

MAY 2011



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

www.britishclubbangkok.org

OUTPOST

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK



LOOKING BACK

Songkran Party


Britstock

Comedy Night

Pancake Races

COVER FEATURE
Tennis Championships

SCREEN TIME
Dr Who 2011
Monday Night Club
Thurs Night Movies
Children's Movies



Shoulder Arthroscopy

MICROSURGERY

SHOULDER ARTHROSCOPY is a minimally invasive surgery which uses a tiny camera to relay the image to the TV Monitor.

- Giving an inside vision of the tissues inside or around your shoulder joint, it aids in the diagnosis & treatment.
- Small incisions lead to significantly less postoperative pain, a shorter hospital stay and faster recovery.
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THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

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OUTPOST IS PUBLISHED ON
BEHALF OF THE BRITISH CLUB
BY VERITAS GRAPHICS.

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FRONT COVER

The British Club's tennis championships this year were well attended and enormously enjoyable. The playing was exhilarating and the mood was competitive, but at no cost to the overall spirit of the matches. There was time for the juniors to play as well, and a party to round the events off. We have devoted two pages this month to a fine selection of photos of competitors young and old in action.



Cover photo by Chris Watt with many thanks.

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OUTPOST

Outpost is the monthly publication of **THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK**, the international club for friends and families in the heart of Bangkok.

A full version of the magazine is also available online at www.britishclubbangkok.org/outpost. Opinions expressed need not necessarily represent those of the Club. All events, dates and times are correct at time of press. Outpost welcomes contributions from Members. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the Publisher.

The Fry Group – UK Tax Presentation

Tax and financial planning is usually a daunting, but necessary, part of life for expatriates. Queries can arise at any point – whether you have recently arrived in Thailand, have decided to remain here indefinitely, or perhaps planning a return to the UK or a move to a new overseas location.

With so many changes to legislation that has taken place over the years, specific tax planning has been made very difficult, so that what you perhaps knew yesterday, may not necessarily apply tomorrow ! However, Non-UK Residents are still able to take advantage of their unique status in many ways.

Do you really know where you stand?

Well, fear not, on Monday 23rd May 2011 (7pm) at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel (Bangkok), Gary Wright, a UK tax specialist at The Fry Group will be looking at relevant UK Tax issues such as:

- Staying tax efficiently out of the Revenues reach whilst abroad
- Letting UK property whilst abroad (UK Capital Gains & Income tax)
- Domicile & Inheritance tax – the benefits & pitfalls
- Tax Efficient Retirement Income (UK/Thailand Issues) & UK Pension Legislation changes 2011

A Q&A session will follow the seminar and attendees will also have an opportunity to discuss specific issues with Gary (and Martin Wright from Fry's Financial Planning Company) afterwards over drinks and a Buffet Dinner. Gary (and Martin) will also be available for individual meetings in Bangkok on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th May on a no obligation basis. Please feel free to come along for a chat to discuss any particular issues that you may have.



Gary Wright – Tax Specialist, The Fry Group, UK

Gary Wright is a Senior Tax Adviser with the International Tax Division of the Fry Group based at the company Head Office in Worthing. Gary joined The Fry Group 22 years ago in 1988 straight from the Inland Revenue (now HMRC), where he gained several years worth of 'invaluable insider experience'. Gary has been a regular visitor to the Far East for many years.

To find out more, or to reserve a place at this event, please contact Janet Ng on +65 6225 0825 or email info@thefrygroupsg.com.

The Fry Group have been advising British expatriates on all aspects of their tax and financial affairs since 1898.

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MESSAGE FROM THE GM



Dear Members,

During the first half of April, we began researching the service and food quality at the Club's different outlets. This first measure has run for almost a month, to ensure that in the future we have a solid baseline against which to measure our general performance in relation to food quality and general service. The measurement is scheduled to recur every one or two months, which will give the management and staff a good feedback system for continuous service improvement.

The preliminary result of the survey shows that the service at the Club compared to industry standards is high, and even though not yet on the level of a 5-star Hotel, we are getting there. The Churchill Bar has the highest average score compared to any of the other outlets, followed by the Verandah and then the Salas. However, despite the Salas' reputation for not giving proper service, we can see that their service has improved over the last year and still is improving. On a scale from 1-7 where 7 is the highest, all outlets have a score of 5.3 or higher. For the service staff and me, this is encouraging and underlines the focus and effort made by the staff and management which has finally been noticed and appreciated by Members.

We can also see that we need to be better at greeting people when they arrive at the Poolside Salas and make sure they have a place to sit. Furthermore, the staff do not attend the Members fast enough, nor ensure they have menus, so Members sometimes feel that they have to go to the counter to get service. We are working to improve this. The management team's intention is for Members around the pool to see service staff at least every 10 minutes coming round to clear up the tables and make themselves available for further orders.

April is a difficult month when Songkran falls on a Wednesday, as it means many people travel outside Bangkok. However, this year we found a good balance as we had an area for the kids to play with water and also ensured that everywhere else was "water-free". This meant we had quite a big group of people down for the squash mix-in, the tennis around the net and the water polo games while the kids were enjoying the water, and seen from a management perspective it looked like Members this year came to the Club to have a more relaxed and fun Songkran.

The semi-final and final of the Cricket World Cup was avidly watched by a huge number of Members both within the Club and outside on the front lawn for the final, particularly our loyal Indian Members. The final turned out to be so exciting that the party continued late into the night. Sports on television is a great way of sharing these thrilling events, so the Club management will continue to ensure that whenever possible, there is live coverage of cricket, rugby, tennis, F1 and football on Club televisions. However, the providers do not always communicate their schedules very clearly so often we only know at the last minute which channels will actually broadcast the matches, so Club emails will be issued as soon as we get definite transmission details.

In April we also finalised the squash courts' refurbishment and once again the tennis courts. I was particularly pleased that we succeeded in ensuring that tennis courts 2 and 3 were completed 3 days ahead of schedule and that it looks like this time, (touch wood), they seem to have been done correctly. Finishing them off has been well received, judging by the buzz around the Club for the whole of the Songkran period. As you read this, the centre court and court 1 should be completed and hopefully we'll be back to a stable situation with the tennis courts. This is vital for the Club so that tennis players can start using the Sala again. We also expect the squash courts to be completed by the end of April. The refurbishment of court 1 seems to have been successful and on schedule. Anybody who has played in court 1 and seen the works being undertaken will be pleased with the results, and as from May all squash courts will be of a very high standard.

Jesper Doepping
General Manager

BANGKOK COMMUNITY THEATRE

presents a

hairspray

movie musical

SINGALONG

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Silom Soi 18

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Only!

Bangkok Community Theatre has held hugely successful "Sound of Music" and "Grease" singalong events in the past, so don't miss this chance to strut your stuff at this year's fabulous "HAIRSPRAY SINGALONG!" And don't worry if you don't know the show, we'll provide the words and have you singing along and heckling the baddies in no time!

The event features an American Diner style buffet dinner, charismatic hosts who will explain how the evening works, lots of audience participation, door prizes, individual goody bags and more. The audience is very much encouraged to dress up as characters or trivia from the movie and to compete for our highly coveted costume prizes. Let your imagination go wild: think Tracy & Edna Turnblad, Corny Collins and Ultra-Clutch Hairspray to name just a few....

If you've never been to a movie singalong before, not to worry. Our hosts will lead you through a brief warm-up, show you how to use the various props in your goody bag and even suggest a few heckles. You'll be rearing to go when we begin the screening of the hilarious 2007 movie HAIRSPRAY because... you can't stop the beat!

B500 per person includes pre-show buffet supper and goody bag.

Door and best costume prizes to be won; cash bar available.

Pre-show supper from 6:30pm; movie commences at approximately 7:30pm.

Please purchase tickets in advance at British Club reception or by sending an email or fax to the club.

For further information on the show or BCT, please email bct@sala.net or call 081-892-5052

Places are limited so book now to avoid disappointment.

Bangkok
COMMUNITY
Theatre



Due to adult language and sexual innuendo, this event is recommended for Adults and Students age 12+.

HOUSE & GROUNDS

The monthly report on maintenance and development



I am pleased to report that the repair of the defects on Tennis Courts 2 & 3 went according to plan, and the courts were back in service on Sunday 10th April. Work started on Centre Court & Court 1 on Monday 18th April, after the Songkran Festival. We were very lucky with the weather and work was completed on 23rd April. Later that same day, the heavens opened and the rain came down. After the problems we had in 2010, the Gods decided to smile on us. The courts will be playable on 29th April.

Three technically-qualified contractors with suitable experience quoted for the refurbishment of the squash courts. The contractor I recommended, on the basis of the lowest price and the most favourable business terms, was approved by the General Committee and appointed to carry out the project. Work started on Court 1 on 24th March and was completed on 8th April. A large amount of plaster repairs were carried out, totalling 10.42 square metres. Court 2 was started on 11th April and completed on 23rd April. Plaster repairs were less, totaling 5.29 square metres. Court 3 will be started on 26th April.

For those interested, we found that the walls of the squash courts are built of reinforced concrete that has been finished with 25mm of special plaster. After tapping the walls to check for debonded plaster, damaged areas were removed and replaced with Lanko plaster products. This type of repair is quite normal after the walls have been bombarded with squash balls for several years.

On Monday 4th April, the power supply for the poolside facilities was transferred from the MEA transformer opposite the Narai car park entrance to our own 630kVA transformer at the Silom gatehouse. Our contractor, New Electrical Technology, is thanked for their detailed planning of this operation which had to be carried out during a power shutdown and carefully coordinated with MEA. The proposal to carry out this work was originally made in April 2010. Myself and David Robertson, our electrical consultant, submitted technical data and calculations to the General Committee, and by September 2010 had convinced them that the work was well worth carrying out. The condition for approval was that the capital outlay should have a 1 year payback. We then tried to obtain an acceptable price from MEA or an independent contractor that was based on David's specification. This proved problematic but eventually, by last month, we agreed on a specification and price with New Electrical Technology that satisfied the criteria laid down by the General Committee. The work was carried out during a power shutdown from

10am to 2pm, and the forward planning and preparation by New Electrical Technology paid off. We now look forward to making some appreciable savings on our power bills.

Tenders have been invited from three contractors for the repair of the Suriwongse Sala roof. By the end of April, we hope to be able to make a recommendation to the General Committee for appointment of a contractor. The gypsum ceiling will not be replaced and, instead, the roof timbers will be finished with lacquer so they present an attractive feature. A decision will be taken regarding the repainting of the Clubhouse when the squash courts have been completed.

We continue carrying out repairs to our plant and equipment. The latest breakdowns were the ice-making machine and the walk-in chiller in the Clubhouse kitchen. I am pleased to report that the TV rack in the Suriwongse Sala has now been repaired.

Behind the Churchill Bar, in front of the kitchen, is a corridor in which there is a confusing clutter of beer kegs, chillers and gas cylinders. For some time, we have been considering how this can be tidied up and arranged in a safe and neat manner. With the help of a Member who is a brewing expert, we are having a Dexion two-tier rack designed that will be custom-built to stack all this equipment safely. The gas bottles will be located in a cage adjacent to the external door. This is another example of our aim to improve safety at the Club wherever possible.

On the subject of safety: as someone with 6 young children in his family, I am very aware of the dangers to them. However, we do not always see the problems. We were recently alerted by a Member that a bolt was missing from a rocking horse in the children's playground. Obviously this represented a potential hazard to any child playing on it. We should have noticed this ourselves but didn't. Please let us know immediately if similar problems are found. We will deal with them as a priority. Having said that, we acknowledge that certain facilities such as the uneven paved areas in the Club grounds present many hazards. We are not currently in a position to replace or refurbish all these facilities, so please exercise caution and do not run or let your small children run, particularly in the parking areas.

All for now

John Boisclair
Development & Facility Manager



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SIMON SAYS...



May is upon us and what is to many a Brit the traditional start of the summer with the British weather warming up. The weather in Bangkok will be warming up as well and the dreaded rainy season will be heading in. At the Club we are hoping to be your haven from the elements. Hence why we are we are trying to offer a wider range of activities and events for you to attend.

Firstly, April was a busy month at the Club with Songkran as well as the Club's 108th Birthday celebrations, Easter Sunday and the Royal Wedding. Our Poolside Songkran party celebrated Thai New Year with a rush of fun and games such as limbo dancing and water polo, as well as lots of water and copious amounts of Margaritas for good measure. The Club's birthday saw us run an English-style fair with lots of stalls, games, food and drink. Easter saw our traditional Easter egg hunt as well as a fancy dress competition and a great buffet. The Royal Wedding saw us celebrate Will and Kate's nuptials in the Verandah with a live screening, great food and fun activities for all the children.

Our Children's movies in the Silom Sala from now on will be scheduled to allow Members' children (and certain big children amongst our Members) to choose their viewing more selectively. This month we will be showing a range of titles from the classic 'Peter Pan' to the Japanese classic 'Spirited Away', and we will also be showing more modern offerings in 'A Bug's Life' and 'Rango'. We also have our really special Scandinavian Gourmet Dinner to look forward to; Jesper has helped create an amazing menu that I know will be a real treat for all those who attend. We also have a great night of music lined up on the 1st with a May Day special Music at Dusk featuring great live music and a BBQ.

We will also have all our regular favourites including Monday Night Club, Doctor Who and Thursday Night Movies. While continuing with our showing of Gavin & Stacey and Fawlty Towers, we will also be sampling some of the best of British comedy movies in The Full Monty and Hot Fuzz.

I hope to see you all during the month at the Club.

Simon Causton

Events & Sales Manager

OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES

The Verandah	Mon - Thurs 11am - 2.30pm and 5pm - 10pm, Fri - Sun 11am - 10pm		
Neilson Hays Coffee Shop	9am - 6pm	Fitness Centre	6am - 10pm (Mon-Fri)
Churchill Bar	10am - 11pm	Fitness Centre	6am - 9pm (Sat-Sun)
Poolside Bar	6:15am - 11pm Last food orders 10pm	Thai Massage	9am - 5pm (Tues-Sun)



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Express

Luncheon

May

2nd - 6th May 2011

Starters - 50baht

Pasta Nicoise Salad,
French Beans, Egg, Anchovy and Tomatoes

or

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 130baht

Grilled Cajun Chicken Served
with Mixed Vegetable and Roast Potatoes

or

Fish Kebabs Grilled Fish Seasoned with Limejuice
Coriander Leaves and Mixed Herbs Served
with Mixed Salad and Corn Salsa

or

Grilled Fillet of Pork in a Light Curry Sauce Served
with Zucchini and Coriander Rice

or

Tod Mun Pla (Deep-fried Curried Fish Cake)
Tom Yum Gai
(Spicy Lemongrass Flavoured Soup with Chicken and Mushroom)
Pad Phak Ruam Nam Man Hoy
(Stir-fried Vegetables with Oyster Sauce)

Dessert of the Day- 50baht

or

Choose from our A la Carte Dessert 10% off



16th - 20th May 2011

Starters - 50baht

Chicken, Pasta and Pesto Salad

or

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 130baht

Grilled Chicken Breast and Spinach Risotto
with Parmesan Rocket Leaves Dressed with Pesto

or

Lamb and Beef, Eggplant Moussaka Served
with Greek Salad and Garlic Bread

or

Pan-fried Dory Fish with Mango Butter Sauce Served
with French Beans, Carrots and Boiled Potatoes

or

Gaeng Jued Sarai Tao Hoo Moo Sub
(Clear Soup with Chinese Lettuce, Seaweed, Tofu and Minced Pork)
Chu Chee Pla (Fillet in Red Curry Sauce)
Phad Woon Sen Sai Khai (Stir-fried Vernicelli with egg)

Dessert of the Day- 50baht

or

Choose from our A la Carte Dessert 10% off

9th - 13th May 2011

Starters - 50baht

Carrot, Raisins and Apple Coleslaw

or

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 130baht

Chicken Maryland with Pineapple, Banana, Sweetcorn,
Tomato, Bacon and Home-fried Potatoes

or

Salmon Fish Cakes Served with Garden Pea, Chips
and Tartare Sauce

or

Mushroom Stroganoff Served with Yellow Rice

or

Pla Peaw Wan
(Sweet and Sour Fish with Bellpaper, Tomatoes and Cucumber)
Tom Kha Gai (Chicken in Coconut Milk and Tangy Soup
with Lemongrass and Lime Leaves)
Khaj Jiew Moo Sub (Thai Omelette with Minced Pork)

Dessert of the Day- 50baht

or

Choose from our A la Carte Dessert 10% off



23rd - 27th May 2011

Starters - 50baht

Warm Bread Salad of Crispy Bacon, Parmesan and Poached Egg

or

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 130baht

Mixed Sausage Served with mashed Potatoes

or

Fish and Chips Bread Crumbed or Battered Served
with Garden Peas and Tartare Sauce

or

Chicken Tikka Masala Served with Yellow Rice

or

Gaeng Som Pak Ruam Goong Sod
(Spicy Sour Soup with Mixed Vegetable and Prawns)
Moo Tod Kratiem (Stir-fried Pork with Garlic and Peper Sauce)
Gai Rad Souce Makham (Fried Chicken Breast Top
with Tamarind Sauce)

Dessert of the Day- 50baht

or

Choose from our A la Carte Dessert 10% off

F&B MORSELS



Dear Members,

We are now in the middle of our vegetarian food promotion. With this promotion, we hope that our vegetarian Members will feel that they can get their kind of food at the Club as well. However, as I have previously said here, most Thais think and cook prapet pak (vegetables) and prapet neua (meat) together, so we always add one or the other to create a good taste. This means that the whole kitchen staff and I seriously welcome suggestions and recipes for vegetarian food, because that is the only way that we can ensure that our vegetarian food becomes the best in town. When we upgrade the menus, we will integrate the vegetarian dishes into them.

At the beginning of April we had the first of the returning membership evaluations of the Club's food and the speed with which it arrives. We already know that sometimes our food has been slow to arrive, due to staff shortages and then new staff. However, we can also see from the comments that we are compared with other restaurants and outlets which have very different menu and service criteria. At the British Club, for many years we have concentrated on food being fresh. This takes time to prepare but we want to avoid pre-cooked items wherever possible. That said, the kitchen will continue to work hard to improve its speed.

In the evaluation, Members are also asked about food quality, on a scale from 1 to 7. We have so far reached a score of 5.4 which is pleasing, but the kitchen staff and I hoped that Members would rate our food as very good, so we are a little disappointed! We know that the evaluation came right after the introduction of the new menu – where we changed more than 36% of the items and unified all the outlet menus. Of course, these changes in just a month results in the food quality being variable, but we plan that at the next evaluation, you will find the food's presentation, freshness and taste to be amongst the best in Bangkok.

Khun Laak
Executive Chef

MODERN EUROPEAN DINING



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

1st- 15th May 2011

Starters

Chef's Soup of the Day	75
Tuna and Scallop Carpaccio with Rocket Salad and Tarragon Aioli	185

Main Courses

Baked Rainbow Trout with Capers, Almonds, Amaretto Meuniere Sauce Served with Broccoli, Carrots and Garlic Mashed Potatoes	285
Grispy Glazed Duck Breast with Green Pepper Sauce Served with Red Cabbage Jam and Croquette Potatoes	255
Roasted Herbs and Garlic Lamb Chops Served with Lemongrass Mint Sauce Served with Roast Vegetable and Crispy Polenta	655

Dessert

Mango Crumble with Warm Custard	85
Dessert of the Day	

16th – 31st May 2011

Starters

Chef's Soup of the Day	75
Rocket Salad with Sun-Dried Tomatoes and Fresh Parmesan Balsamic Dressing	185

Main Courses

T-Bone Steak Served with Grilled Tomatoes Bottom Mushroom and Home-fried Potatoes	550
Seafood Risotto with Parmesan, Rocket Leaves Dressed in Pesto	220
Grilled Dory Fish with Prawns Mornay Sauce Served with Croquette Potatoes and Broccoli	255

Dessert

Rhubarb and Sticky Stem Ginger Crumble Served with Warm Custard or Ice Cream	135
--	-----

Dessert of the Day



HAPPY SONGKRAN!!

The Songkran Pool Party was far from being a wash-out with over 50 Members attending on the day to participate in the range of activities. With the festivities in Silom raging with more than the usual aplomb, the Club offered a safe haven for those not wanting to get completely drenched. From lunchtime through to late evening, the Poolside was almost full and many Members took the opportunity to try out Khun Laak's excellent "4 Corners of Thailand" buffet. Throughout the afternoon, the thirst-quenching properties and relaxing effects of our bewitching Margaritas saw sales ending up in the 3 digits region.

During the afternoon, there were light-hearted games of tennis and squash. In particular, the tennis group had some tricky challenges like doubles tennis with only one racket per duo! The squash section played a team handicap tournament - in the end nobody really discovered who the winner was and nobody cared, but they all claimed it was a great afternoon.

On Poolside we had an entertaining water polo competition played by Members and their children, and in order to have good sized teams, a few members of staff joined in the game as well.

One difference from previous years was that the Songkran party was definitely not dry, as there were water activities and games for the children (and big children) on the front lawn. To make it more of a challenge for the children of different sizes, both the Slider and the Bouncy Castle were out, but the front lawn also had a fair amount of cleverly positioned barriers which could be used to seek protection from the water. In retrospect, creating one real water play area for the children worked really well so we will definitely repeat that next year, while also ensuring that all other areas of the Club are water free. This way the Club can continue to be a safe haven for Members right in the middle of the Songkran festivities, and also offer the enjoyment of water throwing for those who want it.







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Last Watercolour Workshop With Louise Truslow!

The last of the current series of Louise's monthly workshops is this month.

Suitable for beginners and for those wishing to refresh their skills.

On May 21st

B2,400 including lunch and refreshments.

Sign up at Reception.

*For more information email:
louise@louisetruslow.com*



COMEDY NIGHT

For the first night of our new partnership with The Bangkok Comedy Club, we welcomed Irish comedienne Mary Bourke and Australian comedian Jonathan Atherton to The Verandah restaurant for a great night of stand-up hilarity.

Eamonn Sandler's Comedy Club Asia has been running for over 10 years in Jakarta, Singapore and Malaysia. With monthly shows planned for the British Club from now on, we hope that we can still be boasting these great shows in 10 years time.

The next show is on 19th May at 8pm. Tickets can be booked now by contacting Simon Causton at the Club.



BRITSTOCK 2011

A great celebration of music was held at the Club in March with over 12 hours of excellent music coming from the best of Bangkok's expat bands. With drinks at special prices throughout the day and great food and fun for the kids, the event was enjoyed by all those who attended. The music ranged from jazz to soul to acoustic to rock.

Expertly marshalled by Wave FM DJ and British Club Member Paul Jackson, the crowd were treated to music from well-known Bangkok bands such as Cannonball, Denny Crane, The Farangutans, Matthew Fischer and Supabad (a nine piece James Brown Tribute band complete with wigs!).

The show was closed with the some original classics by The Mason Ruffner Band. Mason performed and recorded with Bob Dylan and Daniel Lanois, and toured with U2, Jimmy Page, Ringo Starr, Crosby Stills and Nash, and many others. Carlos Santana has performed Ruffner's composition "Angel Love" and has had Mason as a guest guitarist at several Santana concerts.

Plans are already in hand to hold another Britstock later this year so watch this space for more details!







THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Scandinavian Gourmet Dinner

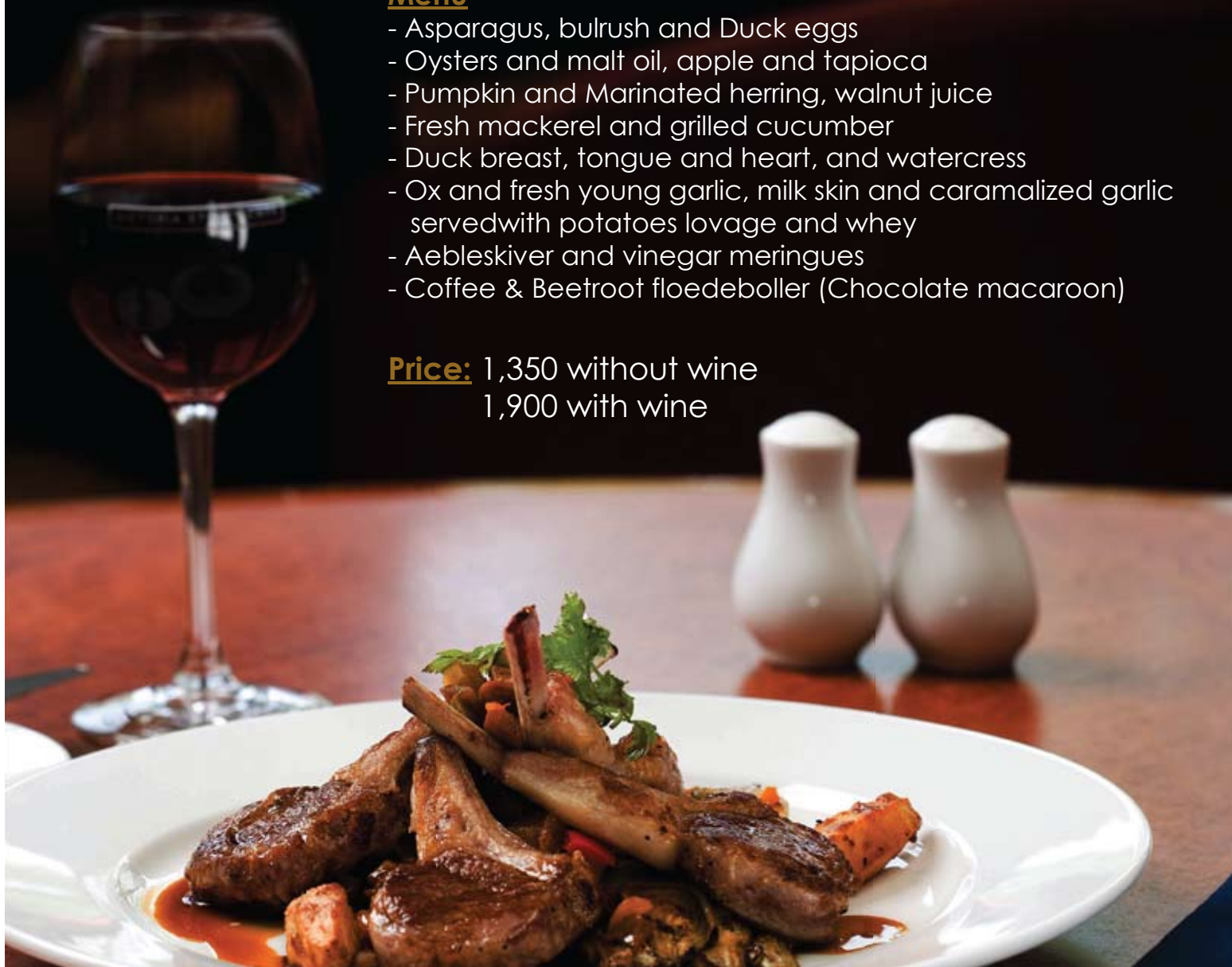
27th May 2011

**Meet and Greet at 7 pm, Dinner start at 7.30 pm
at Verandah**

Menu

- Asparagus, bulrush and Duck eggs
- Oysters and malt oil, apple and tapioca
- Pumpkin and Marinated herring, walnut juice
- Fresh mackerel and grilled cucumber
- Duck breast, tongue and heart, and watercress
- Ox and fresh young garlic, milk skin and caramalized garlic served with potatoes lovage and whey
- Aebleskiver and vinegar meringues
- Coffee & Beetroot floedeboller (Chocolate macaroon)

Price: 1,350 without wine
1,900 with wine



British Club Bangkok

189 Suriwongse Road Bangkok 10500 Tel. +66(0) 2234 0247

PANCAKE DAY RACES

This year our annual pancakes races were run on the Saturday after Shrove Tuesday. There were numerous adults and children joining in a wide range of great races, with everyone having fun and more than a few pancakes being consumed!



STARTING OUR 108th YEAR

The 108th Annual General Meeting (including those lost during wartime) was a lively debate amongst the 54 Members who attended with searching questions on the accounts, debates on a minimum Food & Beverage Charge, a General Committee election and a solidifying of our relationships with the Loyal Societies ... not necessarily, of course, in that order!

Prompt attendance lead to a prompt start and all the formalities of Quorum, minutes of the last AGM and two EGMs and Chairman's Report was over within minutes, even the financial formalities (accounts, spending limits, fees etc) were accepted with only a minimum of debate. This left the evening open for three main topics ... Loyal Societies, Minimum Spending and GC elections.

Loyal Societies

The four Loyal societies of St. Andrew, St. David, St. George and St. Patrick have, in the main, been partners with the Club for over 50 years, thus it was fitting that Members endorsed a GC policy to formally put them into the Constitution as such and define the privileges of such a historic relationship in that **"these Societies shall be part of the fabric of the Club for as long as each Society requires"**. This gives the head of each Society, when not a Club Member, a Guest Annual Membership and guarantees the display of Honours Boards and trophies in the Clubhouse. We believe this will create a good working relationship with the Societies over the next few decades!

Minimum Spending

For the third time in a decade the question was put to the meeting that we have a minimum Food & Beverage fee each month to increase revenue from the several hundred Members who rarely spend monies in the Club. Although the GC acknowledges that we have a large 'sleeping membership', it was not of the opinion that charging them extra would make them more active but would in fact drive them away. It was felt that increasing services levels, the number and quality of Club events, and Member benefits would be better tools to increase revenue from these Members, and the AGM endorsed the GC policy by defeating the motion.

General Committee election

For the fourth year in a row there were more candidates for the ten GC positions than places, thus an election was held and the result announced directly the AGM closed. The GC later elected its officers for 2011/12. The current GC is thus:

Officers

Chairman: Jonathan Truslow Vice-Chairman: Sarah Allen
Honorary Secretary: Paul Cheesman Honorary Treasurer: Phil Alexander

GC Members

John Bleho Ian Harry
David Blowers Andrew McLean
Martin Carter Chris Watt

With 108 years behind us, we are all looking forward to the next 108!

Paul Cheesman
Honorary Secretary
The British Club Bangkok

LONDON - A Kestrel's View

This is the world's largest 360-degree panoramic photograph, and it is of London. Photographed from the top of Centrepont, this 80 Gigapixel photo is assembled from 7886 individual images taken in summer 2010. The detail, when you zoom in, is so good that several 'window scenes' needed blotting out! Check out Millenium Bridge, the time on Big Ben, and the web address for Korean Foods on the delivery van in New Oxford Street.

It takes a few seconds to load, but is well worth it. Can you spot Ally Pally on the horizon?

www.360cities.net/london-photo-en.html

PAST PARTICIPLE

Auspiciam Melioris Ævi

By Paul Cheesman



We look back at events of 1963 ...

1 This was the year of the commissioning of our first Chairman's Board for the front lobby. Sadly, due to confusion on the part of the Committee which believed the Club's founding date was 1910 or 1911, it recorded that the first Chairman was W.E. Adam in 1912. This error was likely caused by our loss of records during the Japanese occupation of 1941 to 1945.

The St. Andrew's Society was, however, luckily in having most records since 1890, thus when the Chieftain's board was commissioned, also in 1963, along with the Presidents' board from the St. George's Society and the St. Patrick's Society, it was complete.

This original Chairman's Board was replaced in 2002 having run out of room for adding new Chairmen.

2 Our Butler, Yee Daeng, was taken ill during the early part of the year and, whilst allowed to stay in the Staff Quarters, it was mutually agreed in May that he was too ill to work thus he retired. He was given a retirement gift of 16,500 Ticals, a month's salary for each year he had worked for us, plus over 10,000 Ticals in a subscription fund from Members. As a result of his retirement the No. 1 Boy, Sumeth Sumethrataniya, was promoted to Butler with effect from 1st June.

3 The most significant event of the year was the introduction of the "Chits System". From 1946 onward Members had to pre-buy coupons for use in the Club. From 1st October 1963, following an EGM on 12th September, Members could sign for drinks and then be presented with an account on 20th of each month for payment to the Assistant Permanent Secretary by the last day of the month. Rules were also brought in for fining late payers and removing from membership those who failed to pay!

4 Soi 18, as we now call it, was a serious problem in this year. It needed substantial repair work done for it to be safely travelled by Members. The Committee corresponded with the Changwat's Public & Municipal Works Department but they were unable to fund repairs. It was thus decided to spend 3,000 Ticals on short-term repairs to the Soi.

5 Membership in 1963 rose significantly during the year from a starting figure of 262 to an end of year figure of 302 – a net gain of 40 Members in a year and our second year of good gains. Included in these new Members were two Honorary Members – His Excellency Allan H. Loomes OBE, the new Australian Ambassador to Thailand (replacing H.E. Malcolm R. Booker) and the Reverend J.E. Ironside, the first Vicar appointed to Christ Church in North Sathorn Road. The previous Chaplain had also been granted this privilege as outlined in Outpost's 'Past Participle' in December 2010.

summary of the history of the Club insofar as it is known and a recapitulation of our plans. I think I can best summarise what is in our mind at the moment in the question "What shall we do with the Club?"

"The Club was established in 1910 or 1911 on the property on which it now stands. Prior to that date there had been another Club known as the Bangkok Tennis Club and there is in fact a Tennis Challenge Cup amongst our

The whisper of the end?

The author is currently Honorary Secretary of the Club.

BC CALENDAR - MAY 2011

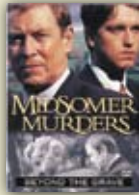
THU

MONDAY

25

BWG Mahjong 東
10am - 1pm

2

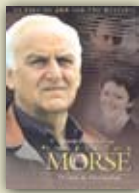


Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm

Monday Night Club
Beyond the Grave
Wordsworth Lounge, 7pm

BWG Mahjong 東
10am - 1pm

9

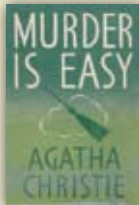


Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm

Monday Night Club
Driven to Distraction
Wordsworth Lounge, 7pm

Sports Camp
9.30 am

16



BWG Mahjong 東
10am - 1pm

Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm

Monday Night Club
Murder Is Easy
Wordsworth Lounge, 7pm

BWG Mahjong 東
10am - 1pm

23



Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm

Monday Night Club
The King of Clubs/ The Dream
Wordsworth Lounge, 7pm

BWG Mahjong 東
10am - 1pm

30



Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm

Monday Night Club
Music To Die For
Wordsworth Lounge, 7pm

TUESDAY

26

Ladies Mix-In
8 am

3

Fitball
10:30am

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm

Senior Football
7pm

Scottish Dancing
7pm

Ladies Mix-In
8 am

10

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm

Senior Football
7pm

Chess Club
7pm

Quiz Night
7.30pm

BAR QUIZ

Ladies Mix-In
8 am

17

Fitball
10:30am

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm

Senior Football
7pm

Chess Club
7pm

Ladies Mix-In
8 am

24

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm

Senior Football
7pm

Chess Club
7pm

New Members Night
7pm

Ladies Mix-In
8 am

31

Fitball
10:30am

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm

Senior Football
7pm

Chess Club
7pm

WEDNESDAY

27

Midweekers Golf Group
8 am

4

Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm

Ballroom Dancing
7pm

BCB Balut Shield
Wordsworth Lounge
7.05pm

Midweekers Golf Group
8 am

11

Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm

Salsa Dancing
7pm

Midweekers Golf Group
8 am

18

Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm

Ballroom Dancing
7pm

BCB Balut Shield
Wordsworth Lounge
7.05pm

Midweekers Golf Group
8 am

25

IPL Semi-Finals

Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm

Salsa Dancing
7pm

Open Day
All day

Ladies Mix-In
8 am

Fitball
10:30am

Dr Who Special
2pm

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm

Thursday Night Movie
The Full Monty, 7pm

Ladies Mix-In
8 am

Fitball
10:30am

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm

Thursday Night Movie
Gavin & Stacey S1 Eps 2

Ladies Mix-In
8 am

Fitball
10:30am

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm

Thursday Night Movie
Hot Fuzz, 7pm

Comedy Night
8pm

Ladies Mix-In
8 am

Fitball
10:30am

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm

Thursday Night Movie
Fawlty Towers S1 Eps 3

THURSDAY

28

5


















FRIDAY


29

6


Junior Swimming 3pm-5pm 


Junior Tennis 


Children's Cinema 6pm 


Tennis Mix-In 7pm-10pm 

12

Junior Swimming 3pm-5pm 

Junior Tennis 

Children's Cinema 6pm 

Tennis Mix-In 7pm-10pm 

19

Junior Swimming 3pm-5pm 


Junior Tennis 


Children's Cinema 6pm 


Wine Tasting 6pm-9pm 


Tennis Mix-In 7pm-10pm 

26


Junior Swimming 3pm-5pm 

Junior Tennis 

IPL Semi-Finals 

Children's Cinema 6pm 

Scandinavian Gourmet Dinner 7pm

Tennis Mix-In 7pm-10pm 

SATURDAY

30


7


Junior Tennis 


Swimming lessons 


Netball 4pm-6pm 


14

Junior Tennis 

Swimming lessons 

Netball 4pm-6pm 

Five-a-side Football 4pm 

F.A. Cup 9pm 

21

Watercolour Workshop 9am-4pm

Junior Tennis 

Swimming lessons 



28

Junior Tennis 

Swimming lessons 

Netball 4pm-6pm 

Backyard Cricket 4pm 


IPL Finals 8.30pm 


SUNDAY

1

Junior British Club 10.30 am

Sunday Brunch 11am-3pm

Bridge Surawongse Room 2:30pm 


Yoga 2:30pm 


Tsunami Charity Afternoon


8

Junior British Club 10.30 am


Sunday Brunch 11am-3pm

Bridge Surawongse Room 2:30pm 

Yoga 2:30pm 


Turkish Grand Prix 6pm 


15

Fishing Trip 9am 

Junior British Club 10.30 am

Sunday Brunch 11am-3pm

Bridge Surawongse Room 2:30pm 

Yoga 2:30pm 

22

Junior British Club 10.30 am

Sunday Brunch 11am-3pm

Dr Who 11am-1pm 

Yoga 2:30pm 

Spanish Grand Prix 7pm 

29

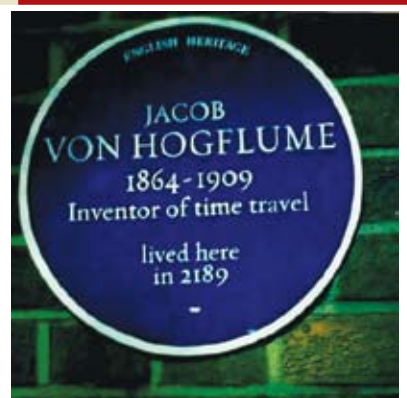
Junior British Club 10.30 am

Sunday Brunch 11am-3pm

Dr Who 11am-1pm 

Yoga 2:30pm 

Monaco Grand Prix 7pm 



SPORT & LEISURE

By Reed Passmore



Songkran is over and the wet season is starting early. One strange month of cold weather, hot weather, humid and at times rain....4 seasons in a month right here in Bangkok!

Past Activities:

The Junior Songkran Sports Camp was well received with some new faces and new activities. This was only a 3 day camp as many families left for a few days R & R. Sports Camps are always a fun way for children to interact with others and learn new sports.



Songkran Pool Party:

On Wednesday 13th April, many Members came to the Club to escape the chaos of Songkran and we created a little one of our own with cheap Margaritas and water games. We made over 100 Margaritas and could have sold many more if we had known they would be that popular as we couldn't make them fast enough! Water polo proved entertaining as did the tennis mix in and squash handicap. It was a really fantastic day for all.



Upcoming Activities:

Fishing Trip Sunday 15th May Pack the kids and come fishing! We will be heading off to a local fishing pond and throwing out a few lines. There will be Prizes for the biggest and smallest catch of the day. Come for breakfast, catch the minivan and enjoy a full day out.



Get Fit for Free!!!

During June and July my staff and I will be running activities 3 days a week for any Member to join in – These will be set up for adults of all ages and range from fitness, volleyball, swimming lessons, squash and more. Member's health is very important to us and we will also be keeping a log of your activities and health gains. You will need to sign up for this and make a commitment to join regularly. We will be looking at 2 evenings a week and 1 day over the weekend..... there will also be a prize for the Member that loses the most weight or increases their general fitness the most. Contact me for more information.



I will be away on leave from 23rd May to the 6th June. I will be checking my emails during this time, although not every day!

TENNIS

By Reed Passmore

Championships 2011

After two and a half months of matches, it came down to one day: the 26th March.

The first match started with a slight rain delay but thankfully the weather gods were on our side and blessed up with a cooler than average day and perfect weather for a full day of tennis.

Two sisters started the day in the Ladies Singles Final, Anais and Natacha Nussaume, which Anais went on to win 6-2, 6-0. The Plate Singles had to be cancelled due to sickness, so Jeab was awarded a walk-over against Glades.

The second match of the day, the Ladies Doubles, was absolutely fantastic with Mint and Mooky playing Anais and Natacha (two sisters versus two sisters). Mint and Mooky went on to win in 3 sets 6-1, 5-7, 6-3. The Plate Final was also a walkover for Mam and Wan.

The Men's Singles featured two extremes - the Cup Final between Pierre and Nutt finished in 2 quick sets 6-0 and 6-2, yet the Plate Final between Steve G and Kitti it was a mammoth match with Kitti taking the win over 2½ hrs with 3 long sets 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

To break up the day and to give the talented youngsters a chance to play, Pierre and Natacha ran a Junior Tennis event with 4 pools of players and a total of 20 juniors playing a fast round-robin competition. The winners of each division were Marco, Alex, David and Georgia. Well done to all the players and all the juniors at the Club.

The penultimate match of the afternoon, Mixed Doubles, featured Pierre/Natacha vs Marc/Anais in the Cup and Jesada/Ratt vs Anton/Nu in the Plate Final. The outcome was Pierre and Natacha winning 6-1, 6-2 and Anton/Nu 6-4, 6-2.

The Men's Doubles was the last match of the day and was another great, fast-paced match with the Cup Final seeing Pierre/Frank vs Phairoj/Nutt and Plate Final being Steve G/Jesada vs Adrian/Steve W. In the Cup Final, Phairoj and Nutt started strong and put a lot of pressure on Pierre and Frank with the latter winning the first set 7-5 and the second 6-0. The Plate Final was another close match with Jesada and Steve G winning 6-4, 6-4.

Straight after the Finals, we had a little music while 50 Members dined on the Club's BBQ Buffet. Many thanks go to our stand-in MC James Young for the presentations and Mr "Endurance" Chris Watt for spending 10 hours on court taking hundreds of great photos. After the formalities it was back to the live

The Club wishes to acknowledge substantial support provided by the following:

CENTARA
HOTELS & RESORTS



music, and it was great to see so many Members dancing in the Sala to the sounds of Denny Crane until late.

Songkran Pool Party:

On Wednesday the 13th April we had a little tennis fun with rounders and doubles tennis with just one racquet! To help the players relax, we offered frozen Margaritas for only Bt50, and we sold 101 of them which was a fantastic effort.

Tennis League:

I will start the league again once all the courts are completely finished, as until then it will be difficult to book your matches. We may also look at the option of changing the league format to a Pro set, 8 games for leagues 2 and below. Please let me know your thoughts on this.

See you all courtside.

Reed Passmore

The Club wishes to acknowledge substantial support provided by the following:

Seara
INTERNATIONAL

Hilton

Genis

Tennis Championships Gallery

All photos by Chris Watt





SQUASHY BITS

by Bruce Madge b_madge@hotmail.com



I'm In Love with a Married Man!

Is what Colin Hastings exclaimed at the Squash Section AGM, which took place a while back. Not entirely sure which married man he was referring to. No one pressed him for any further details, and he didn't mention it again. He's a lunatic!



Prior to this bizarre admission, we'd had our usual AGM, Chairman vs Captain's Team Sunday morning bash. Just for once, as a special treat since it's my birthday on 6th May, I'll report the real results: Dennis Wise beat Corn Oil 3-0. Captain Peas defeated Hulk Hogan 3-0. Tom Jones lost 3-0 to Loading Bay. DJ Marvellous was beaten 3-0 by Civil Warr. Dennis Wise's pal, Roland Keating, triumphed 3-1 over Emilioily 3-1. In Love with a Married Man claimed a 3-1 victory over Drunken. Jesperate lost 3-1 to Weed, and I got beaten 3-2 by Ignacio Mexicano, though I was 8-2 up in the fifth game so really should have won, but I was momentarily distracted by cruel heckling from the spectators, and Ignacio inadvertently tricked me into thinking I had already won the match and was now playing an extra-post match-for-fun-and-to-cool

down-before-the-AGM game. This is what happened: Ignacio has a habit of shouting 'Olé' when he loses a point. Now, if the lost point comes from an unforced error of his, the 'Olé' is more muted, but when a winner is scored against him, the 'Olé' is loud and vibrant, and thus very complimentary to his opponent. However, Ignacio was then forced into changing his tactics. You see, once I'd stormed into this 8-2 lead in the final game, Plate of Corn Bread, Ignacio's captain for the day, suddenly shouted down from the balcony, "You'll never win this Madge, you short, fat, bald Pom!", and as I turned around to retort with, "Oh yes I will, what the hell do you know about it, anyway, you hideous, aging, decrepit, Tasmanian tart?", Ignacio, naturally rather put off by these outbursts, served



the ball, I missed it, and he accidentally cried 'Olé' making me believe I'd won the point. He then, in all the confusion, continued to yell 'Olé', 'Olé' after every rally regardless of who'd won it while the supposed referee for this match, Pile of Corn, along with Wally Evans, Hulk Hogan, and even Gandhi who'd



turned up just to ridicule, bombarded me over and over with the most despicable, vile and disgusting, spurious and crass insults of a religious, sexual, ethnic, racist, heightist, weightist, baldist nature that have ever been bombarded at me. Well, by then, Ignacio and I were completely flummoxed, not by the abuse as we thought most of it was being directed at Cat Flap, but rather by who'd won what points and who was the winner of this final game. In the end, after approximately a dozen more rallies, we ceased playing and both turned around to face the gallery to yell at the children to put a sock in it and to kindly inform us who'd won. Peter, who is a lying, thieving, scamming, cheating, career criminal, declared Ignacio the victor of the final game 11-8. However, the end result was Chairman's Team 4, Captain's 5. Justice!

Then off we went to the back lawn for the usual 12-minute AGM. Committee members present were Peter the Chairwoman, David the Leagueman, Neil the ex-Captainman, Haroon the Maintenceman, and me the Treasurer and Squashy Bitsman. Apologies from Bob the Secretarylady and Jack the Good Fellaman. Jack was umpiring at the Cricket World Cup in Dublin, and Bob was in hospital having his thingy widened. The AGM began with approval of last year's minutes, the committee stepping down then immediately all being voted in again. What's the flamin' point of that? I asked if anyone fancied becoming Treasurer or if anyone wanted to step in to replace Bob as he's rubbish, but there were no takers. Peter then reported that we'd had a good year as he does every year. He never writes anything new for his annual Chairman's report, just changes the date from the previous year. I reported we had plenty of money, and Neil said we had played this and that team and that we were going to play this and that team. AOB produced a request to change the scoring system back to the old fashioned up-to-nine-can-only-score-on-your-serve. This was shot down severely by most present so a request to change from 11 points to 15 was put forth. I suggested a compromise of 13, which was ignored, and the request of 15 points was put to a vote and was rejected much as Colin Hastings is being rejected by his girlfriend for being in love with a married man, as he is by the married man himself, who remains anonymous. I reckon it is Bob. What say you, Bob? Why don't you fancy Colin? I would if I was that way. He's a very nice man.

Until Bob becomes attracted to Colin.....



HARD BALLS

By Squire Legge

The BC Cricket team has a Plan A but no Plan B. Plan A recognises that we have 3 or 4 star batsmen who on their day can easily knock off the mandatory 30 not out before retiring, thus being available to come back if everyone else screws up. This occasionally works and we win, but more often our star batsmen fluff their lines and we lose, the star batsmen having a long and ingenious list of reasons for their failures. Sometimes our bowlers make a difference, but not very often.

Our two most recent matches illustrate these interesting facts. We played a friendly against the RBSC at the Polo Club on 26th March where Plan A classically failed. As everyone knows, the Polo Club has the best batting track in Thailand but also as everyone knows the weather in March was very unusual. The failure of our top batsmen was therefore conveniently attributed to the damp wicket following overnight rain and overcast conditions (a really lovely day to play cricket). Star bat and stand-in captain, Dale, claims he would have inserted the opposition but lost the toss and was first to go. Having successfully played himself in, his second ball apparently started outside off, swung back a yard, straightened a little and took out his leg stump. Not even Geoff Boycott would have got his bat on that one. Sailesh then poked around for a couple of overs without scoring before being similarly deceived and bowled by another unplayable delivery that swung, wobbled and kept low. Corin doesn't claim to be star bat, didn't bat like one, and got out first ball leaving us on a miserable 10 for 3 after 6 overs ... but at least he didn't try to make any excuses.



Joss (20) was our only hope of salvation but, having looked in no trouble at all, inexplicably fished at the widest ball of the morning, offering a dolly of a catch to the only player within 20 yards of the bat. 29 for 4 off 10 overs, Plan A dead. The fact that we eventually managed to score another 73 off the remaining 15 overs was credit to our less pretentious middle order with Neil (a surprisingly sprightly 19*), Richard (14), James (13) and Anthony (13*) all getting into double figures, albeit managing only 2 boundaries between them.



102 for 7 didn't feel like enough and when RBSC's opening bat retired 30 not out with the score on 40 for 0 after five overs, we knew it wasn't. Common wisdom, of course, was that the wicket had now dried out and was a "belter". Sailesh (1 for 17) and Phil (1 for 21) both took a wicket but with RBSC's other opener also scoring 30 retired it was clear that they were better at Plan A than we were. We'll never know how close we were to running through the rest of them because they smashed 107 for 2 off 16.2 overs, winning the game with the third 6 and eleventh boundary of their innings, with 56 balls to spare!

The game was played with great humour and RBSC were once again wonderful hosts. They laid on the beer and ensured themselves the last laugh by serving us the hottest chilli-chicken this side of Vindaloo.

Our match against Pattaya CC the following week was a rare occasion where Plan A worked ... with a bit of help from the bowlers. It's tough being a star and Joss, having a bit to answer for from the week before, put a bit more pressure on himself by turning up half an hour late ... without his former best mate who was also supposed to be playing for us. Dale had won the toss and inexplicably decided to insert the opposition with us having only 8 fielders.

St Andrew's School, Rayong, was a new venue for BC and fortunately the ground is small. When Joss eventually arrived to make us 9, PCC's score was around 50 for 2 off 10 overs ... a good, but not overwhelming start on such a small ground. Sailesh (1 for 18), Dale (1 for 15) and Phil (1 for 26) had all prevented the scoring from running away from us. Other than an excellent catch by Sailesh in the deep, which fortunately he did not have to move a muscle to reach, the BC fielders had richly entertained the crowd up to this point. Corin was magnificent in response to a high ball at square leg which steeped vertically and would have landed on his head if he had not taken the traditional two steps to his right, one back, one forward and then three to his left ... the ball dropping one step to his right. This will take a bit of beating for the dropped catch of the year award, although technically it was not dropped.

After the drinks break it was decided to bring Thailand's leading wicket taker (C1980) into the attack and, like the proverbial lemmings, the PCC batsmen gave an extraordinary exhibition of self-destruction as the catches incredibly began to stick. Joss, in a vain attempt to redeem himself caught two great catches at long on; Thailand's leading bowler caught a screaming straight drive himself, without knowing a thing about it; James snaffled a stumping and a caught-behind; whilst Haroon gobbled up a dolly at mid off. Jack Dunford 6 for 18 off 5 overs ... PCC 128 for 9 off 25 overs! Could the magnificent 9 pull off a sensational victory?

Plan A worked. Star Joss (33*) who literally couldn't afford to fail, played his classiest innings for the BC to date, and only looked likely to get out whenever he tried to persuade Sailesh (14) to take a single, which we now know he never does for religious reasons. With the weight of captaincy and previous week's failure on his shoulders, Dale (33*) played an unprecedented three consecutive dot balls before getting off the mark and when he retired, it meant we had two stars waiting to come back and the game was in the bag. They weren't even needed. With a bit of practice under their belts, the middle order looked good with Neil, James, Corin and Haroon seeing BC home on 129 for 3 with 33 balls to spare.

Again the PPC lads were great hosts, led by BC Members Joe and Bea Grunwell, the only shame being that the BC boys had driven down, had to get back to their loved ones and couldn't do justice to the food and beverages on offer. Have pink tickets gone out of fashion?



The Magificent Nine



Vs Pattaya CC



Small ground



St. Andrews School



Statistician at Work

BCGS GOLFING NEWS

By Ray Bloom

Volvo Cup, Subhapruek GC Sunday 6 March 2011

The Volvo Cup is a long established competition played between the BCGS and the Scandinavian Golf Society with honours being fairly even over the years. For various reasons the match did not take place last year, so it was pleasing to have it restored once again to our golfing calendar. The format for this year's event comprised four singles, four better-ball and four scramble matches.

The match, as expected, was approached in a good natured and friendly manner by both teams but with the usual competitive edge.

A good turn-out (1) and a course in splendid condition ensured that most participants had a very enjoyable round of golf. As the match went on and the early starters completed their rounds, the indications were



that a tight finish was expected. To retain the trophy, the BCGS only needed to halve the match. The destination of the

Cup finally rested on the result of the match involving that reliable pair, Peter B and Simon F and despite being down at one point in their match, they turned it around to get the required half point. The trophy was secure in our cabinet for another year. At least Peter looks happy with his half point!! (2).



A word of thanks should go to the Scandinavian GS for donating two golf bags for the Mens' and Ladies' long drives prizes. The Men's prize went to John Bell, who looks both happy and very surprised to be presented with something more than the usual Titleist golf ball (3). Julie Sceny won the Ladies long drive prize.



And to conclude the day's proceedings, Ray Bloom, making a successful debut as the BCGS Captain, received the Volvo Cup from the opposing Captain (4).

Congratulations and thanks to all who took part and for making the day an unquestionable success.

Monthly Stableford, Lam Lukka GC Sunday 13 March 2011

The general consensus amongst those who turned up at the particularly impressive Lam Lukka GC was that the course should become a more regular venue on our golfing itinerary (5).



Following an impromptu display by the BCGS synchronized putting team (6), five groups of players set out in some very uncomfortable conditions ('summer' has definitely arrived) to do battle for this month's choice bottle of wine. The weather and fatigue certainly played their parts, and as a result only two competitors played to handicap or better.



Showered and refreshed, everyone assembled in the Clubhouse for a well-earned rest and to hear their fate. Ray B, looking very self-assured, has seemingly taken his new responsibilities as Club Captain in his stride as he sorts out scorecards, disputes and prizes (7).



Randall C, now making a habit of winning the longest drive, continued his impressive form. The Ladies' long drive went astray, I think! Other minor prizes went to JC, Andrew Mc, Jack O and Tracy.

As mentioned previously, scoring proved difficult, but determined to get over the disappointment of losing out narrowly in last month's medal competition, Andrew Mc made sure there would be no repeat performance. His outstanding 42 points was far too good for the rest of the field. Only Tracy C with 35 points and Jack O with 36 came anywhere close.



After this very satisfying display, Andrew duly received the top prize from the Captain (8).

I fear the Handicap Secretary could be on to the case very soon.

March Medal, The Royal GC Sunday 27 March 2011

In enticing golf conditions – cloud cover and cool – 27 enthusiastic golfers trod the familiar paths to the 1st and 10th tee boxes at our 'home course', intent on playing that long-sought magical round. Some were able to pull rabbits out of caps to achieve birdies, but guest Laurence's graceful swing proved his Eagle on the 11th (par-5) was no illusion.

However, in the restaurant banter at the conclusion, it was clear that most of us need to get the magic book out again for any bird or animal experiences. On the other hand, some players obviously liked the cooler conditions to produce some heart-warming golf. In Flight B that warm-blooded duo, Brain Brook and Pete Gale, played well to tie for equal 2nd



place with very fine scores of net 75, whilst hot-blooded Barry Ashman scored even better to win the flight by the hefty margin of 6 shots. Well done boys!

The Flight A battle was hotter. Gaew came in 3rd place with a fine net score of 73 and Mike Staples made net 72, but Frank, obviously relishing his release from the Captain's responsibilities, steamed round to record a net 69. Well done everyone!

Website: <http://www.bcgolfociety.com/>

Email: bcgs2002@yahoo.co.uk

Phone: Golf Society Captain, Ray Bloom – 0870513548

For the fortunate golfers who can and want to play a midweek round, there is friendly golf on offer every Wednesday morning with the Midweekers group. We play most weeks at Bangkok Golf Club, Pathum Thani, where we take advantage of preferential green fees, but travel to other courses which also offer good value.

Website: <http://www.bkkmidweekers.com/>

Contact: Ray Bloom by email: rbloom_364@yahoo.co.uk or 0870513548.

WHO READS WHAT

An irreverent generalisation of British newspapers

- The Times - read by the people who run the country
- The Guardian - read by the people who think they ought to run the country
- The Financial Times - read by the people who own the country
- The Daily Mail - read by people who think they own the country
- The Tatler - read by the wives of the people who run the country
- The Lancet - read by the people running from the country
- Western Daily Press - read by the people who think it is still as it used to be run
- The Liberal News - read by a minority group who shouldn't be allowed to run the country
- The Morning Star - read by the people who think the country ought to be run by another country
- The Sun - readers don't care who runs the country providing she's got huge boobs!



With thanks to Warwick Newton

THE BRIDGE BUNCH

ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON

By Martin Carter



This month we have a few fables to tell from past and present players, but first a word from our lawyer:

This Bridge Bunch edition is a work of fiction . Most of the dialogue is genuine, but the Characters are either products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons alive or dead is entirely co-incidental.

Bridge Bunch: Hello, it can be difficult to get a drink upstairs.

Drinker: Precisely, so the secret is not to leave the Bar, except to play Bridge.

Bridge Bunch: Which bidding convention do you use?

Drinker: Mostly Standard American, however I pride myself on never having had lessons. The advantage of bad bidding is that I get to play atrocious contracts.

Bridge Bunch: The winners of these tournaments seem to stick to the same convention and keep the same partner.

Drinker: Absolutely, but that implies that someone would want to play with me more than once.

Bridge Bunch: So for how long have you been playing Bridge?

Drinker: Oh my gosh ... since University; as soon as I arrived, there was a recruiting drive by the various undergraduate clubs. My tutor suggested I join no more than two clubs, so I chose Bridge and Rowing. My then girlfriend chose drinking, so I compromised and took up drinking.

Bridge Bunch: So it was a lady who lead you down the road to drink?

Drinker: Yes, but I never wrote to thank her.



An old buffer caught my eye:

Buffer: Hullo (sic), who are you - are you at the Bar?

Bridge Bunch: Well yes, I think I am.

Buffer: The standards in Bridge have dropped a lot since my day, don't you know? We get people appearing without a Junior to carry the drinks, and women too.

Bridge Bunch: I think you may have mistaken me for someone else.

Bridge Bunch: Which bidding convention do you favour?

Buffer: I'm British to my boot straps, so I stick with unregulated acol whatever these foreigners do. I play bad Bridge and like a cold drink on a hot day; nothing wrong with that!

Bridge Bunch: Do you have any unusual bidding gadgets?

Buffer: I play forcing hesitations.



On the balcony overlooking the front lawn:

Bridge Bunch: How do you like our Clubhouse?

Engineer: Actually I think the place may be falling down. I'd love to check the foundations and run some tests on the wiring and plumbing.

Bridge Bunch: Could things really be so bad?

Engineer: Yes, they tried to pull the whole place down a few years ago but we stopped them after they'd finished off the Old Churchill.

Bridge Bunch: I didn't know - was that good or bad?

Engineer: The foundations are probably flooded and swimming with old fish. Did you know that this place was almost completely eaten by termites?

Bridge Bunch: Well no, I didn't. How did you get interested in Bridge?

Engineer: My fiancée and I starting playing Bridge and attending weekend tournaments, a great excuse for a romantic weekend.

Bridge Bunch: Bridge seems to work better if you stick to one partner, do you have a regular one?

Engineer: I've tried about 320 so far and am still looking. I had one in Africa but all the men wanted to play with her.

Bridge Bunch: How do you assess a hand, do you use Goren?

Engineer: I assess a hand the same way I assess a female. I look at shape first and then count the points. If a hand has shape I can open at the one level with as few as 10 points. If a hand has two long suits and a void then I bid up all the way.

Bridge Bunch: Which system do you prefer?

Engineer: American Standard

Bridge Bunch: Don't you mean Standard American?

Engineer: No, the whole place needs to be fitted with new toilets and basins. American Standard is the most widely used and ideal for the female anatomy. I've studied it extensively on four continents.

Bridge Bunch: Do you have a view about playing Bridge with your wife?

Engineer: If I play Bridge with my wife, I need at least 20 points to open at the one level and it wouldn't hurt to have 25.

Bridge Bunch: You seem to have a detailed understanding of the female of our species. Have you formed a view on why few women play at elite levels and with so many idiotic men?

Engineer: The trouble with women is that they treat Bridge as a game. They don't realise that Bridge is war.

Back at the Tournament:

Bridge Bunch: So is there life outside of Bridge?

Physicist: I've been working on a deterministic non-local unified field theory. It's only a hobby but I suspect that the universe is a giant random number generator driven by only a few lines of code. It's so like Bridge it's uncanny. If you run a simple algorithm through a computer for long enough, patterns start to emerge.

Bridge Bunch: I see ... so are you getting near the answer?

Physicist: Actually the reverse, but I know much more about less. Dealing and playing Bridge has similarities to spiral galaxies and growth patterns on sea shells. When you get bored with me, I shall be interested to observe which way you circle around the room. Subconsciously, you may think you have a choice about which card you lead ... but you don't.

Bridge Bunch: Well, observing me, won't that change my behaviour?

Physicist: Actually no, you won't change, but my looking will change my frame of reference so it will appear to me that you have. I expect to predict all future events once I've cracked the code including the position of individual cards in future games.

Bridge Bunch: Which bidding convention do you use?

Physicist: Precision ... I don't buy this Parallel Universe Convention crap where they make all possible bids at once on the basis that one must be correct.

At this point I disappeared and reappeared at the Bar.



Footnotes:

The Bridge Bunch will be playing in the Surawongse Room each Sunday afternoon this summer from 2.30pm, except on the last Sunday of the month.

For an introduction to Quantum Mechanics, Einstein, Bohr, and the great debate about the nature of reality, read QUANTUM by Manjit Kumar published by Icon Books.

For an audio-visual of The Kinks singing "Sunny Afternoon", visit www.youtube.com

We, the Bridge Bunch, include President Jeremy Watson, Treasurer Winlock Hsu, Secretary Martin Carter, Tournament Director Mike Simm, and Charlene Hsu. The Bridge Bunch are all ears when someone tangential turns up at one of the tournaments.



Vegetarian Food

Try out this month

Vegetarian food promotion with Western, Thai and Indian Recipes.





THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

SPECIAL

BAR

QUIZ

Tuesday 10th May 2011

Hosted by one of Bangkok's
Legendary Quizmasters

Start 7:30 PM
The Verandah

STEVE BOOTH

thb 100.- / person for member
thb 200.- / person for non-member
one team up to 6 persons

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Email: info@britishclubbangkok.org
www.britishclubbangkok.org

BALUT

By Mr. C



>>> BALUT SHIELD UPDATE

Tournaments 12 and 13 were played over the past four weeks taking us across the half-way line, a lot more high scores and a new 'Leader' for the Balut Shield Cup, the highest score at any of the year's 23 Balut Shield Tournaments. For the Balut Shield itself a player must play six tournaments and is then graded on his/her best six results.

As at end of play on 6th April, the Balut Shield has 12 qualified players, with a further 33 playing this year's Shield, 13 of whom can qualify in May:

POSITION	NAME	PLAYER	POINTS	AVERAGE
Leader	Mrs Orange	Mrs. Muntana Merrigan	3,146	104.87
2	Tom	Mr. Tomjakraphan Merrigan	3,127	104.23
3	Jammy	Mr. Roger Willbourn	3,085	102.83
4	Swampy	Mr. Steve Eaton	3,080	102.67
5	TC	Mr. Phil Alexander	3,013	100.43
6	Ali	Mr. Ali Adam	3,006	100.20
7	The Jackal	Sr. Carlos Romero	2,957	98.57
8	Mr C	Mr. Paul Cheesman	2,956	98.53
9	Dark Horse	Mr. Clive Butcher	2,912	97.07
10	Slowpoke	Mr. Tony Rodriguez	2,853	95.10
11	DQ	Mr. David Quine	2,820	94.00
12	Mrs Jammy	Mrs. Caroline Willbourn	2,771	92.37

The **NEW** Balut Shield Cup leader is Sausage (Jeremy de Sausmarez) on 155.

Our thanks to OUTRIGGER HOTELS & RESORTS for supply of the prizes and to YES TECHNOLOGIES for the Balut Internet Scoring System.

The Club wishes to acknowledge substantial support provided by the following:







>>> THE FOURTH BCB DETS CHALLENGE

This, the fourth Challenge, has new dates

HOME MATCH: Sunday 1st May in the Suriwongse Room at 2pm

AWAY MATCH: Sunday 15th May at '**Det 5 Bar & Restaurant**' at 2pm

Each side limited to two teams but supporters are very welcome! The Balut Section is 2-1 down at present so we need to win this challenge in order to level the scores!

>>> BALUT DIARY - NEXT THREE MONTHS

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
Sunday	1st May	BCB Det 5 Challenge	2pm	Suriwongse Room
Wednesday	4th May	Balut Shield	7pm	Wordsworth Lounge
Sunday	15th May	BCB Det 5 Challenge	2pm	Det 5 Bar & Restaurant
Wednesday	18th May	Balut Shield	7pm	Wordsworth Lounge
Wednesday	1st June	Balut Shield	7pm	Wordsworth Lounge
Wednesday	15th June	Balut Shield	7pm	Wordsworth Lounge
Saturday	2nd July	Singapore Pairs	7pm	Singaporericket Club
Wednesday	6th July	Balut Shield	7pm	Wordsworth Lounge
Wednesday	20th July	Balut Shield	7pm	Wordsworth Lounge

Full details of Balut can be found at <http://www.teambalut.com>



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Wednesday Night Dancing Lessons at British Club

Ballroom Dancing

4th May 2011

Salsa

11th May 2011

Ballroom Dancing

18th May 2011

Salsa

25th May 2011

Dancing is as popular as it has ever been thanks to shows like *Dancing With The Stars* and *So You Think You Can Dance*.

Come and join us at the British Club Bangkok where our qualified instructors will teach you an array of major dance styles from the 'Waltz, Cha-Cha, Tango, Salsa and the Jive' and give you the confidence to tear up the dance floor.

7pm start for a 90 min lesson

Members

Single 150 Bht
Couple 250 Bht

Non-Members

Single 300 Bht
Couple 500 Bht

Book now with Simon or Anne

British Club Bangkok
189 Suriwongse Road Bangkok 10500 Tel. +66(0) 2234 0247

THE MONDAY NIGHT CLUB

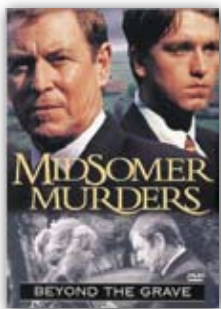
Your weekly chance to sit back and relax
The murder's on us.

MAY

7pm in the Wordsworth Lounge.
Full F&B Menu available.

**THE MONDAY
NIGHT CLUB**

2nd Beyond the Grave

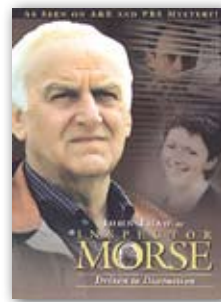


Smoked Mackerel, a slashed painting and an actor playing a detective. Did I mention any bodies? Well now it is Midsomer after all!

The star-filled cast includes John Nettles as DCI Barnaby with guest stars Malcolm Sinclair, Prunella Scales and Cheryl Campbell.

Holy Mackerel!

9th Driven to Distraction

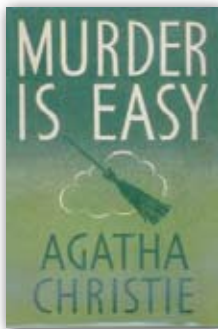


An Oxford Don dies but can a heart attack be murder? The Pathologist says not, the Superintendent says not but Morse can't quite give it up – something in the back of his mind doesn't add up but he can't recall what!

John Thaw is DCI Morse with guest stars Geoffrey Palmer, David Neal and Pearce Quigley.

*Fast women and fast cars ...
no wonder Morse is distracted!*

16th Murder Is Easy



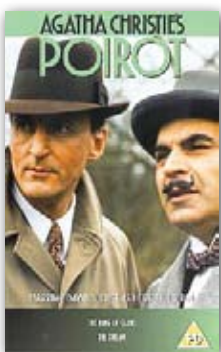
May is a five Monday month so we add in a Miss Marple "special" "special" because she is not actually in the book itself!!!

"Murder is easy, as long as no one thinks it is murder"; so goes the saying as mysteriously several people die of accidents or natural causes in a lonely Kent village. However, the best detective in the world is there ... and NO! I do not mean Jane Marple!

Julia McKenzie is Jane Marple with guest stars Sylvia Sims, Shirley Henderson, Tim Brooke-Taylor and Benedict Cumberbatch.

"as long as no one thinks it is murder"

23rd The King of Clubs/The Dream



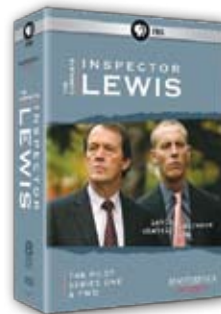
Another Poirot double bill ...

A card game where the deck is fixed and a dream that becomes reality. When two separate late-night meetings in separate cases end up with a dead body, can Poirot find the missing clue or is he just a lemon?

David Suchet is Hercule Poirot with guest stars Alan Howard, David Swift, and Mary Tamm.

An Act in two parts

30th Music To Die For



When speaking German gets you killed, Inspector Lewis is the alibi, Hathaway goes to Berlin and the East German Stasi agent turns out to be Wagner!

Kevin Whately is Inspector Lewis with guest stars Niall Buggy, Bradley James and Cheryl Campbell, with Laurence Fox as Sergeant Hathaway.

"If music be the food of love ..."

LOOK BEHIND YOU!



Something is haunting President Nixon – are there ghosts in the White House? Four blue envelopes contain a deadly secret – a secret that will define the future of mankind but who has the fourth envelope? Who is this Impossible Astronaut? Who is Canton Everett Delaware III? And what is the monster in the Oval Office?

“There is nothing behind me ... there are no monsters in the Oval Office”

Doctor Who is back celebrating its forty-eighth year and we are showing a pair of episodes on two Sundays in May and the first half concluding three on 19th June. The second part of the series begins in the Autumn.



“Monsters are real!”

“One thing I can tell you Monsters are real”

On 8th May, the season’s première is a two-parter which promises one thing ... by the end of it one of the regulars will be dead! Will it be Amy, or her new husband Rory, will it be River Song or could it actually be The Doctor?

On 22nd May, we bring you an episode written by famous sci-fi author Neil Gaiman, who is promising to bring back someone we have not seen on screen since ‘The War Games’, the 1969 finale of Patrick Troughton’s era as The Second Doctor! Will it be the War Lord, or the War Chief, or even Lady Jennifer Buckingham or is it ... The Doctor’s Wife!

Doctor Who schedule for May

Sunday 22nd May 11am to 1pm
- **The Impossible Astronaut**
- **Day of the Moon**

Sunday 29th May 11am to 1pm
- **The Curse of the Black Spot**
- **The Doctor’s Wife**

Movie-night

May 2011



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK



May 5th-The Full Monty-1997

British comedy film. It tells the story of six unemployed men, four of them former steel workers, who decide to form a male striptease act (à la Chippendale dancers) in order to gather enough money to get somewhere else



May 12th - Gavin & Stacey-episodes 2 & 3 Series 1

Come down and follow the drama, laugh and experiences of Gavin and Stacey's trials in dealing with a long distance relationship in modern day UK. Described as 'amiable, unpretentious, well-scripted, nicely acted and archly amusing. It's a good series, taking its place in a well-worn comedic progression, stretching back to The Liver Birds'



May 19th - Hot Fuzz - 2007

British Action Comedy written and starring Simon Pegg. Jealous colleagues conspire to get a top London cop transferred to a small town and paired with a witless new partner. On the beat, the pair stumble upon a series of suspicious accidents and events.



May 24th - Fawlty Towers - Series 1 - episodes 3 & 4

John Cleese as irascible Torquay hotel owner Basil Fawlty, and Prunella Scales as his domineering wife Sybil-his "little nest of vipers". Connie Booth played Polly the dependable maid and general assistant, and last but certainly not least, little Manuel superbly played by Andrew Sachs-the tyrannized waiter from Barcelona, dogsbody and subject of frequent physical attacks by the demented Basil!





THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK



Junior British Club
Friday Night
Cinema

Junior British Club
Friday Night Cinema

6pm Every Friday @Silom Sala



This Month:

6 th May:	A Bugs life
13 th May:	Peter Pan
20 th May:	Rango
27 th May:	Spirited Away

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Big Kids Welcome too!

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Susie's Kids Korner



PENCIL POCKETS RECYCLEABLE CRAFTS

Materials

Bendable straws

Instructions

Connect the straws together by squeezing the end of one and sliding it into the end of another. Kids can also slide straws through one another by snipping a slit. Then they can make twists and turns over, under, and through the structure.



WEATHER JOKES FOR KIDS

What does a rain cloud wear under its coat?
Thunder-wear!!

How does Rudolph know it's gonna rain?
Oh, Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!

What should you do when it rains cats and dogs?
Be careful not to step on a poodle!

What did the lightning say to the rain?
Lighten up, will ya?

STATIONERY CRAFTS TREASURE KEEPER FROG

Materials

1. Masking tape
2. 2 clean plastic 2-litre bottles
3. Craft knife
4. Scissors
5. Fabric tape measure
6. Marker
7. Pushpin
8. Towel (optional)
9. 12-inch purse zipper
10. Embroidery needle and floss
11. Wine cork
12. Paintbrush and green acrylic paint
13. Glue
14. Googly eyes (we used 1/2-inch)



Instructions

1. To make the frog shown here, wrap masking tape around the 2-litre bottles about 2½ inches from the bottom. To make the taller frog, place the tape about 3½ inches from the bottom. With a craft knife or scissors, cut each bottle along the tape's top edge (**a parent's job**).
2. Using the tape measure, mark ½ inch increments all around the tape, about ¼ inch from the cut edge. Punch a hole through each mark with the pushpin. (**Tip:** Work on a folded towel to keep the plastic from slipping.) Remove the masking tape.
3. Close the zipper and wrap it around one bottle, as shown, using small pieces of tape to hold it in place. Thread the needle with 40 inches of floss, then knot the end, leaving a 3 inch tail. Sew the zipper to the bottle, starting from the inside and pulling the thread in and out of the punched holes. Remove the tape as you go. At the end, knot the floss and tie both tails together, then trim off the excess floss. Open the zipper and sew it to the second bottle in the same way.
4. To make the eyes, use the craft knife to cut the cork in half. Cut a section from each piece, as shown, to make a flat edge (**a parent's job**). Paint the corks and let them dry, then glue on googly eyes. Glue the flat edge of the eyes to the bottle.



FOUNDATION TO GRADUATION

11
Took my Key Stage 2 exams, Secondary School next!

10
Carried the flag on International Day

8
Got my Patana e-mail address today!

5
Made a sparkly Christmas card for Mum and Dad

3
I planted seeds in our garden and watched them grow

18
IB almost done, Uni here I come

17
Theory of Knowledge has really opened my eyes to the world, wow

16
Aced my IGCSEs!

14
Went on a great Residential Visit with my whole year

12
Rock-climbing was brilliant!



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The British International School in Thailand
Established 1957

Bangkok Patana School prides itself on delivering British teaching traditions for an international community, from Foundation to Graduation. Following the English National Curriculum to IGCSE and the International Baccalaureate Diploma in Senior Studies, our strong academic and extra-curricular programme nurtures students of over 55 nationalities to fulfil their individual potential. Only at Patana!

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St. Andrews International Schools SUKHUMVIT 107 CAMPUS

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Every child is given the opportunity to pursue his or her interests, both inside and outside the classroom. These principles of teaching and learning provide the necessary framework to inspire independent, confident lifelong learners.

