



# Outpost

June

M A G A Z I N E

2000





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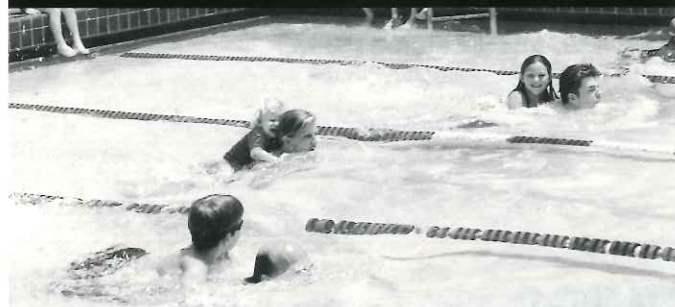
### Contributions

If you would like to Contribute to Outpost please contact the Editor, Gaynor de Wit, on Tel: 285 4721-3, Fax: 678 1292



### Outpost Magazine

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



New Members – Family Tanguy

Happiness around the pool!

Golfing father-and-son partnership Paul and Matthew Jensen

Umpire Damon keeping the tennis score with Dei's help

The Band of HM Royal Marines in action

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### Outpost Magazine

is produced on behalf of the British Club by The Creative Partnership.

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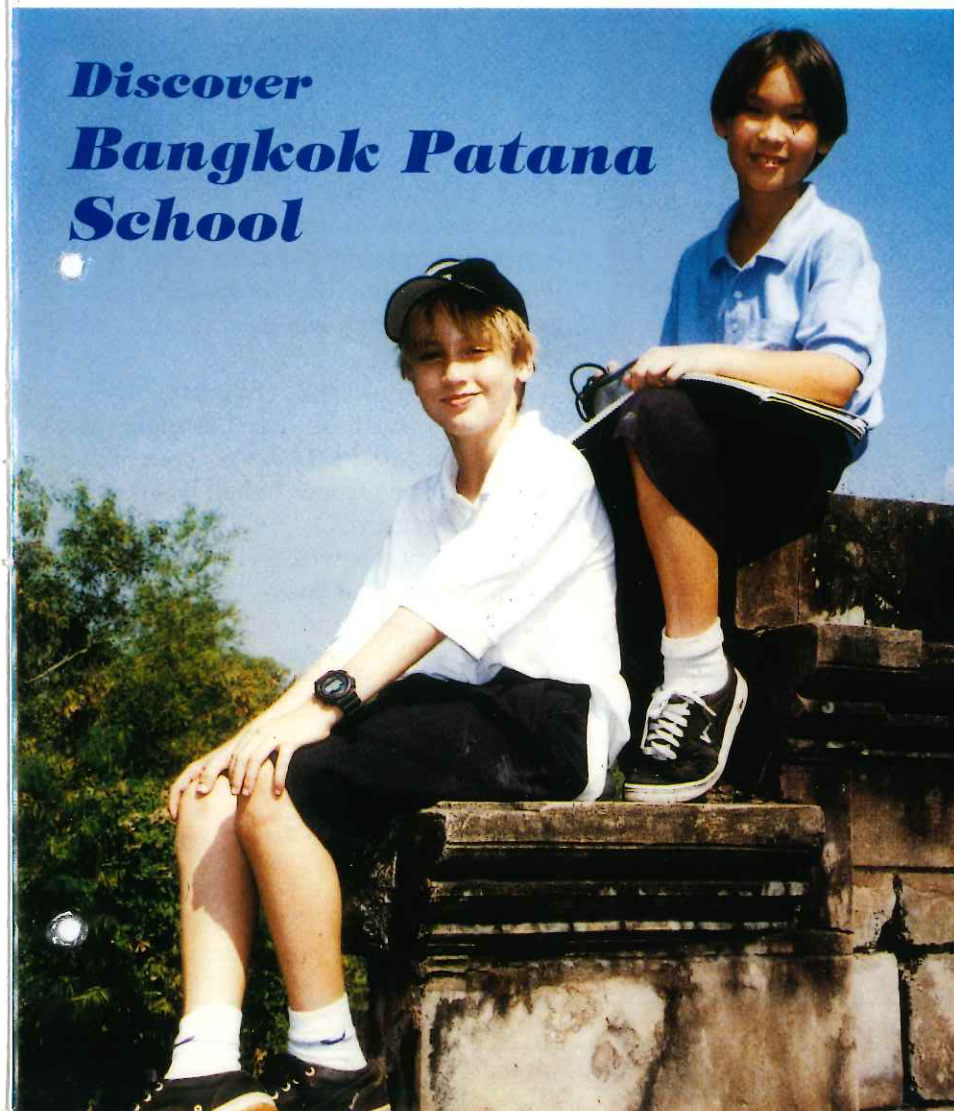
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From the Editor

## Tiger's Alive!

Along the lines of a recent idea raised by GM Willem there appears this month the first of a new series: "Meet a Member". We already have "Meet the Staff" and of course the monthly round-up of New Members, so now we have the opportunity to find out a bit more about some of our longer-term members, their link with the British Club and what they get up to in their spare time. We start off this month with Bryan Baldwin, Chairman of the Club from 1991-1993, and a well known and highly respected figure in Bangkok's business and social community.

If you have any comments about this column, or would like to interview someone yourself (I have a long list of people I intend to nobble for a chat, if you'd like interviewee suggestions!), please contact me at The Creative Partnership or at the Club.

Indeed, I'm grateful for all feedback regarding the contents or look of *Outpost* – it gives me faith that people actually read it! For example, I was pleased to hear from a few members who agree with me about the name of the magazine, having read the article "Why *Outpost*?" in the last issue.

Now, you can't complain that nothing ever happens at the Club – this month you have two whole pages overleaf of what's going on, including all the sports fixtures and regulars, to pore over. Surely a choice of romantic dinner, family outing to a gorgeous little island on Bangkok's doorstep, bar quiz, old time music hall dinner theatre, wine tasting, networking evening, barbecues, summer salads, the continuation of mangofest (and very tasty it is too, may I say) and much more is enough to keep you lot occupied for one month? If not, any other good suggestions to the Management, but any amusing ones to me!

And that brings me onto another subject: we haven't had any letters to *Outpost* for some time, and with so much going on too; where are all the scribes?

As for the title of this message... In a recent issue of *Outpost* Sherry mentioned that our Creative Partnership cat, Tiger, had gone missing and was feared dead; he had been replaced by Rambo, a real fighter full of kitten-ish beans, a photo of which appeared in that issue. However, nothing is as it seems in this country, so it came as little surprise when Tiger walked through the door one day, cool as you like, more than two months after his disappearance. He was several pounds thinner and quite listless, but you can't mistake a big tabby like Tiger in Thailand. Obviously, rumours of his demise were greatly exaggerated. And after many good feeds he's now looking healthier and makes a patient ambush victim for Rambo. The final twist to the tail (*sic*), Rambo has turned out to be, er, female, so we're still trying to think of a new, suitably butch name for her! Any suggestions, please pass them on to Sherry or myself.

Yours, tucking into yet another Mango Vacherine while they last...



Gaynor de Wit  
Editor



Gaynor de Wit



# Friday Night Means Music!

## No Fixed Abode in the Bar

### Friday nights

Come and listen to 'No Fixed Abode', Bangkok's Celtic, Antipodean and folk band, every Friday in the Churchill Bar from 8pm until midnight, and enjoy an evening of good music, fine fare and convivial atmosphere!

## June Salads!

Throughout the month of June there will be variety of summer salads on offer at the poolside. Not just for the weight-conscious, these delicious salads make a refreshing meal when you don't fancy a cooked meal, or a light accompaniment to your favourite dish. Try one this summer!

## Romantic Dinner Cruise

### Saturday 3 June

BC members and guests are invited to a romantic dinner cruise on the Loy Nava luxury authentic teak rice barge up the Chao Phraya. Pre-cruise cocktails and canapés will be served on the front lawn from 7pm, then a coach will transfer members to the pier to board the cruise. The price of 1,300 baht per person includes the cocktails, Thai and seafood dinner, soft drinks, local beer and a half-bottle of wine. Sign up at Reception.

## Network Night - Canadian

### Tuesday 6 June

The Thai-Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the British Club are jointly organising a Network Night at the BC on Tuesday 6 June from 6-9pm. An excellent opportunity to meet new friends and business partners! A light cocktail menu shall be provided by the Club. Please contact Khun Weena for details or sign up at Reception.



## Bar Quiz is Back!

### Saturday 10 June

By popular demand, the BC will be holding another Bar Quiz in the Churchill Bar on Saturday 10 June, kicking off at 8pm. Will the "Question Marks" team retain their title for the second time in succession? Will the "Spoofers" see a turnaround in fortune? Teams of six are needed, at just Bt 100 per head; sign up at Reception.

## Old Time Music Hall!

### Wednesday-Saturday, 14-17

Don't miss BCT's "Old Time Music Hall" at the BC this month, the delightful variety show full of lively songs and comedy sketches set in Victorian/Edwardian England period. If possible, come dressed in the costume of that era - you could win a prize!

A 3-course dinner and a great evening of traditional entertainment for just 750 baht, obtainable from Reception. Pre-dinner cocktails on the front lawn, delectable dining and a rare glimpse into those glorious "Good Old Days"!

## A Magical Day at Koh Kred

### Saturday 24 June

The BC is organising a delightful trip to Koh Kred, the island in the Chao Phraya River just up-river from Nonthaburi, which houses an old Mon community producing beautiful pottery at low prices. A magical day for family and friends, the day starts at 9am with a 'Bucks Fizz' breakfast on the river, a pleasant interlude on Koh Kred itself, exploring its wats, museum and houses displaying the local potteryware all available at very reasonable prices, then it's on to the gorgeous Suan Thip Riverside restaurant, where the BC has a private sala reserved for our buffet lunch. For the kids there will be face painting, a magic show, clowns and cartoons! Sign up at Reception,

adults 1,300 baht and kids under 12 850 baht, including transport, all food and soft drinks.

## Robert Mondavi Wine

### Friday 30 June

Another in the popular free wine tasting series, there will be a tasting of Robert Mondavi Californian wines on Friday 30 June, with wines kindly supplied by Vanichwathana. For more details call Barry or Khun O, or sign up at Reception.

## Social Dance Party!

### Tuesday 27 June

Get those twinkle toes back in action! The dancing course which started in May will culminate in a party on Tuesday 27 June in the Surawong Room, kicking off at 7pm. Music covering the waltz, tango, Cuban rumba and the cha-cha-cha and more, this party will show how much the dancers have improved over the course!

## Mangos at the BC!

To celebrate the wonderful mango season in Thailand the BC will be offering all sorts of mango specials around the Club, including Mango Cheesecake, Mango Ice Cream, Mango Vacherine, Mango with Sticky Rice and Mango and Vanilla Gateau. As a special in the bar try our Mango Daiquiri for a real seasonal punch!

## Poolside BBQ: EAT ALL YOU CAN!

### Friday nights

"Eat All You Can" at the barbecue at the poolside every Friday from 6.30-9pm, including beefburgers, lamb koftas and sausages, and the likes of tiramisu for dessert, all for the ridiculously low price of Bt 295 for adults and Bt 185 for kids under 12 - and the kids get free Coke too!

## Kids Corner

Every weekend we are organising activities for kids.

- On Saturdays there is a cartoon movie from 2pm onwards in the Surawongse Room or the Wordsworth Room.
- On Sundays from 2pm to 3.45pm there are children's games on the front lawn, such as lawn games, board games and an art corner. At 4pm there is a cartoon movie shown on the second floor of the Clubhouse. Orange squash and popcorn will be provided free of charge at both events. For details, please contact Khun Goi.

## Yearbooks!

Your annual BC Yearbook is available for collection. If you haven't already got your copy, simply ask for one at Reception

month advertising the following:  
Swim camps • Tennis camps • Sport camps  
• Sailing camp • Adventure camp.

## New Fitness Centre?

Check out the renovated Fitness Centre! A new carpet and some rearranging of our current equipment have created a much more user-friendly space. The Fitness Centre staff are always happy to help you with your workout or form while completing a specific exercise.

**Aqua Aerobics** - sees the return of Yulia Reshetnikova to our pool to lead the members through their paces. Yulia had a day or two with Liz Beal, the previous teacher, and together with the members is learning all the time to improve her class. Every Tuesday and Thursday, 10.30-11.30am.

**Cardio Kick** - The concept is the use of martial arts movement - kicking and punching - to music, working up a good sweat safely. Every Wednesday and Friday, 9.30-10.30am.

**Swimming** - Currently running Swimming on Tuesday and Friday afternoons for kids who can swim but not really well, and on Saturday morning and early afternoon for children of all abilities (babies up to lap swimmers). Tuesdays, 3-5.30pm; Fridays, 4-6pm; Saturdays, 9am-1.30pm.

**Masters Swimming** - Training sessions with coach Quentin Stossel; good fun and we have a great group of individuals who plug away to Quentin's orders. Mondays & Thursdays, 6-7pm.

## SPORTS UPDATE

For all the following activities please contact Damon (SRC) or any member of the Fitness Centre staff, Khun Amnat, Kiat or Rit.

## Adult Tennis

### Friday nights, 6-7pm

Tennis lessons for adults start on the grass courts on Friday nights after the kids' lessons finish at 6pm, comprising a session of 4 weeks focusing on specific parts of the game. **Intermediate Tennis** - June 9, 16, 23, 30 - covers placement of shots, learning how to play approach shots and going up to net, and court coverage at the net and learning how to move effectively from the baseline. A minimum of 4 students, maximum of 12 for each course (6 per court), and the cost is 1,500 baht; sign up in the Fitness Centre.

## Sports & Activity Camps

There will be a number of sport and activity camps throughout the summer (July and August), mostly in August. Keep eyes peeled for flyers from the SRC this

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## Aquatics 1 - Scuba

### Examples of underwater photography and the effects of water depth on colour and contrast.



Student: Colour photograph at 2.5 metres depth without strobe. The water is not very clear and it is a partially cloudy day. Notice the strong blue cast and look at the student's whistle near the top above his head. It is actually a very strong orange colour, but now appears pink.



Plastic truck: Colour samples used in my underwater photography course for light and distance. Taken in the pool without strobe light on a very bright and clear midday at 2.5 metres depth. Note the colours red and orange are still good.



Two divers: Myself and my wife Ming, taken in 20 metres of darker water with a strobe light. Compare the detail and colour of the same orange whistle on my left side with that of the student's in only 2.5 metres of water.



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# All Change at the BC

## Sports & Activity Camps

There will be a number of sport and activity camps throughout the summer (July and August) with most happening in August. I will send out flyers with the details during June, but we will most likely have the following activities:

Swim camps • Tennis camps • Sport camps  
• Sailing camp • Adventure camp

## New Fitness Centre?

The accompanying pictures show the renovated Fitness Centre. A new carpet and some rearranging of our current equipment

have created a much more user-friendly space. The Fitness Centre staff, Amnat, Kiat and Rit, are always happy to help you with your workout or form while completing a specific exercise. Come by and check it out!



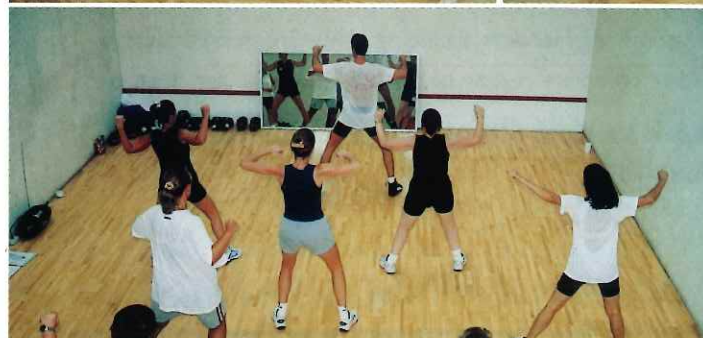
Saturday morning kids' swimming with Justin



The reward for a hard morning's swim



Kids' tennis being learned and enjoyed



Paul and his Cardio Kick class giving it welly!



## Towels and Temporary Locker Keys

These items are now available in the Fitness Centre. Don't be shy, drop by to see the guys or myself whenever you need either of them.

## Massage

Khun Saiphon is back at work after the birth of her baby boy! Proud papa Khun Champen and mama Khun Saiphon are always ready to give you a great massage, from Tuesday to Sunday, 9am-6pm for 200 baht per hour. Excellent for injury or stress release.

## Fitness Programmes

We are in the midst of change... New programmes, new instructors, new days. The ever-challenging task of keeping BC members happily supplied with quality instructors during accessible timeslots and days. The result of this search is as follows:

• **Aqua Aerobics** – sees the return of Yulia Reshetnikova to our pool to lead the members through their paces. Yulia had a day or two with Liz Beal, the previous teacher, and together with the members is learning all the time to improve her class.  
*Tuesday and Thursday, 10.30-11.30am*

• **Aerobics** – The departure of Irene means we will need to fill her shoes. At time of writing we have not yet found anyone but we will. If you are interested in Aerobics please give me a call for the most up-to-date information.



Proud parents Champen and Saiphon, ready to massage away your injury or stress

• **(NEW) Cardio Kick** – Paul Bailey, who taught this class for 7 years in slightly differing forms in both the USA and Thailand, is an excellent find for the BC. The concept is the use of martial arts movement – kicking and punching – to music. I watched the first class (see pictures) and tried some of the moves myself, and though not difficult I certainly used some new muscles... and how. You will work up a good sweat in this class and Paul has the experience to ensure your safety and keep you involved.

*Wednesday and Friday, 9.30-10.30am*

• **Friday Tennis** – We have added Adult Tennis from 6-7pm in May and June. The kids' tennis is still the same and going strong, with Paul Ho keeping track of all the kids and they really are improving (I know, as he has stopped bringing the low compression balls that the little kids all needed at the start of the year!!). Held every Friday in May and June that doesn't

fall on a long weekend or Patana School holiday – I apologise to all the other schools but the majority of our kids are from Patana.

*Kids: Friday, 3.30-6pm*

*Adults: Friday, 6-7pm*

• **Swimming** – Currently running Swimming on Tuesday and Friday afternoons for kids who can swim but not really well, and we have swimming on Saturday morning and early afternoon for children of all abilities (babies up to lap swimmers). I run the Tuesday and Friday and Saturday swimming as of June, with Justin starting programmes at Patana on Saturday. We do Babies on Saturday, good fun I must say!

*Tuesday, 3-5.30pm*

*Friday, 4-6pm*

*Saturday, 9am-1.30pm*

• **Masters Swimming** – We are running training sessions with our coach Quentin Stossel, it is good fun and we have a great group of individuals who plug away to Quentin's orders.

*Mondays & Thursdays, 6-7pm*

Following is an article on road hockey, in particular, the team that practices at the BC on Thursday nights (several of whom are BC members) and their victory in the Phuket Cup.

**Damon Nemish**  
Sport & Recreation Coordinator



The new-look Fitness Centre, with Kiat and Rit giving it the arms-up



## Mekong Cup 2000 Champions

On Saturday, April 29th the Bangkok "Thai Stix" ball hockey warriors did battle in the 6th Annual Mekong Cup International Ball Hockey Tournament, the largest ball hockey tournament of its kind in all of Asia. This event takes place every year in the middle of springtime once the winter snows of Phuket have melted, giving way to the smooth surface of the Amari Coral Beach tennis courts and exposing the soft underbelly of Patong Beach (sounds exciting doesn't it?). This year, the tournament's historical combatants were all in attendance - Bangkok, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. Heightening the drama was the fact that in spite of engaging strong troops in past years, Bangkok had never managed to win the war for regional ball hockey supremacy.

Personally, this year's tournament was truly the most extraordinary Mekong Cup that this reporter has ever been a part of over the last 4 kicks at the can. This is not simply because we won the damn thing (although that has plenty to do with it), but also the way in which we won (pulling off the most miraculous turnaround in Mekong Cup history). The team from Thailand got off to a terribly weak start, losing the first two games by a combined score of 10-3 (i.e., Singapore 4 - Bangkok 1, and Kuala Lumpur 6 - Bangkok 2).

Any reasonable person would have completely counted us out. Fortunately, we are not reasonable people. The team didn't let the dismal morning dampen its spirits. Some chalk-talk over lunch and a poolside pep-rally helped keep the team loose for the afternoon. The Thai Stix had the advantage of the other teams' supreme over-confidence and that was just the way we wanted it. They had fallen in to our trap, which we had spent 5 years perfecting. A couple of adjustments were made in the line-up, a little communal soul searching, and the team from Bangkok was off to the

racers. And the scores tell the tale:

Game 3: Bangkok 2 - Kuala Lumpur 0  
Game 4: Bangkok 1 - Singapore 0  
FINAL: Bangkok 4 - KL 2

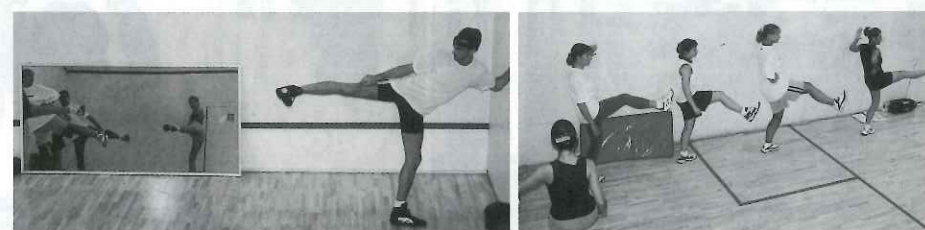
Everyone was focused and every player contributed with all they had. The Thai Stix truly played and worked together as a unit. Our founding fathers Rich Meiklejohn (now living in Sydney) and Philip Utsch (now in Seoul), despite some reservations, moved back to defense and played brilliantly. Marc Ehler, Germaine Bergeron, Keith Johnston, and Kelly Cailles made up the rest of the defensive core that thoroughly shut down opposing attackers. They were the backbone of our team and allowed only 2 goals in the three grueling afternoon games. There was not a weak link out there and guys were not afraid to throw their bodies around, blocking shots, and moving the ball like never before. The Thai Stix really took control of the play!

And Thailand's ultimate victory could only have happened with an equally strong effort from their offense. The KL and Singapore players never had time to get

set up because the Bangkok forwards were always on top of them, forcing the play and creating good scoring chances. Line-mates were as follows: John "il Duce" Casella & Shane "Pchez" Gunther, John "BBB.com" Stevens & Jamie "all the way from HK" Hunter, and the threesome of Scott "Curator of the Dave Brown Museum" Murray, Jennifer "the Girl" Hall & Harold "Tuk Tuk to the Airport" Chislett. Hats off to John, Jamie & Germaine for pulling the trigger on most of the goals, but the whole offense was clicking on all cylinders. And Pat Brundson, goaltender extraordinaire, was outstanding between the pipes and deservedly won the MVP award. The Mekong Cup was finally hoisted for the Thai Stix and the champagne overflowed. Bangkok's ball hockey players have already begun the campaign to defend their title at Mekong Cup #7 (tentatively scheduled for the end of April 2001). The team plays open scrimmages on the tennis courts at the British Club every Thursday evening starting at 9:00 p.m. Anyone interested in joining the fun should contact John Casella at (662) 231-8234 or [jcasella@churchill-pryce.com](mailto:jcasella@churchill-pryce.com).



The Bangkok "Thai Stix" ball hockey warriors celebrating their victory



Dig that right angle!

Woh-woh, the Okey-Kokey!

## A Time of Change

We are starting the new century with a new General Committee, a new General Manager with a different style of management and more activities for our Members. This has resulted in many changes, some have been implemented and there are more to come. Feedback is essential and I would be extremely pleased to hear from members with their views.

These changes include renovation projects, revised staffing levels, staff promotions, new menus at the different outlets and a comprehensive review of all the financial operations of the Club. Quite naturally, change often has an unsettling effect on staff and ours are no exception. I would like to dwell on some of the staffing issues this month.

Over recent years a number of working practices have crept into the Club and have come to be accepted as the norm by members of staff. The General Manager has been asked to resolve these issues in a timely and sympathetic manner. Regrettably a number of staff have not been able to accept our "new" working practices and have left our employment as a consequence. However well implemented these changes may be, there can be a knock-on effect. You may be seeing old faces in new places as staff lend a hand in order to get the job done.

The practices being introduced include: ensuring all staff get a full hour for lunch, overtime is no longer available on demand but when additional hours are required, staffing rosters that meet the needs of the job and standardising office hours. In conjunction with these more standard management approaches, a re-evaluation of staff benefits is being undertaken with consideration being given to the provision of staff meals, footwear and uniforms. Job descriptions and training programmes are also being introduced. This is no less than one would expect from an employer such as the British Club.

Both the Members and staff will feel the effect of these changes in the short term. These are not wholesale cuts to staffing levels, although at the recent AGM some would have us take this approach, but an interim step while suitable replacements can be identified and recruited.

The General Committee (GC) views the management of staff as a fundamental issue to be controlled by the GM. It is essential that he has the autonomy to staff the Club as he sees fit in order to meet the objectives set by the GC. Our issue is that of policy and whether the GM's plans are in the best interests of the Members.

I also would like to take this opportunity to announce the following staff promotions:

Khun Arpha	from Pool Supervisor	to Pool Manager
Khun Morakot	from Pool Waitress	to Pool Supervisor
Khun Kasem	from Lords Restaurant Supervisor	to Lords Restaurant and Churchill Bar Supervisor.
Khun Somchai	who is facing a major task in reorganizing the kitchens and will head the kitchen team.	



James Young - Chairman of the General Committee

Congratulations to you all and keep up the good work. We are justly proud of our staff and by giving them all our support, we hope to offer a better service and improve the quality of the food and service provided to Members.

Lastly, the management of the Club have gone to great lengths to organize a wide range of activities for the month of June and they sincerely hope to see all Members in the not too distant future at the Club.

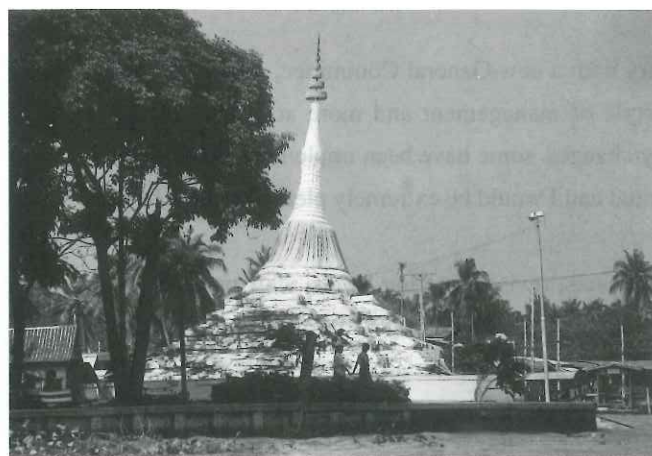
Yours sincerely,

James Young  
Chairman



**BC Trip  
to Koh Kred**

## Fabulous Day Out for All the Family!



**Saturday 24th June**

*Koh Kred is the tiny island in the Chao Phraya River 30km north of Bangkok in Nonthaburi Province, created in the 18th century when a canal was dug to by-pass a bend in the river. This isolated several Mon villages on Koh Kred, and it is their traditional pottery craft you still see today. A charming community offering good quality pottery for extremely reasonable prices, and all a delightful cruise up-river from Bangkok.*

- Set sail at 9am towards Koh Kred
- 'Buck's Fizz' breakfast on the boat, and entertainment for the kids
- Enjoy a leisurely stroll on Koh Kred:
  - \* Wander through the tiny, picturesque lanes
  - \* Observe the cottage pottery industry
  - \* Take advantage of the low prices for pottery
  - \* Explore the wats and the museum
  - \* Marvel at how the sloping chedi hasn't fallen into the water... yet
- Savour the full buffet lunch in the BC's private sala at the gorgeous "Suan Thip Riverside" restaurant
- For the kids, there's face painting, a magic show, clowns and cartoons
- Relax on the luxury coach back to Bangkok



All this for just 1,300 baht for adults, 850 baht for children under 12, which includes all food and soft drinks.



Contact Barry or Khun O for more details.  
Sign up at Reception, or fax your reservation to 235 1560 or email: [britclub@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:britclub@loxinfo.co.th)



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- Child fares are 75% of the above fares



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Tel: 236-9292/3 236-4981-2 Fax: 236-7617

E-mail: [srilankan.bkk@a-net.net.th](mailto:srilankan.bkk@a-net.net.th)



# Underwater Vision

**S** cuba diving lessons have been very active lately as some of you have noticed the tickling feeling of our rising bubbles while you are surface swimming in the pool.

We will have four or five students ready to complete their Open Water dives in June. The next topic of our Diving Medicine and Health update relates to:

## VISION

Diving, besides being a very wet sport, is definitely one of the most awesome visual experiences we can have. We dive into the underwater world to see marine life with colours ranging from almost invisible to an intense rainbow of unbelievable patterns. It is no doubt the strongest reason we pursue diving.

There can be several vision-based medical complications related to diving. These are most often associated with recent injuries, ruptured interior blood vessels or corrective surgery. Limited colour blindness, being farsighted or nearsighted, or even astigmatism is seldom a reason to prevent a person from enjoying normal recreational level diving. However, these conditions can and will have a direct bearing for those considering deep technical, commercial or military diving careers. Word of caution: if you have had any eye surgery recently please consult with your doctor first before any diving activity. Some types of eye injury and surgery require extended recovery periods.

**Blurry Vision** – Being underwater causes some very interesting changes for visitors from the land and air world. First of all, our eyes are built to see clearly in air. In water, we see everything blurry. Not to mention that salt water is not the most pleasant thing to have in your tender eyes. We must therefore employ artificial

methods to correct these problems. The best overall solution to date is the dive mask. Dive masks come in many styles, colours and sizes that provide a dry airspace in front of our eyes that allows us to see as we are used to on land. Thus that problem is effectively solved unless we accidentally get water in our mask. Do not worry, we train divers how to easily remove any water that may get into the mask while still underwater.

**Bigger and Closer** – Another interesting thing happens to our vision: due to the speed of light (warp 1 for Star Trekkies or even in our atmosphere) is slowed down in water and creates a condition called ‘refraction’. Without getting too technical, it simply means that even with our masks on we humans see everything underwater about 25% closer than it actually is. It is fun to watch a new diver for the first couple of times underwater as they reach for an object and miss it by several inches. Normally, after only a few dives, they start to adjust to this condition. Distance is

always estimated or physically measured horizontally underwater rather than vertically and can be difficult to accurately judge even by experienced divers. The other condition: objects appear 25% bigger and this is clearly observed when the new divers surface and start to tell about the “big fish” they saw underwater. Discount their tall tales by at least 25% and it will probably be more realistic!

**Bang Go the Reds** – Water does another strange thing that affects our vision. It appears to reduce nearly all the colours as the diver descends deeper. The normal daylight we see is called ‘white light’ and is actually a combination of all the colours (trust me, it’s true). However, when normal white light travels through water odd things start to happen! The water acts as a colour filter and it is very obvious to divers as they descend.

The colour affected first and most dramatically is red, depending on how clear and deep the water is as well as the amount of sunlight available. Reds will turn into muddy browns and later black, sometimes at depths as shallow as 5 metres. I remember early in my diving career when I accidentally received a small cut on my finger while diving at around 17 metres – I squeezed the injured finger and a small amount of blood came out looking as black as ink! At first it was a little scary until I remembered about the filter effect of water (and no, I do not have a black heart, as some may think!). The next colour affected is orange, followed by yellow, green and finally blue.

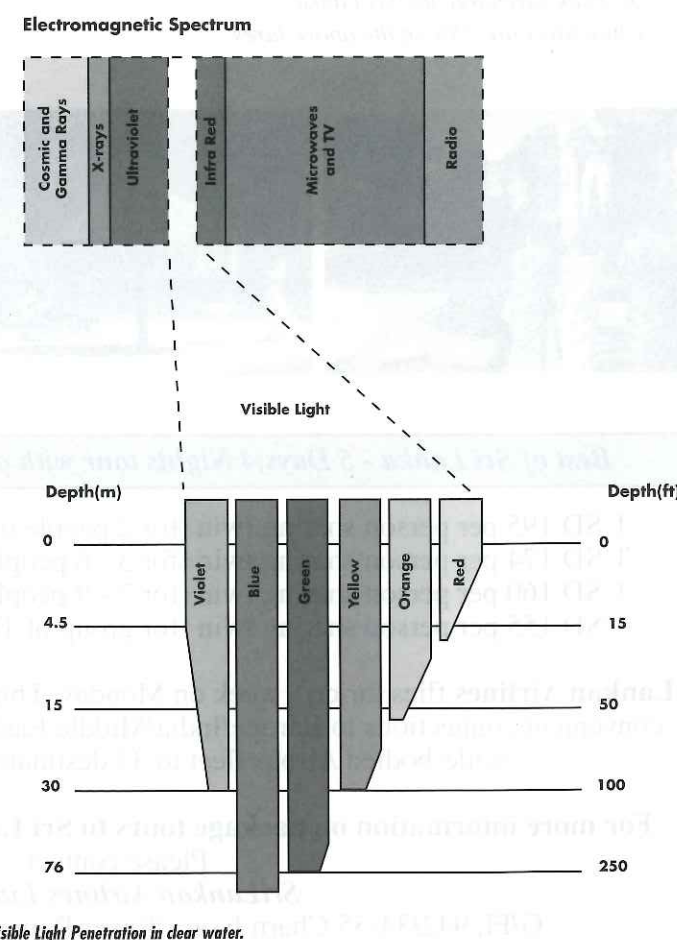
Many of you are probably thinking, “But what about all the beautiful underwater colours I see on TV in National Geographic

or Discovery programmes?” Good point! They cheat and use big powerful underwater lighting that restores the true natural colours. This is also why many smart divers today bring along a smaller bright light even during the day to see the marine life in its true colours. The problems of distance and colour in underwater photography are complex. If you ever take underwater photographs with an inexpensive diving instamatic using regular print film without using any flash and then have the film developed with fast 1-hour processing which is not corrected for underwater, the photographs will come out very blue. This is because the water filtered out or greatly reduced the warmer colours of red, orange and yellow. These problems along with distance focusing are strongly suspected of causing grey hair or baldness in many underwater photographers! For examples of these colour changes, please see the photographs on page 11.

**Imperfect Vision** – So far, so good, we have fixed all the above problems, but what about those of us with less than perfect vision on dry land? Not to worry! Divers can use their soft contact lenses (no hard lenses please) with their dive mask or can have pre-made lenses (available from -1.5 to -6.5 diopters) or your own prescription to special lenses attached to the inside of their dive mask tempered glass faceplates. From a safety point it is important that for the diver to remain visible at greater distances both underwater and at the water’s surface the colour red is not very good. The colour neon yellow is generally seen very well both under and above the water. Now you know why much of my students’ equipment (mask, fins, snorkel) and mine is neon yellow. It is all for safety, not fashion.

Peter Gary

## Water and Light



Water and Light. Here we see at the top the visible light in the electromagnetic spectrum and below what depths the colours are reduced in deeper water. (B&W illustration from the PADI Encyclopaedia of Recreational Diving)

## Solution to the May puzzle

	F	R	O	M	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	
T			O					M	D		A	
E	D	M	U	N	D		N	A	T	I	O	N
R	A		S		K			M		S		G
R	A	N	K			E			D	O	M	E
Y		S		I	N		F		N		L	
				C	R	A	N	M	E	R		
P	A		A		E			W	F		I	
H	U	N	T			D			I	R	A	N
O	G		I	Y			S		A		D	
T	W	E	L	V	E		G	H	A	N	D	I
O		L		A				O		C		A
	M	O	U	N	T	B	A	T	T	E	N	



# Calendar

British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - June 2000

## Sundays



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

## Mondays



8.00 am BWG Mahjong  
9.30 am Aerobics  
6-7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training  
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour  
7 - 9 pm Tennis Team Training

## Tuesdays



7 am Ladies Golf  
8 - 10 am Ladies Tennis  
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics  
3 - 5 pm BC Swimming Instruction  
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour  
7 - 9 pm Football Training  
7 pm Social Dance  
7.30 pm Darts  
8 - 11 pm Friendly Bridge  
9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof

## Wednesdays



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

## Thursdays



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

## Fridays



9.30 am Step Aerobics  
3.30 - 6 pm BC Tennis Coaching for Children  
4 - 6 pm BC Swimming Instruction  
5.30 pm Swimming - Junior Squad Training  
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour  
6 - 7 pm Adult Tennis  
6.30 - 9 pm Poolside BBQ  
8 pm 'No Fixed Abode' in the Churchill Bar

## Saturdays



9 am - 12 noon Squash Coaching  
9 am - 1 pm BC Swimming Instruction  
4.00 pm Casuals Football  
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour

### MAKE A NOTE!

More for the foodsters: This month poolside munch on summer salads, or simply pig out on the 'All You Can Eat' BBQ.

Sharpen those grey cells in time for Bar Quiz on Saturday 10 June!

Don your fineries for the BCT's Old Time Music Hall running from the 14th to the 17th of this month, and you could win a prize! But hurry, tickets for this popular event sell fast.

Cruise up-river in style with the BC Trip to Koh Kred on Saturday 24 June, with plenty of entertainment for the youngsters and a fascinating visit to this old Mon community and its beautiful pottery.

More wine, sir? Yes, it's another free wine-tasting for the connoisseurs and the ignoramuses among us; Robert Mondavi Californian wines and some BC snacks on offer on Friday 30 June.

For more news and details on the above, please check out 'Management News' on page 10 or contact the Club.

### Sports - Contact

Aquatics	Michele Law	295 4595
Badminton	Anant Leighrahathorn	654 0002-29
Bridge	Ernest Lee	612-3580 ext 503
Cricket	Nick White	246 0832
Football	Martin Conisbee	366 0432
Golf	Bernie Adams	675 6123
Rugby	Jon Prichard	662 6376
Sailing	Damon Nemish	266 0597
Scuba Diving	Peter Gary	634 7792
Squash	Peter Corney	381 7240
Tennis	David Blowers	285 4721-2

### Venues

Badminton	Soi Nares, behind Bangrak Police Station
Aerobics	Squash Court 3
Casuals Football	Colgate Ground, Rama III
Massage	Near the BC Squash Courts

### Opening Times

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

Bangkok Community Theatre

Sponsored by:

**B**

โรงพยาบาลกรุงเทพ  
BANGKOK GENERAL HOSPITAL

presents an

## "Old Time Music Hall"

as Dinner Theatre at The British Club, June 14 - 17, 2000

Don't miss BCT's "Old Time Music Hall" at The British Club! This delightful variety show will be full of lively songs and comedy sketches set in the period of Victorian/Edwardian England. Join in the fun and, if possible, come dressed in the costume of that era. You could win a prize!

Bt.750 per person includes a 3-course dinner (not including beverages), and tickets should be purchased well in advance from reception. Tickets go on sale mid-May, so please book early to avoid disappointment!

With pre-dinner cocktails served on the front lawn, delectable dining, and a rare glimpse into those glorious 'Good Old Days', BCT's "Old Time Music Hall" promises to be a wonderful evening's entertainment!

For more information, or advice on costume hire for this event, please call Bangkok Community Theatre on 258-8495.

Please note all ticket sales are final;  
no refunds or exchanges.



## The British Club General Committee 2000/2001

Name		Tel	Fax	Email
James Young	Chairman	712 5407-9	712 5410	asiapac@mozart.inet.co.th
Nick Bellamy	Vice-Chairman	344 1210	286 4440	nicholas.bellamy@th.pwcglobal.com
Sarah Allen		287 1046	678 8658	sarahem@ksc.co.th
Paul Cheesman		234 8537	238 1752	paul.cheesman@zingasia.com
David Eastgate		672 0123-5	672 0127	davide@loxinfo.co.th
Michelle Law		295 4595	295 4595	stephen.law@recall.in.th
Nicholas Lynx-Lomonde		705 8011	315 3337	nicholas@bkk.loxinfo.co.th
Chris Moore		747 9633	747 9677	lasanne@loxinfo.co.th
David Turner		618 6516	279 1234	davltun@mozart.inet.co.th
Leonie Vejajiva		258 5560	261 0925	warft@loxinfo.co.th

### Club Staff

Willem Pentermann  
General Manager

Barry Osborne  
Operations Manager



# April Swimming Gala attracts Big Crowd

The Club's first swimming gala of the year attracted a record crowd on Sunday, April 2 with a huge pool of enthusiastic children and quite a few parents competing for the coveted British club ribbons.



With prizes for each heat, almost all the dozens of swimmers received recognition and the applause of their peers.

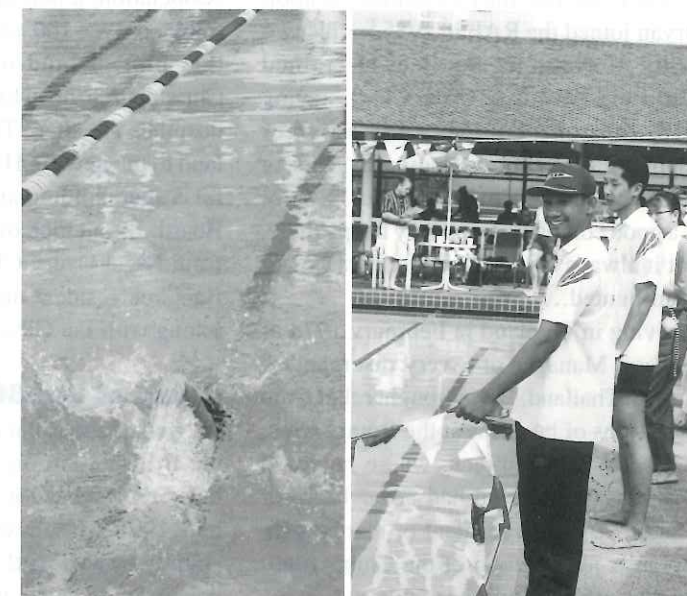
The gala threw up several stars, some of which shone in several categories. Nicholas Law walked away with first place

in five categories for 5-6-year-old boys, producing the best times for freestyle, breaststroke, butterfly, backstroke, and in the boys 100-metre individual medley. Of the older girls, Gabby Heron (girls 11/12) had the best times in freestyle, breaststroke, butterfly and individual medley. Chris Wright (boys 7/8), Olivia Johnson (girls 7/8) and Simon Mathews (boys 9/10) all produced excellent winning times in three races for their age groups. Special mention must go to a group of fathers, including freestyle and breaststroke winner Colin Isaac, who braved the wolf whistles of the entire pool to compete in their own races.

Chris Johnson

Name	Heat	Sex	Time	Name	Heat	Sex	Time
<b>Event 1 - 50m Freestyle, 13 &amp; Over</b>				<b>Event 6 - 25m Freestyle, under 5</b>			
1 Laura Hughes	1	Girls	36.34	1 Lane Ashby-King	1	Both	35.53
2 Claire Robertson	1	Girls	44.9	2 Jessica Bowden	1	Both	43.52
<b>Event 2 - 50m Freestyle, 11 &amp; 12</b>				3 Thomas Turner	1	Both	46.56
1 Gabby Herron	1	Girls	42.85	<b>Event 7 - 25m Kickboard, under 5</b>			
2 Chris Turner	1	Boys	1.16.00	1 Sam Johnson	1	Boys	48.15
<b>Event 3 - 50m Freestyle, 9 &amp; 10</b>				2 Elisabeth Leeland	1	Girls	53.31
1 Robert Hill	1	Boys	40	Jonathan Hales	1	Boys	1:04
2 Simon Mathews	2	Boys	42.83	<b>Event 8 - 50m Freestyle, Open</b>			
3 Jordan Cheyne	1	Boys	46.34	1 Colin Isaac	1	Boys	32.29
<b>Event 4a - 25m Freestyle, 7 &amp; 8</b>				2 Paul Bowden	1	Boys	33.03
1 Chris Wright	1	Boys	16.81	3 Michael Turner	1	Boys	36.09
2 Lachlan Herron	2	Boys	18.6	<b>Event 9 - 50m Breaststroke, over 10</b>			
3 Christopher Hughes	2	Boys	20.69	1 Gabby Herron	1	Girl	48
<b>Event 4b - 25m Freestyle, 7 &amp; 8</b>				2 Claire Robertson	1	Girl	48.47
1 Sophie Dumont	1	Girls	24.09	3 Laura Hughes	1	Girl	49.6
2 Belle Lau	2	Girls	27.27	<b>Event 11 - 50m Breaststroke, 9 &amp; 10</b>			
3 Stephenie Verheyen	2	Girls	27.56	1 Simon Mathews	2	Boys	51.31
<b>Event 5a - 25m Freestyle, 5 &amp; 6</b>				2 Robert Hill	2	Boys	52.09
1 Nicholas Law	2	Boys	23.25	3 Jordan Cheyne	1	Boys	54.84
2 Timothy Street	1	Boys	30.15	<b>Event 12 - 25m Breaststroke, 7 &amp; 8</b>			
3 Drew Ashby-King	1	Boys	31.22	1 Olivia Johnson	1	Girls	30.3
<b>Event 5b - 25m Freestyle, 5 &amp; 6</b>				2 Ella Boner	2	Girls	31.31
1 Anika Law	1	Girls	36.85	3 Belle Lau	2	Girls	32.02
2 Kalyun Issac	1	Girls	37.34				

Name	Heat	Sex	Time	Name	Heat	Sex	Time
<b>Event 13a - 25m Breaststroke, 5 &amp; 6</b>				<b>Event 27a - 25m Backstroke, 5 &amp; 6</b>			
1 Nicholas Law	2	Boys	28.93	1 Nicholas Law	1	Boys	31.32
2 Perigrine Dunn	1	Boys	35.23	2 Hamish Miller	1	Boys	35.72
3 Drew Ashby-King	1	Boys	36.66	3 Peregrine Dunn	1	Boys	40.12
<b>Event 13b - 25m Breaststroke, under 5</b>				<b>Event 28a - 25m Backstroke, under 7</b>			
1 Melinda	1	Both	37.94	1 Anika Law	1	Girls	51.97
2 Jena Bloomer	1	Both	43.83	2 Sebastian Berenger	1	Boys	58.05
3 Anika Law	1	Both	48.06	3 Lane Ashby-King	1	Boys	1:02.69
<b>Event 14 - 50m Breaststroke, under 5</b>				<b>Event 29 - 25m Backstroke, Open</b>			
1 Lane Ashby-King	1	Both	49.13	1 Paul Warden	1	Boys	17.75
2 Thomas Turner	1	Both	50.88	2 Colin Issac	1	Boys	17.92
3 Jessica Bowden	1	Both	54	3 Michael Turner	1	Boys	19.59
<b>Event 15 - 50m Breaststroke, Open</b>				<b>Event 30 - 100m Indiv. Medley, 9 &amp; 10</b>			
1 Colin Isaac	1	Boys	42.47	1 Simon Mathews	1	Boys	1:47.87
2 Walter Kreutnzer	1	Boys	42.97	2 Robert Hill	1	Boys	1:56.53
3 Michael Turner	1	Boys	43.65	3 Jordan Cheyne	1	Boys	2:00.06
<b>Event 16 - 100m Indiv. Medley, 7 &amp; 8</b>				<b>Event 31 - 100m Indiv. Medley, over 12</b>			
1 Olivia Johnson	1	Girls	2:29.48	1 Gabby Herron	1	Girls	1:36.78
2 Sophie	1	Girls	2:57.13	2 Laura Hughes	1	Girls	1:39.37
3 Madeline Dunn	1	Girls	3:05.91	3 Stephanie Marshall	1	Girls	2:03.75
<b>Event 18 - 50m Fly, over 10</b>				<b>Event 33a - 100m Indiv. Medley, 5 &amp; 6</b>			
1 Gabby Herron	1	Girls	42.27	1 Nicholas Law	1	Boys	2:38.97
2 Thomas Broadfoot	1	Boys	44.88	2 Peregrine Dunn	1	Boys	3:04.22
3 Laura Hughes	1	Girls	45.56	3 Hamish Miller	1	Boys	3:15.33
<b>Event 19a - 25m Fly, 7 &amp; 8</b>				<b>Event 33b - 200m Freestyle, over 9</b>			
1 Chris Wright	1	Boys	25.94	1 Laura Hughes		Girls	3:14.98
2 William Robinson	1	Boys	27.14	2 Simon Mathews	1	Boys	3:30.9
3 Bradley Isaac	1	Boys	27.82	3 Chris Wright	1	Boys	3:44.16
<b>Event 19 - 25m Fly, 5 &amp; 6</b>				<b>Event 34 - 100m Indiv. Medley, 7 &amp; 8</b>			
1 Nicholas Law	1	Boys	29.89	1 Chris Wright	1	Boys	1:59.1
2 Drew Ashby-King	1	Boys	36.45	2 Lachlan Herron	1	Boys	2:11.53
3 Sophie Berenger	1	Girls	37.53	3 William Robinson	1	Boys	2:15.92
<b>Event 23 - 50m Backstroke, over 10</b>							
1 Tom BroadFoot	1	Boys	45.34				
2 Laura Hughes	1	Girls	46.53				
3 Gabby Herron	1	Girls	47.32				
<b>Event 25a - 50m Backstroke, 9 &amp; 10</b>							
1 Simon Mathews	1	Boys	50.03				
2 Robert Hill	1	Boys	56.88				
3 Jordan Cheyne	1	Boys	59.68				
<b>Event 26a - 25m Backstroke, 7 &amp; 8</b>							
1 Chris Wright	1	Boys	24.22				
2 Lachlan Herron	2	Boys	26.53				
3 William Robinson	1	Boys	26.71				
<b>Event 26b - 25m Backstroke, 7 &amp; 8</b>							
1 Olivia Johnson	1	Girls	32.17				
2 Belle Lau	1	Girls	32.59				
3 Sophie Dumont	1	Girls	33.72				





# A Minute, Mr. Chairman

**A**ffable, modest and ever with a twinkle in his eye, Bryan Baldwin OBE is a well known figure in Bangkok circles.



Bryan Baldwin OBE

But that hint of shyness belies an impressive list of credentials which pays tribute to his many years of participation in Bangkok's commercial and social communities.

Twice bombed out of his childhood town of Catford in London, Bryan was evacuated as a boy to Harlech, North Wales, but even to this day knows only from one to eleven in Welsh. "Technically, I'm qualified to join the St. David's Society. Never did, though." Instead, Bryan joined the Bangkok St. George's Society and was in fact President in 1983. After attaining six 'O' levels and three 'A' levels from Bromley Grammar School, Bryan joined the RAF in 1955 for his two years of National Service. He joined Castrol in 1957 as an Order Clerk, staying with that one company for a career spanning 40 years, including 5 years in Germany and 20 here in Thailand. "Castrol is a good company, I was very happy there, but it always irritated me that I was never head-hunted..."

Arriving in Thailand in February 1978 as General Manager of a very disorganised Castrol Thailand, Bryan sought relief from the strains of business at the Rotary Club, Bangkok South branch, where he could "be with people who had never heard of Castrol". A past President of that branch, Bryan is justly proud of the Club's fund-raising efforts and charitable activities.

("that 'Coins on Silom' campaign raised a million baht!"). Indeed, the warmth and pride in his eyes is only too evident as he describes the annual day trip of 200 handicapped children from the Pakkred Home to the Royal Varuna Yacht Club in Pattaya, with Rotarians assisting; a rewarding activity now in its fifth year. Rotarians come from all walks of life, Bryan estimates his branch alone boasts 17 nationalities among its membership of 120, of which about 40% is Thai.

Other charity-based involvement includes sitting on the committee of the British Community in Thailand Foundation for the Needy (formerly the UKCTC), the outfit behind the hugely successful Ploenchit Fair held every November in the grounds of the British Embassy. Castrol has for many years run three stalls at Ploenchit – darts, a raffle and that confounded contorted wire electric bell game, encouraged (and sometimes manned) by Bryan himself. "Ploenchit is a really good demonstration of British participation and action in the community," a view made true as much by the dedication and hard work of people like Bryan as by the amazing coordination skills of Ploenchit supremo Carolyn Tarrant MBE.

Another little known role for Bryan is as Chairman of the Bangkok Nursing Home Association, a non-profit, charitable trust founded over 100 years ago which owns that plot of land on Convent next to Christchurch on which the old and new hospitals are sited. The BNHA leases the land to the new BNH hospital in exchange for a shareholding and three seats on the Board; Bryan took over the Chair in 1997 from Nigel Overy CBE, also a long time Bangkok resident and still on the Board (along with Ian Gibson).

## Bryan at the BC

As well as the Rotary Club, Bryan joined the British Club on arrival here in 1978 but didn't stand for General Committee until 1991, when he ended up as Chairman "purely by accident!" He explains, "I was persuaded to stand and agreed before the

AGM that if elected I would act as Vice Chairman under Nigel Oakins." However, Nigel failed to secure enough votes for election, so Bryan went straight in as Chairman. He describes his two years as "hard going" and has great admiration for anyone who gives their free time to stand on the BC General Committee.

Recollections were a tad sketchy as to what was happening at the Club during his tenure – though he did remember that Keith Bell was the GM – and his most memorable achievement was "raising the entrance fee to 40,000 baht!"

On the other hand, Bryan does recall "many great Thursday nights" at the Club, Thursday being darts night. And yes, he was Captain of the BC Darts Team for years (playing with the likes of Arthur Hawtin and Brian Heath); perhaps unsurprisingly Bryan was also President of the Bangkok Darts League! Sadly the BC Darts Section has become defunct, having been such a rich source of entertainment and camaraderie for so many.

## Baldwin and Business

Bryan's somewhat turbulent start at a Castrol in a state of disarray is now a distant – but no less significant – memory. That the company has been turned around during his tenure as GM into a thriving enterprise pays particular tribute to his management ability and his adaptability to the often-unique environment of working in Thailand. One of the difficulties he encountered was the tendency of Thais to expect the boss to do everything, and on this point he has some criticism of the Thai education system: "[It] doesn't teach you to think, so all decisions are passed to the top." In business, he says, "you have to give people accountability and responsibility, so if they make a mistake you have to handle it carefully, and continue to build up their confidence." A delicate balance, one which takes all new international managers here time to accomplish.

Bryan brought his business experience and sociable personality to bear during his many years with the British Chamber of Commerce, Bangkok (now Thailand). A popular figure on the Executive Committee,



Bryan and Orin at the recent St. George's Ball with Society President Andrew Pickup and his wife Suphanee

Bryan further extended his business connections and made many friends.

It should go without saying that with his knack of always finding himself at the helm of organisations, it wasn't long before Bryan became Chairman of the BCCB in 1992, although he insists that this too was an accident of fate. "Quite simply, they [the Executive Committee] ran out of Brits!" There were only two Brits left on the committee – he and Simon Makinson – but the Chamber's constitution stated that both Chairman and Vice Chairman must be British, so Bryan found himself as Chairman and Simon as Vice Chairman. However, according to Bryan there were some "very sharp" Thais on the committee at the time, so at the next AGM he proposed to change the rule that *either* the Chairman *or* Vice Chairman should be British. Previous British ambassadors had vetoed such a move but the then ambassador, Christian Adams, supported it, "as long as there was a British voice available in the business community for when a British dignitary came out."

That change of rule notwithstanding, Bryan stayed on as Chairman of the BCCB for five consecutive years, and remains an Honorary Advisor along with such esteemed peers as Viroj Phuttrakul OBE and M.R. Sarisdiguna Kitayakara.

And it was in 1994, during his five years incumbency as Chairman, that Bryan received the OBE for 'Services to British commercial interests in Thailand', although with typical modesty Bryan claims that this too was "also an accident". He believes that, "Christian Adams must have thought when he came out here that 'It's been a long time since there has been an award in Thailand', and I happened to be Chamber Chairman at the time."

## A Family Man

No one could accuse Bryan of *not* being a family man; after all, he's had plenty of practice at it! Married "more than once", Bryan gave wife Orin a long-service award last year for staying with him the longest! "Well, Castrol were always giving out these awards so I thought, 'why not my wife?'" Bryan became a grandfather in December when his son Anthony and his wife produced the family's first child, and this despite Bryan's requesting them "not to hurry about this!" There's also a daughter of 28 in the UK, and wife no. 2. An Aston Villa fan since the age of seven – because "Dad reckoned they were doing well and they had nice colours", Bryan gets back to the UK just once or twice a year these days. Here in Bangkok Bryan has a daughter Ariane (by wife no. 3) finishing Bangkok Patana School this year and hoping to go to Kent University in the autumn. And that's another of Bryan's occupations: sitting on the Bangkok Patana School Board, "the only one on the Board without a degree!"

On the subject of education, another of Bryan's positions is as Vice Chairman of the Thai-Pestalozzi Children's Education Fund, an organisation seeking to provide bright kids from poor families with a good education to maximise their potential. The original Pestalozzi school was set up for orphans after the Napoleonic War, followed by a village set up after the Second World War in Battle, near Hastings in Sussex, for intelligent kids from under-developed countries, the average IQ of the first intake being 136. Wife Orin was among the first children to attend, arriving in England as a 10-year-old. A Foundation was established in Thailand in 1990, with scholarship money coming from fund-

raising, the British Chamber, and corporate and private sponsorship; today there are around 100 kids going through secondary school.

## Call This Retirement?

These days Bryan has officially retired, but that doesn't mean he's sitting around. Apart from his position as Advisor to Loxley plc (major shareholder in Castrol Thailand), Bryan is Chairman of several companies, of which O'Reillys Pub on Silom Road is one of the better known. And then there's all those other roles. Personally it exhausted me just keeping up with all those positions and responsibilities, but it all must suit him as he is obviously still very much enjoying life in this, his adopted home.

And he had special reason to celebrate on the day I met him, as he had just been granted Thai citizenship, so in the bottomless annals of local bureaucracy he is now officially named 'Burin Nai-Ogard' (Mister of Opportunity), a name they picked for him!

On being asked how he feels he has made use of all the experience gained from living and working here for so many years, Bryan replies – as always – with considerable modesty. "I believe most of the help I have given is by example. Especially on matters of honesty and integrity there's no compromise, because when all else goes wrong you only have your reputation to rely on." And the best piece of advice he has received along the way? "When you think you understand Thailand you have just made your first mistake..."

Gaynor de Wit



Bryan being measured up for raffle tickets!



## Recent Events

### League 141

League 141 was completed on the 15th of April and the following members were winners of their respective divisions.

1. David Eastgate
2. Ian Walton
3. Adam Jelavic
5. Duncan Ramsay
6. Andrew Hamilton
7. Linda Eastgate
8. Wayne Needoba

Congratulations to all the winners. Dick Anwar was unlucky as he defeated all opponents in Division 2 but Ian scored more points. Adam Jelavic and David Eastgate won all their games 3-0. Unfortunately Adam is off to Singapore so we won't see him in Division 1 where he would have been excellent competition for David.

### Sunday Mix-in 7th May

Since there was no Mix-in last month and we are keen to give away those vouchers for dinners at Central Plaza Hotel (thanks again to Martin Reid). Here are the results of the first event on 7th May – will give the others next month.

Paul Taylor was back to visit from the northern borders, and he managed to

convince everyone he deserved a low handicap, but even that was not enough to beat his boss, Jack Dunford. There will be some serious re-assessment of handicaps next time out lads!

It was a very tiring afternoon, with everyone playing 6 matches, but all enjoyed the fun, except Ignacio who retired injured after 3 matches – hope you get better soon.

### Yes Let! - Play better squash

Just a quick one this month. One rule that has changed many times over the last few years regards what to do with the ball in between games. The rules of squash are reviewed every four years, and this seems to change every time, but hopefully will be stable next time around.

The rule now states that the ball should remain on court at all times. Players are not allowed to bring the ball off in between games; the exception being in matches played with the white ball (on glass or Perspex courts), where the ball may be bought off and cleaned between games.

Warm-up after break - If the players feel the ball has lost temperature they may be

allowed, at the discretion of the referee to warm the ball up, although this will not be a full five minutes, as at the start of the game.

### Coming Events

In June we have the British Club Closed championship, the Don Johnson Cup. There is a plate competition (the Parra Handy Plate) and there will also be a separate competition for ladies and juniors, so look out for entry details. The competition will start around 6th June with Finals over the weekend of 24-25th June. On the 11th June we play the annual Dawee cup competition. This is a match between the BC and the Polo Club, but is traditionally Thais versus Farangs, with 10 players per team and always good to watch and play in. This year it is hosted by the BC. On 18th June we have the Oakley Intersociety Tournament, a one day handicap event pitting the best of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia and "the Rest" against each other. The handicapping makes it a good competition for everyone.

Happy squashing  
Phil Hall

### Mix-In Results

Name	Hcap	Phil	David	Adam	Ignacio	Jack	Paul	Charles	Total
Phil Hall	-18		15	15		-3	-3	13	37
David Eastgate	-38	14		4		15	15	11	59
Adam Jelavic	-30	11	15			7	15	15	63
Ignacio Serrano	-20						(Retired Injured)		0
Jack Dunford	-5	15	12	15			14	15	71
Paul Taylor	-7	15	10	14		15		15	69
Charles Whitely	-25	15	15	11		-1	7		47

3rd

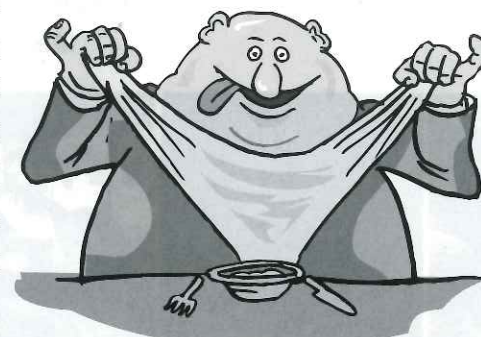
1st

2nd

## Drachena and Pampushki, Anyone?

The Central European food promotion took place in Lords Restaurant over the weekend of April 28-30th. Despite only nine having booked, an amazing 74 diners turned up to sample the interesting cuisines of the region!

Dishes for the evening included some fascinating names and demonstrated the wide variety of food on offer. [My favourite names from each category of the menu are: Borsch (soup), Pirozhki and Somogy Beans (Starters), Salmon Kulebyaka (Carvery), Kovbasa and Pampushki (Buffet) and Boyer Cream and Plum Streusel Slices (Desserts)!—G.] Hungarian and Bulgarian gypsy folk music accompanied the culinary feast but unfortunately proved rather expensive!



Also unfortunately the Club camera was once again on the blink so photos are rather scarce, and yes, Gaynor, I did have a film in the camera this time!

Many thanks to our sponsors Khun Anont, Khun Somnuk and Jim Napier of Carlsberg for the free foods and keg of beer. Decoration and wines for the evening supplied by Nicholas Wine Co, Ltd, LOT Polish Airlines and Malev Hungarian Airlines, and the Australian, German, Polish and Hungarian Embassies; and a special thanks to the Czech Embassy for the beer, wines and the smoked sausages. Once again a big thanks to the members who attended this, our 21st promotion; keep your eyes peeled for the next one!

Barrishki Osbornsch

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# Gold Plate

**R**unning out of things to say this month, still awaiting with baited breath as I am the report on the Inter-Club Ladies Doubles Tournament from March.

Anyway, this dearth of text gives me an excellent opportunity to display some of the photos taken during the Plate competition of this year's Championships, aka the Best of the Worst, and some of my favourite shots taken that day which would fall into the category of "Other"!

## Don't Forget!!

Weekend 9th-11th June – Pattaya Weekend – Always good fun, make sure you're on the list for this one! For details see the sign-up sheet.

Lotsaluv  
Me



Eileen grimly serves her way to victory



Michelle mixes aerobics with tennis, but to no avail

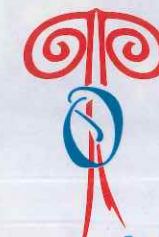
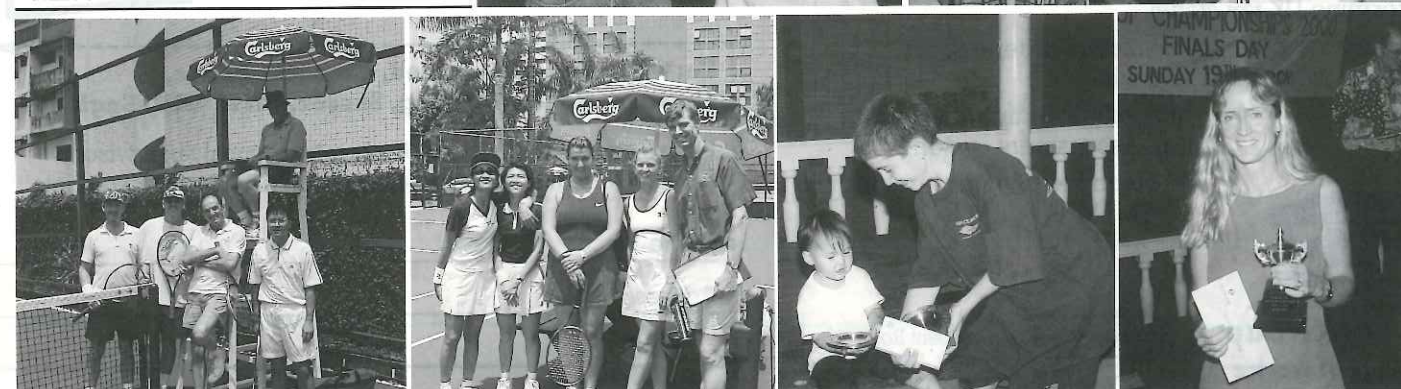
It's shots like these that make you realise what we've been doing wrong all this time

The only truly civilised way to watch tennis: tea on lap

The Union Jack and the Stars & Stripes give a High Five!



All that was left of the pig on spit after the voracious Tennis Section had had their fill



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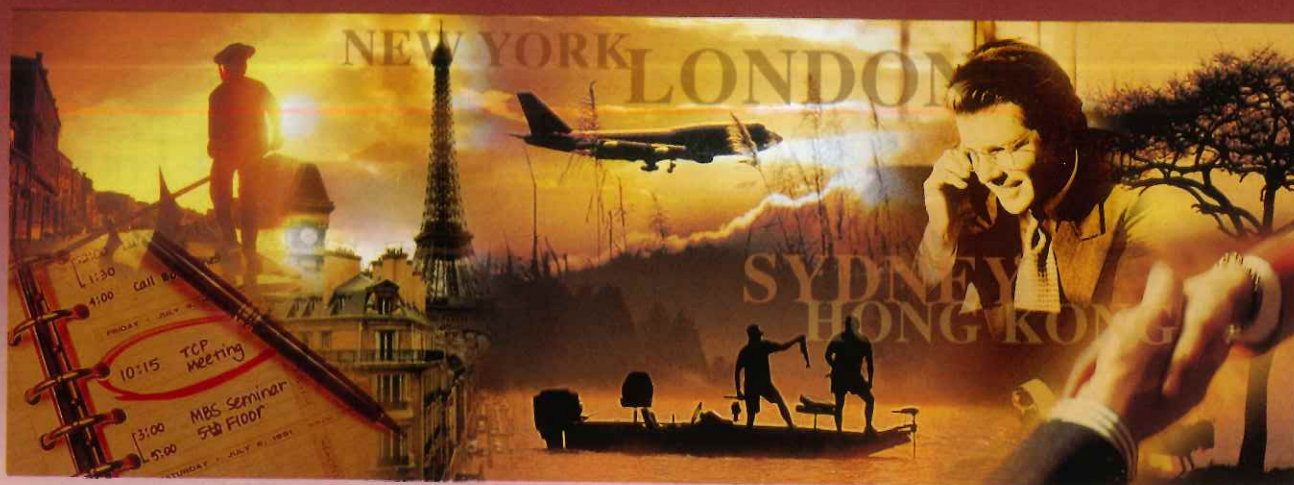
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St George's Ball

## Marines Magic!

**S**aturday 22nd April saw the magnificent Band of HM Royal Marines back in action at the Bangkok St. George's Society 40th Anniversary Ball, again held at the Siam Inter-Continental Hotel.



But it's not all marching and 'Land of Hope and Glory'. The Marines are the quintessential musical professionals, as at home in full dress uniform playing traditional naval tunes as in white suits for the big band set, evoking the smooth dance rhythms of Glen Miller and his ilk, or in the black attire of the 'Blues Brothers' set, rocking and rolling into the wee hours.

Following the traditional 'Baron of Beef' ceremony was a splendid dinner of roast beef and Yorkshire pud, and a delicious Stilton which wasn't as rich as last year – the two large wedges on our table were demolished! – filled everyone up, which meant that most of us had to burn up some calories on the dancefloor.





## St George's Ball

### Last Night of the Proms

For those of us who hadn't heard enough of the Marines, the Last Night of the Proms on the following Wednesday provided a great opportunity to hear them in a classical capacity, playing a wide range of pieces by well known – lesser known – composers.

However, while the musical performance was world class, the evening was quite light-hearted, with Persian traders appearing half-way through the first half and a unique performance of a song from the musical 'Grease', now playing in the West End!

Obviously the word is spreading, as there were far fewer spare seats at this event than last year!

For more information on the Band of HM Royal Marines or the Bangkok St. George's Society, please contact the President of the latter, Andy Pickup, on 245 6400-7, ext 229.

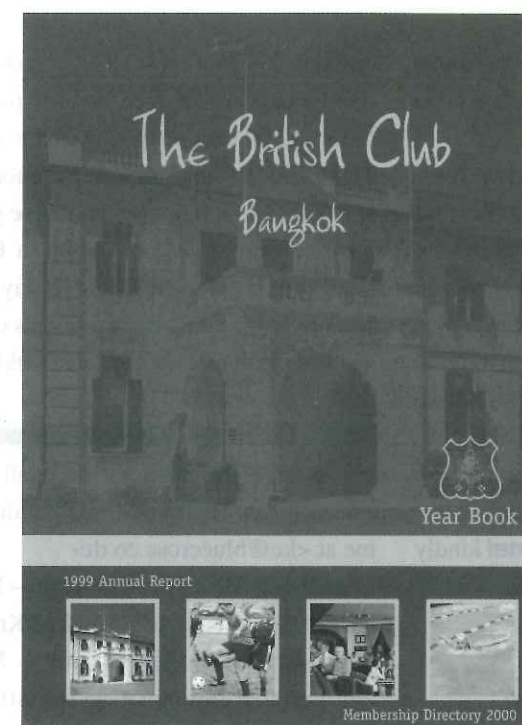


Gaynor



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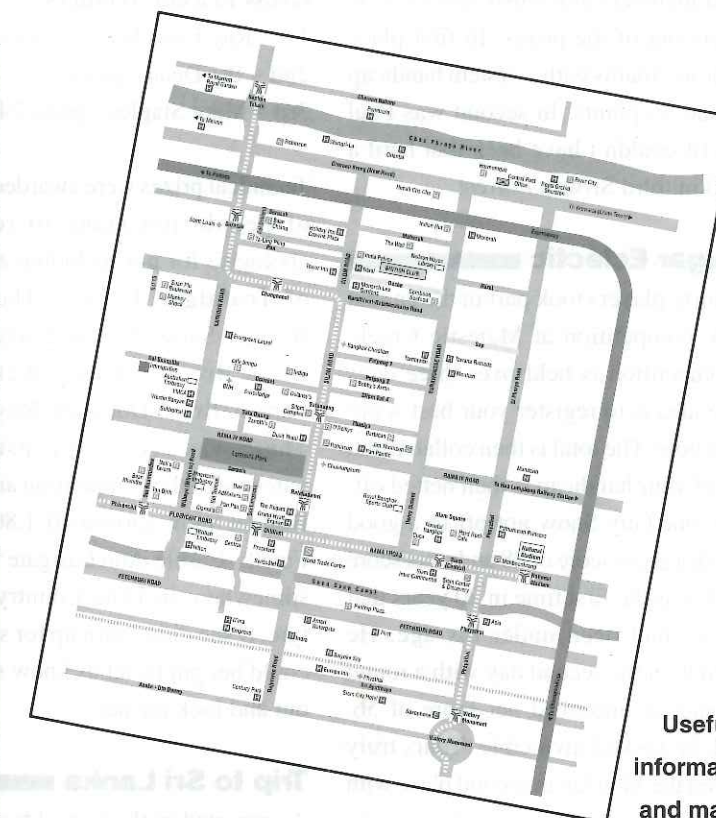
**The Year book 2000 contains:**

**E**very member of the British Club receives a copy of the **British Club Yearbook**, arguably the most useful reference book on your coffee table/by your phone.

The Yearbook 2000, which is being posted to all members who have not previously collected a copy at Reception, contains more useful information than ever before! Just look what's inside:

- Complete membership directory for the year 2000, current to February this year, including photographs of every member and their contact details.
- Reports from key members of the General Committee on the progress of the Club
- Message of support from the new British Ambassador
- Photo-report of the highlights of the Club year 1999
- Reviews of the sporting year by the various sports sections
- Complete list of affiliated clubs around the world with which we have reciprocal agreements
- Listings of:
  - \* BC members' favourite restaurants, pubs and clubs
  - \* Hotels and Schools
  - \* Hospitals and dental clinics
  - \* Embassies and Foreign Chambers of Commerce
- Maps of the Silom and Sukhumvit areas

### Highlights of the Club Year



**Everything you need to know about your Club in one attractive publication!**





# Majestic Eclectic

**A** big thank you to Grant Cameron and **Trafalgar International Insurance Brokers** for sponsoring the Eclectic competition held at Majestic Creek on the Labour Day weekend. Many thanks too to the organisers.

The course was in great shape, the weather lovely and there was a nail-biting finish. More of that later.

## New Members Day

Fewer players than expected turned out for New Members Day held at Green Valley on Chakri Day. Like me they were hookers and probably intimidated by the bunkers all being on the right and the greens all being on the left. Nevertheless we were pleased to welcome new members Paul Hurd and Matthew Jensen. Paul was particularly glad that he brought his son Matthew along. Matthew managed to drive into his father's left kidney on the 18th tee and if he isn't having dialysis, Paul is certainly even now nursing a very large bruise.

The old members graciously left the new members out of the prizes. In first place was Bernie Adams with a system handicap of 12 and 35 points. In second was Paul Jensen (it couldn't have been that hard a hit) and in third Sriwan Forrest.

## Trafalgar Eclectic

Over thirty players took part in the annual eclectic competition at Majestic Creek. The competition is held over three days and the idea is to register your best score on each hole. The total is then collated and 7/8ths of your handicap is then netted off. On day one Guy Snow got off to a good start with a gross score of 88 and a net score of 66. It was the first time in 20 years that his score had been under his age. He bettered it on the second day with a round of 84 and an improved net score of 56. Indeed, he looked invincible. Yours truly set out on the Monday in second place with a net score of 60. It was tough trying to find the extra shots but I managed to scrape up 4. I walked into the Clubhouse neck

and neck with Guy, but there was every chance he had improved still. Lo and behold he was still on 56. Moreover, it then transpired that Bernie had added up the scores incorrectly the previous day. I was really on 55 and Guy on 57. That's how I got to kiss Grant Cameron... but there's no evidence that any of the above is true as the battery went flat in my camera just as they presented me with first prize.

Grant of **Trafalgar International** kindly presented the prizes to the winners. They were as follows:

### Net Eclectic Winners

- 1st – Karen Carter (net 55)
- 2nd – David Lamb (net 57)
- 3rd – Guy Snow (net 57)

### Gross Eclectic Winners

- 1st – Ray Fazackerley (gross 72)
- 2nd – Pat Dean (gross 72)
- 3rd – Mike Staples (gross 74)

Technical prizes were awarded to a myriad of people too many to recall and I apologise for not including all recipients of **Trafalgar** T-shirts. They included Bridget Snow, Jo and Larry Goodliffe, Brian Brooks, Alexis Welsh, Sriwan Forrest, Bryan Dodd and Roy Barrett. There was also a sweepstake on the outcome of the competition and my owner Bridget Snow carried off 1,800 baht. Finally, Carole-Ann Eastgate was last seen somewhere in Dole Country with a flat tyre. If she didn't turn up for school please could her pupils let us know so we can go out and look for her.

## Trip to Sri Lanka

As reported in the last edition of *Outpost* a special golf trip to Sri Lanka has been planned for the end of September. Leaving

on Thursday 28th September and returning on Monday 1st October the total package costs 12,500 baht per person (twin share). This includes the flights, accommodation and transfer. Golf is extra and three games have been arranged at courses in Kandy (1 day) and Nuwara Eliya (2 days). To book please contact Bernie Adams on 675 6120 or email him at <bernie@iomworld.com>

## Next Outings

If you would like to be notified of all future events please send your email address to me at <kc@bluecross.co.th>

- **Saturday, 10th June, 11.42am** – Match against the Embassy at Royal Lad Krabang
- **Sunday, 25th June, 11am** – Match against the Japanese Association at Bangpoo

**Karen Carter**



No tongues please



Beautiful Majestic



1+1=3



These insurance guys are a bit kinky... thinks David



Pucker up Guy



Well done Brian



Just swallowed my filling



What a day!



Just found the jack

*really*

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## New Members

### Douglas and Gillian Maconochie



Gillian and Douglas

Australians Doug and Jill have been in the Big Mango for almost three years and hoping to stay another two. Doug works for Sverdrup Civil Inc. and Jill is P.A. to the Defence Attache at the Aussie Embassy. They have two sons, one aged 16 who attends Bangkok Patana School. Doug's hobby is model making while Jill helps with ThaiCraft and is Vice President of the St. George's Society. Both are tennis players and Doug also enjoys a round of golf.

### Jean-Yves and Isabelle Tanguy



Jean-Yves, Isabelle and daughter

Newly arrived in Thailand, their first overseas posting, this must be an exciting and hectic time for the Tanguys. While Jean-Yves settles in to work at the French Embassy, Isabelle is no doubt 'tres bezy' setting up home. At least they have their priorities right - they signed up quickly for BC membership where hopefully we shall see them frequently enjoying their favourite sports of tennis, squash and swimming. Bienvenu to Bangkok and La British Club!

### Mihir and Manisha Trivedi



Mihir and Manisha

Recently arrived from a posting in Cairo, Mihir has joined the legions at PricewaterhouseCoopers while Manisha keeps a watchful eye on things at home and stays fit chasing after their two young children of 6 and 4. As for playing sport, Manisha - with typical British humour - says only if she has to, and only then if it's cool. So sport is out! Hobbies for Mihir are ... work! work! work! interspersed with the occasional game of tennis or round of golf.

### Mark Peter Lindesay



Mark

Known to enjoy a drink or two, Mark (pictured propping up the bar in the Churchill) is a newcomer to Bangkok where he is Editor-in-Chief at Travel World Media Ltd. No surprise then that Mark lists travel and photography as two of his hobbies. Previous postings have been in Vietnam, Indonesia and Australia; Thailand will be his home for the next couple of years. On the sporting front rugby and skiing are his favourites, and other hobbies include music and literature.

### Richard Goss



Richard

A consultant at Pinkertons, well-travelled Richard is a bit of an all-round sporting hero. Twice Asian Backgammon Champ, ex-Club Snooker Champ and an ex-county swimmer, he also plays golf with a handicap of 27, tennis and bowling - plus he enjoys weight-lifting. His talents don't end there... he speaks French and Chinese and can play piano and keyboards. Richard worked in the Middle East before heading to this region; he was in Macau, Hong Kong and Singapore before coming here. Quite a sporting catch for the Club!

## Meet the Staff

### Painting the Club Red

This month we meet Khun Wanchai Rittirak, our Club Painter, who joined the British Club in 1992. Over the past few months Khun Wanchai has been very busy painting fences, car park lines, squash courts and the Fitness Centre. He is totally committed to improving maintenance staff with urgent repair facilities at the Club. He also, job enlargement is not new to him with setting up functions at the Club. If required, he will assist the other



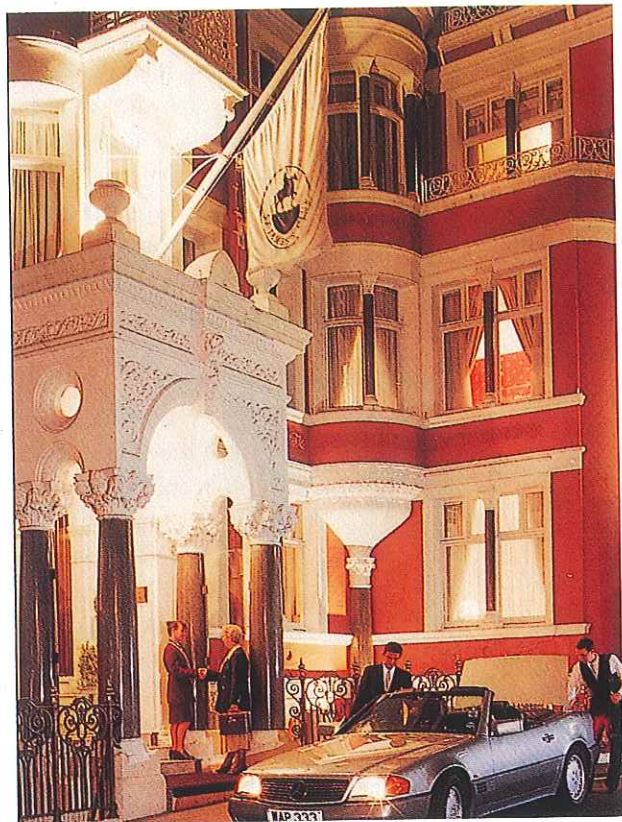
Interviewed for *Outpost* by  
**Ratchanida Tippayalert**  
Administration Officer



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private terraces, are elegantly decorated with the ultimate in comfort, and the one- and two-bedroom penthouse suites have private access and terrace. Interiors have been designed by Reed Boyd and Trevellion Interiors, with fabrics by Mulberry and beds by Hypnos (holders of the Queen's warrant), and specially-selected Italian marble in every bathroom.

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- Members of Reciprocal Clubs are always welcome

The most prestigious and convenient location in London A stroll to palaces and St. James's Park, a short walk to Bond Street and Jermyn Street, and minutes to the Royal Academy and a quick taxi ride to London's theatreland and Royal Opera House.

For further information on this or any of the reciprocal clubs please contact the GM.



*For a complete list of your reciprocal clubs around the world see the section in your British Club Yearbook!*



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