

OUTPOST

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB

JUNE 1981



THE BRITISH CLUB

189 Suriwong Road

Bangkok

Telephone: 234-0247, 234-2592



Chairman: Mr. C. Stewart

Vice-Chairman: Mr. A.J. Phillips

Hon Treasurer: Mr. R. Barrett

Outpost Vol. II No. 16 June 1981

"Don't cast a clout 'till May is out"! So goes the old saying -- in Britain at least. But here in the tropics, May heralds the start of the rains! And down they came -- right on cue. So there we were back to slashing through flooded streets only to be greeted upon turning in through the gates at Suriwongse with the all too -- familiar sight of great expanses of water where tennis courts used to be and a lake instead of a car park. Oh well! At least one feels a sense of achievement finally having negotiated the path to the bar and that first drink of the evening really has been earned this time.

So, let's see what we have in store for our eager readers this month. There's a report on the "Lebanese night" -- a great evening complete with belly dancer; Fly has been eavesdropping in on the "Kremlin" sorry -- Suriwongse Room on the first and third Tuesdays. In addition to our regular contributions we have reports on "Which?" -- the Consumers' Association Magazine; a lengthy but interesting review of UK Capital Transfer Tax; the growing favourite - Candid Camera - is back as is Camus with an interesting excursion to Leeds.

All in all something for everyone (we hope) so read....

Complete the moment
with Black & White.



Genuine old Scotch Whisky,
distilled and bottled in Scotland.

THE BRITISH CLUB

189 Suriwong Road

Bangkok

Telephone: 234-0247, 234-2592



Chairman: Mr. C. Stewart

Vice-Chairman: Mr. A.J. Phillips

Hon Treasurer: Mr. R. Barrett

Outpost Vol. II No. 16 June 1981

"Don't cast a clout 'till May is out"! So goes the old saying -- in Britain at least. But here in the tropics, May heralds the start of the rains! And down they came -- right on cue. So there we were back to slashing through flooded streets only to be greeted upon turning in through the gates at Suriwongse with the all too -- familiar sight of great expanses of water where tennis courts used to be and a lake instead of a car park. Oh well! At least one feels a sense of achievement finally having negotiated the path to the bar and that first drink of the evening really has been earned this time.

So, let's see what we have in store for our eager readers this month. There's a report on the "Lebanese night" -- a great evening complete with belly dancer; Fly has been eavesdropping in on the "Kremlin" sorry -- Suriwongse Room on the first and third Tuesdays. In addition to our regular contributions we have reports on "Which?" -- the Consumers' Association Magazine; a lengthy but interesting review of UK Capital Transfer Tax; the growing favourite - Candid Camera - is back as is Camus with an interesting excursion to Leeds.

All in all something for everyone (we hope) so read....

Complete the moment
with Black & White.



Genuine old Scotch Whisky,
distilled and bottled in Scotland.

WEEKLY CLUB EVENTS

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

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

All material, for the July issue, must reach the office by 19th June.

Editor : Norman Musgrave 317 7001

Please note that the photographs of St. George's Ball will be removed from the bar on June 10th, so hurry along and get your copies.

The British Club

PROUDLY PRESENTS

GOOD OLD ENGLISH ENTERTAINMENT WITH GOOD OLD ENGLISH FOOD

OLD TIME MUSIC HALL

PERFORMED BY A GROUP OF MEMBERS FROM:

THE BANGKOK MUSIC SOCIETY AND

THE BANGKOK COMMUNITY THEATRE

plus yourselves

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE AT 7.30 P.M.

DRESS: TOP HATS, BONNETS, BOWTIES, MOUSTACHES,
OR JUST CASUAL

TICKETS: ฿125 - AVAILABLE FROM RECEPTION
- BOOK EARLY, NUMBERS ARE LIMITED.

FLY

Your committee sat on the 5th and 19th May and sub-committees were busy with work on Catering, Membership, House and Grounds and Entertainment in particular.

In future, details of constructional work being carried out at the Club will appear in this magazine in order to keep Members up-to-date. The Club will hold a ball on the 31st July 1981 to give Members and guests an opportunity to celebrate the wedding of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer. A guest register is now available at the Poolside in addition to the one in Reception. Please note that all guests should be signed in. The outdoor badminton court is not well patronised and has been moved to an area adjacent to No. 3 squash court. This will bring all 4 tennis courts back into circulation (rains permitting!)

The Club has now employed its own guards on a 24-hour basis but please note that the Suriwongse Gate will continue to be closed at 10.00 p.m. each evening.

The new poolside furniture has arrived, as have bar stools for the Thai Sala. Staff movements during May were as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| engaged on probation | 3 |
| engaged part-time | 1 |
| confirmed permanent | 2 |
| terminations | 2 |

There are currently 77 full-time and 6 part-time staff members employed by the Club.

It is your editorial sub-committee's intention to publicise a list of trophies currently at the Club. Some of these have not been contested for in many years and we hope that interest will be re-kindled.

Finally, it was decided to have Mekhong Whisky available from June 1st in the bar for a trial period. This was the result of an entry by a Member in the Suggestion Book.

Well done that man!!



London IS cheaper when you fly with British Airways

Only B/400 per night
for a good London hotel,
tax and breakfast included!

Contact British Airways tel. 252-9871
or your travel agent.

**British
airways**

We'll take more care of you.



Letters

24th April 1981

Dear Sir,

OUTPOST has sunk to new low depths. Your report of the St. Patricks Night Annual reception in the April edition was neither funny nor amusing, and I in fact found the report offensive. It was obviously written with appeal to aficionados of the Irish joke brigade, but surely the readership intelligence level of OUTPOST is above the subminimal and neanderthal? or is it? Why allow such inane drivel and nonsense, likely to offend, despoil OUTPOST? The members of St. Patricks Society and their guests deserve an apology.

My wife and I were not amused.

Yours faithfully,

D.G. Duggan (D21)

Editor's Reply

Please accept my regrets if the article caused offence. This was not the intention. Despite such manifestations of disapproval, however, I have been strongly urged, generally, not to revert to an endless stream of platitudes and pleasantries which are all too often the hallmarks of lesser publications - Ed.

THE MAJOR EVENT OF 1981

The wedding of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer will be celebrated by

A FORMAL BALL

at The British Club

on

31ST JULY 1981

Put the date in your diary now, more details will follow soon.

Video

The Club is considering the introduction of a Video-Cassette Tape Library. The proposed Library would operate as follows:-

- * Any Club Member wishing to join the Library would have to make available four good quality tapes (originals preferred).
- * Three of the above tapes would be kept in a Library which will probably be established at the Front Desk of the Club. A list of available tapes will also be kept at the Front Desk.
- * Members of the Library may borrow one tape at a time, providing they leave their fourth tape as a deposit.
- * To cover all out-of-pocket expenses, the Club will make a Five Baht per day charge for each tape borrowed.
- * Members of the Library may withdraw their three tapes at any time, but once they have done so, they will not be entitled to borrow any further tapes from the Library.
- * After sufficient time has elapsed for all Members of the Library to see all existing tapes, each Member will be asked to replace at least two tapes with films not previously included on the original List.

Would all Club Members interested in this Library, please complete the form enclosed with this month's edition of "Outpost".

** ** *

From The Editor

Several spurious "reports" have been received by Outpost during the past few weeks.

In future, therefore, all contributions must be accompanied by the member's name and Club number so that authenticity may be checked.

AUTO Centre SELF DRIVE CAR HIRE



WOOLSBRIDGE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WIMBORNE, DORSET.

TELEPHONE: VERWOOD (0202) 825252

TELEX: 418257 ACHIRE G

V.A.T. Reg. No. 186 4674 21 Reg. in England 1241854

| GROUP | | WEEKLY RATES IN THE MONTHS OF... | | | | |
|-------|--|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------------|------|
| | | Jan. Apr. | Feb. May. | Mar. Oct. Nov. | July, Aug. September | June |
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| A | Ford Fiesta 1100L 3-door Hatchback | 48.50 | 62.50 | 55.50 | 50.00 | |
| Aa | Ford Escort 1300L 5-door Hatchback | 53.50 | 69.00 | 60.50 | 55.00 | |
| B | Ford Cortina 1600L saloon | 56.00 | 73.00 | 66.00 | 60.00 | |
| C | Ford Cortina 1600L Estate car | 64.00 | 80.00 | 72.00 | 65.50 | |
| D | Ford Granada 2.8 G.L. Automatic saloon | 125.00 | 125.00 | 125.00 | 125.00 | |

* Unlimited Mileage

* Radios in all cars

* Free delivery and collection Heathrow/Gatwick for hires of 4 weeks and over.

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

DISCOVERING THAILAND

FACTS & FIGURES

Thailand in brief

Area: 514,000 square kilometers
 Population: 45 million approx
 Government: Constitutional Monarchy
 Capital: Bangkok (6 million)
 People: Thai 80%, Chinese 10%, Malay 4%, others 6%.

The Thai National Flag

The flag consists of five horizontal stripes coloured red, white, and blue: The red outer stripes stand for the nation, the blue stripe in the center signifies the King and the white stripes in between symbolize Buddhism, the state religion.

Kings of the Present (Chakri) Dynasty

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Rama I | (Phraya Chakri) | 1781-1809 |
| Rama II | (Nabhalai) | 1809-24 |
| Rama III | (Nang Klao) | 1824-51 |
| Rama IV | (Mongkut) | 1851-68 |
| Rama V | (Chulalongkorn) | 1868-1910 |
| Rama VI | (Vajiravudh) | 1910-25 |
| Rama VII | (Prajadhipok) | 1925-32 |
| Rama VIII | (Ananda Mahidol) | 1935-46 |
| Rama IX | (Bhumipol Adulyadej) | 1946 to present |

Bangkok History

Bangkok (which means city of angels) was formerly a fishing village famous for its orchards. King Rama I, the founder of the Chakri dynasty, officially established Bangkok as the capital in 1782 by transferring the royal residence from Thonburi. Old Bangkok was a network of canals (klongs) with no roads and few footpaths. It was often compared to Venice of Italy. The first road was built in 1864 upon the initiative of the European Community. This "New Road" or Charoen Krung Road was built on old elephant track near the river. Though Charoen Krung is the oldest road in Thailand, the term "New Road" remained and is it called by that name to this day.

Today, Bangkok is a bustling metropolis of close to six million people. Many of the old klongs have been filled in and are now the city's major thoroughfares. The city is the gateway to Asia from Europe by air and is served by 35 international airlines. The city is the business, political, cultural, and educational capital of Thailand, and the Monarchy has reigned here since its founding almost 200 years ago.

Major Areas of Interest

Bangkok and the Central Plains. The major rice producing region in the country with rich alluvial soils from the Chao Phya River. Major cities are Bangkok, the capital city and more commonly called by Thais as 'Krung Thep' or the 'City of Angels'; Chonburi, the city across the river, which has been incorporated into the metropolitan area; and Ayudhya, the capital for over two hundred years which was sacked by the Burmese. Bangkok is the political, cultural and business capital of Thailand.

Pattaya and the East Coast. Pattaya is the foremost seaside resort in Asia and a major tourist destination. The whole eastern seaboard abounds with holiday resorts of all kinds. Major products of the region, are tapioca, rubber, sugar cane, gemstones and fish.

Korat and the North East. Formerly the hub of the American military presence in Thailand during the Vietnam War, this region is economically the poorest in Thailand. Droughts during the dry season and floods during the moonsoons are common occurrences and have been a major factor in it's slow development. Interesting sights are the archeological diggings in Ban Chiang, temples in Piman and Nakorn Phanom with its strong Khmer (Kamphucean) influence, and the Khao Yai National Park, Thailand's largest forest reserve.

Chiangmai and the North. This is the hilly part of Thailand and was formerly a kingdom on its own. The region is famous for its beautiful temples and fair women, as well as the skills of its artisans. Close by, near the borders of Burma and Laos, is the infamous Golden Triangle, one of the world's largest producers of opium. Northern Thailand is famous for its teak-woods, fruits and vegetables.

Phuket and the West Coast. Facing the Andamman Sea this area had its moment of glory when the James Bond film, 'Man with the Golden Gun' was shot in the area. Today the government is developing the region into a major tourist destination and

a number of private investors have built first class hotels. The region grows rubber and is one of the world's largest tin producers.

Haadyai and the South. It's proximity to the Malaysian border has made the region a 'mecca' for Malaysians wishing to escape the strict codes of Islam. Every weekend thousands of holiday weekenders stream across the border. Connoisseurs claim that the night life of Phuket would put Bangkok to shame.



LADIES' LIAISON GROUP

We had a very pleasant Saturday morning activities this month. The children interested in stamp collecting were taken on an outing to the Post Office which they enjoyed very much. The football was as hectic as ever and the little ones tried their hand at painting. The ladies running the creche noticed that some of the older children came along for short periods to paint or play with the play dough. They are very welcome to do this, - as long as not too many come at once! Our next Saturday morning activities will be held on June 6th. Details, as usual, at the Poolside.

We are very happy to welcome Caroline Sigrist as a member of our committee.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Cynthia Hyatt who has served the Ladies' Liaison Group for two years. Cynthia has many other commitments, and has now resigned from our committee. This year she has been our co-ordinator for catering and this task is being taken over by Ann Blanc and Christine Tyrie. Many thanks Cynthia, and Good Wishes for the future.

We are holding a coffee morning on May 25th, mainly for new ladies, and at the time of writing we are in the process of contacting these ladies personally. We hope for a successful morning, and, if so, we will hold these regularly.

ARABIAN NIGHTS

The Club took on a distinctly Arabian atmosphere on the evening of Friday 22nd May when members and their guests were entertained to a Lebanese night hosted by Xavier Soulhany, the proprietor of the Cedars Restaurant. Several people came "dressed" for the occasion and, among the ladies, Lesley Brewin and Jo Milburn had obviously gone to some trouble to appear as authentic as possible.

The meal started with the traditional Lebanese "Mezze" which comprises a wide selection of vegetables, meats and "dips" -- all eaten with unleavened bread.

Next came the "Chawarma" -- marinated meat cut from the bone followed by "Baklava", the special Lebanese dessert made from almonds and honey and that distinctive sweet coffee which only the Arabs seem to be able to produce.

A belly dancer entertained for part of the meal -- not long enough, though, for some of us!

As the evening drew to a close, the door prizes were drawn and amid the usual shouts of "fix", "con" etc. the winners finally emerged as follows:

1. Dinner for 2 at the Cedars Restaurant - Chris Tyrie
2. Fortune Telling by Xavier Soulhany - Jo Milburn
3. Worry Beads - Bobby Raiswell
4. Scarabe Ring - Lesley Brewin

Just when everyone thought that the end had come, we had a most unexpected and pleasant surprise. One of Xavier's friends who is staying with him at present owns the Bangalow Hotel on the island of Bali. On the spot he offered a prize of 3 nights at the hotel (transport from Bangkok not included, I'm afraid!) the lucky winner was Pamela Hardy.

Many thanks to Xavier Soulhany for providing an excellent dinner and prizes and also to Simon Brewin whose organisation ensured a smooth trouble-free evening.

Fly via Amsterdam unique gateway to the UK



Why via Amsterdam

A total of 330 flights per week connect Amsterdam with 19 major centres in the UK and Ireland. Which means that your chosen destination is almost sure to be amply served by either KLM or one of the regional airlines. That's our idea of great transit. Terminal changes? A thing of the past. At Amsterdam it is all-under-one-roof for trouble-free transfer to your connecting flight. And our automatic baggage transfer system and conveyor sidewalks really take the toil out of transit.

Free break in Amsterdam

Time to spare? Discover Amsterdam! Enjoy a free de-luxe hotelroom for one day or night, plus a meal and transfers.

Offered by the Holland Promotion Foundation to KLM's full fare paying passengers travelling direct to Amsterdam and onward to the UK or Ireland.

KLM departures

| Flight | Departure | Time |
|--------|-----------|-------|
| KL 812 | Monday | 21.20 |
| KL 862 | Tuesday | 20.30 |
| KL 802 | Wednesday | 22.50 |
| KL 806 | Thursday | 21.25 |
| KL 834 | Friday | 22.55 |
| KL 864 | Saturday | 20.30 |
| KL 836 | Sunday | 22.20 |



The reliable airline of Holland
2 Patpong Road, Bangkok Tel. 235-5150

THE DARLING FLOODS OF MAY

Here we go again - 2nd official day of the wet season and we're unofficially three feet under; and wall-to-wall water in every soi. All those unfortunate Thai mums who heaved a sigh of relief as the end of the Long Hot Summer holidays hove in sight, undoubtedly heaved another upon hearing the announcement that the schools were to close for two days - and longer if necessary. Schoolchildren are thoroughly enjoying the bonus of an extra holiday and fishing in the soi/garden/sitting-room has become the national pastime. I remarked in all innocence to someone that our pond which had been devoid of any living thing, overnight came alive with tadpoles. "I wonder where they came from?" said I, and received a pitying look. "Frogs, dear," came the rejoinder. Hmm.

Nowadays, life in Bangkok seems to involve a state of siege every month - in April, the coup (abortive) and in May, the floods. Even Sukhumvit is closed to traffic: one friend, determined to visit her doctor, exhorted the driver to "try and get through", which he did with great aplomb, telling the duty policeman at the barricade that he was rushing his "sick Madam" to hospital. Sick Madam continued her journey with mixed feelings....

On the domestic front, people with ducks watch fondly as their feathered friends broaden their aquatic horizons in their gardens, and cat-owners either have to make "kitty litter" trays indoors or carry their fastidious felines to dry land for their ablutions. Dogs, of course, gang up with the children to see how much of the outside they can bring in. My maid, a latter-day Pollyanna, remarked sunnily that at least the water would keep the kamoys away, but was later disillusioned by her husband, indignant at the theft of his gum-boots outside his place of work.

Even our security guard (alias The Soundest Sleeper in the East) has conceded a point and moved into the little attap shelter we had built for him a year ago, to the great annoyance of my daughter who has always regarded it as her exclusive property and who has been obliged to remove all her personal effects.

If all the world was apple-pie,
And all the seas were ink,
And all the trees were bread and cheese,
We wouldn't have to get wet to our knees
and our car-burettors flooded to get
to Villa.

Oh to be in Thailand
Now the floods are here
(And watch the gradual subsidence
Of much that you hold dear)
And whoever wakes in Thailand
Sees, some morning, unaware
The blessed car submerged beneath
The mango tree with the dripping leaf
Will it ever start? You wonder how -
In Thailand - now!

(With apologies to Robert Browning)

** ** *

CLUB NIGHT

A series of "CLUB NIGHTS" has been planned for this year. These evenings will take the form of a set dinner with wines, during which a guest speaker will give a short talk on a subject of his choice.

The first Club Night will be on 17th June and the new British Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Justin Staples, has accepted the Club's invitation to speak.

Mr. Staples is no new-comer to Thailand, having served in the Embassy twice before, the last occasion as Counsellor. He is fluent in Thai, and on presenting his Credentials to the King last month delivered his address in Royal Thai -- a language alien to almost all Thais, let alone 'farangs'! (His Excellency has undertaken to speak in English at the British Club).

The menu, subject to last minute alterations will be:

Soup
Roast Duck
Sorbet
Stilton
Coffee

The price will be $\text{฿}250$ per head, to include, sherry, a carafe of wine and port.

Dress: Shirt and Tie

Time: 7.30 for 8.00

Numbers are limited to 70 so early booking is recommended.



Beat the U.K. tax man the honest way!

Why pay taxes that could be avoided?

Personal Financial Consultants Ltd., incorporated in Hong Kong in 1975, specialise in covering the full range of tax, investment and financial requirements for British expatriates.

We provide advice on retirement planning, investment, savings, mortgage, education plans and a comprehensive financial consultancy, including our Unit Trust Management Advisory Service (UTMAS).

After a complimentary discussion of your requirements, we offer personalized investment recommendations. These may include established unit trusts for fixed income specialising in portfolios of Currency Deposits, International Bonds, United Kingdom gilts and overseas Currency Funds. Unit trusts specialising in capital appreciation are invested in a world-wide range of equities, including portfolios centred on investments in the Far East, the United Kingdom, North America, Japan and Australia. In addition, unit trusts concentrating in energy and commodities are available together with investments in gold, diamonds and stamps.



You might be surprised at the appreciation growth these funds have achieved in the last 5 years.

Our regular easy-to-read computer valuations and investment reports will keep you informed of the status of your investments. Periodic discussions with our consultants in offices throughout South East Asia and in London and Edinburgh will make it simple for you to keep us informed about your changing financial situation and investment objectives.

Whether you are on your way home now or at an unspecified time in the future, this is the time to begin planning. We can help you beat the tax man, the honest way.

If you would like to know more about PFC services, please mail the coupon to:

Mr. J.D. Lawrence, Regional Director
Personal Financial Consultants Ltd.
 c/o Ian M. Gibson, Esq., Siam Scott Ltd.
 P.O. Box 2647, Bangkok, Thailand
 Telephone: 235-0360 Telex: TH82990

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____

OUTPOST 3/81

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY BALL

The Maypole was on the landing, the Dragon breathing fire on the first floor, and Little Paul Hawtin was doing a sterling passenger-service job in handing out boarding cards to the arriving guests. Then came the magnificent portcullis faithfully reproduced by Tony Gilbert of Louis T. Leonowens from the 13th Century "Castle Builders Guild Portcullis Design Manual".

Bob Coombes, losing weight by the minute in his heavy Town Criers Robe, then announced every guest to Oy and Brian Heath, President of the St. George's Society. Drinks, more drinks, "dinner is served", and then to the strains of "Soldiers of the Queen" the Dragons tail is carried through the ballroom to be handed over to the Oriental Hotel's chef for the first remove, a tasty "Dragons Tail Soup". A minute's pause, and then the traditional Baron of Beef Ceremony! Chef, John Davidson paraded the Baron of Beef escorted by Town Crier Bob Coombes, Police Constable Hugh Creasey, Page Boy Arthur Hawtin and Beefeater Bryan Baldwin. The Baron of Beef was pronounced meet meat for the assembled company after President Brian Heath had sampled a goodly portion, and as befits the true host he invited the Baron boys to a flagon of old English ale.

And that was just the start of a grand evening!

No sooner had dinner commenced than the usual table chatter quickly died away as sweet and melodious singing commenced. Christmas Carollers? No, too early. It was a group of unaccompanied madrigal singers wandering from table to table entertaining diners with their songs and their magnificently appropriate costumes.

You may have noticed too, between the delicious removes of beef, syllabub and English cheeses (specially flown in by British Airways) that the usual St. George's Society Ballroom decorations had been brightened by an array of new heraldic flags. We are told by Colin Boothby that the Bata factories didn't make so many shoes in April, but they certainly put the flags out! In fact the Oriental Hotel were so impressed with the design of the flagpoles that they borrowed 12 for another function 2 days later.

An ample cheeseboard, coffee (with Charles Edmonds' secret LTL store of After Eight mints) and then President of the St. George's Society Brian Heath rose to speak. Yes, he did rise. A typical forthright speech from Brian, touches of history,

rather anti-Longbridge, plenty of humour and a good leg-pull at the expense of Michael Foot. And he wasn't even too hard on the Scots!

David Burns, Charge D'Affaires, in his toast to the Bangkok St. George's Society, spoke as if he had had much more notice than was actually the case, and then Master of Ceremonies Colin Boothby got Ading Dila and his musicians going with some Glenn Miller Style music for dancing.

Then at eleven o'clock six nervous lads plus Kevin the pianist put their butterflies away, donned their bowlers, took up their briefcases and newspapers and told us all that for the English "Bad Times are Just Around the Corner". Arthur Hawtin who clearly knew his place, gave a masterly performance of timing in the "Class" Sketch with John Davidson and Clive Holes, and then Norman Musgrave, Bryan Baldwin and Arthur gave us an accurate monthly forecast of the English weather.

Newcasters John Davidson and Bryan Baldwin kept us in fits as they kept us up to date with world news, and then Cabaret mastermind Graham Millington held the stage alone to ask why it is the English can't speak proper! The famous "Aftermyth of War" sketch from Beyond the Fringe followed featuring the entire cast. Mr. Charles Spedding of Hoxton, ably played by Clive Holes, remembered that he "was out in the garden at the time, planting carrots for the night fighters", and displayed the usual English reaction of "Just put on the kettle for a nice hot cup of tea". The "Millington Players" finale of "The English are Best" was followed by an encore of "Bad Times" and then the cast bowed out for a well deserved drink, and another and....

The Society's hard working Hon. Treasurer (as in "honorary" and "honourable") then won the door prize of a Cathay Pacific return trip to Hong Kong. When Arthur Bullard presented the prize to Janet Ragless, I couldn't help thinking what a well-deserved winner she was. Hopefully she'll take Madrigal singer husband Mike with her! It was typical of Janet that she hesitated to accept the prize but luckily friends pushed her forward.

Then there was dancing till 3. It was a good evening. Hope you didn't miss it!

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE "WHICH? DOCTORS"

CAN you imagine sprinkling dust all over the carpet just so you can sweep it up again? Or baking dozens of fairy cakes you know no-one will ever eat?

And how about sticking things together just so you can pull them apart?

These are a few of the strange things which the staff of the Consumers' Association Laboratory in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, do every day.

They are testing consumer products for the magazine Which?

Which? magazine was set up twenty-three years ago.

It aims to help the public choose between the bewildering array of seemingly similar products which flood the market.

It also hopes to improve the standard of those goods and services.

The magazine gives the results of its scientific tests in easy to understand language.

It adds clear recommendations of what to buy and what not to.

Dr. John Cuthbert, Head of Testing, told me that the two Consumers' Association (CA for short) laboratories are the largest consumer-owned labs in the world.

How do they choose the individual products to be tested?

Careful market research shows what brands are on the market, and how widely available they are. A list is made of brands with the biggest market share.

The tests are then devised to cover every aspect of the product.

Shampoos, for example. How would you test those?

They have to be examined to see how much there is in the bottle, how much you can get out, and whether they give too much lather or too little.

Hairdryers are also tested regularly by the Association. Personally, I couldn't imagine how anyone could test a dryer.

Dr. Cuthbert explained that it's done by means of a rig -- a device specially made to carry out a particular test.

"We use a plastic head with real hair on it, which we set in rollers. A known weight of water is put on each roller. A device for checking the temperature is attached.

"The head is then put on a revolving stand in front of the hairdryer. The decreasing weight of the water and the temperature of the hair is noted to test for even and efficient drying.

"We then give the dryers to a user panel and ask them to try the attachments at home on the whole family. They complete a questionnaire. Our statisticians analyse the answers."

I was interested in other electrical items I might have in my home, especially kitchen appliances.

CA have recently tested toasters, toasted sandwich makers and coffee makers. They will shortly be looking at food processors.

"Some consumers complain that the coffee makers which recently appeared on the market do not keep coffee hot enough for a second cup." Dr. Cuthbert told me, "so we did some tests to find out. By and large we had to agree with them, though it depends how much time elapses between your first and second cup."

If a problem occurs with an appliance, an identical one is bought and the whole series of tests re-run.

If the same fault occurs again, it seems likely to be due to some basic design fault. The manufacturers are informed of the defect.

Manufacturers have varying attitudes to being told that their product is badly designed. Dr. Cuthbert told me of a recent case with the manufacturer of a washer-dryer.

"There was supposed to be a safety valve which would open and flood the clothes with water if they got too hot during drying," he told me, "but in both models we tried it failed to operate. So we informed the manufacturers. They simply said it didn't happen very often, to which we replied that it shouldn't happen at all.

"They are now in fact, selling a modified machine, and are getting in touch with owners to put the defective machines right at no cost.

"Other manufacturers react more quickly to correct a dangerous defect. All electrical appliances are subject to a routine check before testing begins.

"One electrically-powered lawn-mower was found to be so unsafe we didn't dare turn it on. We contacted the manufacturers, who immediately recalled all the models which had been sold, and corrected the fault."

These sorts of dangers are obviously not visible to the average consumer. But some are so obvious I marvelled how they had ever passed the drawing-board.

We examined an impressive-looking cooker with a double oven and a grill on a level with the hobs. At first sight it looked to be every housewife's dream.

However, a knob on the front panel raised the heating element of the grill to reveal the grill pan, easily accessible to a toddler's tiny fingers. A member of the laboratory staff had already burnt her arm reaching over to the hob controls at the back.

Cookers are tested for heat distribution by cooking batches of fairy cakes on different shelves of the oven. Then the experts check the colour of the cakes to see whether there are any "hot spots" in the oven.

I had visions of scrumptious teatime treats for laboratory staff, but Dr. Cuthbert told me all cakes have to be deep frozen and kept for analysis later if required.

By now I could see that every experiment, however ordinary it may seem, is very carefully set up and monitored.

Washing machines, for example, are loaded with standard cloth, especially imported from Switzerland and stained with blood, industrial grease, wine and cocoa.

After washing, the cloth is tested for whiteness with a formidable-sounding device called a reflecto-meter.

Standard white shirts are also swirled in the suds to test the degree of creasing inflicted by the machine.

Nor is it just clothes which are washed.

On our way to look at the freezers, we passed a dishwasher which was chugging merrily on its way. It was still chugging when we passed back some time later.

"That one won't be stopping for a while yet," explained Dr. Cuthbert. "We've modified it to run continuously for six months. We've loaded it with crockery so we can examine whether modern dishwashers damage the surface of crockery and glassware."

I was glad it wasn't my best dinner service in there!

To look at the experiments on fridges and freezers, we had to go into a specially-sealed room in which both temperature and humidity could be controlled.

A girl called Joan was testing appliances for the World Health Organisation.

She wanted to see whether internationally-available domestic equipment would, in fact, be capable of preserving vaccine under the extreme conditions of the countries in which it is sold.

This can mean different voltages, degrees of temperature and humidity, and many other factors.

"We had a fridge-freezer last year," Joan told me, "which kept giving strange results. So we bought another model. Eventually we deduced that the whole layer of insulating material between the freezer section and the fridge had been left out.

"When testing refrigerators and freezers for the home market, we check things such as electricity consumption, temperature distribution, storage volume and the strength of shelves and baskets.

"The actual internal temperatures at different thermostat settings are carefully assessed, too. We check the freezing capacity by putting test packs in and seeing how long they take to freeze. Also, how much they heat up the cold packs already in the freezer."

I had decided there were a lot of things the average consumer would not -- and could not -- know.

It's so easy to be confused by glossy pictures or an enthusiastic salesman, if you do not know exactly what you want. A misguided purchase can mean the waste of a substantial sum of money.

Reading a Which? Report before you buy will at least tell you what to look for. It gives you the benefit of scientific research by Consumers' Association.

In the early days, all goods were tested by private contract laboratories and universities. But this did not prove very satisfactory.

The laboratories did not build up the necessary expertise and were sometimes slow in producing results.

So nineteen years ago, a laboratory for testing cars was set up in Essex. Nine years later the Harpenden laboratory was launched for the testing of other consumer goods.

"We're often asked to do testing for various European consumer associations and International agencies, as well as all the work we do for Which?" Dr. Cuthbert told me.

"For instance, at the moment we're testing vaccine preservation equipment for the World Health Organisation. For the World Bank, we are evaluating water pumps suitable for Developing Countries."

But who pays for all this expertise, I wanted to know.

"Apart from fees for such contract research and testing, the operation is financed by subscriptions to Which? All items to be tested are bought anonymously in the shops. Once testing is complete, we store the goods for a period in case of dispute.

"Then we sell those which are in working order at public auctions all over the country. Some products, of course, are ruined during testing. These are just scrapped!"

Most projects originate in the London headquarters of Consumers' Association, either as a result of public demand, or from an Association suggestion.

The Project Officers in London then contact a Project Controller at the appropriate laboratory. He or she helps devise the tests, sees they are carried out properly, and also ensures they can be verified in court if necessary.

"We have about sixty full-time staff across the two labs," Dr. Cuthbert told me, "as well as a number of part-time and temporary staff. They're all qualified in some kind of science or technological subject, from pure sciences such as chemistry and physics, through all the facets of engineering and applied sciences, to social sciences such as home economics and sociology.

"We also have some three thousand people in the area who are subscribers to the magazine and who have volunteered to do user tests, either here at the lab or in their own homes. They do everything from taste-testing of different foods to trying out cameras, lipsticks and showers!"

Taste-testing is something most volunteers enjoy. The Harpenden laboratory has a special kitchen alongside a row of five booths.

Foods are prepared by laboratory staff before being passed to the taster through a small hatch. There is a coloured light in the booth so the human "guinea-pig" cannot differentiate by colour.

Dr. Cuthbert told me of a recent test with soya protein. They found that most people couldn't tell the difference between soya and meat when the soya was put into a stew or made into a "meat" sauce.

But when it was presented as a grilled steak, most tasters could identify it by its texture. If not its taste.

Another recent test was on lager beer.

Here a panel of experts from the British brewing industry tasted the different brands, alongside the user panel.

They unanimously voted in favour of what turned out to be the British brews rather than the Continental, perhaps because they had typically British tastes.

"But I prefer the Continental brews, myself." Dr. Cuthbert confided.

Other products likely to be tested by a user panel are cosmetics.

A lipstick might be examined in the laboratory to see how much can be got out of the container before it becomes unusable, and how well it will withstand summer temperatures. Then it is tested by a user.

The only items which are not tested by Consumers' Association own laboratories are textiles and pharmaceuticals.

These tests are contracted out to specialised laboratories which have both the expertise and the facilities to carry out thorough tests.

There are also, however, a number of items which are tested by the CA staff, but off the laboratory premises.

"We obviously don't have enough grass to test out a batch of fifty lawnmowers, for example," explained Dr. Cuthbert, "quite apart from the fact that you actually need a range of types and lengths of grass within a fairly small area to ensure that each mower is tested under identical conditions. Fortunately we have access to lawns around a stately home, so we send an army of mowers out to cut the grass whenever we run a mower test.

"Another item which has to be 'field tested' after the laboratory checking is tents. We look at them here first to see what you get with the tent, how well it's packed, and how heavy it is to carry about. Then it's off to the field to put the things up.

"We see how easy each is to erect, and how long it takes. Then we leave it to see how it withstands the weather.

"Last time we tested them, most of the tents stood up very well to the wind and rain, but not so well to the farmer's bull which got into the field one night. Fortunately it was near the end of the test so we already had sufficient data. But if it had been near the beginning, we'd have had to get a new batch of tents!"

I had originally thought that some of the tests must be fun for the staff to carry out. But the idea of mowing acres of grass and putting up dozens of tents did not appeal too much.

The last test I saw, however, firmly convinced me that a job as a consumer tester is not for me. Vacuum cleaners!

Vera, the tester, was actually sprinkling dust on a rectangle of carpet just so she could sweep it up again -- I couldn't imagine anything worse!

"There is a standard test used the world over which involves sprinkling 35 grams of standard dust -- bought from Sweden -- on to 0.7 square metre of carpet with a thing like a pepper pot." Dr. Cuthbert explained. "You then roll it into the pile of an internationally accepted standard carpet with a special roller. Then push the vacuum cleaner over it, to the beat of a metronome" (an instrument for marking time, which gives a ticking sound).

"The vacuum cleaner bag is weighed before and after the test. We can work out which cleaner gives the best performance.

"Another test we carry out tells us how good the appliances are at removing sewing threads and fluff from the carpet.

"When Vera has finished cleaning the carpet, she'll see how easily the vacuum cleaner picks up dust from crevices, and how closely it can go into corners and against walls.

"Then she'll test all the attachments, finally arrange for a number of users to carry it up and down stairs to test for weight and portability.

"Not really the sort of job everyone would like!"

I agreed wholeheartedly. And I decided, privately, not to volunteer my services as a member of the user panel, just in case anyone should ask me to vacuum carpets.

I did, however, go home feeling very grateful to the staff of Consumers' Association, whose thorough research can advise me which products are the best buys, from canned meats to cookers, shampoos to stereos.

I wonder if I could volunteer my carpets as a testing ground!

Leave Flat in London

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

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

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

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

For further details contact:

Rupert Russell-Cobb - 234-0247, 234-2592

THE THINGS KIDS SAY

If you're under the impression that
your kids are the only ones who
say daft things — you're wrong!

My Granddad says he doesnt like women So we bought him a cat
(Robert aged 8)

Babies cry in the dark becorse they think they havnt been born yet
(Lorri aged 6)

Your parents have to tell you off because they don't want you to
grow up like them

(Simon aged 10)

I think Jesus would be upset if he knew what went on at Christmas!

(Anthea aged 11)

When my mummys cross she talks with a nasty smack in her voice

(Victoria aged 5)

I think when you vote you have to do it in private. Its like swearing

(Jill aged 7)

My mum was in the Labour party when she had me born in hospital

(Catherine aged 8)

My Granny was a sufferer jet. I think she flew a lot

(Robert aged 7)

Even nasty people are nice when you're ill

(Marcus aged 8)

If heavens such a nice place why are people so sad about going there

(Jennifer aged 6)

I love my daddy becorse he give me a good ejukashun

(Zoe aged 6)

You couldn't make everyone in the world love each other. They
don't even get on in blocks of flats

(Lois aged 7)

When you are a baby your mother feeds you from her bozom but
she can only do milk

(Felicity aged 7)

Once youve had a baby you can't put it back

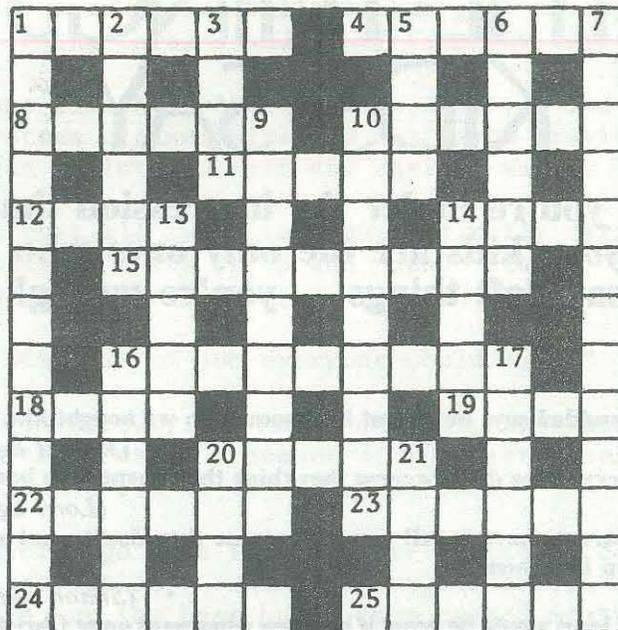
(Ann aged 6)

Old ladys arent reely old ladys. There just pepel waring old clothes

(Jamie aged 6)

From "All Our Love," "Vote For Love" and "Lots Of Love" by Nanette
Newman, published by Collins.

CLUB CROSSWORD



CLUES

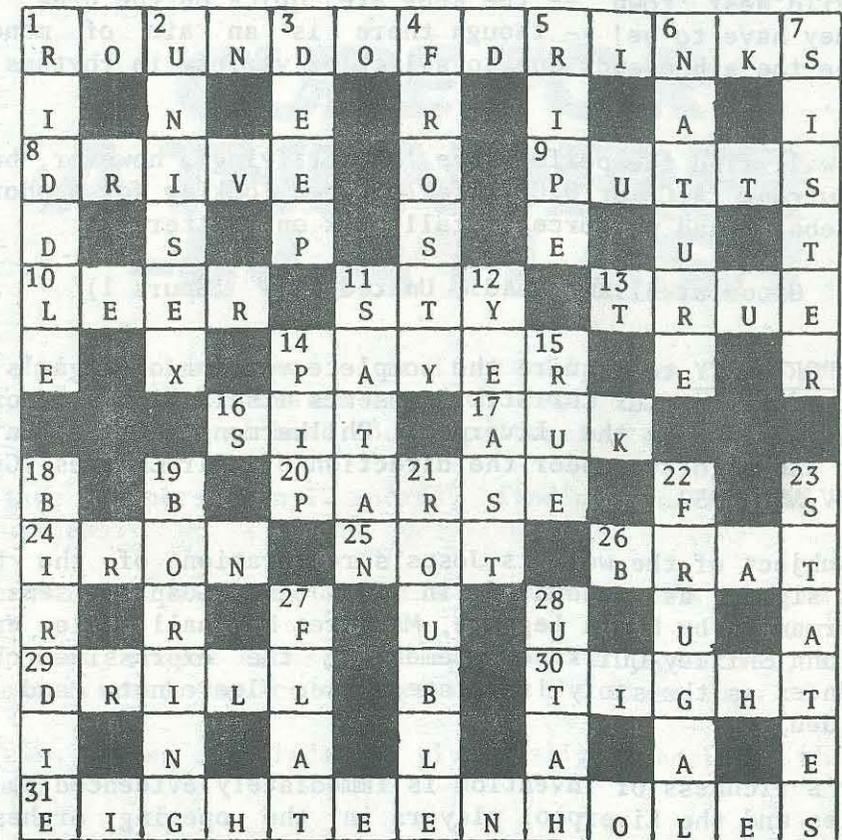
Across

- 1 & 4 Squeeze, and woos....very popular features at the Club. (2 words)
- 8 A famous one had a happy band....at Nottingham Forest?
- 10 Drop in for a cuppa.
- 11 Thanks, Mr. Boughton....I've got it!
- 12 Are they still exhorted to play the game?
- 14 Said to be no company.
- 15 Campbell's Kingdon down Pattaya way! (2 words)
- 16 The Club Bore might act as one.
- 18 Computer food.
- 19 She's a smart bird if she is!
- 20 First class jewel put around...an idol.
- 22 Soap? Yes, and sometimes grand.
- 23 A banger at Bobby's Italian Restaurant.
- 24 & 25 Christmas and Thanksgiving are just two of them. (2 words)

Down

- 1 Call to the bar. (3 words)
- 2 This sort of person might look dishevelled.
- 3 Bit of a blind.
- 5 House for a party.
- 6 Get your harpoon ready for another go at the whale.
- 7 Must do this in the Club if one has called 1 down. (3 words)
- 9 The Club has His & Hers.
- 10 All religions have them.
- 13 Destination Pacific.
- 14 Sounds like you in France on the popular jail but it's something to wear.
- 16 Bird mixed up with a direction....scattered.
- 17 One does this if one does not 7 down!
- 20 International acronym.
- 21 Take yours at the Club Pool.

SOLUTION LAST MONTH



LYRICISM FROM LEEDS

OVER TO LEEDS: Not to Elland Road where United are playing 'Spurs, but to the clubs and pubs of the town to hear the Rockabilly Rebs, Leeds' very own singing group. In fact EMI have beaten us to Yorkshire, for they have recorded the 'Rebs' in a concert of fourteen songs (NTS 220) in 'rockabilly' style.

Far from being a carbon copy of such pop groups as Slade, Abba, Manhattan, Bahttery, Dooleys and the like, the 'status quo' of the Leeds 'lyricists' is largely Elvis-based, numbers like 'State Line' and 'Go away, Hound Dog' being Presley-infectious to a degree.

There is a healthy 'solid four' backing (guitars, mostly, with drums) in "Rockabilly Romeo" -- no sentimentality, real 'open-air' music -- and in "Tongue-Tied Jill", which really swings along merrily. "Rockabilly Baby" transports us to a saloon in any Wild West 'town' -- the Rebs are 'quick on the draw' here -- they have to be! -- though there is an air of monotony before the album ends due to a lack of variety in rhythms and tempi.

Many will find the performance 'electrifying', however, but as the current (A.C. or D.C.?) failed when looking for a photo of the Rebs, I had perforce to fall back on Bahttery.

(P.S. Gloom at Elland Road: United 0 - 'Spurs 1)

AN OPPORTUNITY to acquire the complete version of Elgar's "The Light of Life" (Lux Christi) presents itself with a recording of the cantata by the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir and soloists under the direction of Sir Charles Groves on HMV ASD 3952.

The subject of the work is Jesus's restoration of the blind man's sight, as recounted in St. John's Gospel, sensitive performances by Robin Leggate, Margaret Marshall, Helen Watts, and John Shirley-Quirk complementing the expressive choral sequences as the story is related (see sleeve note and text provided).

Elgar's richness of invention is immediately evidenced by Sir Charles and the Liverpool players in the opening orchestral "Meditation", and later the composer seems to identify himself

with the blind man's suffering in a way similar to his 'feeling' for the death throes of Gerontius (1900). The eight-part Soli and Chorus, No. 9 is most movingly presented, the chorus ending with an effective "The wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of darkness".

The singing throughout is sensitive and often very beautiful, and all Elgarians will enjoy the eloquence of many of the settings -- the Mother of the blind man 'Be not extreme, O Lord' with touching woodwind decoration and reaching a splendid climax; Jesus's first utterance 'Neither hath this man sinned' straight-forward virile singing from Shirley-Quirk; the full-voiced choral singing for "Light out of darkness". The orchestra is equi-eloquent in this fine recording of Elgar's cantata-quasi-oratorio. [Recommended.]

- 0 -

CURE FOR A THUNDERER -IN A FLASH

SNORE and you sleep alone -- or it could even cost you your life. One woman was beaten to death when other residents in an Austrian old peoples' home could no longer stand the noise.

And since one person in 12 snores, finding a cure could be very big business.

Two inventors claim they have the solution to the problem.

One of them, Robert Crossley, a Texan and a big snorer, is selling an electronic device that picks up the first sign of a snore.

This then causes electrodes to give a slight shock to the neck muscles.

Crossley claims that, after three weeks, the shocks will condition the snorer to stop.

A more complicated solution is being marketed in Sweden.

When a man is snoring he is usually taking in air through his nose and mouth at the same time.

This then causes vibrations in the soft palate -- that part of the roof of his mouth behind the hard palate.

BY-PASS

The Swedish device consists of a tube which is threaded from the nose into the mouth. This causes the air to by-pass the soft palate and prevents snoring.

These are just two of many "cures" -- mostly unsuccessful -- produced over the years for the age-old problem.

So can the snorer do anything?

Keeping the nasal passages clear obviously helps. Smoking and heavy drinking can bring on snores.

Drugs, too, are suspect, even the aspirin. And excessive weight can sometimes be the culprit.

Some doctors believe that snorers are more likely to have high blood pressure and heart disease. But whether these ailments cause the snoring or are caused by it is not clear.

Snoring tends to get worse with old age.

BAFFLED

Experts are baffled by the fact that the snorer rarely disturbs himself, even when the noise registers 95 decibels, which is about the equivalent of a road drill.

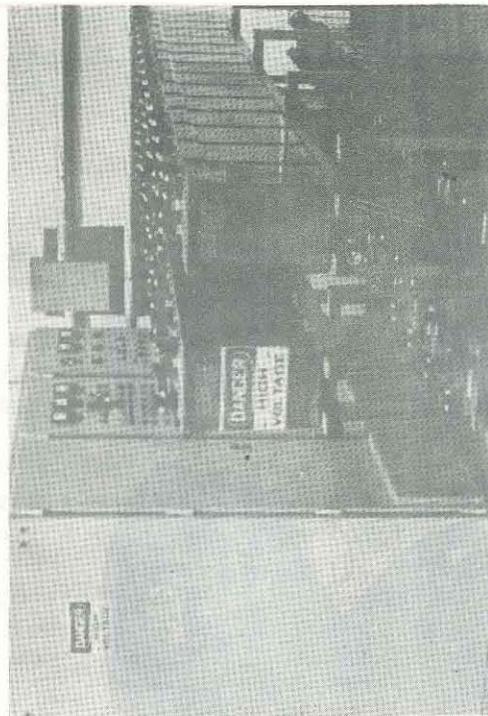
For the long-suffering partner who has to put up with the midnight thunder, there remain two hopes for a night's rest.

Go off and sleep in another room. Or wear a good pair of ear-plugs.

Uninterruptible Power Systems

An Uninterruptible Power System is comprised of three or more electronic sub-systems plus a battery. It is connected between commercial power lines and devices to be protected from the fluctuations and outages of these power lines. The UPS performs these major functions:

- * Regulates the quality of power delivered.
- * Provides continuous power for minutes or hours in the event of commercial power failure.
- * Allows time for an orderly shut down of devices and/or the starting of standby generator equipment.
- * Protects devices against lightning spikes and similar transient voltages assuring longer life and eliminating frequent outages.
- * Prevents electrically noisy loads supplied by commercial power from interfering with sensitive loads supplied by UPS.



Associated Battery Manufacturers (Thailand) Ltd.

85/2 Moo 13, Sukhaphibal 2 Rd., Bangchan, Minburi, Bangkok, P.O. Box 24-91, Cable: ABAT,
Tel: 317-7260, 317-7001, 317-7341-2.



A tax from which there is almost no escape

Ever since Capital Transfer Tax was introduced in 1974, even a modest estate on death will receive unsympathetic treatment from the Inland Revenue before any money can be passed to the next generation.

Living and working abroad provides no escape. In this article, Donald Elkin looks at various ways of mitigating this tax to preserve a family's wealth. Regard is had to the 1981 Budget proposals which, at the time of going to press, are not yet law.

From the very start, no-one was left under any misunderstanding as to Denis Healey's objectives in introducing Capital Transfer Tax. In his Budget speech of 1974, the message was clear:

"Estate duty has come to be a voluntary tax....
Now, Capital Transfer Tax will make Estate duty
a compulsory tax as it was always intended to be."

We now know that C.T.T. has been very effective, perhaps even more so than Denis Healey ever imagined, but Sir Geoffrey Howe's 1981 Budget proposes to turn the clock back to some extent.

Unlike income and capital gains taxes, there is no relaxation of Capital Transfer Tax for the British expatriate. Residence status for U.K. tax purposes is immaterial when considering any liability to C.T.T.

Everyone domiciled in the U.K. is subject to this tax without exception - whether the assets lie in Britain or elsewhere, but it does not stop there. Even changing the country of domicile - which everyone is free to do - may not necessarily alter the amount of tax that ultimately becomes payable. Special provisions in the Finance Act of 1974 when C.T.T. was first introduced, took particular steps to close any loopholes.

You are deemed to be domiciled in the United Kingdom for C.T.T. purposes if:

- a) you are domiciled in the United Kingdom on or after the 10th December 1974 and within the three years preceding the date of the chargeable transfer, or
- b) you are resident in the U.K. on or after the 10th December 1974 and in not less than 17 of the 20 years of assessment ending with that in which the chargeable transfer was made, or
- c) since the 10th December 1974 you have become and remain domiciled in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man having been domiciled in the United Kingdom immediately before - unless your domicile of origin was in the Islands, or you were under 18 or otherwise incapable of having an independent domicile when first domiciled in the Islands.

In fact, the legislation is so comprehensive that a liability to C.T.T. can even arise on the estate of a foreign national who owns assets here, but who has never even visited Britain!

Continued on page 37

AMBASSADOR FASHION HOUSE



AMBASSADOR FASHION

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

The effect of C.T.T. can quickly erode the tax advantages of the British expatriate abroad

It's generally accepted that the major reasons for so many people wanting to work for a period overseas is the high level of earnings and relative tax freedom. Almost inevitably, the higher the salary received, the easier it is to accumulate substantial amounts of capital - certainly more than would have been possible by following the same occupation in the U.K. As a result, it is essential that the British expatriate takes time to consider the likely effects of this tax on his family's resources.

C.T.T. begins to bite at a very low level

There are a number of important exemptions, but after these have been utilised, C.T.T. begins to be payable on relatively insignificant amounts of capital. Currently, the tax begins to bite at £50,000, which means that a very high proportion of the population in Britain who own their own homes will almost certainly be caught within the C.T.T. net unless they take specific steps to avoid it. There are three essential features of the tax:

1. It applies, subject to exemptions, to all transfers of wealth (including gifts during a person's lifetime or on death).
2. It is a tax on those who give rather than those who receive;
3. It is cumulative. Prior to 6th April 1981 it was charged at progressive rates on the cumulative total of gifts made during a person's lifetime, with a final addition of all the remaining assets passing on the donor's death. However, the 1981 Budget proposes to exclude from the cumulative total gifts made more than 10 years before death.

The rates that currently apply are shown in the table below:

Summary of Capital Transfer Tax Rates
from 10th March 1981

| From (£) | To (£) | Rate of tax on | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------|---------|
| | | Lifetime Gifts* + | Death + |
| 0 | 50,000 | Nil | Nil |
| 50,001 | 60,000 | 15% | 30% |
| 60,001 | 70,000 | 17.5% | 35% |
| 70,001 | 90,000 | 20% | 40% |
| 90,001 | 110,000 | 22.5% | 45% |
| 110,001 | 130,000 | 25% | 50% |
| 130,001 | 160,000 | 30% | 55% |
| 160,001 | 510,000 | 35% | 60% |
| 510,001 | 1,010,000 | 40% | 65% |
| 1,010,001 | 2,010,000 | 45% | 70% |
| 2,010,001 | Plus | 50% | 75% |

* The rate of tax for gifts made within 3 years prior to death is the same as those appropriate to sums passing on death as shown in the last column.

+ Where gifts have been made more than 10 years before, they are excluded when determining the total gifts to date and hence the rate of tax payable on any further gift or on death. When a gift becomes more than 10 years old there is no repayment of the tax paid on it.

It can be seen that the amount of tax levied on gifts made during a persons lifetime is substantially less than a transfer of assets on death. Furthermore, some gifts are actually exempt and these are important in planning the mitigation of this tax.

The exemptions - used regularly, can reduce a heavy tax burden to a more realistic level.

The key to dealing with Capital Transfer Tax is to be found in its exemptions. These can be exploited fully within the law to make substantial reductions in the burden of this tax.

1. Husband and wife

Transfers between husband and wife, either as lifetime gifts or at death, are exempt. This is helpful from the point of view of the surviving spouse, but what must not be forgotten is the fact that this will only serve to increase the value of his or her own estate, which will then be liable to tax on the total joint wealth, subject only to the usual £50,000 exemption. This could involve a substantial liability on the total assets then held.

Where large estates are involved, it may be wise to mitigate the tax liability by arranging for some capital, preferably at least the full £50,000, to pass directly to the next generation on the first death, rather than via the estate of the surviving husband or wife.

2. The annual exemptions -

If they are not taken in full, are lost forever

Gifts up to a maximum of £3,000 a year are free of C.T.T. However, this allowance must be used within the tax year or the year following. The allowance is not retrospective and any unused allowances cannot be carried forward year after year. In addition, anyone can gift £250 to any number of recipients every tax year without creating any liability to C.T.T.

3. Gifts on marriage and

...normal expenditure

Other exemptions to be considered are gifts on marriage which are tax free within stated limits (£1,000 to £5,000 according to the relationship or otherwise of the giver and the recipient), gifts without specific limit for the maintenance, education or training of a child of either marriage partner up to the age of 18, and sometimes beyond, and gifts to make reasonable provision for the care and maintenance of a dependent relative. Gifts made out of taxed income and which form part of the donor's normal expenditure and do not reduce the donor's usual standard of living, are exempt. Obviously it is not possible to put a figure on this item because the sum will vary according to the financial and other circumstances of each particular donor. Certain other transfers are exempt - those in favour of charities, political parties, museums and other National bodies and Institutions.

Making the most of annual exemptions

In devising ways to mitigate the liability to C.T.T., the most valuable exemption is the annual gift allowance of £3,000. Although many people can see the benefit of regularly transferring £3,000 from their estates, they are sometimes reluctant to release total control over capital they have gifted. This is often the case where young children or other young relatives are involved.

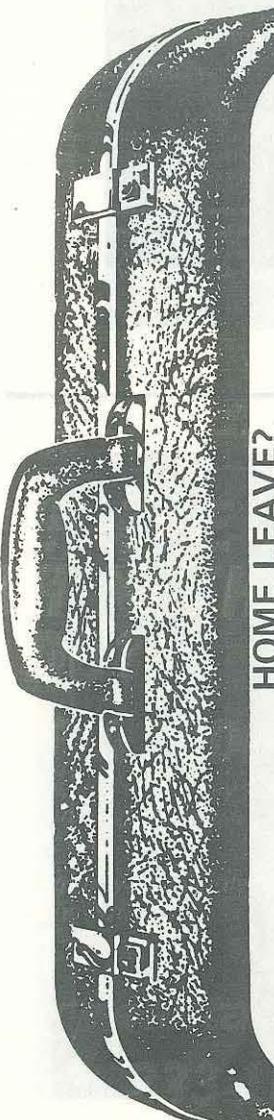
As a result many of the major British life assurance companies have devised schemes to take full advantage of the annual C.T.T. exemptions where the money is held in trust for a number of beneficiaries but firmly under the final control of the person making the gift. The benefit of this arrangement is that the donor can decide subsequently who should ultimately benefit and when. Furthermore, if he subsequently decides not to proceed with the gift it can be recovered and added back to his own estate where it would attract tax in exactly the same way as if it had never been moved.

Understandably with this degree of flexibility these schemes have proved to be extremely popular. An added advantage for the British expatriate is that each year's allowance can be invested in offshore tax exempt funds which can be retained even after returning to the U.K.

The effect of wasting the exemptions

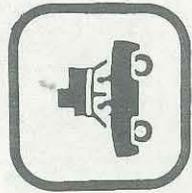
Unlike estate duty, C.T.T. cannot be instantly avoided. In the absence of effective planning, it is a tax which will eat heavily into a family's wealth. Scope for the legitimate mitigation of this tax burden is offered by the exemptions, but to achieve worthwhile tax savings, they must be utilised fully each and every year, beginning as early as possible. Every year that passes reduces the total amount that may be transferred with the result that capital is growing in the hands of the owner thus compounding the problem by increasing the ultimate liability to this tax.

If you have found this article interesting and would like to receive more detailed information, you may write direct to the author, Donald Elkin, at Wilfred T. Fry Limited, 31 Queen Street, Exeter, Devon EX4 3SR, England.



HOME LEAVE?
Your car Rental in Britain solved with
MANLEY MOTORS LIMITED







A SMALL SELECTION OF OUR CARS - COMPARE OUR RATES

| Grp | MODEL | Per Wk | Period | |
|-----|--|--------|-------------|----------|
| | | | £ | Discount |
| 1 | RENAULT 5 "L" 3 DR HATCHBACK | £ 60 | 3 wks . . . | .5% |
| 2 | TALBOT SUNBEAM 1300"LS" H/BACK RENAULT 5 "TL" 3DR HATCHBACK | £ 65 | 4 wks . . . | 10% |
| 4 | RENAULT 18 "TL" 4 DR SALOON RENAULT 14 "TL" 5 DR HATCHBACK | £ 80 | 5 wks . . . | 10% |
| 5 | FORD CORTINA 1600L ESTATE RENAULT 18 "TS" ESTATE | £ 89 | 6 wks . . . | 15% |
| LUX | FORD GRANADA 2800GL AUTO RENAULT 30 "TS" 5 DR AUTO H/BACK | £150 | 7 wks . . . | 15% |
| | | | 8 wks . . . | 20% |

Rates include:-
Full Comprehensive Insurance, Unlimited Mileage, RAC membership.

MANLEY MOTORS LIMITED

152, SOUTH EALING ROAD, SOUTH EALING, W.5.
or
"HIRAMOTI, W.5.
TEL: 01-567 1228

Candid Camera



← WATCH THE EYES!



GOLF SECTION'S MATCH SECRETARY AT WORK.

A THORN BETWEEN TWO ROSES?



A COUPLE OF
B.C. HOODS?



"....but I wasn't watching the belly dancer, dear"

UK Taxation untangled

If you're concerned now - or will be in the future - with UK taxation, this brochure is essential reading.

It highlights the financial problems and pitfalls one can encounter while working abroad, and on returning to the UK. And shows how they can be avoided.

It embraces the whole complex field of Income Tax, Capital Gains Tax, Capital Transfer Tax investment income and property ownership.

It's published by Wilfred T. Fry Ltd., who have specialised in this area since 1898. Our experience in the special needs of the overseas resident - particularly at the difficult time of retirement to the UK - is renowned.

THE BRITISH EXPATRIATE

Send for this
free guide

Send for your
copy now - and you could save
yourself a lot of time and trouble
later on. To say nothing of tax.

To: Wilfred T. Fry Ltd., 6th floor, Chronicle House, 72/78 Fleet St., London EC4Y 1HY.
Tel: 01-353 5988. Please send me, without obligation,
a copy of your brochure 'The British Expatriate'.

Name _____

Address _____



Wilfred T. Fry Ltd.

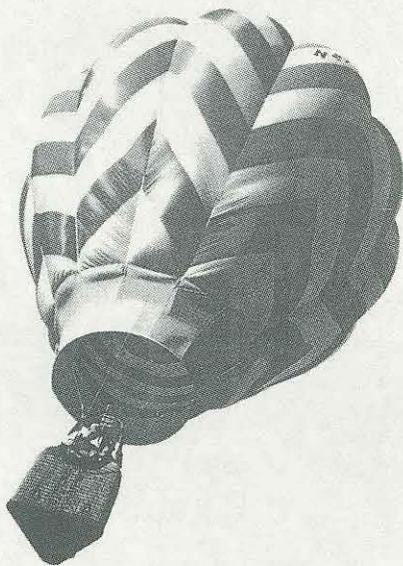
Offices also in Worthing and Exeter.

UP IN THE AIR WITH NOTHING TO DO?

RENT A VIDEO

Relax at the end of the day and watch a film of your choice at a convenient time.

Video brings to you a whole new world of entertainment.



TV Rentals
233-1041

VIDEO, TELEVISION, AIR-CONDITION, REFRIGERATORS



GOLF

ROSE GARDEN 26TH APRIL 1981

Top twenty news flashes

1. D. Frost was wearing pink underpants.
2. H. Daniels won first prize with 38 stableford points.
3. Best booby score went to Ian Halliday.
4. It was hot.
5. Golf is not for the over forties.
6. B. Stewart deposited his clubs in a klong. Sheer bad temper (and he did not tip his caddy for retrieving them).
7. Peter Adcock and Richard Mooney (formerly lady killers) were defeated by Sheila Neville and Eileen Ford in the Dunlop championship.
8. Peter Adcock and Richard Mooney don't like Shiela Neville and Eileen Ford.
9. John Burrows used bad language.
10. So did George Walcke.
11. We welcomed new member Ron Ogg, and saw John Watkins after a long break.
12. Tom Alderton is a lovely lad ... he always loses all bets he accepts.
13. Borneo Coy sponsored the meeting ... many thanks again to this great supporter of the Golf Section.
14. Klostie Frostie (playing with Sally), missed a 12 inch putt on the final green to lose their Dunlop match to the Goodin/Long pair of combinations.
15. Neil Duggan is thinking about giving up golf (and all his partners look forward to that).
16. Jeff Moss with 39 points took the 'B' division prize (wife and best baby looking on).
17. One of Salter's smelly cigars (oft called smouldering turds) was seen to walk off the 3rd tee without assistance.

18. Dave Cobbett's tummy troubles were evident at the 2nd, 5th, 14th and 17th tees and near the 8th and 12th fairways. He should stay at home on such occasions.
19. So should the wise Vize. His golf did nothing for the greenkeeper's peace of mind. At least you're super company, Les.
20. Where did Derek Johnson's caddy go after the match?

Hua Mark Sunday 10th May

The big day. 40 golfers aspiring to be the 1981 BC club champion appeared for the main event of the year. 5 hours later there were 40 golfers no longer aspiring to be the 1981 BC club champion (except perhaps for David Frost, who had at least tried and found himself in the lead by the half way stage). The second round still to come, more pessimists were evident than optimists, but at least there was consolation to be found in the fact that someone had to win. Also, our friendly sponsors Commercial Union/Guardian Assurance Companies had promised all participants prizes, so the fact that the actual championship was at stake took on lesser importance, perhaps.

Apart from young Frost, Bob Allen scored well (which is more than could be said for Neil Duggan, John Watkins, Richard Mooney, Derek Johnson, Brian Lewis and a few others), turning in his cricket bat for the day. Bob's gross 80 was followed by an 84 from Hans Daniels, with Johns Kerr and Burrows on 85. Thomas Moran had an 87, which was considered not bad for someone who only plays golf 7 days a week. Wee 'Sally baby' Voravarn had a super 69 net, being chased on the net front by Joe Urwin, John Salter, Ian Halliday ("there must be some mistake") and possibly by Ian MacLean (if only he had been playing).

Ever forward to the 2nd round on May 24th, and good luck to all my readers.

Hua Mark Sunday 24th May

Mad dogs and....eleven strong swimmers breaststroked their way through depths variously described as 2 to 20 feet, in a valiant effort to beat the floods and win the final round of the Club Championship. Three cars were drowned in transit, as were the eleven strong swimmers after arrival at the Hua Mark Club, when they learned that the course was closed (due to unavailability of rescue submarines) but the bar was open. Our

friendly sponsors Commercial Union and Guardian Assurance Companies in the form of the wee and big D's, Davidson and Douglas, were immediately blamed for this disaster, but forgiven after picking up the bar tab and arranging for a free show of caddies parading in bikinis in one of the waterlogged bunkers.

The Club should be proud of these eleven members.

Where else in the world would such madness prevail?

For the record, the final will now take place at the next outing, at the Rose Garden, at 8.45 a.m. on June 14th.

Also for the record, and so that the absentees can realise who their crazy fellow members were, the eleven sailor boys were Messrs. Alderton, Davidson, Douglas, Duggan, Frost, Halliday, Urwin, Isle, Lamb, Miller and Mooney.



THE TERRIBLE TRIO

*Alderton, Mooney, and Isle taking breakfast
before the game*



LOCH LOMOND LINKS

*Golf Section Secretary Miller preparing to putt on
The 1st Green on May 24th*



'BOTTOMS UP'

*Halfway House in the championship. The leader David Frost
celebrates with sponsors Davidson and Douglas.*



OH HAPPY BAND OF PILGRIMS (APRES LE DELUGE)

The ancient mariners who reached Hua Mark on Floods' Day
24th May



LADIES' GOLF

Despite the heat and the holiday movement of our members we continue to have extremely good support for our weekly competitions.

The results for April were, briefly:

April 7th - Stableford

Winner: Eileen Ford 38 points

April 14th - Bogey

Winner: Sheila Neville Plus 2

April 21st - Stroke

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Best net over 18: | Sheila Kerr | Net 71 |
| Best net front 9: | Judy King | Net 35 |
| Best net back 9: | Krystina Kukielka | Net 32 |

April 28th - Month Medal

Silver Division:

| | | |
|---------|--------------|--------|
| Winner: | Joan Jurgens | Net 78 |
|---------|--------------|--------|

Bronze Division:

| | | |
|---------|----------------|--------|
| Winner: | Loretta Parker | Net 69 |
|---------|----------------|--------|

We played a Flag competition on Tuesday 12th May and this proved to be great fun. The ladies made their own flags and the hilarious variety says much for the ingenuity of our lady golfers. The winner (with a net 75) was Krystina Kukielka.

In the Dunlop Cup Sheila Neville and Eileen Ford won their way through to the semi-finals where they were ousted by the formidable team of Hans Daniels and George Walck. It was too bad for Sheila and Eileen that they met Hans and George on one of their devastatingly "on" days but all four players agreed that it was a pleasant and hard fought game.

Programme for June:

Tuesday 2nd June - Stableford

Starter: Millie Marshall (251 9558)

Tuesday 9th June - T's and F's

Starter: Eileen Ford (252 2074)

Tuesday 16th June - Bisque Bogey

Starter: Joyce Lumsden (252 8402)

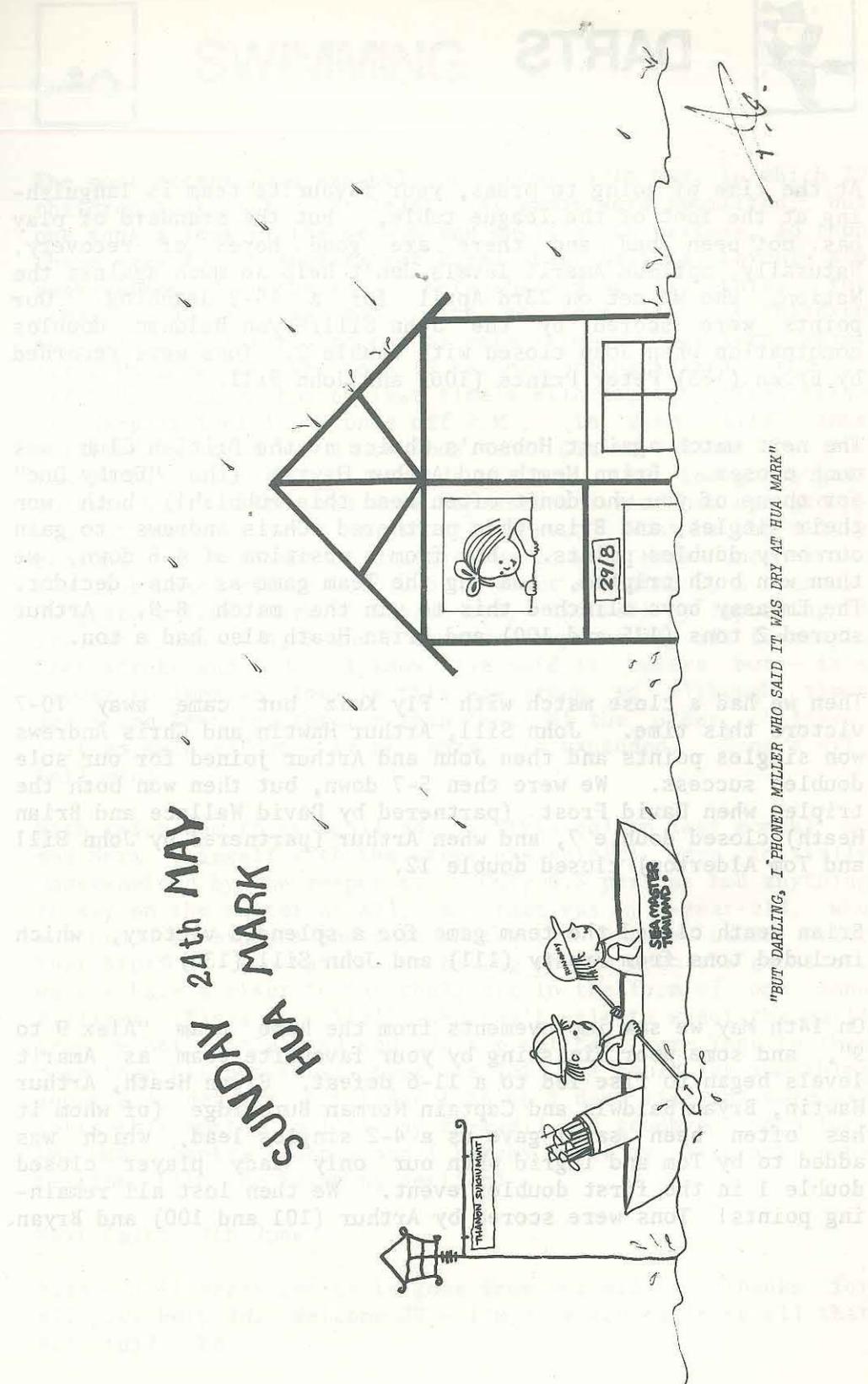
Tuesday 23rd June - Stableford

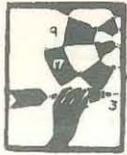
Starter: Eileen Ford (252 2074)

Tuesday 30th June - Medal

Starter: Joyce Lumsden (252 8402)

The Starter makes out cards and arranges the draw in advance, so if you have not signed up and you wish to play please try to inform the Starter before the competition. It will be appreciated.





DARTS

At the time of going to press, your favourite team is languishing at the foot of the league table, but the standard of play has not been bad and there are good hopes of recovery. Naturally, optimum Amarit levels don't help so much against the Nation, who we met on 23rd April for a 15-2 drubbing. Our points were scored by the John Sill/Bryan Baldwin doubles combination when John closed with double 9. Tons were recorded by Bryan (133) Peter Prince (106) and John Sill.

The next match against Hobson's Choice at the British Club was much closer. Brian Heath and Arthur Hawtin (the "Derby Duo" for those of you who don't often read this rubbish!) both won their singles, and Brian then partnered Chris Andrews to gain our only doubles points. But from a position of 4-8 down, we then won both triples, leaving the Team game as the decider. The Embassy boys clinched this to win the match 8-9. Arthur scored 2 tons (125 and 100) and Brian Heath also had a ton.

Then we had a close match with Fly Kwiz but came away 10-7 victors this time. John Sill, Arthur Hawtin and Chris Andrews won singles points and then John and Arthur joined for our sole doubles success. We were then 5-7 down, but then won both the triples when David Frost (partnered by David Wallace and Brian Heath) closed double 7, and when Arthur (partnered by John Sill and Tom Alderton) closed double 12.

Brian Heath closed the team game for a splendid victory, which included tons from Frosty (111) and John Sill (136).

On 14th May we saw improvements from the home team "Alex 9 to 9", and some poor finishing by your favourite team as Amarit levels began to rise led to a 11-6 defeat. Brian Heath, Arthur Hawtin, Bryan Baldwin and Captain Norman Burbridge (of whom it has often been said) gave us a 4-2 singles lead, which was added to by Tom and Ingrid when our only lady player closed double 1 in the first doubles event. We then lost all remaining points! Tons were scored by Arthur (101 and 100) and Bryan.



SWIMMING

The most recent Gala was held on Sunday, 10th May, in which 39 children took part. At least, 41 names were submitted, but one took a look at the set-up and declined to partake, so then there were 40. Another got bored about half-way through and ~~sunk-without~~ disappeared. Notwithstanding all this, the remaining 39 did very well, with no less than 16 children improving their times on one or more strokes. Star turns were, first Matthew Sill who took 15 seconds off backstroke and 22 off I.M. - and on top of last time's efforts, too! Then Maree Prendergast took 16 seconds off I.M.; in free style, Anne Williams improved by 11 seconds and Claire Salinas by 10. Tamara Mattinson took 11 seconds off I.M. But the glory goes to Katy Sill (often the sole representative of her age-group) who bettered her own times in all races. Must be the Sill-year season.... A moment of drama occurred when Mark Duncan broke the Club's back-stroke record of 5 years' standing by 2 seconds. Congratulations, Mark. Sandra too, did well by improving on her own times of 4, 5 and 3 seconds respectively off freestyle, back-stroke and I.M. I know I've said it before but - it's harder to improve times in this age group, so although times may sound less spectacular than those of the older children, just as much effort - if not more - is expended. Sandra will tell you!

With reference to my small ad., (this column last month) me and Norm (himself with the green eye-shield) were initially underwhelmed by the response. Only 0.5 persons had anything to say on the matter at all, and that was my 8-year-old, who was heard to express the opinion that, "Anyone could write that stuff." Two Mattinsons having thrown down the gauntlet, we now have a riser to the challenge in the form of one John Williams (Bless you, Sir!) who can't wait to wrest the quill from my hot little hand and add a great deal more Tone to this page than has previously been its lot. I could say something about B.A. degrees, but I don't think I dare risk any more bad jokes this month, so I'll say farewell and goodbye - Good Luck and Many Thanks, John - and I hereby sever my literary connections with the Swimming section!

Next Gala: 7th June.

Alas - a literary genius is gone from our midst. Thanks for all your help JM. Welcome JW - I'm sure you can't be all that B.A. (d)? - Ed.



BILLIARDS

Mabbatt Cup Competition

Preliminary rounds have been played and the semi-finals and final are programmed to be played by end of May and 1st week in June respectively. Players are requested to keep themselves informed of progress by reading the notices so that the finals are not delayed.

Hamilton Cup Competition

Billiards specialists will be interested in this competition which is getting under way now. English rules are to be played. Snooker players should enter for the sheer joy of winning points when the cue ball vanishes. Entry forms have been posted.

Further competitions during 1981

A programme for 1981 has been mapped out and is given below. Considerable interest has been evident since the rearrangement of the Clubhouse and all Club cups are to be played for this year. The competitions are programmed as follows:

| | | |
|---------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Jan/Feb | Leonowens Cup | (Volunteer Snooker Singles) |
| Apr/May | Mabbatt Cup | (Snooker Singles) |
| Jun/Jul | Hamilton Cup | (Billiards Singles) |
| Aug/Sep | O'Connell Cup | (Volunteer Snooker Singles) |
| Oct/Nov | Fothergill Cup | (Volunteer Snooker Doubles) |

In December it is intended to play for the Ashes, nominally England v. Australia. This match will be followed by presentation of the trophies for all competitions.

It is also intended to arrange for a continuous ladder competition. Details will be posted when the ladder board is available.



SQUASH

League 31 has been extended to 14th June so all late starters please finish your matches.

The Brutes lunch-time squash matches - perhaps contests would be a better word - continue, although some changes are about to take place. "The Brute" (JS), who lost a close encounter of the umpteenth kind in the league to Father Brute (DG) is about to move to London although threatens to partake of every league by frequent visits. Beware! The Other Brute is suffering a loss of form - the strains of office?

It is said there is some relief over in Ploenchit with the departure of the Lesser Brute, but a touch of colour is missing with the temporary absence of The Pretty Wee Brute. It has been heard that the New Brute - slimmer-lined version - did not respond to his title and is trying hard to earn the title of "Pretty Wee Brute". Keep trying, Pat!

Not much has been seen of the Potential Brute (JF) recently but doubtless his presence will be felt soon enough. Bob Boulter did not feel honoured when asked to join the Brutes and has declined the title of "Heavy Breathing Brute".

All those interested in joining the Brutes please contact the Blanc space.

The squash committee would like to thank John for his work in organising the leagues and wish him and Audrey all our best wishes.

Prizes

Prizes for previous leagues are available, a list of prize winners who have not claimed their prizes will be put up on the squash notice board and prizes will be available for collection at the reception desk.

COURT NO. 1

Court No. 1 is currently under repair and will be ready by the end of June.

SECTION RULES

1. Suitable clothing i.e. shorts and shirts with shoes must be worn on court at all times.
2. The booking of squash courts and use of the courts requires that a sticker must be placed on the time sheet on the appropriate time slot. Players on the courts who have not put a sticker down will be asked to put a sticker down or leave the court. Please remember that we all are paying for the third court.

THE BANGKOK SAMARITANS

The Bangkok Samaritans is a voluntary organisation. It is worldwide, confidential and non-religious, aiming to reach out to those in despair.

If you are feeling unhappy, distressed, desperate or suicidal please telephone 235 4000. The volunteer at the other end wants to listen and to talk through your worries, anxieties and problems with you. All that is said is strictly confidential and there are no charges or obligations.

We try to keep the number manned 24 hours daily, but there is always someone available between 2 p.m.- 7 a.m.

BBC Kent Thailand Limited
BROWN BOVERI
189 Asoke Road Sukhumvit 21
Bangkok Thailand

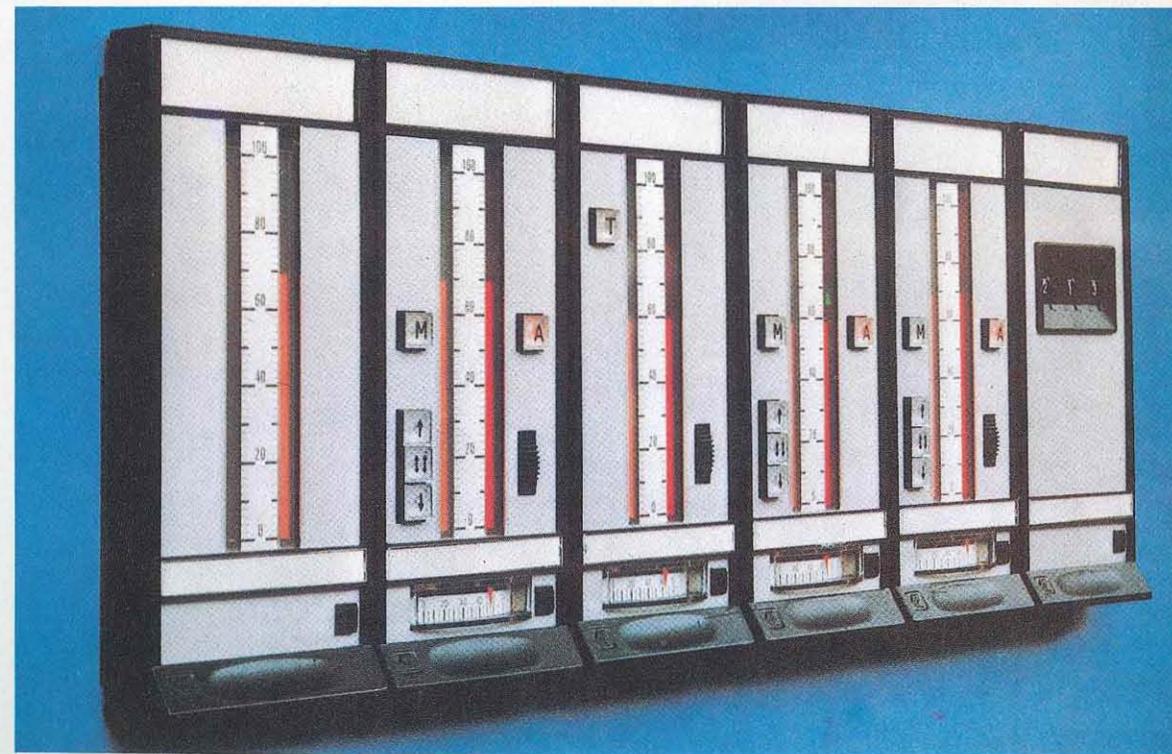
MEASUREMENT AND CONTROL FOR INDUSTRY
Telephone 391 5177 Telex KENTTHAI TH 2776

A choice of control architecture

As with displays, there are many factors governing the choice of architecture of a modern display system; with the new P4000 range, Kent minimise the constraints of selection.

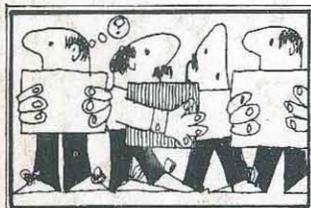
For both small and major plant applications, the traditional discrete controller mounted within its own mounting case, is still favoured by many. The P4000 discrete controller can be powered from its own individual power unit or a centralized bulk power supply system, providing for mains or DC operation. The controller output signal can be analog or incremental to suit the mode of plant operation. The units are fully compatible with both the Centralized Display System and the computer control equipment. Alternative forms of plant termination are available.

Where rack-mounted control is required, or where the advantages of having a short case display unit are needed, the Kent P4000 split architecture system is available with the same output choice and compatibility capability as the discrete instrument. The short case displays are coupled to the system via standard plug and socket cables minimizing the system's engineering requirement. Plant terminations are centralized within the control racking and the power supply system can be mains or DC operated.

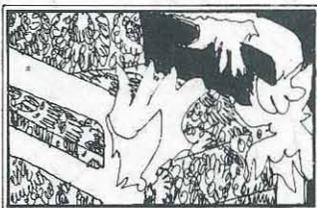


Everyone would agree that moving can be troublesome, worrisome and wearisome. Right?

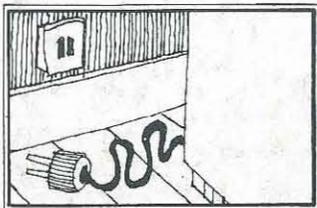
These useful tips will help you...



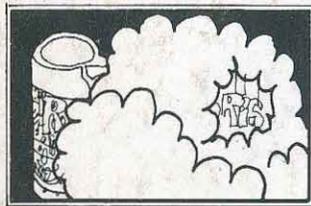
Avoid crowds during packing days by selling unwanted items well in advance. Packing is more secure and faster if only packers are present during packing days.



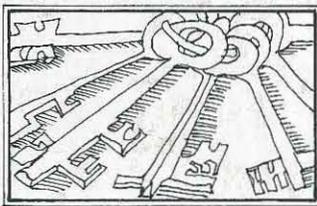
New furniture should be delivered at least two weeks before packing to ensure dry finishes. Furniture should not be oiled during the last two weeks as the oil might seep during transit: wrapping paper may adhere to and spoil finishes.



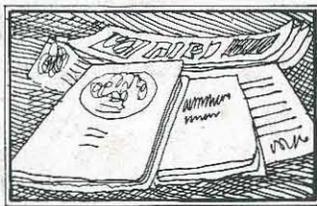
If possible, disconnect all electrical appliances, particularly refrigerators, deep freezers, airconditioners and stoves, the day before packing.



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



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



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

And for your smoothest move ever...



TRANSCO INTERNATIONAL LTD.
134/31 Soi Athakrabi 3, Rama IV Road,
Bangkok, Thailand
Tel: 3921784, 3926010, 3927194
Cables: TRANSCOS BANGKOK