

JUNE 2013



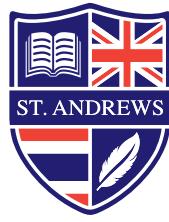
THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

OUTPOST

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

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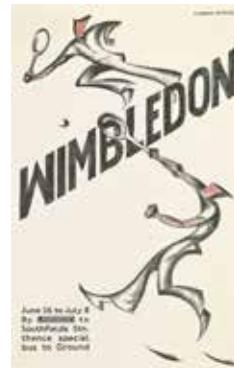
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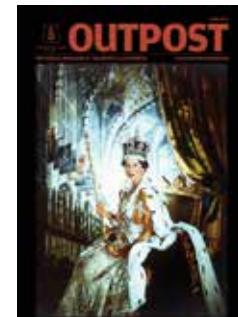
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FRONT COVER

This year is the 60th anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II's coronation, an event which captured the attention of the world. Her coronation was a blend of tradition and modernity, with many things done as they always had been but some things done for the first time.



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OUTPOST

Outpost is the monthly publication of

THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK,

the international club for friends and

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A full version of the magazine is also available online at

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Driving the British Club forwards



Dear Members,

Last year was an excellent year for the British Club. Through the diligence and hard work of our staff not only has the financial position of our Club strengthened considerably but we were also able to undertake some important upgrades and renovations of our facilities for the benefit of our Members. This has also been a great help in attracting more Members to the Club and thankfully this trend is continuing.

The newly installed General Committee are conscious that we must not lose the momentum created last year to improve the facilities, improve overall service levels and to enhance and improve on the variety of services that the Club provides to and for our Members. That said, the upgrades and improvement plans for this General Committee year will continue to be financially prudent and controlled within a tight financial framework.

Our Membership platform is both wide and varied in terms of nationalities, age, singles and families and the needs and demands of our Members vary considerably. In this respect, and being conscious of the fact that a "tweak here and there" can also make a big difference, I would appreciate hearing from Members about your own ideas for improving Club facilities and the services which directly affect you. To this end a short questionnaire insert has been included in this edition of Outpost and I look forward to receiving your comments.

Upgrading our facilities for a secure future

Last year we set out a number of objectives for the British Club's 2013-2015 planning horizon which are believed to be essential for the long term prosperity of the Club. These include, in no particular order, but are not limited to:

- Upgrading and modernising the upstairs areas, and some underused downstairs areas of the Clubhouse to better mirror the needs and demands of our Members
- Upgrade and possibly rehouse the staff offices to another on-site location, and sort out dedicated storage areas for all our equipment and our archives
- Improve the Club's family facilities and associated activities, upgrade the essential back of house areas such as the kitchens, and overhaul a greater number of toilet facilities
- Upgrade and refurbish the Silom Sala, Squash Court, children's and massage areas

Alongside these upgrades and general Club maintenance activities, Management plans have been and are being developed hand-in-hand to improve service levels, F&B choices, inter-Club communications, security, safety and broadening the activity base for Members.

So what can we expect for this year?

- The all-weather court has recently been opened, and our Sports Team have developed a plan to increase the usage of the court moving forwards with a host of exciting activities. The Pétanque court is already open, creating a lot of interest with a wide variety of Members actively participating
- The landscaped areas will continue to be upgraded over the coming months with the back lawn areas receiving a real makeover
- Essential repair and upgrades to the main Clubhouse kitchen will start soon with work being carried out in phases and at night to minimise disruption to our Members
- Work on upgrading the first phase of the Clubhouse will start within a couple of months
- To improve safety for all, work has started on upgrading/increasing the security cameras throughout the Club and grounds
- Feasibility plans to upgrade the Silom Sala, children's area and squash courts possibly in two phases are also underway
- Plans for multimedia installations to improve our event communications to the Membership are also well underway.

In conclusion, this should be another exciting year for our Club with a host of both hard and soft improvements being implemented for the benefit of our Members. I am certain that this will be another year to be proud of.

May I finally take this opportunity to wish those who are taking holidays in the coming months, safe travels and enjoy the break.

Kind regards,

Phil Alexander
Chairman, General Committee



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LETTER FROM THE GM



Dear Members,

Another hot month has passed, and thankfully the rains seem to be cooling things off a little now.

I'd like to start by thanking those of you who came down to attend the Club's 110th Birthday Party on 28th April. It was an absolutely fantastic event, attended by over 300 people, including H.E Mark Kent and The Beatles! Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the live music, delicious food, fun, games and the many bargains to be had at the car boot stalls. Thanks also to all my department heads and staff for their hard work in organising and running this event.

The completion of the Multi-Purpose Court on the Back Lawn was delayed by about 10 days, but I'm happy to say that it's now fully open and available for bookings through the Fitness Centre. On the opening day, Saturday 18th May, we had hockey, football and cricket, and I also hope to see many more sports being played on this wonderful new surface.

Moving on to maintenance, we have cleared and cleaned all the drainage systems throughout the Club in preparation for the monsoon season to avert flooding. We have also painted the upstairs function rooms and the Clubhouse kitchen. Khun Laak now has some new equipment to help her produce yet more delicious food for our Members.

Many of you will have noticed that we've changed our ice cream supplier and freezers from Nestle to Wall's. I hope you're enjoying the new range of ice creams available and I would welcome any feedback you might have.

This month, we have a number of functions and events coming up. On 2nd June, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation, we'll be serving traditional British Sunday Brunch in The Verandah and there will be kids' activities on the Back Lawn. I hope to see all of you down here enjoying a thoroughly British day! On 22nd June we'll be hosting Canada Day at the Club. Tickets are available from the TCCC, details on pages 18/19 of this issue. Please note that the Club's car park will be CLOSED on that day, but parking will be available as usual at the Narai Hotel car park at the beginning of Soi 18.

Finally, our new Sports Manager, Michael Wagstaff, will be organising Sports Camps in June and also an Adventure Trip outside Bangkok. Please check the noticeboards and the Club mailings for more details.

I hope to see you all at the Club very soon.

Warm regards,

Premrudee Tanyaluck
General Manager

OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES

The Verandah

11am - 2pm, 5pm - 10pm (Mon-Thurs)
11am - 10pm (Fri-Sun and Public Holidays)

Accounts Office

9am - 6pm (Mon-Fri), Closed (Sat-Sun)

Neilson Hays Coffee Shop

9am - 6pm

Fitness Centre

6am - 10pm (Mon-Fri)

Churchill Bar

10am - 11pm

Fitness Centre

6am - 9pm (Sat-Sun)

Poolside Bar

6:15am - 11pm
Last food orders 9:30pm

Thai Massage

9am - 5pm (Tues-Sun)

FIRST OVERLAND

London to Singapore
by road
1955-1956



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Now showing in full colour with an introduction and a Q&A,
this extraordinary one-off presentation should NOT be missed.



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Thurs 6th June 2013
Suriwongse Room, 7:30pm



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Sign-up in Reception, or email events@britishclubbangkok.org

HAPPENINGS



Dear Members,

The 110th birthday party was really good, and apart from the anthems burnt in the wrong order on the CD, it went as smooth as clockwork. Those operating car boot stalls all seemed to have a very good day, the kids table operated by Sam and St Andrews Intl School were run off their feet, the food was almost finished, even the glasses were almost all drained. I got so many positive comments from people about the marvellous Marimba Ensemble from NIST Intl School, who enchanted their audience and played beautifully, and such cool pleasant kids too! Their performance was remarkable, and I'm so pleased that their teacher David Cameron (who sadly has left Thailand) agreed so readily to play for us. It really made the day that bit more special.

We had an amazing Quiz Night this month, more teams than usual with some bizarre questions, and the monthly jackpot was finally snaffled up by the new team who have only just arrived in Bangkok, so congratulations! It was really good fun, and is featured on page 39 of this issue.

Coming up next week is the New Zealand Winemakers Dinner which will comprise 5 courses accompanied by a fine selection of exquisite wines. However delicious food or drinks are on their own, when they are selected to complement each other, the enhancement has an amazing effect. Within the next three months we are planning a Thai Wine dinner, where we will pair exotic Thai dishes with equally exotic Thai wines. As the Thai vineyards are adapting their blends to suit the tastes of Thai buyers, it stands to reason that there should be an excellent collection of food and wine together, defying the generally held opinion that wine is no good with Thai food. It certainly is - as my supper a few nights ago proved quite conclusively!

June opens with the 60th anniversary of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II's coronation. We'll be having a celebratory buffet in The Verandah on Sunday 2nd June, with a few decorations to display our huge admiration for our magnificent monarch, as well as a few dishes not always on offer. On Wednesday 5th June evening we will be welcoming 4 ex-Man Utd footballers, who will have just arrived on a charity tour of Thailand, for drinks on the front lawn.

Then on 6th evening, we will be showing the extraordinary film of the tremendous First Overland journey by car from London to Singapore. It sounds quite breathtaking, and we are lucky to have a friend of those who made this great run to introduce the movie and lead a Q&A session afterwards. Hearing about it has given me itchy feet, and I feel like setting off for a quick walk in the Andes, should a long enough weekend present itself.

Later in the month we've got the monthly quiz night, the UK Father's Day, the start of Wimbledon, and the E.G.M. about dress codes, but best of all there's Canada Day which is a fun day at the Club (remember the car parks are closed that day, the 22nd). They sell Bloody Caesars, and for anyone who likes Bloody Marys, this Canadian version must not be missed, they are quite amazing, and will fully prepare you for the extraordinary boat races of many a legend.

A word about mailings. I noticed recently that quite a lot of email addresses had been unsubscribed from the Club mailing list. Of course, there are many reasons why our mailings might not want to be received by some people, but on checking it out, I discovered that nearly all of them had unsubscribed unintentionally. This can be rectified easily, but for those who really do want to stay unsubscribed, there still must be a way that official Club notifications can be sent to each and every Member, so we will create a list for unsubscribers to be contacted for notifications such as the EGM at the end of June.

Have a great month, and unpack your umbrellas before the rains come!

Best wishes

Jeremy de Sausmarez
Events & Marketing Manager

Please note that on SATURDAY 22 JUNE the Club Car Parks will be CLOSED for the Canada Day celebrations.
Parking will be available at the Narai Hotel Car Park, at the entrance of Soi 18.
We regret any inconvenience caused.

BUSINESS LUNCHEONS



3rd -5th June 2013

Starters - 55 baht

Mozzarella, Mango, Tomato and Rocket Salad
or Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 140 baht

Chicken Maryland (with pineapple, banana, sweet corn, bacon and home-fried potato)
or Pan-fried Dory Fish with Mornay Sauce (served with broccoli and mashed potato)
or Fillet of Pork in a Light Curry Sauce (served with grilled zucchini and coriander rice)
or Tom Kha Gai (a refreshing soup with chicken, coconut milk and herbs)
Pla Dory Rad Sauce Makham (deep-fried dory fish topped with tamarind sauce)
Phad Kana Nam Man Hoy (stir-fried kale with oyster sauce)

Dessert of the day - 55 baht or choose from our à la carte dessert 10% off

10th - 14th June 2013

Starters - 55 baht

Carrots, Rassin and Apple Coleslaw
or Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 140 Baht

Fish and Chips (choice of bread crumbed or battered with garden peas and tartare sauce)
or Chicken Tikka Masala (served with yellow rice)
or Pork Schnitzel (served with mixed salad, baked potato and apple sauce)
or Panaeng Gai (chicken stir-fried with red curry sauce topped with slice lime leave)
Kai Jiew Moo Sub (thai style omellette with minced pork)
Phad Phak Ruam Nam Man Hoy (stir-fried mixed vegetables with oyster sauce)



Dessert of the Day - 55 baht or choose from our à la carte dessert 10% off

17th - 21st June 2013

Starters - 55 baht

Oriental Chicken, Papaya and Ginger Salad (with soya and lemon grass dressing)
or Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 140 baht

Lamb, Beef and Eggplant Moussaka (served with mixed salad and garlic bread)
or Pan-fried Dory Fish with Caper Butter Sauce (served with broccoli and mashed potato)
or Grilled Chicken Breast and Spinach Risotto (with parmesan, rocket leaves dressed)
or Tom Yum Goong (spicy lemon grass flavoured soup with prawn and mushroom)
Kaprao Kai (stir-fried minced chicken with hot basil and chilli)
Phad Phak Ruam Nam Man Hoy (stir-fried mixed vegetables with oyster sauce)



24th - 28th June 201

Starters -55 baht

Mozzarella, Mango, Tomato and Rocket Salad
or Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 140 baht

Grilled Chicken Breast (served with roast vegetable couscous)
or Salmon fish cakes (served with chips, garden peas and tartar sauce)
or Mixed Sausages (served with mashed potato and fried onion)
or Gaeng Jued Phak Gard Khao (chinese lettuce soup with minced pork and tofu)
Pla Sam Ros (deep-fried dory fish topped with sweet and sour spiced chili sauce)
Phad Phak Ruam (stir-fried mixed vegetables with oyster sauce)



Dessert of the Day - 55 baht or choose from our à la carte dessert 10% off

F&B MORSELS



Dear Members,

The hot season is still with us and has kept everyone hungry and thirsty which keeps us busy! We've also had quite a number of functions and outside catering to do so the month has gone by quickly.

At the end of April there was the 110th Birthday Party, which was great fun, and I hope you all enjoyed the buffet and the roast pig on a spit! We're now preparing for the New Zealand Wine Dinner next week, and then there is the Coronation Buffet which will have a couple of special dishes for the special day, and later in the month is Canada Day, so we are keeping busy.

The mango promotion has been really popular and we're continuing with it, but June is also the time for strawberries and cream so watch out for their arrival. We are trying out a new ice cream supplier so while it's hot come and enjoy the new range. I will also be changing the Specials Noticeboard for a new selection, so please try them out!

We're very pleased that the kitchens have been upgraded with a new oven, salad fridge, grill and deep-fryer, so our food should be tastier than before - please keep giving me feedback so we can keep our standards high.

I also remind you that if there are any dishes you would like to see available at the Club, please let me know and I'll do my best to get them included next time the menus are updated.

Happy Eating!

Khun Laak
Executive Chef

Modern European DINING



1st - 15th June 2013

Starters

Chef's Soup of the Day
Bt 80

Pan-cooked Asparagus and Mixed Seafood
Bt 200

Main Courses

Crispy Glazed Duck Breast with Green Pepper Sauce
Served with red cabbage jam and croquette potatoes
Bt 300

Lamb Shank Braised with Red Wine and Herbs
Served with crushed new potatoes and green beans
Bt 400

Grilled Snow Fish with Capers, Olives and Butter Sauce
Served with asparagus, carrots and French beans
Bt 680

Dessert

Dessert of the Day

16th - 30th June 2013

Starters

Chef's Soup of the Day
Bt 80

Prawn Cocktail
Bt 160

Main Courses

Spaghetti with Spicy Lamb Sauce and Fresh Rosemary
Bt 265

Duo of Red Snapper and Seabass
Served with a vegetable, noodle and scallop sauce
Bt 335

Chicken Breast Stuffed with Sun-Dried Tomatoes and Feta Cheese
Served with crispy polenta, rocket salad and basil pesto
Bt 260

Dessert

Dessert of the Day

ANZAC DAY

By George Morgan

25th April is a very special day for Australians and New Zealanders, for it was on that day in 1915 that the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) was landed at Gallipoli at the start of the British High Command's ill-fated campaign to capture Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Since then, ANZAC Day has been celebrated annually by Australians and New Zealanders and, since the Second World War, it has become a day to commemorate the lives of all Australians and New Zealanders who have lost their lives in the service of their countries.

In Thailand there are two important ANZAC Day ceremonies in Kanchanaburi: the dawn service at Hellfire Pass, the railway cutting that was hewn from the solid rock by allied prisoners of the Japanese and Asian slave labourers in the Second World War; and, later in the morning, a parade and service at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery. This year, the Pipe Band Section was again honoured to be invited to perform at both of these ceremonies by the Australian Embassy, as we have been since 2008.

The dawn service, held at the same time as the Gallipoli landings, is a particularly solemn and moving occasion. Pipe Major Keith Walker and visiting Australian piper Eric Wilson did great justice to it with a flawless rendering of the ancient Scots lament, Flowers of the Forest, that left few eyes dry. Then they raced the 60 km back to Kanchanaburi Town to join the rest of the band for the parade at the cemetery. This year we were able to field seven pipers. In addition to Keith and Eric, we had another visiting piper from the UK, Mike Smith, and our very own four Thai pipers, Feame, Top, Shawn and Guts. The drum corps comprised Leading Drummer George Morgan and Bass Drummer Joe Gare. We led the Australian catafalque party on to the parade playing the slow air, Going Home. Then the whole band played Flowers of the Forest before we marched off playing Auld Lang Syne.

Once the parade was over we went to the bridge over the River Kwai and played a set of less sombre pieces by way of relaxation to a small but appreciative audience and played for some personal memorial ceremonies there. When the van got back to Bangkok in the evening Top, Shawn and Guts still had enough energy to go to the Check Inn 99 night club to perform at an evening ANZAC Day ceremony there.



INTRODUCING

Mike Wagstaff, Sports & Recreation Manager



I have had the pleasure to meet with many Club Members over the past month, but for those of you I have not yet had the pleasure to meet, I am Michael Wagstaff, the new Sports and Recreation Manager here at the Club.

The next few lines are about me (for those of you who care... for those of you who don't, please feel free to skip this next paragraph). I am from Stoke-on-Trent, England. I have a long list of playing and coaching experience across various disciplines of sport. I graduated in Sport and Exercise Science from Nottingham Trent University and later went to work in France as an Outdoor Education Instructor. Having moved around Europe a little and finally ending up in Wales, I returned home to sunny Stoke having completed my contracted season. Stuck weighing vegetables in a small local grocery shop with the bug for travel, it wasn't long before I'd booked an open return ticket to Thailand.

I worked for 5 months teaching English and hated every second of it. I considered returning home and by this point I'd given myself a 6 week window to find a new job which I enjoyed before I would admit defeat and return home. It was then that I applied for and received the job at SIIS International School teaching PE. This was perfect, living in Thailand, working in sport, long holidays, time to travel etc. I was later promoted to the Head of Department and asked to start a new Sports Academy at the school. All of this was a great experience and one which I am very thankful for as without it I would not still be here today (I mean in Thailand – not that I would be dead).

As much as I appreciated the experience... I do not want to be a teacher and so once again I looked for more opportunities. It was then that I was offered the position at the British Club. I now believe that I have found a career which suits me well and I look forward to spending the next few years working at the Club and enjoying more of what Thailand and Bangkok have to offer.

Thank you to all those who have made me feel so welcome here at The British Club.

POSH NOSH

On the first Tuesday of every month, a group of undefined but knowledgeable Members gathers for lunch in The Verandah to discuss well, all those things that you discuss when you meet for lunch. But more importantly, to savour the excellent food and wine available à la carte.

This month, it was the first anniversary of the Posh Nosh diners. But most of them forgot, even though there were lashings of wine and even an ooey gooey runny drippy chocolate cake to relish.

Still, no matter. it just meant there was more of everything delicious for those who remembered. First Tuesday of the month, in The Verandah. Noshers welcome!



Watercolour Workshop

With Louise Truslow

Saturday 15th June

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

*B2,500 including lunch
and refreshments.*

For more information email: louise@louisetruslow.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

The Club's Decquicentennial Party



Vehicles loaded with boxes and bags started arriving at the Club several hours before the designated time, probably to beat the heat or grab the best stall on which to unload the 'jumble'. There was a staggering array of items, from pictures and videos to clothes, make-up and glassware. Boots the Chemist were present with a huge selection of clearance sale goods, bringing the total number of stalls to over 35 tables.

There was plenty for the kids, too. Sam and his Amazing Friends had teamed up with St Andrews International School to set up a huge area of arts, crafts, face-painting, games and other creative distractions. They were located right between the Bouncy Castle and the Trampoline, a perfect children's zone on the Back Lawn. There was a sketch artist drawing great portraits, Jenny all in red twisting and shaping balloons into all kinds of vectors to produce items like hats, animals, toys and squeaky indescribables. There were piñatas at several times through the afternoon, and of course the birthday cake - it was a fun time for youngsters.

Soon after 2pm, it all sort of started to happen, as people arrived and found places under the giant awning. The buffet had been brought forward to 2:30pm, and there was a roast pig on a spit to complement the spread. Of course, no food is as good as that which is washed down with bargain beer or specially priced Chandon sparkling wine, and there was plenty of that. Even a quick visit to

the St Andrews Society stall held promise of a tombola win or bargain priced McVitie's biscuits - St George's and St David's Societies had a great table too with a Lucky Dip and Twinings Tea too.

Everyone felt slightly time-warped when The Beatles took to the stage and started their set of amazingly accurate renditions of Beatles songs. It added a great British tinge to the afternoon, which peaked at 4pm when the British Ambassador, H.E. Mark Kent, led toasts and anthems to both H.M. the King of Thailand and H.M. the Queen of England, once a slight technical hitch had been overcome. The cake was then cut, and it wasn't long before the surprise highlight of the afternoon - the Mrimba Ensemble from NIST International School. This student group, capably directed by David Cameron (an appropriate name for the occasion, but actually a Canadian human being), performed an extraordinary selection of tunes on their imported marimbas of many different sizes, with a beautiful tone, great rhythms, and impeccable playing style. It was simply marvellous and received the most audience feedback of the day, and we thank both David and the headmaster for arranging for them to come over.

The Members, their families and guests made the afternoon the enormous success that it was, and the Club staff as always made it all happen as smoothly as possible. Now we must wait for the Club's 125th birthday, or maybe even the 111th...?





CROWNED FOR 60 YEARS!

Ten multi-facts about Queen Elizabeth II's coronation



The crowning of the Sovereign is an ancient ceremony, rich in religious significance, historic associations and pageantry. For the last 900 years, it has taken place at Westminster Abbey, the royal church for the Palace of Westminster. Before the Abbey was built, Coronations were carried out wherever was convenient, for example at Bath, Oxford and Canterbury.

- 1 Queen Elizabeth II was crowned on 2 June, 1953 in Westminster Abbey. Her Majesty was the thirty-ninth Sovereign to be crowned at Westminster Abbey and the sixth Queen to have been crowned in Westminster Abbey in her own right. The first was Queen Mary I, who was crowned on 1 October, 1553.
- 2 The Coronation service used for Queen Elizabeth II descends directly from that of King Edgar at Bath in 973. The original fourteenth-century order of service was written in Latin and was used until the Coronation of Elizabeth I.
- 3 The Queen's Coronation service was taken by the Archbishop of Canterbury, whose duty this has usually been since the Conquest in 1066. For the first time at the 1953 Coronation, a representative of another Church, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, also took part in the service.
- 4 A total of 8,251 guests attended The Queen's Coronation ceremony at Westminster Abbey with one hundred and twenty-nine nations and territories being officially represented at the Coronation service.
- 5 The St. Edward's Crown, made in 1661, was the crown placed on the head of The Queen during the Coronation service. It weighs 4 pounds and 12 ounces and is made of solid gold. The crown in its current form was first used by Charles II as it had to be redesigned after the Restoration.
- 6 The Coronation ring, often referred to as 'The Wedding Ring of England' was worn by The Queen on the fourth finger of her right hand in accordance with tradition. The ring was made for the Coronation of King William IV in 1831 and takes the form of a sapphire surmounted by a cross in rubies surrounded by diamonds. It was made at a cost of £157 and has been worn at every coronation since then with the exception of Queen Victoria.
- 7 An estimated 27 million people in Britain watched the ceremony on TV and 11 million listened on the radio. (The population of Britain at the time was just over 36 million.) There were more than 2,000 journalists and 500 photographers from 92 nations on the Coronation route. Thirty cameramen were chosen for the service in the Abbey for their slightness of build, particularly for above the organ loft.
- 8 The Imperial State Crown, which was worn by The Queen during her return to Buckingham Palace, contained four pearls traditionally believed to have been Queen Elizabeth I's earrings.
- 9 The official artist for the Coronation was Polish artist Feliks Topolski who was commissioned to produce a permanent record of the occasion for the Lower Corridor in Buckingham Palace. The painting was made in 14 sections, each well over a metre high, measuring nearly 30 metres in total. The frieze is on public display at Buckingham Palace.
- 10 On 2nd June, 1953 it was learned that Edmund Hilary and Tenzing Norgay had reached the summit of Mount Everest. The Queen had the idea of presenting the fourteen members of the expedition with special edition Coronation medals, which contained the extra wording 'Mount Everest Expedition'.



CORONATION DAY BUFFET BRUNCH

Sunday 2nd June 2013
The Verandah, 11:30am - 3pm



Special extra
dishes



Happy Hour
drinks



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Contact Reception to ensure your place



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

146TH CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Canada Day Organising Committee is pleased to announce that the annual Canada Day party will be celebrated at the British Club on Saturday, June 22, 2013. The event marks Canada's 146th birthday and the 24th year that Canada Day has been celebrated in Bangkok.

"The 2012 event was a great success with 347 people in attendance and we are looking to attract over 400 this year with our planned changes to the venue's lay-out and the introduction of live music", said Don Lavoie, Chair of the Canada Day Committee organising the event. "The 2013 event promises to be a great time as the Canadian community and its many friends comes together to celebrate Canada's birthday", he added. Through this annual event, the Canada Day Committee also raises funds which are contributed to the Thai Fund Foundation (TFF).

Officially, Canada Day is celebrated on July 1st each year, but is being held early in Bangkok to accommodate school breaks and to allow for more families to participate in the festivities.

The aim of this annual event is to encourage Canadians and their families, friends, and colleagues of all ages and nationalities to gather and celebrate Canada Day in a lively atmosphere, with delicious food, exciting games and fantastic camaraderie.

The Canada Day Celebration offers children's games, tug-of-war, water balloon toss, volley ball, and various sporting activities for adults, including Pétanque.

A delicious buffet dinner will be served following the afternoon activities. Beer and wine will be available for the occasion, as well as Clamato juice for the uniquely Canadian Bloody Caesar.

Event ticket holders will also be eligible to win a host of fabulous lucky draw prizes.



Tickets are being sold in advance with limited tickets available at the door on a first come, first served basis. The ticket price includes entry into the event, dinner and a chance to win lucky draw prizes:

Adults	(13 & up)	950 baht in advance / 1250 baht at the door
Children	(4-12)	450 baht in advance / 600 baht at the door
Children	(3 & under)	100 baht in advance / at the door
Reserved Tables	Tables of 10 can be reserved with an advance payment by Friday, June 7, 2013.	

Event schedule:

- 15:00 Doors open
- 16:00 Children's games
- 16:30 Ball hockey, volleyball tournament & adult games
- 17:00 Live music
- 18:00 Greeting & prize drawings
- 18:30 Dinner
- 19:30 Live music

For further information, please contact the Canada Day Organising Committee c/o The Thai-Canadian Chamber of Commerce, 139 Pan Road, Sethiwan Tower, 9th Floor, Tel: 02-266-6085-6 or email us at: info@tccc.or.th



COME CELEBRATE | VENEZ CÉLÉBRER

CANADA DAY

LA FÊTE DU CANADA

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2013 : 3PM TO 10PM

AT THE BRITISH CLUB

TICKET PRICE:

ADULT (13 & UP): 950 BAHT IN ADVANCE / 1,250 BAHT AT THE DOOR

CHILDREN (4 & 12): 450 BAHT IN ADVANCE / 600 BAHT AT THE DOOR | CHILDREN (3 & UNDER): 100 BAHT

** Advance purchase tickets are available through Friday, June 14, 2013 **

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT: WWW.TCCC.OR.TH | EMAIL: INFO@TCCC.OR.TH | TEL: 02-266-6085-6



BC CALENDAR - JUNE 2013

MONDAY

27

BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Monday Night Media
7pm, Wordsworth Lounge
Rivals of Sherlock Holmes



BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Monday Night Media
7pm, Wordsworth Lounge
Life on Mars



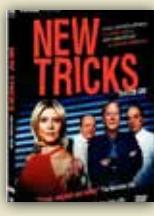
BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Monday Night Media
7pm, Wordsworth Lounge
New Tricks



24

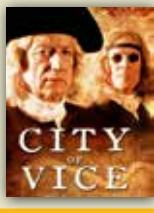
BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Monday Night Media
7pm, Wordsworth Lounge
City of Vice



TUESDAY

28

Morning Mix-In
8am



Fitball
10:30am



Squash Mix-In



Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers
8:30 pm



Scottish Dancing



7pm
Silot Room

Morning Mix-In
8am



Fitball
10:30am



Squash Mix-In
5pm - 7pm



Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers
8:30 pm



Quiz Night
7:15pm - 9:30pm

4

Morning Mix-In
8am



Fitball
10:30am



Squash Mix-In
5pm - 7pm



Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers
8:30 pm



Morning Mix-In
8am



Fitball
10:30am



Squash Mix-In
5pm - 7pm



Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers
8:30 pm



Extraordinary General Meeting
7pm

29

WEDNESDAY

Artists @ British Club
9am-1pm



5

Ladies Tennis Coaching
10am-11:30am



Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm



Balut Shield
Wordsworth Lounge
7pm



Artists @ British Club
9am-1pm



12

Ladies Tennis Coaching
10am-11:30am



Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm



Artists @ British Club
9am-1pm



19

Ladies Tennis Coaching
10am-11:30am



Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm



Balut Shield
Wordsworth Lounge
7pm



Artists @ British Club
9am-1pm



26

Ladies Tennis Coaching
10am-11:30am



Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm



Thurs

THU

Ladies Mix-In
8 am



Fitball
10:30am



Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm



First Overland
Suriwongse Room
7:30 pm



Ladies Mix-In
8 am



Fitball
10:30am



Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm



Ladies Mix-In
8 am



Fitball
10:30am



Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm



Ladies Mix-In
8 am



Fitball
10:30am



Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm



RSDAY

30

FRIDAY

31

BC Golf Society

15 June Vintage GC
30 June Royal GC

6



Children's Cinema
6pm, Silom Sala
Megamind



Tennis Mix-In
7pm - 10pm



13

7

Children's Cinema
6pm, Silom Sala
Castle in the Sky



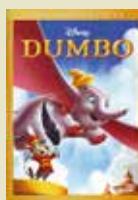
Tennis Mix-In
7pm - 10pm



20

14

Children's Cinema
6pm, Silom Sala
Dumbo



Tennis Mix-In
7pm - 10pm



27

21

Wine Tasting
Surawongse Room
6pm - 9pm



28

Children's Cinema
6pm, Silom Sala
Toy Story 2



SATURDAY

1

Tex-Mex Buffet Lunch & Dinner

The Verandah
11:30am - 3pm
5pm - 9pm



SUNDAY

2

Junior British Club

10:30am - 1:30pm



Open Pairs Bridge

Surawongse Room



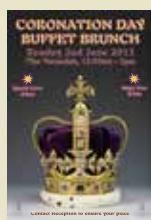
Yoga

2:30pm



Family Pétanque

Coronation Buffet
The Verandah,
11:30 am - 3pm



Junior British Club

10:30am - 1:30pm

9

Sunday Brunch

11:00am - 3pm



Open Pairs Bridge

Surawongse Room
2:30pm



Yoga

2:30pm



F1 Canadian Grand Prix

1am (Mon)



Junior British Club

10:30am - 1:30pm

16

Sunday Brunch

11:30am - 3pm



Open Pairs Bridge

Surawongse Room
2:30pm



Yoga

2:30pm



Adult Pétanque



Junior British Club

10:30am - 1:30pm

23

Sunday Brunch

11:30am - 3pm



Junior British Club

10:30am - 1:30pm

30

Sunday Brunch

11:30am - 3pm



F1 British Grand Prix

7pm

DRESSED FOR THE OCCASION!

The last AGM asked that we call an EGM, which will be held on Tuesday 25th June, to put to Members a new, well-defined (actually "not a wishy-washy") dress code ... **THIS IS IT:**

Preamble

It is expected that all persons will be appropriately dressed whilst on the Club premises and the following dress codes shall apply at the times stated.

Churchill Bar & The Verandah

Prior to 6pm

During daytime hours, the dress code shall be Smart Casual attire:

PERMITTED:

- GENTLEMEN: Smart Casual attire refers to trousers, smart jeans (not torn or frayed), tailored shorts, long/short-sleeved shirts, polo shirts and round-neck T-shirts, stylish open or closed toe shoes/sandals, trainers. Care should be taken on the wordings displayed on T-shirts so as not to cause offence.
- LADIES: Smart Casual refers to the above plus smart separates, a dress or business attire.

NOT PERMITTED:

- Running shorts, singlets, sleeveless T-shirts, swimwear, sporting attire, tracksuits, Capri shorts, flip-flops/slippers, baseball or other sports caps, bandanas and hats.

After 6pm

During evening hours, the dress code shall be Smart or Formal attire:

PERMITTED:

- GENTLEMEN: Smart attire refers to polo shirt with collar, short/long-sleeved collared shirt, long trousers and closed toe shoes. Formal attire (usually worn for a function within the Club) refers to dinner jacket and trousers or national costume.
- LADIES: Smart attire refers to the above plus smart separates, elegant dress or business attire. Formal attire refers to an elegant dress or national costume.

NOT PERMITTED:

- Any kind of shorts, singlets, T-shirts, collarless shirts, swimwear, sporting attire, tracksuits, mini-skirts, hot pants, leggings, open toe shoes/sandals, flip-flops/slippers, baseball or other sports caps, bandanas and hats.

Club functions

For Club Functions such as 'Wine Tasting' and 'New Members Nights' only Formal or Smart wear is acceptable as per the above unless otherwise stated.

Sports Courts

On the various sports courts, Sportswear appropriate to the sport must be worn subject additionally to any dress code defined by individual sports sections in the By-Laws.

Disputes

The decision of what is appropriate wear shall be left with the General Manager, Operations Manager or the Duty Manager.



ALL ORDINARY & COUNTRY MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING ON THURSDAY 25th JUNE.

HOLIDAYS & FESTIVALS

By Paul Cheesman

Actual Public Holidays in Thailand are marked in red



ANANDA MAHIDOL DAY

June 9th

This is a Thai national day to commemorate King Ananda Mahidol (Rama VIII) who was King of Siam from 1935 to 1946. King Ananda Mahidol was born in 1925 the first son of HRH Prince Mahidol Adulyadej of Songkhla and Mom Sangwal, who in later life would be entitled as Somdech Phra Srinagarindra Boromarajajonani, The Princess Mother. He became king upon the abdication of King Prajadhipok (Rama VII). As he was only nine years old, he continued his education abroad with a number of prominent people serving as his regents. He visited Thailand in 1939 then returned again in 1946 after World War II. Sadly less than a year after his return he died from a bullet wound on 9th June 1946.

On Ananda Mahidol Day in 2012 his brother, the present King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) unveiled a new statue of him in the new Suan Luang Rama VIII (Rama VIII Royal Park) adjacent to the Rama VIII bridge Bangkok's Bang Phlat district.

SUNTHORN PHU DAY

June 26th



This Thai national day celebrates the birth of Phra Sunthorn Vohara, also known as Sunthorn Phu on 26th June 1786. He was the Royal Poet under Phra Bat Somdet Phra Borommarajabongjet Mahesvarasundorn Phra Buddha Loetla Nabhalai (Rama II) a position he held until the King passed on. Upon Rama II's passing Sunthorn Phu entered into monastic life for twenty years and finally re-entered palace life as a scribe in 1844. He passed away in 1855.

RECIPROCAL CLUB REVIEW

During the next three months the Club will be conducting a review of its network of Reciprocal Clubs with a view to removing any Clubs that have closed, or have made unacceptable changes to their terms, and to fill in gaps within the network.

If you have feedback about a Reciprocal Club, or an idea for a new Reciprocal Club, please contact the Honorary Secretary on honorary.secretary@britishclubbangkok.org.



Cognita today announced that Mr Peter McMurray has been appointed as the new Head of Bangkok Schools. In this position, Mr McMurray will provide leadership and strategic oversight of both the Sukhumvit 107 campus directly while working closely with the Head of Sathorn Campus.

Chosen for his international school experience and his knowledge of both the IGCSE and International Baccalaureate programmes, Mr McMurray has a strong and proven track record at international schools in Abu Dhabi, Basel, and Mombasa.

"I am looking forward to working with the excellent teaching staff at both campuses and ensuring they are given the support they need to bring out the best in each of their students," Mr McMurray said.

Mr McMurray has a Bachelors Degree in English and Ancient Greek, a Post Graduate Certificate of Education from the University of Keele, and a Masters in International Education from the University of Bath.

PAST PARTICIPLE

Auspicium Melioris Ævi

By Paul Cheesman



We look at the history of our Club in 1987 ...

1

The first highlight of the year, or should I say lowlight, was the serious concern at the poor turn-out for the March AGM. It seems that the two EGMs of 1986 (introducing female membership) which had attendances of nearly one hundred each had sapped Members' strength such that just over 40 were in attendance, and that was boosted by three female Members being present for the first time in club history!

2

May 1987 saw principal photography of the movie "Saigon" in various places around Bangkok, including Soi Patpong and the British Club! Starring Gregory Hines as Albaby Perkins and Willem Dafoe as Buck McGriff, the film is about two US cops under cover in Saigon. It was released in 1988 by 20th Century Fox under the title "Off Limits". In return for shooting at the Club they paid for the Suriwongse Room to be redecorated and paid cash we used for buying soft furnishing for the Dining Room.

3

Also in May our Assistant Manager of some five years, Dr. Adisak Kamhanti, resigned with effect from the 25th for new challenges and we set in process a recruitment process for his replacement. In September we were able to appoint Khun Surapol Ekwanapol as Assistant Manager (F&B). A plan to recruit a second Assistant Manager for House & Grounds did not materialise.

4

Since 1969 the Club had given concessionary temporary membership to those working with Voluntary Service Overseas, and from 1977 we extended this to individual Christian missionaries on short-term contracts from the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. In October 1987 we decided to extend this privilege to low-paid workers (which was defined as 4,000 Baht a month) working in humanitarian non-profit making organisations. The first organisations to take up our revised policy were 'Youth With A Mission', the 'Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand', 'Christian Outreach' and the 'Overseas Missionary Fellowship'.

5

Some readers will recall that the Club had taken out a large loan of 200,000 Swiss Francs in December 1985 for redevelopment. Unfortunately for the Club, as mentioned last month, the Swiss Franc was dramatically rising against the Baht over the years, thus increasing what we had to pay back. The decision was thus made to convert the loan to Thai Baht and the Standard Chartered Bank agreed to undertake this for us, a 30-month loan.

This had left the Club's finances a little shaky and although membership was doing well – ending the year with a record 564 Members – it had been noted that all 120 Associate Membership places had now been filled and thus future growth would be difficult. The Club thus needed some bold moves to meet future challenges ... but you will have to wait until next month to find out what!

and we have been fortunate in that
20th Century Fox have contracted to shoot some
scenes for their new film 'Saigon' at the Club
during May, and we will benefit to the extent of
a refurbished Suriwongse Room and new Restau-
rant soft furnishings.

The author is Honorary Secretary of the Club

BRITISH CLUB FANTASY FOOTBALL LEAGUE



This was the first English Premier League Season when a British Club Fantasy Football League Team was formed and it really has been a lot of fun.

The Club formed the league within the Official English Premier League web site (www.fantasy.premierleague.com) and over 2.6 million people around the world participated in the competition

This year 8 people from the British Club took part and we are hoping for a much larger turnout for the next season which starts in August, so if you would like to know more please contact our new Sports Manager Michael Wagstaff (michael.w@britishclubbangkok.org) as he will take on the organisational responsibilities

Format

The Fantasy League format allows each player (Manager) to choose his team at the start of the season. The initial budget is £100 million and each Manager must choose 15 players (2 goalkeepers, 5 defenders, 5 midfielders and 3 forwards) for his squad and the price of each player from all of the Premier League Teams is decided upon at the outset by the Fantasy League. Thereafter the value of players can move up or down

Each week you select your team (11 players) and over the season you can gain points when your players score goals, provide assists, make saves, save penalties and keep clean sheets. Also your players can lose points when they receive a yellow or red card, let in goals, or even score own goals. You also select a Captain for each match and his points are doubled. If your player doesn't play then the computer allocates a substitute from your substitute's bench and those points are added to your score. Easy!

British Club Fantasy League Results

After a fast and furious start with "Professor Monkey" (aka Bruce Madge) providing regular information briefings for the British Club competitors, it didn't take long to understand, as he plummeted down the league table, that he really didn't know what he was doing! Meanwhile three strong contenders started to emerge.

The Jackal (aka Carlos) and his team "The Spanish Armada" decided to give everybody a week's head start as he only joined in week 2. With guns blazing he sank many of the opposition and was on target for the top place, however in the last few weeks he slipped up badly as his Spanish Brigade of ruffians began to run out of steam.

That left, so we all thought, a straight fight for the Champions spot between TC (aka Phil) and his team Olliegram Dragons and Tweedledum (aka Lawrence) and his team Mulligan's. With only 5 weeks to go, TC was over 100 points behind Tweedledum, so he decided to play seriously and in no time at all overtook The Jackal and Tweedledum.

With a 24 point advantage going into the final weekend it was still neck and neck. Tweedledum by now was becoming reckless in his attempts to clinch top place and he too was blown out of the water by The Spanish Armada. But it was too little too late as Olliegram rocketed forward with a score in the final week of 75 points, to win by 51 points and finish within the top 7% globally.

The final league table was:

Olliegram Dragons	2019
The Spanish Armada	1968
Mulligan's	1959
FMGA	1836
Artois5 2HR	1806
Dis United	1805
The Citizens	1621
GIOGII	1590
Boyne	1281

SPORTS & LEISURE

By Mike Wagstaff

The much awaited Grand Opening of the Multi-Purpose Court



It is with great pleasure that after weeks of construction I can declare the Multi-Purpose Court . . . OPEN! On Saturday 17th May, The British Club welcomed its Members and Associated Groups for a day of sports, free beer and amateur comedy (the latter provided by Bruce). The day started around 3pm with a game of hockey when the players from our Associated Group really put our brand new perfectly polished surface to the test. To the surprise of some and excitement of others, half played in shirts and half played in . . . well, not shirts. Some spectators were shocked and horrified at this sight whilst others enjoyed the moment. Remembering that this is a family Club, the Club's Chairman and General Manager discussed the Club's next purchase (a set of bibs) . . . Later to be informed by a Member that we do in fact already have these in our stores. We rushed to find such items but on our return we realised it was too late . . . Michael (Taylor) had already embraced the situation, taking this rare opportunity to show those in attendance his body. It was the request of Paul Chessman that a picture be taken of this rare spectacle and put in this month's Outpost . . . So here it is!



The hockey lads provided us with a great spectator event enjoyed by all. Conversations on the sideline consisted primarily of discussing the pain that would be inflicted should the ball collide with various locations on the body, as well as for

some learning the rules and variations of the game. I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Stevens for providing us with such a good spectator event on the day.

The second sport to test the new facility was football. The two teams battled it out in what was going to be a match of two 25 minute halves. The first half started slow with few goals being scored. The Club staff team (cleaners, gardeners, security, fitness centre and maintenance staff) were leading 3-2 at half time. This consisted of the opposing team (myself, Michael and a mixture of Members and associates) refuelling with water and discussing tactics, whilst the BC staff team made the most of the free beer on offer. To the surprise of the BC staff team . . . there was a second half. We decided upon entering the court that due to a lack of our fitness and binge drinking of BC staff that we would play to 5. Scoring 3 goals in 3 minutes the mix and match team thrown together by Michael Taylor proved victorious.

As the evening drew near, we turned on the lights and prepared for cricket. After a briefing from Jack Dunford on the rules and scoring system, it was on with the game. The players were divided into 2 teams, the coin was tossed, Dale (team captain) decided to bat in the dark and the game commenced. The final score was 159-104, Rahul's team finishing victorious. Interestingly, the event did bring to light some changes that need to be made to the finishing's around the court, such as



PÉTANQUE



On Sunday, 19th May, a motley crew gathered together to play a spot of Pétanque on the Front Lawn. It was once again a fantastic afternoon, with both old and new faces, and everybody sipping beverages and enjoying the action. Tony and Sharon returned to defend their crown, but with some stiff competition from the newcomers, it was always going to be a difficult task. Chris and Nat, knowing that they wouldn't win, brought along a pair of professionals – Tok and Kwang – to try and win it for them. However, not to be outdone, Mike (who has clearly been practicing every night since he started working here!) teamed up with Amnat, who plays a mean game. One by one, the other teams fell, until the final was played out between these two pairs. Mike and Amnat finally emerged triumphant 7-2, but Tok and Kwang (who had never played before) put up an excellent fight. With dusk approaching, the Sports boys gleefully carried their trophy off to the Fitness Centre. Until next time guys...



a black sheet which will be placed behind the bowler. This will hopefully prevent such events as witnessed by players and spectators on Saturday night, when Chairman Phil took to the crease and a hard ball bowled by a fast bowler took to his private region, poor visibility was blamed for this occurrence. ... hmm.

The day was rounded off well with a spontaneous sit-down comedy show from Bruce! All in all a successful day, enjoyed by most and one which I look forward to happening again very soon. I would like to thank all those who attended and I hope to see you all down at the Club for many more evenings of cricket in the near future.

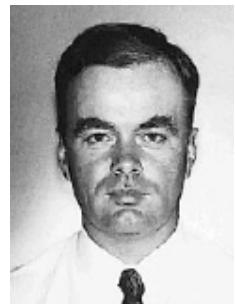
The court is now open and available for use by Members, teams and Associate Groups. We highly encourage the use of this great facility, and are currently organising many sporting events, leagues, matches, training sessions and coaching which this new facility will help to make even better than before.



TENNIS

By James Young

6th Men's Doubles Interclub Championship



Hosted in rotation by the competing teams, it was the British Club's privilege this year to host the Interclub. The Interclub tournament is possibly the oldest team event held in Bangkok and one in which I have played personally for over 20 years. So why the 6th I hear you ask? Well the Royal Bangkok Sports Club decided 6 years ago that they would not participate in future, so the numbering system restarted from the year zero...only in Asia! The event was masterminded by our own Phairoj Chansivekul. Without his contacts and knowledge of the local tennis scene, it would have been virtually impossible for a farang to arrange. Held at the LTAT facility at Muang Thong Thani due to the large number of players involved and consequent courts required, you can be forgiven for not spotting the games at the Club. Each team consists of 20 players competing in combined age ranges of 70, 80, 90, 100 & 110. Strategy and conspiracy abound when it comes to predicting the opposition strength and weakness.

This year we attempted to ensure each player got as much tennis as possible by selecting the minimum number required for each event and playing in every match, thus saving Members from turning up to play then merely spectating.

The quality of the tennis is exceptional. National players and professionals feature in each and every team. Being the British Club we, naturally, like to play by the rules and the spirit of the event. Taking part as a founder member of the competition is the ideal not harbouring thoughts of winning by fielding 'ringers' (with a small R).

The 2013 team consisted of: Andrei Ivanov and Patrick Dyche in the 70s, Marc Hagelauer and Kwan in the 80s, John Cork anchoring the 90s, Pongsak Yuktanadana and Bom at 100 and Phairoj and James in the 110s. Thanks also to reserves Khun Patana, Chalermpphon and Bob for filling in when needed.

The 9 teams were split into 3 groups of three for the qualifying stages. The BC took to the courts after a rain delay on Saturday morning considering that victory in the first match against Piayrom



was a possibility. A quietly pleasing 4-1 win meant that we weren't going to be last, relief! Then came the seeded team of the group, the Government Savings Bank. A terrific struggle ensued. The 110s won from a deficit of 5-1, the 100s lost after holding 3 consecutive match points. Victories from the 'youngsters' meant the BC earned a hard fought 3-2 win and place in Sunday's championship group with Bludeck and the Polo Club.

Certainly no expectation here, traditional rivals and regular winners, Polo Club were first up and despite the best efforts the BC narrowly succumbed by 3 matches to 2. Bludeck fielded a team almost exclusively comprised of professionals and national players. They made short work of the older ages and despite fierce resistance in the 70s and 80s a 5-0 loss was recorded. However, a better than anticipated overall result of 3rd place, something we'd have settled for on Saturday morning and the best since the runner-up finish in 2003.

Thanks to all and again Phairoj for his superb organisation. We hope to repeat the format of selecting the minimum players for the respective age groups going forward to ensure all players get the maximum tennis over the week-end in these prestigious team tournaments.



HARD BALLS

By Deepesh Middon



British Club vs English Cricket Club of Saigon



Well actually this month's Hard Balls has been written by Mr Safari Suit himself, Vaughan McClear, who dragged a team together to play what sounds like a most entertaining match against old friends from Vietnam. The great pictures were taken by Gordon Anderson. Enjoy ...



Gordon spots something



Ryan attacks



First ball of the match



Vaughan top scores



Dale plays himself in

"A big match and a big build up.....the BC hosted yet again the lads from the ECCS (English Cricket Club of Saigon) who last toured our shores two years ago and left our shores with their very first ever win on tour.....first ever!!

Pre-match organising was smooth as expected but what was really missing in team selection was the colourful and bold emails that our beloved leader Jack sends out each and every day prior to games until we have 11. Skipper of the day Vaughan is colour blind so a series of dis-jointed and coded emails were shot across cyberspace along with mysterious text messages during the wee hours of the morning from the confines of certain sub sois in Sukhumvit until, eventually, a team of 11 was confirmed. The night before game day, the tourists invaded a local eatery in Sukhumvit 22 to discuss tactics and game day plans with a handful of BC players who turned up to check the opposition out. Skipper Vaughan and Pizza Andy mingled amongst the tourists eager to learn any hidden secrets for the game day plan.....most of which went out the window after the 5th bottle of white!

Game day arrives. ECCS turn out much as expected, with little cricket gear but reddened eyes and bountiful supplies of green cans. Game on!

BC won the toss and decided to have a bat thinking that we could pile on a large total and then the rest would be a walk in the park. Dale and Mike open with a stand of 17 which then saw Skipper Vaughan wander to the crease to wonder what will come next. Pizza Andy out for a duck attempting to cross bat slog a ball that was commonly known today as a pie. BC in trouble. Vaughan and Ryan then proceeded to hold the innings together with a reasonable partnership until Vaughan had to retire on 34. In came Colin, and out went Colin.....zero! As did Bruce later on in the innings. Southerners guest player and specialist #11, Gordon wags the tail with James to get BC to a respectable total of 8/125 off 20 overs. Ryan finished with 23 as well. Green can time.

Second innings started later than expected due to re-hydration with green cans during the break. Mike and Gordon opened the bowling with success coming in the first over. Pizza Andy and Simon Tuffers next up for a brief spell also kept the runs at bay. Though wickets were not tumbling the batsman current at the crease were dragging the run rate back into the negatives so not a bad thing at all. 12 overs gone, ECCS 3/53 and the celebrations



Andy faces his first ball...



Keeps his eye on it...



And gets unlucky!

were being planned. Colin comes to bowl and does the unthinkable.....he gets a wicket! Straight ball into the stumps and the team can feel the green cans already. Another wicket and 5/55 after 13, but then an eerie feeling came across the ground. First ball from the new batsman went for 6, followed by the next and then the two batsmen at the crease started to dispatch the ball to all parts of the ground. The greens cans suddenly went warm. The two batsmen, Matt & Tizzy, retired on 30 and 31 respectively and the game was almost over with about 6 runs to go off the last two overs. The BC spirit clicked back in and all heads were raised and bodies put into overdrive for one last hurrah to attempt to pull this one out of the hat. Second last over, last ball ... a 4 was trickled over the boundary. Heads still held high. Last over, 2 to win. Field comes in hoping for a lofted drive to finish the agony. Second ball was thumped hard and head high down the ground but alas..... Skipper Vaughan pulls off a reflex catch at short, short cover which would have surely felled him if not for putting his hands in the way. 2 runs, 4 balls and in comes the last man, the Canadian. Dot ball, dot ball. We have it here we think, well at least a tie. Next balls thunders into the Canadian's thigh, drops down in front of him and it's a race. Dale is first to the ball though does a David Beckham and kicks it sideways off the wicket and the batsman scamper home for the winning run. ECCS win by 1 wicket off the second last ball.

ECCS win, BC lose again. A great day played in a great way and between great blokes and there were not too many green cans lefts at the day's end.

Brilliant ... and that concludes the official 2012/13 season but not the cricket. The splendid new Back Lawn Court is now ready for play with a Grand Opening scheduled for 18th May with demonstration hockey, football and cricket matches, after which we hope to organise a Thursday evening Cricket League competition with



Wot they gave us

invited Bangkok teams. And in July, Vaughan hopes to organise a 4-week T20 tournament at Harrow School.

So lots to watch out for. Practice nets will continue at times to be advertised by email. A few new Members have expressed an interest in playing cricket and we look forward to them joining in at any time. The 2013/14 season will kick off with a tour to Phuket at the end of October.



Wot we gave them



The Vietnam boys arrive

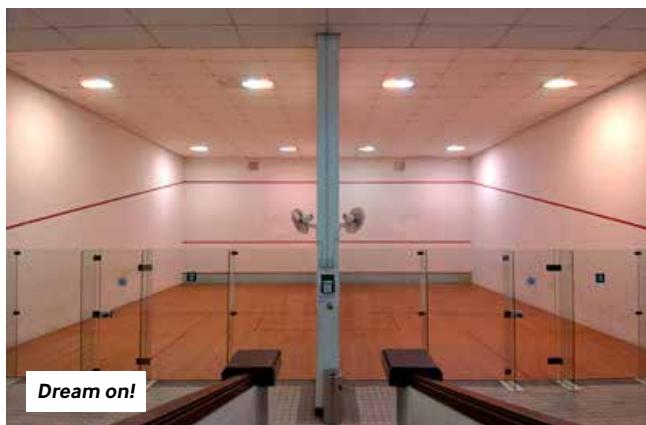
SQUASHY BITS

By Bruce Madge

Censored?



Just try it! Comrade Michael is trying. Trying to stifle the freedom of speech that Bits has been exploiting for years. He's also attempting to crush any criticism of The Great Council of the DPRBCB, and its Supreme Leader Kim Jong-phil, and of Comrade Michael himself, and of any other person/thing that has ever been abused on these pages. Yet intimidation, threats, and sanctions, will never silence this column so here we go with the latest Squash Section dross and personal attacks on its members and other poor innocents who just happen to get in the way.



Soil 197, which is in the river, invited us over for a game of squash. Really? Yeah! Well, we won/drew/lost then ate and drank. Then they came back to our place for a game of squash which we won/drew/lost and then we ate and drank again. Apparently, Captain Fantastic, Neil Evans, who works as an engineer and thinks that constructing a cupboard after driving all the way to IKEA in Bang Na to buy the bleedin' thing, with the

Mrs, the maid, and all the kids in tow, is the perfect way to spend a bank holiday, has arranged for this fixture to take place every month and is naturally squirming in his juvenile excitement and anticipation. Whatever happens, don't expect to read any more about it here!

Then we had a meeting. An openmeeting to discuss options for our new squash courts which might, or might not, be part of the final stage, if ever that starts, of Club redevelopment involving the Silom Sala. Bob got very worked up over this with mass emails and a bright Power Point slide show featuring various technical sketches put together by Marv and our dynamic, engineering captain, along with some blue prints of the foundations of the existing courts, and the ancient pet cemetery located underneath, with some other colorful, and wild ideas of a colossal, pro-squash arena featuring up to a dozen courts and some new bogs! "THIS IS YOUR CHANCE (!) to get actively involved in determining the look/ feel/ design/ direction of the BCB Squash Courts well into the next generation(s), so please take out 15 minutes of your time and study the attached presentation so we can hit the ground running on Saturday." Frantically urged Come-on-Bobby.

Well, after a couple of hours of dull presentations in the Wordsworth Room on some recentish Saturday evening, final ideas agreed upon by the semi-sage, yet fully-alcoholic,



committee members and their rag-tag guests were: set fire to the Narai Hotel, and, in the confusion of flames, smoke, fire engines, third-degree burns, singed corpses and mothers looking for their lost children, quickly dig up the kids' pool and in its place whack a stunning glass-backed, double pro court sponsored by the Silom Bible Group of which Mark Smith is pastor. This, of course, was Mark's own suggestion before he trotted off to the gym for a bicycle ride to nowhere. After Mark's magnificent proposal had been voted upon and unanimously

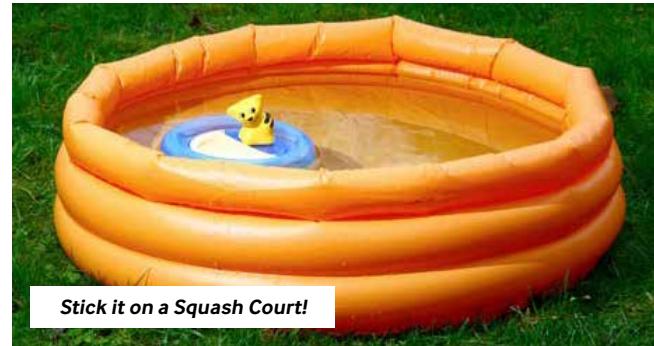
approved as the best one received so far, despite it being the only one received so far, a tall and slim, dashingly handsome, blondish, squash-playing type of gentlemen, who seemed to be very excited; extremely hyper; almost frantic, at the prospect of the BCB getting new squash courts, asked if we could have several new courts built on top of one another, maybe 15 or 20 of them with a lift and/or escalator service between the courts! Well, the outcry at this bizarre idea was as you would



expect with most present asking if blondie wasn't mad or even on some form of drugs! Blondie just kept grinning and nodding his head making us believe it was definitely the latter. Then, sensibly in stepped Captain Sensible who sensibly tendered the rather sensible idea of sensibly leaving court one as it is and rather sensibly turning courts two and three into some sort of compact, but sensible, all-enclosed, air-conditioned, sensible, squash facility with two courts sensibly placed back-to-back with a small, but sensible, seating/viewing gallery in between. How sensible is that? How sensible is he? VERY SENSIBLE! EXCEEDINGLY SENSIBLE! But not that sensible after all as he hadn't taken into consideration BCB's modest massage 'shop' attached to court three run by the dedicated and kind, hard-of-seeing couple whose only income and apparent source of joy stems from that very business, however small and modest it may seem. Captain Stupid was asked if he'd looked at where the massage gaff could be relocated to since his plan meant its destruction. He conceded that he hadn't actually looked into that that. In fact, he'd overlooked it and so was then asked if he could see anywhere it could go and he admitted that he could see of no such place. He asked others if they could see their way to helping him to look into where it might go, yet nobody was prepared to do Evan's looking for him with most suggesting that it was his responsibility to look for an alternative location. So then Peter Corney ordered Neil to do just that; to leave the meeting to go and see if he could look for a place somewhere on the Club's premises that he could see would be a suitable place for the massages to take place. Wally Evans trudged off to have a look and never returned. Apparently, he's still looking!

Well, following that, the greatest suggestion of all came in, naturally, from the greatest mind in the Squash Section, Bob's. His proposal was that courts one and two be returned to the Club to be made into sumink' useful like a new smoking room, or a cat school, or a pawn/porn shop - he didn't specify which one - or even a massage service! He then suggested that court three and the rather redundant basketball court behind it be transformed into our new, two-court squash arena that would have a sliding middle wall that when slid created a large all-purpose court that could be used for badminton or anything

else to make it more useful and thus more attractive to the Great Council/Supreme Leader/Mighty Comrade which would have to sanction and fund it. What a brilliant idea! Reduce the squash playing capacity from two courts to three and let the new facility be available to several other sports/activities as well. How convenient! Simply awesome! Just imagine the scenario of regular BCB Squashies coming to their Club to enjoy theirsquash on their brand new, glass-backed squash courts in itsuper smashing, neat and compact, professional squash arena to discover the only two squash courts the BCB has left are being used for badminton, or indoor cricket, or five-a-side football or something as equally inappropriate for a squash court. If that's the case, then how about some ten-pin bowling? Or fencing? Or cage fighting? Turkish wrestling? Skateboarding? BMX? An indoor driving range? What about



ballroom dancing? Line dancing? Morris dancing? Tap dancing or Riverdance? Those would be kind to the new squash court floors, wouldn't they? Why not move the kid's playground into the new courts? Allow an inflatable paddling pool in there? Abouncy castle? Painting or cookery classes? Some fairground attractions perhaps like shooting the ducks or tug of war? What about paintball? Could celebrate Songkran and Christmas in there? How about kids' birthday parties? What about the regular Friday Kids' Movie followed by a new feature - A Kids' Disco with popcorn, hot dogs, burgers and fries smothered in ketchup and mayo all washed down with gallons of sticky pop and tons of jelly and ice cream all over the bloody floor! Just brilliant! Well done, Bob!

Whatever! Whatever, since it's all a waste of time, anyway. For the reality is that nomatter what fancy plans we can dream up however ridiculous, sensible, or just plain stupid they are, the whole 'new squash arena' idea is just a fantasy and will probably remain so for as long as Den So remains a sad virgin. This is because Comrade Michael has stepped in and imposed severe sanctions on the Squash Section in retaliation for some criticism or threat he reckons was in last month's Bits and the only new courts he has said the DPRBCB will ever approve are the ones you see in the photos here. Bad luck Squashies, but keep dreaming.

Until there's a regime change and we can finally taste freedom..



BCGS GOLFING NEWS

By Peter Gale



It has been a hectic month of golf for the British Club Golf Society, including the Club's 2nd Major tournament of the year – the Annual 3-Day Eclectic.

Monthly Stableford – 21st April

Post-Songkran celebrations, we got back to competitive golf with the monthly Stableford competition. This month's game was played at an old favourite, Bangpakong Riverside. This is a course that is well known for being relatively forgiving with its wide fairways but still always proves to be a good test of golf. This proved the case again with no one beating par on the day. The winner was David Humphreys with a competitive 35 points, just edging Ann McKinnon, with 34pts, into 2nd, followed by John Underwood in 3rd place.

Monthly Medal – 28th April

The following weekend we were back at Royal Golf and Country Club for the monthly medal. Again Ann McKinnon was on top form and this time managed to take home one of the main prizes, winning Flight B, with a net 72, beating Chris Farrar, who also had a 72, on count back. Ray Bloom came in 3rd with a score of 77.

In Flight A, Jack O'Flynn had a welcome return to form with yet another net 72 beating John Carter into 2nd with Mark Evans coming in 3rd.

3-Day Eclectic - 4th, 5th and 6th May

This is one of the most loved of the British Club competitions, with a format that keeps everyone interested and in contention until the final round. Each competitor has 3 days to try and get as low a score as possible on each of the 18 holes, aiming to get at least a par on each hole if possible and hopefully a birdie or two thrown in along the way. The final net score is then calculated by subtracting $\frac{3}{4}$ of the player's handicap.

The format means that the first day of the event is a very relaxed round of golf as you know that even if you score really badly on a hole you still have 2 more chances to improve. The second day is 'moving' day where you try and turn those triple and double bogies into something more respectable. The last thing you want is a high score still on your card on the final day as this is when the pressure is really on, no more chances if you mess up a hole again on day 3!

The event was back being played at Majestic Creek in Hua





Hin after a one year break when the course was being renovated. The condition of the course was excellent with the one major change being the greens which are now much faster than they used to be and are definitely a degree or two more difficult.

On Day 1 the best performance came from Gaew Khongyoo, who scored a very impressive net 69 to take an early lead. It was definitely a ladies day with Gaew joined on the leader board by Tracy and Karen Carter with only Tim Mitchell representing the men.

Gaew continued to play well on Day 2 and again shot the low score of the day but this format is all about scoring well on the right holes, so her lead going into Day 3 was only 2 shots. After 2 days her net score was 67 with Tim and Tracey still pushing hard, just 2 shots back on 69. They were joined on that score by John Carter who made the most significant improvement on the day.

And so to Day 3 when the leading 4 golfers make up the last group so they can all see what they need to do against their main competitors. This has been known to give others a chance to come storming back and win as the leaders fail to improve significantly as the pressure takes hold. This year that was definitely not the case, despite there being some good scoring, notably from Brian Brook, who shot a 37 on the back 9 and Pete Gale who shot a net 67. The reason for that was a tremendous gross 74 scored by Tim which took his final net score down to 61, beating Gaew into second place by 3 shots. The other prize winner at the event was Bryan Dodd who ended up with the Low Gross prize for a score of 70.

Captain Karen completed the weekend's proceedings by handing out the prizes with the support of two small but willing helpers. As ever, it was an excellent weekend of competitive golf, well organised by Captain Karen and ably supported by Brian who had the unenviable task of doing the daily scoring.

Monthly Stableford – 12th May

The monthly medal for May was played at Kiarti Thanee on a hot but fortunately windy Sunday afternoon. Despite the tricky conditions, Captain Karen was able to put together a tremendous round and finished a resounding winner with 40 points, highlighted by a first 9 holes where she only needed 39 shots – 6 shots less than her handicap!

In second place was Pete Gale with 34 points, which included a rarely seen 5 putt which turned a potential birdie into a triple bogey. Third place went to Simon Fisher, also with 34 points.

Next month will be a bit less hectic with just the Monthly Medal at Royal on 26th May followed by the June Stableford on 9th June.

For anyone interested in joining us for very friendly but slightly competitive golf, please send an email to: bcdgs2002@yahoo.co.uk

BRIDGE



Bridge Results for April 2013

EVENT	RANK	NAME (PAIR)	SCORE%
Sunday 7th April (8 pairs)	1 st	Geraldine & Bradley	61.31%
	2 nd	Dr. Prasart & Prasert	57.74%
Sunday 21st April (12 pairs)	1 st	Narin & Surawit	63.18%
	2 nd	Christian & Manthanee	57.27%



Should I Open 1NT with a 5-card Major?

(an article by Larry Cohen)

This is the #1 question. If bridge teachers had a dollar for every time this question is asked, they'd be wealthy people.

Let me start by saying, that there is no "right" answer (which is probably why it keeps getting asked). All you can ask for is an opinion.

Well-known teachers, such as Zeke Jabbour and the late Bernie Chazen, prefer to open with the major. Marty Bergen, Audrey Grant and Roberta Salob will tell you 1NT. No doubt, other famous teachers will weigh in with a strong opinion.

In "standard" (in America, anyway), a high card says you like it and low discourages.

My advice:

With 15-17 balanced, and a 5-card major, open 1NT (balanced means 5-3-3-2. With 5-4-2-2, open the major).

The biggest reason I have for opening 1NT is that if you don't open 1NT, you will have a major (pun intended) headache when it comes time to rebid. For example, say you hold:

♠Q 10♥A Q 10 4 2♦KJ 2♣KJ 3

If you open 1, what will you do next? Suppose partner answers with 1♠. How do you show this hand? If you rebid 1NT, you are showing less than 15. If you rebid 2NT, you are showing more than 17. That is why I prefer to start with 1NT. You have 16 balanced and if you open 1♥, you will never be able to convey that information. Whatever partner responds to 1♥, you will have trouble telling partner that you have 16 HCP.

Is there a downside? Of course. By opening with 1NT, you will sometimes miss out on a proper contract in your major. You will

miss some 5-3 major-suit fits (and occasionally, even a 5-4 fit). There are conventions (such as Puppet Stayman) to get out of this mess, but those are outside the scope of this article.

I have found (in 30+ years) of experience, that my way is the best way. I have my good and bad moments, but in the long run, the money goes to the 1NT opening. Even when I do miss a 5-3 major-suit fit, I find that notrump plays just as well (and even if it is the same, it is worth a fortune at matchpoints to get the 10 extra points for your contract).

I think it best for less-experienced players to blindly open all balanced 15-17 hands with 1NT. That is because opening with the major ends up creating annoying rebid problems. For example, players who open the hand above with 1♥ will have to invent a rebid (typically in a 3-card suit). Bridge is hard



enough. Intermediate players need to keep things simple.

For more expert/experienced players: If you are willing to have an adventure or two, I suggest that you don't "blindly" open 1NT on every 15-17 balanced hand. Just on most. For example, consider:

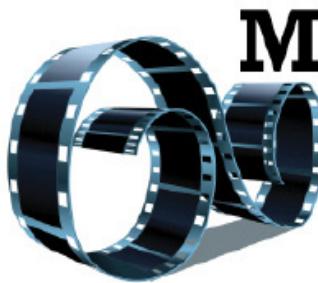
♠3 2♥A K Q J 10♦A J 10♣4 3 2.

This is obviously a "loaded" hand, but even I wouldn't open 1NT. I'd start with 1♥, and try to cope later. The stoppers are bad for notrump, and it just doesn't look like notrump. On the other hand, if I had this spread-out collection:

♠A J 2♥K Q 8 4 2♦K Q ♣10 5 2

I would start with 1NT. There are many factors, but one is that I have three spades, so if partner happens to transfer to spades, I'll be content. (If it is close, and I have only a doubleton in one major, I might lean towards opening in the other major). If I have 2 suits totally unstopped, I also would tend to open the major. In general, though, I open almost all balanced 15-17 hands with 1NT. (One big payoff comes when LHO leads 4th best against notrump into your undisclosed five-card major!) Some teachers say to go one way with hearts, another way with spades. Others say to "shade" your hand and treat it as 14 or 18 (thereby having no rebid problem). If you wish to have lots of rules, and use lots of judgment, then by all means have a ball and switch back and forth.

For most players, though, I think simple is best. With 15-17 balanced, open 1NT.



MONDAY NIGHT MEDIA

A sampling of detection, crime, and suspense!

JUNE: Mondays, 7pm, Wordsworth Lounge. Full F&B service available.

3rd June

THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

“The Assyrian Rejuvenator”

Romney Pringle is intrigued by the claims of a patent medicine distribution company. In his guise as a London literary agent, he uncovers a swindle.



“The Ripening Rubies”

Jeweller Bernard Sutton investigates a high society robbery.

10th June

LIFE ON MARS

“Episode 1.5”

When investigating the murder of a Manchester United football fan, Sam, Gene and WPC Annie Cartwright go undercover to gather evidence in the local pub - Gene's ideal job!



“Episode 1.6”

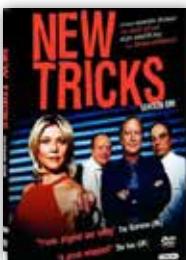
When his mother's voice bleeds through from 2006, Sam hears her say goodbye to him. His life support machine is to be turned off at 2pm. In 1973, a hostage-taker will kill his prisoners at 2pm. Is this Sam's way of saving his life in 2006?

17th June

NEW TRICKS

“A Delicate Touch”

The UCOS team looks into the death of David Barrie, a well-known legal barrister, who was found dead in his car in 1980, after being bound and gagged.



“Family Business”

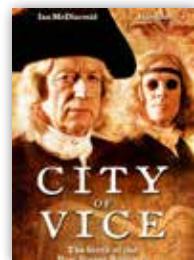
When an ex-con, who has since found religion, owns up to several race attacks he committed many years ago, the spotlight is thrown onto one attack that the con claims he did not carry out. The team attempt to discover who committed the attack on the woman, who has since been left in a coma.

24th June

CITY OF VICE PLUS ...

“Episode 5”

A gang leader, ironically named Tom Jones, is broken out of jail by his Irish gang, who shoot several prison guards in the process. The Bow Street Runners then travel to the Seven Dials to re-arrest Jones. Henry Fielding accompanies them to make sure Jones is apprehended, but is taken hostage by the gang. The Runners must decide if they're prepared to make a deal with the criminal elements of London to ensure his release. We also learn of how John Fielding, the Magistrate's half-brother became blind.

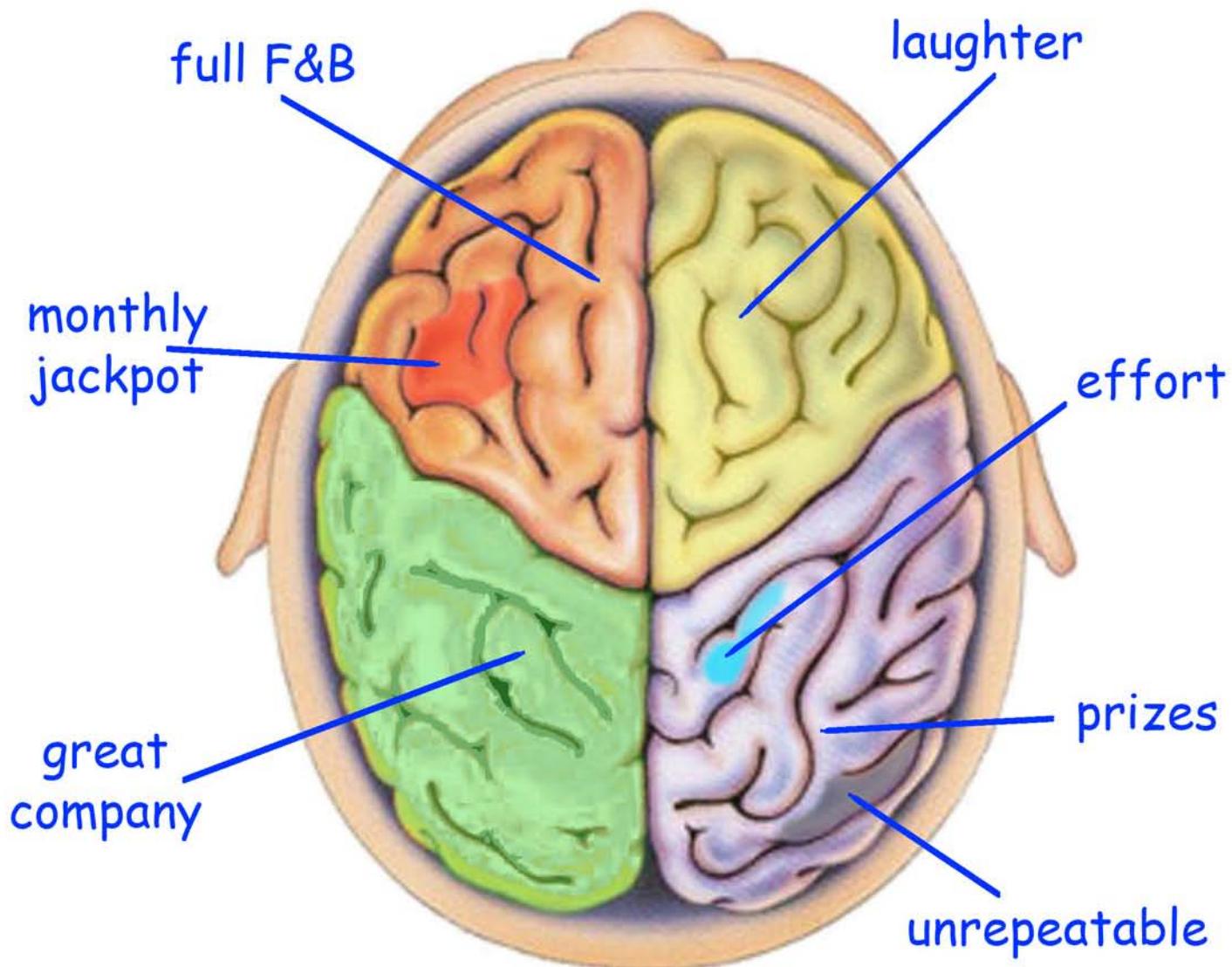


“Murder on the Victorian Railway”

Based on court transcripts and mixing narration with ‘talking heads’ portrayals of eye witnesses, this BBC dramatic reconstruction tells how, in July 1864, elderly banker Thomas Briggs was found dying on railway lines near Hackney. He had been hit on the head, robbed and his body thrown from the carriage - making him the first ever murder victim on a train. A national panic ensued regarding the safety of rail travel, and a serious investigation was mounted to ferret out justice and an explanation.



**As an evening's entertainment,
it's a no-brainer**



QUIZ NIGHT

WITH THE MONTHLY JACKPOT

**TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2013
7:15PM, THE VERANDAH**

Members Bt100, Non-members Bt 150



**BOOK WITH RECEPTION OR EMAIL
EVENTS@BRITISHCLUBBANGKOK.ORG**



FIRST TIME LUCKY!



Since restarting mid last year, the monthly Quiz Night has settled into a comfortable monthly niche, with between 4 and 6 teams turning up to pit their wits and reveal their intimate knowledge of trivia, exceptionata, and data specialista. Those proclaiming themselves to be hopelessly ignorant often do remarkably well, whilst those who feign encyclopaedic familiarity with minutiae often discover they have huge areas of cerebellic opacity.

The Monthly Jackpot was introduced last autumn as a taunting diversion, a supplement to the Bt 500 F&B vouchers which each member of the winning team receives. The jackpot starts at Bt 1,500 in like vouchers, and if not won sees an increment of Bt 500 added to its value for the following month. It was won almost by accident (but appropriately festive) in December, but not since, so the May jackpot stood at Bt 3,500.

Both quizmasters were in attendance, one an Alabaman Thai, the other sporting a Welsh drawl, and The Verandah was full with 6 teams jostling their memories and ordering beer whilst Happy Hour was still in force. The rounds of questions were grouped into baffling topics: True/False (great to start off), Castles & Cathedrals (obscure), Thailand's got Talent (boggling), Photo Line-Up (no screaming), Cocktails (aah, back to Earth). And we were about to start when....

A group of 3 new Members appeared and were keen to partake. I had to sit them right at the back, just close enough to the main screen to see and hear the questions, and gave them a brief run down of the format and method. I detected a hint of despair at the round of questions about Thailand, being new arrivals to this curious country, but they laughed it off.

There were obscure questions, and those bordering on invisible, balancing out the easy and often hilarious ones. Heads were scratched, ribs were elbowed, preposterous suggestions were quietly repelled, nonsensical comments abounded provoking loud eruptions of raucous and sometimes coarse or even caustic laughter. Before we knew it, Under Par and Spoofers had drawn as winners and a tie break was demanded. When the Jackpot was called, it looked as if it would go unclaimed once more.

To my delight, the blinding streak of a winning response flooded the room from the back - yes, it was the new team, 3 of them, who had each known the answer to one part of the 3 part jackpot question. That was a seriously just end to a terrific evening, and the teams dispersed in anticipation of the next chance to shine on Tuesday 11th June.



DO YOU KNOW?.....

The oldest Chinatown in the world outside China is in the Philippines - True or False?

What is the name given to the central structure in a medieval castle?

Kanchana Ketkaew set a Guinness World Record when she spent 33 days in a glass box with what?

2 oz gin, 0.25 oz dry vermouth, 0.25 oz absinthe will give you which cocktail?

Which movie includes performances by George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg, Diane Lane and Karen Allen?





KIDS MOVIES

Fridays, 6pm, Silom Sala

7th June



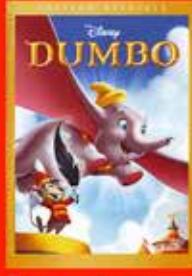
"Megamind"

14th June



"Castle in the Sky"

21st June



"Dumbo"

28th June



"Toy Story 2"

TAKE-AWAY



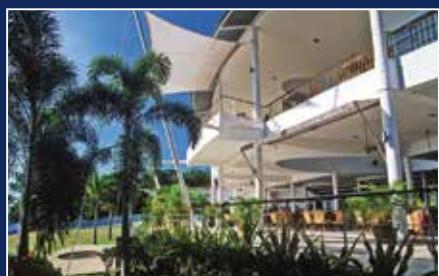
Did you know that most items on the Club's menus are available for take-away?

Simply order direct from any outlet in person or by telephone.





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