxy form directed that a proxy holder should vote as directed or at his/her discretion if not directed. Thus where direction was given in favour of a motion, very specific instructions must have been given to Committee Members to vote against any amendments on Item 4, as I noted Committee Members voting almost unanimously against all the proposed amendments to this Item, and yet when the same gentlemen voted on the proposed amendment to item 6 (subs increase), most had apparently been directed to vote in favour of any amendments on that item. An amazing statistical coincidence, unless of course all the Committee proxies received no direction; hopefully the proxy forms are now destroyed. Whilst I understand the Committee is elected to

Letters from Members

manage, their block use of proxies left me wondering why I bothered to attend the AGM, and I suggest that the incoming committee should consider this aspect of block voting via proxies.

In summary, bearing in mind the emotive issue of the Playing Field and the apparent transformation of the Patana School situation, combined with the alleged contributions to the bar and new membership by the Rugby & Football sections, I suggest there is still time for these gentlemen to come up with a properly

supported Playing Field proposal. Meanwhile the Committee has obtained the release of much needed funds but it is necessary that spending of these be tightly controlled and preferably subject to Members approval at an EGM. Finally, if we are to rewire the Club, I trust this will be done in accordance with internationally recognised standards such as the UK IEE Wiring Regs.

Colin H. Snow (S22)

Reply from the Chairman

I would like to thank the correspondents for taking the time and effort to pen their thoughts and contribute to the on-going debate.

I am taking this opportunity to respond with a personal view but one I am confident will be reflected by the new General Committee. This was in question at the time of the Annual General Meeting as the election of the General Committee did not take place until the end of the meeting. There are several recurring themes through the letters on which I will comment in a constructive manner.

External Sports Sections and Playing Field Fund

There was a lively and sometimes emotional debate on these topics at the AGM. Many valid and significant points were raised. All members of the British Club are valued and the success enjoyed by Sports sections on both pitches and courts reflects positively on the Club as a whole. Undoubtedly, the British Club would benefit from its own facility. There has been considerable research in the past and the previous GC were in contact with Patana School regarding potential developments. It is my view that this and other potential sites should continue to be investigated and should a viable arrangement be negotiated, a BC playing facility would be a very important element in the club's development.

Capital Expenditure

A considerable amount of discussion has taken place over the last 12 months on the financial position of the British Club. Indeed, I have written on the subject on several occasions in this magazine. The GC is striving for a solution to the problems on a medium to long term basis. There will be no headlong rush to spend the limited resources available. I commented in my Chairman's report at the AGM that the funds that are available should be allocated after careful consideration of our long term situation. This would include a playing field. We will endeavour to keep the membership fully informed of all plans and have already planned to commence a membership survey on potential development and refurbishment.

Proxy Votes

Clearly there was a feeling at the AGM that there needs to be a change to the present arrangements. Obviously an impression was created whereby the outgoing GC organised a block vote. In my years on the GC, I have found that if you have a controversial agenda, members seek to discuss the issue with you. Unfortunately rarely do they wish to attend a meeting and consequently ask if they may give their proxy. The more controversial the arguments the greater the number of proxies. This usually applies equally to both sides of a debate.

In conclusion let me summarise the statements I made at the AGM. The rugby and football sections are greatly valued and a permanent site would be a benefit to the British Club. Club development and capital expenditure are very high on the GC agenda and a suitable financial structure has to be established to secure the future viability of the British Club and its facilities. There will be no rash expenditure on pet projects. Lastly, and by no means least, the rules on proxies will be reviewed. If any member wishes to become more actively involved with any issues, please contact me personally. We would value all contributions.

James Young
Chairman

Obituary

George Cowie

18 March 1929 - 2 April 1999

I regret to inform the Club of the sudden death of George Cowie on 2nd April. George had been a member for over 30 years and was an enthusiastic patron of the Churchill Bar.

Like so many of his fellow Scots, he had spent most of his life working overseas. After completing his National Service in the Navy, he spent 13 years in Colombo, Ceylon before moving to Thailand in 1964 to join Louis T. Leonowens as Internal Auditor.

In this position he quickly established a reputation for complete personal honesty and tenacity in pursuing those who did not share this trait. A frequent up-country traveller, George always seemed to know someone in every town and village he visited and had an enviable relationship with the local people.

He was a keen musician and singer whose enthusiasm more than made up for his limited repertoire. His unique rendition of 'Danny

Boy' accompanying himself on the mandolin will long be remembered by slightly bemused up-country Thai audiences.

His dress sense was equally memorable and in the words of a former LTL Chairman (himself a Scot), "it would set the heather alight".

As a former naval man, George was a member of the British Naval Association and served as Honorary Treasurer for several years. One of his most memorable moments occurred when he managed to engage a bewildered Prince Philip in a fairly detailed exchange of reminiscences during the Royal visit a few years ago.

A real character, good friend and devoted father, he is survived by his wife, Onchira (Ed) and son, Brett.

R.I.P. old friend, and thanks for the wonderful memories.

Terry Dockerty (D53)

Maybe it's Because I'm a Londoner

Things sometimes conspire to make one aware of one's origins. I come from Ealing – as Bill Bryson said, somebody had to – and although I have happily retired to Paradise, correction, Thailand, I would be a sorry man indeed if home thoughts from abroad did not sometimes steal uninvited into the mind.

I met a friend in the Bull's Head the other day. I've known him for 27 years and although I won't mention his name, many members will know him. He's as Cockney as they come, and our afternoon was cut short when he announced he was going home because "I feel a spot uncle."

Uncle > Uncle Dick > sick. Cockney rhyming slang.

It put me in my mind of a book I knew I had somewhere, and I unearthed it eventually. It's called 'Mayhew's London' and is a collection of interviews with working class people on the streets of London in the 1850s.

Mayhew was an untiring researcher. In one of his many books on London, he even calculated how many tons of horse-droppings were deposited on the streets of London every day, and it is unwise to entertain speculation on his research methods when you are about to eat.

But his book is wonderful. He had a knack for catching speech patterns without patronising the speaker. For example, his London crossing-sweeper: "I had five sovs give me the day as Prince Edward was married to his beautiful wife".

I remember my grandfather

talking like that. He was a splendidly grumpy old Cockney character. He served as an army cook in India for 23 years, and cooked away unconcernedly as the Pathan bullets whizzed over his stew-pots. When he was discharged in the early 1900s, he came back unscathed from battle to Shepherd's Bush and joined a cricket team. A ball struck his leg; infection set in; and a week later, his leg was amputated. He died in the 50s but I can still hear him now; I thought all grandfathers had wooden legs. I was allowed to give his pegleg to him when he was going to 'strap up'. "Give us me leg, Robert," he'd say – "I'm off for a Jimmy." Jimmy is rhyming slang for 'Jimmy Riddle' – work out for yourselves where he was going.

He came straight from Henry Mayhew's book. It's a book to dip into frequently, and one never tires of it. The sewer hunters are my favourites. In 1850s London the sewers discharged into the Thames, and the hunters were called 'toshers'. This word, in a shortened form, still exists, in the sense that a friendly address to somebody unknown to you is 'tosh', as in 'Got a light, tosh?' It's also connected with the old word for half-a-crown – 'two and a toss'.

These brave men entered the sewers at low tide and walked the never-ending subterranean labyrinth. There were many dangers – a flash flood could strike, and the ever-present and aggressive rats made working in pairs and carrying a stout stick mandatory. The 'toshers'

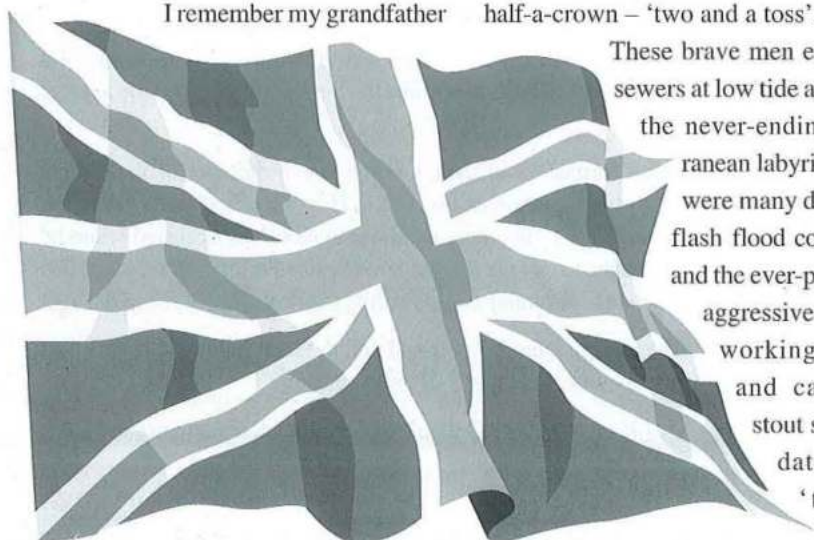


Croquet at Rivercourt, Chiswick, 1869. Not exactly a pastime of the working class!

were looking for money - coins dropped down drains tended to be washed towards the river and by force of gravity bonded into small spheres of various metals. Finding one of these enriched a 'tosher' mightily and he would stand drinks with a lofty, uncaring air in the local pub. Ale and gin were the standard drinks by the way, and I can still hear my Aunt Nelly – everybody had an Aunt Nelly in the '50s – saying to my Dad, 'I'll have a mother's ruin'. Not rhyming slang; just a phrase from the 'stews', the word then for slums, and meaning 'gin and orange'.

Toshers were known for their robust constitution and healthy red cheeks and this was put down to the combination of gases they necessarily had to breathe as a part of their profession. There are many ways of maintaining one's health but sewer-walking is one I have so far avoided. My grandfather called his hands 'me Germans'. This came from the German bands who roamed London streets in the 1850s, playing oompah music to earn small change. Mayhew describes them beautifully, and catches their accent with an acute ear.

On my living room wall here in Bangkok I have a collage of pictures of 19th century London. I've taken liberties; Borough High Street runs into the Strand and the Café Royal has moved to Chiswick. This whimsical trompe l'oeuil, however, does not detract from the overall effect – you are in no doubt that London is being



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chicken was enormously expensive and a normal family ate it only once a year, at Christmas. Remember that when you have your next barbecue. Luxury, luxury, luxury. You can get 'Mayhew's London', from Amazon – www.amazon.com – and I would be surprised if the

British Council Library didn't have a copy. But don't get any sudden desire for oysters after reading it; they're still expensive, and you're better off sticking to beef and chicken. Life can be hard sometimes, can't it?

Bob Wilde

COMPETITION!

How much Cockney rhyming slang do you know? Send your answers to me and you could be the lucky winner of a B2,000 F&B voucher from *The Londoner Brew Pub*. The largest number of authentic phrases wins. Entries will be judged by The Creative Partnership's resident Cockney expert, whose word is law!

Sherry Conisbee
Editor

celebrated. Such are the cures for the occasional whiffs of nostalgia.

A last note: the poor could not afford beef in the 1800s and had to make do with oysters, then the cheapest of foods. It must have been dreadful to be able to look forward only to oysters for dinner. This puts me in mind of the early 50s, when



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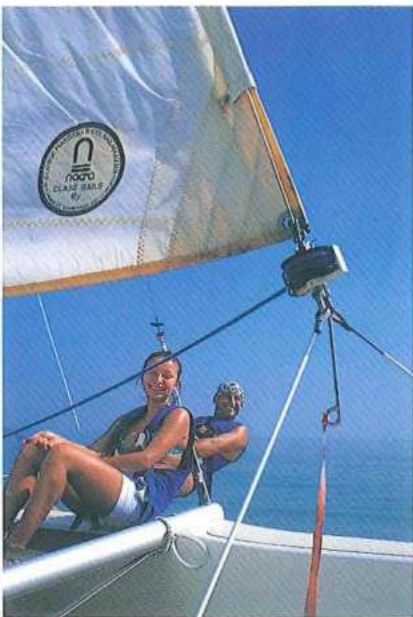
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Paul and Rovanna Bawden



Rovanna and Paul

Aussies Paul and Rovanna look like an advert for a fitness magazine - healthy and tanned. Instead they are both teachers at Bangkok Patana School (obviously not an iota of stress in that job!). Paul's tan comes from hours spent on the golf course and tennis courts while Rovanna's glow comes from laps in the pool. The trim waistlines are from squash and running around after

their two children, Rhys and Jessica. Rovanna also likes to dance. (Probably the 'Flash' kind is more up your street, but why don't you try the BC Ballroom and Latin American classes? - S.)

Scott Cunliffe and Lori Anglin



Lori and Scott

With an interest in travel, photography, art, architecture and cultural sites, it's easy to understand why Aussie Scott and Canadian Lori picked tourism and cultural management consultancy as their line of work. Mind you, they also admit to a deep appreciation for beer and wine but they haven't got a brewery or a vineyard! They have a common interest in tennis and scuba-diving, and Scott adds

golf, squash and sailing to his sporting pleasures while Lori prefers, skiing, hiking and the increasingly popular sport of roller-blading.

Claud and Soontanee Davidson



Claud and Soontanee

This is Claud's second posting in Thailand, Soontanee's home country, where he works with the US Embassy in Bangkok. This couple has plenty in common - tennis, racquet ball and computing, not to mention four children ranging in age from 1 to 13 years. These are two more new members who want to get to grips with the fandango (and other dances!), so the BC classes should prove quite popular.

Panit and Pornnit Dunnavanachit



Pornnit and Panit

Native Thais Panit and Pornnit are both employed at Bangkok Bank. They have two children and in their free time they enjoy a game of tennis and a few laps in the pool. Panit, brother of long-time member and tennis player, Surin, also enjoys underwater swimming so the British Club scuba section will certainly have something to interest him. He has come up with something different in

the way of hobbies - cigar label collecting. Sounds expensive if you have to smoke your way through all the exhibits!

Paul Cheesman



Paul

Paul has been having an affair with Thailand ever since he bought a holiday condo in Bangkok five years ago. Having recently bought a bigger, better, brighter one,

he's obviously intending to stay for a while. British-born Paul moved here in 1996 with his own retail consulting company and is now nearing completion of his contract to set up and manage Shell's Select convenience stores. Describing himself as "job-hunting, single but living in hope", his hobbies include good eating, politics and sci-fi stuff, boasting a library of over 2,000 Dr. Who, Star Trek, Blakes 7, and other sci-fi videos. That should certainly pull the birds!

Ian Kane



Ian

Funny-man Ian doesn't always look like this. Sometimes he can look really daft! He's the chap who will hopefully rekindle enthusiasm in the darts section

so that the Churchill Bar will echo once more with those awesome words "One-Hundred-and-Eighty". Long may your humour reign in the Bar and elsewhere. Ian has a steady hand and a keen eye (when his glasses aren't upside down) and besides scoring bullseyes, he's been known to make a few pars (faux-pas more like it - S.) on the golf course. Ian's wife, Nitjaphong, is back in the UK looking after their son aged 11, and daughter of 9. If you want to know more about his job as an industrial manager, his interest in sea angling, or his time spent in France, Russia and Vietnam, then ask him!

New Members

Pirachai and Vannee Hong-Eng



Vannee and Pirachai

New member Vannee is yet another member of the banking fraternity, this time with Citibank. Husband Pirachai, a golf and snooker enthusiast, is with the P.S. Eakapol Company, and together they enjoy swimming and a game of badminton. When the exertion is too much, they like to cool off on the sofa and watch TV. I've never heard of this before, but Pirachai likes to shop. You're an envied woman, Vannee!

John Ip and Saiswat Thiensiri



John

With three young children, long-time Bangkok residents, John and Saiswat, still have time to enjoy tennis and swimming so we hope to see you frequently at the sala. They have lived previously in Hong Kong, New Zealand and Switzerland, and jeweller John can spin some interesting tales about his business travels to Russia, Siberia and Kazakhstan if you care to ask. While John indulges his other interests of badminton and photography, Saiswat puts her culinary talents to good use at home.

Dr. Dennis Cramp



Dennis

Employed by Unisys as their "Y2K IT Consultant", down-under Dennis doesn't look old enough to have 2 grown daughters and a 2 year old grandson! His 30 year interest in music and theatre, playing in various R&R, Country and Brass bands, has obviously kept him youthful, not to mention his passion for the fast and furious sport of motorbike racing (he's a Senior Flag Marshall). Other sporting interests include squash, swimming and cricket. Long may you stay young and a member of the British Club!

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Anon

Think you can do better than this? Well, pluck up the courage and send it to me - a poem, short story or article covering almost any topic suitable for a family magazine. In return, I'll give you a forum for your creative outpourings and won't charge you a bean!

I would like to add a million thanks to all those sports sections who contribute so regularly to *Outpost*, and a special thanks to Bob Wilde, Gaynor de Wit and Nicholas Kosmatos for supplying some great articles over the last few months. Please keep them coming.

Sherry Conisbee
Editor, *Outpost*

**Moving
this
Summer?**

More than just Leeks and Daffodils

Though the smallest of the British Loyal Societies, St. David's is not to be ignored. All of twenty-four years old, the Society, named after a humble leek-eating preacher, has established itself as an open, friendly group who just want to celebrate their heritage while having a bit of fun.

Although one must be of Welsh descent to become a full member of St. David's, the Society prides itself on its "open door policy", meaning that as long as one is willing to admit that Wales is a great little nation, they're allowed to join in our fun. Associate membership is offered to those who have a genuine interest in the Welsh and their culture. Along with the annual Christmas party, when Father Christmas always makes a guest appearance, the society has established a "Poems and Pints" night, during which members and non-members alike recite poems, short stories, songs and jokes. However, it is the Annual Ball that takes the cake, or rather the Caerphilly Cheese.

Held on the 6th of March for the tenth consecutive year at the Oriental Hotel, the annual St. David's Ball was a night

unparalleled. Presided over by Bard Carol Sandarusi, in this, her third year, the evening opened with the "Call for Peace", a throw back from Wales's turbulent history, and was markedly resplendent with both a procession and magnificent sword. This was quickly followed by the traditional rendition of both the Thai and Welsh National Anthems. Along with the daffodils and cheese, the Society also imported, for one night only, the Hong Kong Welsh Male Voice Choir. The choir's amazing talent and vocal range captured and held the attention of every member of the audience, no matter their musical tastes. Also included in the night's entertainment were two soloists, our local songbird, Cathryn Hopkins, who sang three numbers, and the choir's own star soloist, Terry Brewster. Guests enjoyed a

delicious four-course meal that contained some traditional Welsh fare: leek and potato soup followed by lamb. After the meal the dance floor was opened up and DJ Paul Jackson played a wide range of popular hits for dancing till two in the morning. **KLM Royal Dutch Airlines**, "The Reliable Airline", kindly donated two business class roundtrip airline tickets and guests made donations in the hope of winning this splendid prize. Fifty percent of the monies collected will be donated to Thai charities.

Carol Sandarusi



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