



1963
THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

Outpost

www.britishclubbangkok.org

June 2018

Business Luncheons

Available from 11.00am to 2.00pm

28th May - 1st June 2018

Starters: 65 Baht

Pasta, chicken and pesto salad or Chef's soup of the day

Main Courses: 160 Baht

Chicken breast stuffed with mozzarella & pesto

or BBQ pork spare ribs

or Mushroom stroganoff with tagliatelle

or Gaeng Pa Gai, Kai Jiew Moo Sub, Phad Khana Nam Man Hoy



4th June - 8th June 2018

Starters: 65 Baht

Chicken, apple salad or Chef's soup of the day

Main Courses: 160 Baht

Cajun chicken

or Fillet of pork with light curry sauce

or Macaroni with white wine creamy sauce, baked with cheese

or Panaeng Moo, Gai Phad Khing, Sod Phad Phak Ruam Nam Man Hoy



11th June - 15th June 2018

Starters: 65 Baht

Mixed salad with smoked chicken breast, beetroots and mango

or Chef's Soup of The Day

Main Courses: 160 Baht

Chicken stew in red wine

or Dory fish with mangos salsa

or Roast pork neck

or Tom Yum Gai, Phad Tua Ngok, Tao Hoo Pla Som Ros



18th June - 22nd June 2018

Starters: 65 Baht

Chicken and cranberry salad or Chef's soup of the day

Main Courses: 160 Baht

Chicken Tikka Masala

or Pan-fried Dory fish with mornay sauce

or Fillet of pork wrapped in Parma ham grain mustard and honey sauce

or Gaeng Kiew Wan Gai, Moo Tod Krathiem,

Phad Phak Ruam Nam Man Hoy



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THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

**GENERAL COMMITTEE**

Chairman - Jack Dunford MBE
chairman@britishclubbangkok.org

Vice Chairman - Ali Adam
vicechair@britishclubbangkok.org

Honorary Secretary - Paul Cheesman
honorary.secretary@britishclubbangkok.org

Honorary Treasurer - James Crossley-Smith

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 Robert Brand, Brian Brook,
 Nathan Thomas, Chris Watt
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**FRONT COVER**

Another year has passed, and HM Queen Elizabeth continues to shine. The official birthday is a time to rejoice and celebrate our good fortune at having such a remarkable monarch, and to extend our good wishes for health, happiness and many more years to come! Many Happy Returns!

EDITOR'S GREETING

As Outpost prepares for its new look and direction, the content has shuffled a bit so this issue has a slightly different format.

A new series "Changing Places" looks back at Laos decades ago, and over the next couple of months will compare 'then and now' views. There is a new page 'BC Buzz' from the Club's new marketing guru, and a page I liked and first featured 8 years ago 'The Month That Was' but with revised content. Thanks for everything Dickie!

3D art, really!



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www.twitter.com/BCBangkok

OUTPOST is the monthly magazine of **THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK**, the social sports and cultural centre for the English-speaking community in Bangkok.

A full version of the magazine is also available online at www.britishclubbangkok.org

Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Club. All events, dates and times are correct at time of press. Outpost welcomes contributions from Members, email outpost@britishclubbangkok.org - No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the Publisher.

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MESSAGE FROM the Chairman

As I write this, the Club is bustling with activity in preparation for the Royal Wedding on Saturday. This is one of the biggest events we have planned for a long time but of course its success very much depends on the weather which this year has been unusually wet and unpredictable. There is a stiff upper lip British tradition that Street Parties go on whatever the weather, but Bangkok rain could be a bit more challenging. We have our fingers and everything else crossed and hopefully will be reporting a well-attended and happy and occasion next month.



Jack Dunford

Chairman



Silom Wing: Officially the rescheduled completion date for the Silom Wing is July and that would still just about be possible if everything goes perfectly from now on. The superstructure is complete, specialist contractors are at work and fitting out is well under way. Much of this can be completed quickly but exactly when it will all be finished hangs on the timely delivery of materials and good coordination between the trades.

This is going to be an amazing addition to the Club and in the long run a few weeks delay will be neither here nor there. The most important thing right now is to ensure that everything is finished according to plan and up to specification.

Constitution: As Paul reports elsewhere, the Thai authorities have approved our new Constitution almost in its entirety and it is now in effect. If you are wondering how to while away the next half hour after reading Outpost, why not browse through it on the website and

admire the prose! Complementary updated Bylaws will also shortly also be available.

Spoofing: The Gentlemen Spoofers of Bangkok was founded almost 30 years ago and has met regularly in the Churchill Bar on a Tuesday evening ever since. Although many Members have participated over the years many others have considered them a bit nutty, possibly dangerous, and given them a wide birth. Count me amongst them.

There was a bit of an incident a few months back which, to the consternation of many, led the Spoofers to up-sticks and take their custom elsewhere. But after some closed-door negotiations the crisis was happily resolved and the Gentlemen were welcomed back to their spiritual home on May Day.

As responsible persons both Ali and I were on hand to welcome them and, somewhat against our better instincts, found ourselves seduced into joining in as

'virgin spoofers'. No details can be revealed because, being Gentlemen, no bragging is allowed. Suffice it to say it was a great night enjoyed by all and we now look forward with anticipation to the 30th Anniversary Spoof on September 8th. Yes, it is all a bit nutty, the only danger perhaps being having a tippie too many, but great fun. Come along and join in one of these Tuesday nights!

Mike Smith: An obituary for Mike Smith appears elsewhere in these pages and, as many of you will know, he died intestate and with no known relatives. This was of great consternation to his many friends and delayed the last rights. Finally however, it was possible to hold funeral rights and the cremation at Wat Tha Thong on 14/15th May.

In attendance was a small group of friends amongst whom was former Thai Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun, a former fellow Dulwich College old boy. Most touchingly several friends and colleagues came down from Hong Kong to pay their last respects.



Phantom of the

During the wake hosted by the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand, all present spoke in turn of their relationship with Mike and memories going back to 1970 in Hong Kong. There were many moving testimonies to a lovely and fascinating man who enjoyed sharing life with his friends, always willing to explore off the beaten track, especially in search of good food or a collectable.

Rest In Peace Mike. Many thanks to the FCCT, the Embassy and his friends for making it possible to give him a dignified send-off. The search for relatives continues with some urgency and any leads would still be most welcome.

Cricket: The Sports Sections are an important part of Club life, attracting many Members to join and swelling the coffers of the various F&B outlets. With no playing fields though, it has always been a challenge to field rugby, football and cricket teams and some of us still mourn the decision taken at an AGM some 20 years ago or so to abandon the 'playing field fund'. The rugby and soccer sections are currently defunct but the Cricket Section was resurrected in 2009 after a hiatus of more than ten years. To begin with, this was not for the



Winning Team

faint-hearted. We famously lost 36 consecutive matches over two seasons, being a bit of a laughing stock, but nevertheless creating a level of respect for the fun and old-fashioned fair-play we brought to the game.

How satisfying then, that several good cricketers have joined the Club to join in the fun, standards have risen and under Rahul Gupte's enthusiastic captaincy, the team has just recorded its 10th victory of the season and are in with a shout for League honours this year. And we still have fun ... well done lads!

Khun Kasem: Getting a friendly welcome from staff who recognise you is what makes the Club 'home from home' and for many Members Khun Kasem, our Outlets Manager has been a special friend. With more than 20 years service, Khun Kasem is always ready with a personal greeting and often knows what Members want to eat or drink even before they do.

Khun Kasem will be retiring in May when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 60, but I am pleased to report that after taking a well-deserved vacation he will return as The Verandah Manager, the role he excels at best. We will be recruiting a new Outlets Manager to take over his other responsibilities and her priorities will include regular staff training aimed at raising service levels throughout the Club.



RIP Mike Smith

Outpost: Our arrangement with Big Chill to produce Outpost did not really work out and we have amicably agreed to once again bring production back in-house. This will be the last edition produced by Big Chill.

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LETTER FROM the General Manager



Premrudee Tanyaluck

General Manager

Last weekend the Club's Royal Wedding Street Party was a huge success; we had more than 400 people for pre-registration and the weather held out! Our thanks to all the sponsors, vendors, Associate Groups, Loyal Societies, Members and staff who were involved in or attended the event, and also to Khun Paul Jackson, the MC, who made the event such fun and so enjoyable. It was the first big event this year, the next being in September, the "Living in Bangkok" show so our team is already at work on it.

Khun Kasem Modpai retired in May after 21 years at the Club. I thank him for his hard work and am happy he will return as temporary staff in July. Our new Outlets Manager, Khun Ern, starts work in June just in time for the new Silom Wing opening, so please welcome her to the Club.

In June we celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth II's Birthday on 9th June with kids activities, games and a full bar on the front lawn, and on 2nd June there is the BCT's Mamma Mia singalong with more of their shows in the future. Saturday 16th June sees the Club hosting Canada Day so the car parks will be closed and Members can park at the Narai Hotel. For tickets, please contact info@canchamthailand.org

Throughout the month the World Cup will be showing in the Churchill Bar and Sports Bar with special drink promotions being advised by weekly mailing. On 28th June the Club will host the BCCT Networking Night with over 100 people expected.



For the Silom Wing Project, my team is looking into the furniture, landscaping, playground and all other facilities, as well as looking for staff for all the new outlets.

At the end of April we had over 1,100 Members, so our Marketing team has many plans for New Members especially once the Silom Wing Project is finished.

For Members going away in June, please do not forget we have over 350 reciprocal clubs around the world; introductory letters are available from the membership department or info@britishclubbangkok.org

I looking forward to seeing you all around the Club.



92ND CELEBRATION QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY



SAT 9TH JUNE 2018
FRONT LAWN, 3PM - 6PM



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TEE TALK



Tee Bale

Deputy General Manager

Work continues on our new Silom Wing Development and things are starting to take shape. Exciting times are ahead as we prepare for the next stage of fitting out all the new facilities that it will hold. The overall feel for the space is surprisingly bigger than I had imagined and it will be an amazing new area for dining experiences, along with some great theme nights that we have planned in the new Sala area.

Summer Camp this year is shaping up to be the biggest and best we have ever put together, I'm happy to say we are teaming up with Varuna Yacht Club and Ramayana Water Park plus including other day trips of ice-skating and bowling amongst all the usual coaching and sports activities. This year is an absolute must to enrol your kids and let happen all summer long.

The football World Cup 2018 gets underway June 14th and we will be showing all the action on a large screen poolside and in the Churchill Bar. The Club will be having special promotions on food and beverage for the whole tournament as well as a kids Sunday penalty shootout competition each week, with the final shootout of all the weeks winners on the World Cup Final day with prizes for all the winners.

I am happy to announce the new arrival of Khun Ern who is Thai and will be taking care of all our food and beverage outlets. Khun Ern comes from a strong F&B background and has also worked for 7 years in England gaining extensive experience.

June at the Club is filled with lots of events to look out for, with the highlights to put in your diary being the Queen's Birthday 2nd June, World Cup Football 14th June – 15th July, Canada Day 16th June and British Chamber of Commerce T3 28th June.

The Verandah	11am - 2pm, 5pm - 10pm (Mon-Thurs) 11am - 10pm (Fri-Sun and Public Holidays)		
1910 Balcony	3pm - midnight (Afternoon Tea 3pm - 5pm)		
Accounts Office	9am - 6pm (Mon-Fri), Closed (Sat-Sun)		
1910 Sports Bar	5pm - midnight	Fitness Centre	6am - 10pm (Mon-Fri)
Churchill Bar	10am - 12midnight	Fitness Centre	6am - 9pm (Sat-Sun)
Poolside Bar	6:15am - 11pm Last food orders 9:30pm	Thai Massage	10am - 5pm (Tues-Sun)

CANADA DAY
FÊTE DU CANADA

2018



Canadian Cottage Party

SATURDAY, JUNE 16
15:00 – 22:00
THE BRITISH CLUB



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BRITISH CLUB BUZZ



Michael Herrera

Marketing Manager

Since joining in April, I have had a bit of time to settle in and get to know the Club a bit over the relatively short while I have been here. As a long time Bangkok resident, I've discovered that the British Club holds a special place in the hearts of many of my dearest friends here. I have always known about the Club but I had never had a chance to experience it for myself. It has a surprising charm and welcoming atmosphere that I hadn't expected along with the fact that it really is "an oasis in the heart of Bangkok".

When it was suggested I write a page in our monthly Outpost, I was of course honoured but also a bit unsure of what to write. I didn't want to speak too much about the Club as I'm still getting the lay of the land as it were, and I've never considered myself a great writer. Of course, I feel it's a good thing to talk about all the wonderful upcoming events we have planned as well as the fresh new marketing perspective we have already begun in small increments to help bring the Club up to current standards in terms of the way we communicate both internally and externally with the outside world such as creating a more active social media presence on Facebook and Instagram. In today's technology lead world, it's important for the Club to not only keep up but also look to create fun, new and exciting ways to engage our current Members as well as appealing to potential new Club Members.

So, I've decided to try and touch on a little bit of everything each month in an effort to keep all of you abreast of our team's activities and efforts to improve on the much-loved British Club experience.

With lots of great events planned for the remainder of 2018, this year is shaping up to be quite an exciting one. From our all-out Royal Wedding Street Party on May 19th with a wide selection of British themed food and drinks, various vendors, activities, lucky draws, live entertainment and tremendous interest generated from both Members and non-members alike, this event looks to be the highlight of the year so far. Some fantastic dates ahead to keep in mind are Mama Mia Singalong Night (June 2nd), the Queen's Birthday celebration (June 9th), World Cup (June 14th/15th), and Canada Day (June 16th) where we open the Club once again to the public for a fun-filled day out for everyone.

As mentioned, the World Cup is once again upon us and kicking off on June 14th and taking place through July 15th. Members are invited to watch all the games at the Club as we will be projecting all the matches outdoors (weather permitting of course) on our big screens as well as live digital streaming on all our high definition tv screens throughout the entire Club.

All this and much, much more is coming your way at The British Club ... for more information on these or any other events, please contact our friendly reception staff or if you happen to spot me having a walk around the Club, don't hesitate to stop and say hello.

MICHAEL SMITH (1938-2018)

Michael Edward John Smith was born on 8th April 1938 in Lambeth, South London and was educated at Alleyn's School, being placed in Brading's House. The School would feature very heavily in both his early and later life.

Mike moved to Hong Kong in 1965 where he later took over as IBM's Marketing Manager in the 1970s. He served on the board of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong, and as a keen chess player he served as President of the Hong Kong Chess Federation where he met Bobby Fischer. In 1974 he represented Hong Kong at the World Chess Olympiad. Mike was also a keen squash player.

Upon retirement in 1998 Mike relocated to Bangkok, and joined both the British Club and the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand. His love of chess continued and he played a match with British Chess Grandmaster Nigel Short in 2004, when he entered a British Club - Bangkok Chess Club exhibition tournament. Needless to say Nigel won but Mike described it as an amazing experience. He continued playing squash for a few years but was most frequently seen at the Club enjoying a hearty lunch and/or dinner in the Churchill Bar.



As well as being a collector of antiques and peculiarities, including cigarette cards, Mike had a huge collection of black & white movies which he shared with British Club Members on a weekly basis for many years. In his retirement he was also honorary secretary of the Bangkok Old Alleynians group for over 17 years.



DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Silom Wing

A major milestone was reached on the Silom Wing when the roof slab was poured just after Songkran to complete the main concrete structure.

The pictures were taken on 17th May showing rapid progress with blockwork on both floors of the new buildings. Plastering of the walls has commenced and footings for both the kiddies swimming pool and the guard-house are well under way.

This structure will be softened with landscaping and architectural features.



Ali Adam

Chair Silom Wing SC

Kiddies Pool footings



Brickwork for the Children's toilets



Squash Court



Footings for the New Entrance





FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018



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WE THE PEOPLE

The Ministry of the Interior registered our revised Constitution on 8th May 2018 thus it is now in force. The Constitutional Review had taken nearly three years to complete and we now have a shorter, more precise, more modern Constitution ready to drive the Club through the next ten or more years. A copy of the (now current) Constitution can be found on the Club's website.

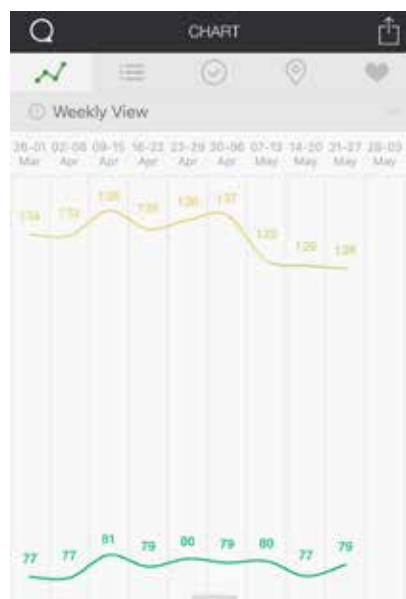
The Constitution & Bylaws Sub-Committee is now working fast to streamline the Bylaws and it is planned that the revised Bylaws should be published in June 2018. When all matters are complete a full series of articles will be published in Outpost to explain the key benefits to the Membership and to the Club of the changes made.

Paul Cheesman
 Honorary Secretary & Chair Constitution & Bylaws Sub-Committee
 The British Club Bangkok

BLOOD PRESSURE – WORRIED ?

The last couple of times my blood pressure had been taken it had seemed rather high, but popping in to a clinic every day is just impractical and costly. I wanted to check at differing times, early, late, before/after drinks, etc. And I wanted to keep a record to see how things developed.

Accidentally I found QARDIO online, a company producing smart items for home use. Their blood pressure monitor, QARDIOARM, links with your phone (and/or watch), is portable, not much bigger than your hand, and works like a dream. I got mine through Amazon and it's brilliant. I use it every day, often multiple times, at home, when I'm out, even in traffic jams! It sends data to my phone apps, and I can email full graphical readings. Worth every penny, and has put me at ease! Have a look: <http://tinyurl.com/y7a9d2fb>



115 YEARS LATER!

The Club's birthday party

The Club's 115th Birthday was held on Sunday April 8th and was a fun but slightly more subdued affair this year due to the annual Songkran exodus from the city. The Club's management had determined that many of our valued members would be leaving town or preparing to head to their holiday homes outside the metropolis so, a light turnout had been anticipated.

The event kicked off on a bright, sunny and very warm Sunday with a playful and relaxed atmosphere.

The kiddies were already well into their water sports, trampoline, Bouncy Castle and various activities whilst the parents were watching from the comfort of shaded tables under the awnings enjoying drinks and food prepared by Chef Laak.

After a welcome speech by the Club's Vice Chairman Ali Adams, there was ceremonial cutting of delicious birthday cake which was baked in the club's own kitchen with a memorable speech by honorary club member Patrick Dickson.

K. Bee led the destruction of two separate piñatas which held up well against the constant barrage by the excited little ones before finally bursting with candy to everyone's delight.

After 115 years, the British Club is still an inviting destination for good fun and seems to be getting ready for yet more wonderful times ahead thanks to the support of all the Members.







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Calendar June 2018

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday



4

BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



5

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 7:30pm



Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm



Football
7pm - 9pm

6

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm

Ladies Tennis Coaching
9.30 - 10.30pm

Paella
Dinner only!



11

BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



12

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 7:30pm



Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm



Football
7pm - 9pm

13

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm

Ladies Tennis Coaching
9.30 - 10.30pm

Paella
Dinner only!



18

BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



19

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 7:30pm



Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm



Football
7pm - 9pm

20

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm

Ladies Tennis Coaching
9.30 - 10.30pm

Paella
Dinner only!



25

BWG Mahjong
10am - 1pm



Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



26

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 7:30pm



Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm



Football
7pm - 9pm

27

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm

Ladies Tennis Coaching
9.30 - 10.30pm

Paella
Dinner only!



BANGKOK COMMUNITY THEATRE
presents a
MOVIE MUSICAL SINGALONG
Audience Participation Event
in the Suriwongse Room
Saturday, June 2nd, 2018

One Night Only! *Tickets on sale now!*

BCT has held hugely successful singalong events in the past, so don't miss the chance to strut your stuff at this year's fabulous event at The British Club.

Make your tickets one and content The British Club Reception Desk to book your tickets and to find out which hilarious musical comedy BCT will be screening this year. The event features a hilarious buffet dinner, charismatic hosts, lots of audience participation, individual goody bags and more. The audience is very much encouraged to dress up as characters or trivia from the chosen movie and to compete for our highly coveted costume prizes.

Don't worry if you've never been to a movie singalong before, our hosts will lead you through a brief warm-up, show you how to use the goody bag prizes and suggest many fun ways to participate. You'll be ready to go when we begin screening this year's movie complete with subtitles so you can join in the songs.

£100 per person includes pre-show buffet supper and goody bag.
Cash bar available; prices for Best Costume!

Buffet supper from 5:30pm; movie commences at approximately 7:30pm.
Tickets available now at the BCT Reception Desk by calling 03-234-0243 or via email: info@britishclubbangkok.org

For further information about BCT or this year's chosen musical, please email: info@bangkokcommunitytheatre.com.

Due to adult themes, recommended for adults and students age 18+.
Places are limited for this one-night-only event, so book now!

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday



1

Junior Tennis
4 - 6pm



2

Swimming Lessons
9 - 10:30am

Musical Singalong
6.30pm onwards



3

Sunday Brunch
11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge
2pm Silom Room

Swimming Lessons
9 - 10:30am



7

Squash Mix-In
5:15 - 9:45pm



8

Junior Tennis
4 - 6pm



9

Swimming Lessons
9 - 10:30am

Queen's Birthday
3 - 9pm, Front Lawn



10

Swimming Lessons
9 - 10:30am

Sunday Brunch
11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge
2pm Silom Room



14

Squash Mix-In
5:15 - 9:45pm



15

Junior Tennis
4 - 6pm



16

Swimming Lessons
9 - 10:30am

Canada Day
3 - 10pm



17

Swimming Lessons
9 - 10:30am

Sunday Brunch
11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge
2pm Silom Room



21

Squash Mix-In
5:15 - 9:45pm



22

Junior Tennis
4 - 6pm



23

Swimming Lessons
9 - 10:30am



24

Swimming Lessons
9 - 10:30am

Sunday Brunch
11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge
2pm Silom Room



28

Squash Mix-In
5:15 - 9:45pm



29

Junior Tennis
4 - 6pm

Wine Tasting
6 - 9pm

Surawongse Room



30

Swimming Lessons
9 - 10:30am



THE MONTH THAT WAS!

By Dickie Whitworth

1919

Exactly five years after the assassination which had started WW1, the Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28th June, ending the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers



1989

On 5th June, the day after a crackdown on student protests in Tiananmen Square, a single man directly in front of an approaching column of Type 59 tanks which stopped - a quiet, still impasse.



1967

On 2nd June, soon after its UK release, The Beatles "Sgt Pepper's" launched in the USA, probably the first concept album and often voted the best LP ever made



1613

At the three-storey open air theatre, The Globe, in a performance of Richard III on 29th June, the firing of a cannon ignited the straw roof setting the Globe ablaze



1953

Just over a year after her ascending the throne, the coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth II took place on 2nd June. Long may she reign!



1898

On 9th June, Britain signed a 99 year lease for an area of 400 sq miles known as Hong Kong which developed into a massive trade hub and finance centre



1314

Although heavily outnumbered, Scottish forces under Robert the Bruce defeated Edward II's army on 23/24 June, the last major English effort to conquer Scotland



1579

Having dropped anchor in a small bay just north of what is now San Francisco, on 17 June Francis Drake proclaimed sovereignty over New Albion on behalf of Queen Elizabeth I



1814

The first cricket match was played at the present (3rd) site of London's famous Lord's Cricket Ground on 22nd June, between Hertfordshire and Marylebone CC



1972

On 17th June at the Democrat campaign offices in Washington DC, the apprehension of several burglars began a chain of events leading to President Nixon's resignation in 1974



1815

The fields near Waterloo in Belgium saw a crushing defeat by the British of Napoleon's French army on 18th June, after which he was exiled and died on the island of St Helena



1926

On 1st June, Norma Jeane Mortenson was born in Los Angeles, later to become a globally famous sex symbol as the actress, model, singer Marilyn Monroe



WHAT'S IN A GLASS?

We had a wonderful turnout for our monthly wine-tasting in April which was held in the Suriwong Room.

The evening was very well-attended despite the torrential downpour that decided to make an appearance just as the sun was going down.

This month we had no less than 5 wine suppliers featuring their various selections of wines from many different regions and vineyards, along with a wonderful spread of finger foods and appetisers, which paired perfectly with the different styles of wine, and as usual, very few morsels were left at the end of the evening.

As per usual, the distributors on hand offered many special discounts, promotions and exclusive deals for our Members and the result was that almost every single bottle of wine ventured home with the happy attendees of the evening.

The wine-tasting was strongly supported by around 100 Members who had braved the rainy conditions to enjoy the wine sampling and delicious canapé buffet that was prepared. We're anxiously looking forward to seeing you and your guests at the next wine-tasting event where we will have all the amazing wine suppliers you've come to expect at the British Club.



CHANGING PLACES

Part 1



Jack Dunford

Chairman

In 1990 I spent a day in Vientiane crossing the mighty Mekhong River by boat from Nong Khai. Laos was slowly opening up after the communist take-over in 1975 but not a lot had changed. It was a charming, sleepy place with very little traffic and very few tourists. I took just one roll of slides and in January spent a couple of days with Members David & Rachel Dance to see how much things had changed and to try to match up my pictures.

Vientiane is still no busier than a small Thai provincial town but had changed a lot since 1990. So much so that the only places we could really match up were the historical sites. We were unable to identify most the ordinary street scenes. I will post my Then and Now pictures in the next two editions of Outpost but this month here are just a few gentle scenes from 1990.



Banana delivery



Welcome to Laos





Rush hour

Looking back to Thailand



Colonial relics



Bus travel



Our hotel ... long gone



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SATURDAY

JUNIOR SQUASH
Coaching with Ruengrit

2nd, 9th, 16th 23rd
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1.00pm - 1.45pm | age 5 years - 8 years

1.45pm - 2.30pm | age 9 years - 12 years

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Min 2 kids /class

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HARD BALLS

Match season has soared onwards; turning out to be the busiest and dare I say most successful of the modern era. By the time you are reading this the Bangkok cricket league should be winding up, and at the time of writing - BC are still in with a shout of the title! We also look forward to the Malaysia tour in June which the tennis and squash teams will courageously be joining, having not been put off by the mishaps in Chiang Mai earlier this year.

This month's edition skims over a period of games which I have yet to report. Please direct all enquiries for full match details to Dilip Mishra who keeps an indisputable recollection of all games in his memory.



Ben Eastwell

BCV Asian Stars (ESL) 01 April 2018 @ Thai Polo Pattaya

British Club	Asian Stars
81-10	18.1 overs
84-0	11 overs
Shri - 25, Rahul - 24	

Just before the Songkran break, BC hoped to make it 3 out of 3 in the recently formed, Eastern Seaboard League (ESL) that was added to the fixture list for this season. The team in command had been enjoying a good run down in Pattaya until coming up against 'Asian Stars' with a team seemingly packed out with superstars. A comprehensive loss brought the winning streak to an end along with Dilip's impressive bowling figures, and the better weather as the rain washed in during the buildup to the latter part of the season.



Sundowners in Pattaya



A little moist

BCV Southerners (ESL) 21 May 2018 @ Thai Polo Pattaya

Southerners	British Club
177-7	25 overs
154-9	25 overs
Ben 3 - 28, 5 overs	Ed - 35, Dale - 34

A mini series against the Southerners was lined up after the holidays, with the first of 3 games to be played at the start of a double-header weekend down in Pattaya as part of the ESL. Bowling first, BC were bogged down by the opening pair and a lack of early wickets helped the fellow Bangkok side to push on to an above par total, assisted in places by some sloppy fielding. Despite a quickfire innings from Dale after the captain ran himself out, Ben and Ed couldn't hold up the middle order long enough, causing BC to lose grip of the chase in the closing overs. The Saturday morning match allowed for plenty of time to roll into town and for everyone put their feet up ahead of the match the next day.

Players were greeted on Sunday morning by rain for the fixture against home side, Pattaya, which eventually rendered the field unplayable shortly after the 2 sides managed to squeeze in a few overs - perhaps foreshadowing the weeks to come.



I think we made it worse



BC V Southerners (BCLB) 28 May 2018 @ Boweja

The second meeting in the mini-series with the Southos was played at the new BCG ground and would count towards the Bangkok cricket league – where both teams were similarly positioned. BC set out to level the series bowling first in damp conditions and had the Southerners in their grasp at the 10th over before the heavens opened and didn't stop, resulting in a rained-out game and both teams sharing the points available. Fortunately, the Esky was full to the brim and the bar was well stocked to safely see the thirsty squad through until the rain subsided.

An extended fines session and uninterrupted downpour did not only begin to trouble the guilty captain and Talal (who had announced it would be his last game before moving to Mexico for a while), but the van driver had managed to get himself stuck in the mud and despite 101 ideas from a merry team - he had to wait for rescue – lucky there was another case behind the bar.

BC V Siam CC (BCLB) 5th May 2018 @ AIT

Siam Parrots	British Club
48-10 15 overs	49-1 8.5 overs
Denzyl 4 – 17, Ben 3 – 8, Dilip 3-12	Paul – 24*, Glenn – 13*



Who washes their own kits

On arriving at AIT after some time away from the Rangsit venue, BC were greeted with a freshly laid pitch and what seemed to be an unplayable outfield which had suffered from some overnight rain. However, with pressure from the league organisers and 2 equally stupid teams – the game went on after a somewhat ineffective technique to dry out the field. After fortunately winning the toss, BC ripped through a struggling Parrots side who were bowled out for under 50 in the tricky conditions, with most of their dismissals being clean bowled. A strong BC reply saw the total chased within 9 overs, equaling maximum points in the BCL bank.



That'll do it

BC V Kerala Strikers (ESL) 6th May @ Thai Polo Pattaya

Kerala Strikers	British Club
83-10 23.5 overs	84-2 14.3 overs
Dilip 3 – 17, Ben 3 - 22	Paul – 37*, Rahul – 20*



Pre match tug of war



8 Wicket win V Kerala



Denzyl player of match V Siam



Hmm

The following morning, a few hours South of the Saturday venue, things did not look much better in terms of ground conditions – fortunately Rahul hadn't forgotten his 'special' coin so won another important toss and put Kerala into bat. After bowling the opposition out just inside the allotted overs, BC crafted an 8 wicket win after chasing the target in the 15th. A soggy weekend, but with 2 wins secured, what was there to complain about.



9 wicket win V Siam

SQUASHY BITS

BURMA!

The nation on the left, or right, depending on where you are standing. Lots of friendly, but small, brown folks; spicy noodles on every corner; cheap, local beer; nice coffee; low cost of living; pretty good standard of English; plenty of gaudy temples and gawking tourists; KFC and Starbucks; partly developed in places; undeveloped in others; millions of impoverished citizens; child beggars; human trafficking issues; methamphetamine epidemic; terrible road safety; human rights abuses; unstable politics; lack of freedom of speech; corrupt authorities. Sounds like Thailand!

Why the hell did we need to go there? Well, Ricky Thompson has been living there for a while working as a senior sales executive/director in some arm of the electronics or telecommunications industry, or so he claims, and while pretending to do that he set up the Yangon Squash Club and sent us an invite. In reality, Ricky is in collusion with several Burmese warlords to traffic weapons, narcotics, children and chickens throughout Southeast Asia in packaging disguised as tins of emulsion. He's made millions of dollars off this illicit business and his wife Debs knows nothing about it; she thinks that he works in a mobile phone shop in a Yangon shopping mall!

So we went and this is roughly what took place:

Hotel G: Nice, modern gaff with an excellent gym for those in the group who realized a while ago that getting up early to exercise rather than laying in after getting smashed on five pints a night, every night, is the quickest way to avoid an early grave. Small rooms with no wardrobe, but a lovely view of a bus stop. Good staff (some cute waitresses) and a superb bar/restaurant which offered cold beer at a dollar a glass during happy hour. Thus, those five pints could be consumed at the least expense leaving plenty of funds for that upcoming lavish funeral!

Yangon: Hot and not that impressive. Attempting to cross the road seemed like an even faster way to reach heaven or hell or the next life or whatever other nonsense you happen to foolishly believe in rather than the stark reality which is you're dead! Some visited the odd pagoda or temple or somewhere equally as dull and pointless - if you've seen one, you've seen them all - while the more astute went for a coffee and discussed the football or commented on the fact that 50% of the local males seemed to be wearing some form of long skirt, and bemoaned the fact that the average Burmese female in the street - as in walking around conducting her daily business, not to be confused with those on the street looking for business - is not half as pretty as her Thai counterpart.



Bruce Madge

Yangon Squash Club: established by Ricky with the proceeds from selling drugs to poor, local children to be exploited as child labour in slave-like conditions to produce even more drugs to be sold to yet more poor, local children (for more details on setting up your own franchise, contact Ricky directly) and tucked away in the compound of the Myanmar Ministry of Sport and Health, Recreation and Fitness, or something similar. Shades of North Korean perhaps such was the sorry condition of the buildings, some of which were no doubt employed as prisons and torture rooms for Ricky's child labourers, and the sparse and ancient sports facilities, but there were two glass-backed squash courts and even a jumbo doubles court. Better equipped than the BC at the moment! Nice courts





actually, but very hot as no air conditioning. Anyway, we had a team of six and were expecting a match against a team of local, Burmese players. Not so as Ricky had lined us up against some Yanks, Brits, Aussies and Kiwis and one Thai. What? We could have stayed in Bangkok. Where were the Burmese? At home ironing their skirts? Chasing the Rohingya out of the country? No idea. So we had a match with these guys and lost 4-2 with only Rob and Marvyn getting a victory although Mark Rayfield and Madge narrowly lost 3-2 while captain Evans and Sayer both got thrashed 3-0. Frankly, we could have won if Rob had played at No.1 instead of Marc as he could have beaten their No.1, Scott, while Marc would have had more chance against their No. 2, Drew. Blame Captain Calamity if you want or care. To round off the absurd nature of playing a bunch of Westerners in the North Korean branch of the Myanmar Ministry of Punishment and Corrections we presented our hosts with a dinosaur named Marv which looks like becoming the commemorative trophy for this intended annual event. However, next time, the Yangon team can visit us and bring some skirts!

Entertainment: our hosts invited us to drink and dine at a local bar/restaurant called the Outsider/Outer Bar/Outlet Mall Diner/Outer Ring Road Café, or words to that effect, which was a quiet place with an atmosphere not unlike a retirement home. After a couple of hours in there and a few dozen beers, all kindly paid for by the Yangon players, the likes of Neil and Rob were itching for some 'action' in

the form of music, dancing and, it is to be assumed, females to chat with or at least look at. Myanmar Plaza and Fuse Club was suggested by our hosts as a suitable venue, when, in reality, bed might have been a wiser choice. Marvyn is 70, Ricky is 60, and the ages of the remaining BC players are between 35 and 50. Why then did we venture out to a night club venue where the average age of the clientele was around 19? The staff must have thought we had arrived to pick up our sons and daughters after a night out with their school or uni pals! And if that embarrassment wasn't painful enough, the 'music' being played at the four or five 'entertainment' places competing for juvenile punters on top of this shopping mall could only be described as noise! To be more precise, a shocking and horrific racket, the kind of which one might suffer upon entering a shipyard with production in full swing and all the emergency alarms going off. It's called EDM which translates as Electronic Dance Music and is a bastardization of original house and trance mixes and bears no resemblance to real dance music. Sayer and Madge sensibly headed straight for the exit allowing the others to imbibe further while fondling some of the local dancing girls as their eardrums slowly disintegrated. The following day those that stayed were completely deaf and hung over and severely regretting the photos taken with their arms wrapped around some PVC clad Vietnamese tarts which can be viewed on our secret website: www.bcsquash-whatgoesontourstaysontour.com Until they regain their hearing.....



The BCB Squash Section would like to acknowledge Boots Retail Thailand as its sponsor for 2015. Boots Retail Thailand kindly sponsored the 2014 Rod Carter Open, the BCB Squash Section's open squash competition, and has agreed to support the section throughout 2015. Boots Retail Thailand has numerous branches throughout the country supplying high quality cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. Many thanks to Boots Retail Thailand.



TENNIS

Anyone for tennis?

Following another excellent Club Championship normal tennis activities have now resumed.

Tennis League 2018.....

The singles tennis league is now back in action run this year by Alex Coclanis. Format remains the same as last year with 4 – 5 divisions of 4-6 players competing in a round-robin format.

A new feature of this year's British Club Tennis League is the "Race to Bangkok". (Automatic entrance by joining the tennis league and no extra cost!).

The top 2 ranked players from each division based on ranking points accumulated during the year will play off in the Grand "Race to Bangkok" Finals to be played in December 2018.

Prizes for play-off winners will be announced following a review of BCTS finances at the end of the year!



Nick Lyon



Visitors from China.....

At the beginning of April players from the Macau Civil Servants Tennis Association visited the club for a friendly match, Anjelica Manalo doing a terrific job in organising the event. The Macao team came in force (18 players!) and put us under considerable pressure result-wise. Fortunately the cream of BCTS talent (Laurent, Anjie, Nat, Ann, Pattana, Graham not





to mention Chris) produced a dramatic improvement in the match position in the later stages but only after our Chairman decided not to keep match won/lost scores to spare our blushes. At the end of the match Graham stated that tennis was the winner and we all got stuck into the bottle of Maotai kindly provided by the visitors. Great evening.

Tournament Success.....

Harol Mollin and Robert McGuigan both distinguished themselves at the ITF Tennis the Seara Senior Tennis series 2018 – 1 held at the Greta Sport Club, Chonburi 31st March – 4 th April.

Harold and Robert won the over 60's doubles and Harold won the over 50's doubles event with Leo Pijnacker.

Harold, of course, will be very proud because....



Home



Harold and Robert victorious

Home-grown success.....

No surprises that Mikola Kukharuk has been named as the British Club's Most Improved Player of 2018. As I know to my cost Mikola's backhand and imposing play at the net can do some damage. Well done Mikola.

Forthcoming events.....

Look out for reports of the BCTS trip to KL with those people from the cricket and squash sections. Should be interesting.

An American (round-robin) tournament is planned for Wimbledon Mens Finals day Sunday 15th July. More details to follow.

BCGS GOLFING NEWS

June results



April was a busy month for the Golf Section with three events instead of the normal two, and two of those were away weekends, and one of those played over 3 days!

Annual Eclectic – Cool Weather, Hot Golf

We started the month with our annual three day eclectic competition, played from the 6th to the 8th at the Sir James Golf Club and Resort in beautiful Khao Yai.

Despite the cold weather some hot golf was played throughout.

Daily winners were Gaew Khongyoo, Roy Barrett and Varghese Rose. Well played!

In the overall competition Chris Brader missed out on victory to John Bell by the narrowest of margins. Both John and Chris returned great nett scores of 64, with



Warm Enough Karen



The winner and the runner up

On the second day in particular the weather was quite cool, one might even say chilly, in fact one would definitely say decidedly chilly, and some would say bloody cold! with some of us even needing to put on our jackets out on the course. Quite a contrast to the hot and sultry weather we are used to here.

Chris only losing to John on countback. Unlucky Chris, and congratulations to our 2018 electric winner John Bell!!

Only one shot further back in equal third place were Gaew, and Martin Webber, with Bryan Dodd the best gross, on 69.

But the weekends away are not just about the golf. On the Saturday evening a very pleasant dinner was enjoyed at the GranMonte wine estate. With complimentary words even being said about the award winning Thai wines they produce.



Dinner at GranMonte



Happy Birthday Pete

The Saturday was also a special day for our handicapper and master scorer, Pete Gale, it being his birthday. Well done Pete for organising the event to coincide with your birthday! And well done to all involved in organising a great weekend.

April Medal - Not Wilting at Royal GCC

April saw the return of very hot playing conditions for the monthly medal at Royal Golf & Country Club.

While the hot temperatures were kept in check with good hydration and a welcome breeze, our final playing numbers did suffer a little due to members life-stage ailments and predicaments – sore wrists, hangovers and putting one's back out while simultaneously trying to pull on his budgie smugglers while watching live sport on the mobile with a free hand. Get well soon, Pete.



Dawa Flight A Medal



Chris Farrar



Chris Brader Flight B Medal

As for the golf the hot temperatures were matched with some hot golf in Flight A. Congratulations to Dawa who took the Flight A honours with a net 71. Well played!

Moving quickly to Flight B, let's just say that it was the playing and not the final scoring that mattered most. Congratulations to Chris Brader for emerging victorious in Flight B.

It was great to see Chris Farrar joined us for the medal as he enjoyed some R&R from his new job which has taken him to Japan.



Thorsten winning Hua Hin

Juniors & Seniors – Anyone for lunch?

Banyan GC hosted the 2018 Juniors & Seniors weekend event - or rather it tried to.

Heavy rain and challenging golfing conditions on the Saturday saw most of the BCGS reluctantly elect to forgo the golf in place of an extended lunch. Accordingly a fabulous afternoon of good company, fine food and wines as well as lots of laughter replaced the fairways.

Three intrepid BCGS golfers did manage to fight their way through the wet conditions and complete a round. Well done to John Bell, Varghese Rose and Dawa.

Sunday saw a reduced golfing field as the effects of the Saturday extended luncheon took its toll. Playing conditions were much improved and this wonderful course proved a great test of golf.



Rained off in Hua Hin

Thorsten Leppok emerged victorious and deservedly took home the wine with 37 points with Ian Mclean runner-up on 36 points and Varghese Rose on 34 points. Congratulations to Thorsten.

Despite this annual major not being played in full the 2018 event will last long in the memory. A great weekend was had by all.

We're a very friendly group of golfers who play the game for competitive fun. We welcome golfers of all abilities. Visit our website for details of our events <http://www.bcgsthailand.org/> Our captain, Frank Fawkes can be found at bcgs.bangkok@gmail.com

FITNESS CHALLENGE

Introducing this month's muscle endurance fitness challenge for both beginner and advanced , fitness and skill levels.

Sign Up Now at The Fitness Centre



1. Beginner Challenge

Club members that are new to fitness are challenged to complete as many repetitions of an exercise for two minutes

squat for 2 minutes

press up for 2 minutes

Rest is allowed between the squat and press up sets and the total number of repetitions will be added together and submitted to the leaderboard. eg: 120 squats + 87 push ups = 207 total repetitions

2. Advanced challenge

Club members that are very fit and in need of a new challenge are required to perform a 2 min spiderman press up and a 2 min jump squat. The exercises need to be performed without rest and the total number of repetitions of both exercises will be added together and submitted to the leaderboard.

All exercises need to be monitored by the staff in the fitness centre and will be displayed on the leaderboard in the gym for a bit of healthy motivation!!

If you are new to fitness please ensure that you consult with a member of the fitness centre staff prior to starting the fitness challenge



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