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RSVP

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www.twitter.com/BCBangkok



FRONT COVER

Oueen Elizabeth II is the UK's longest serving monarch in history and shows no sign of relaxing despite this month enjoying her 91st birthday. The British Club is honouring this remarkable event with an Open Day of celebrations. Come along and bring your friends and any guests - a wonderful time is planned for all!

.....

EDITOR'S GREETING

There's a fantastic selection of F&B promotions this month so this issue carries all the details on posters throughout. You can also plan ahead for the UK Queen's 91st Birthday Party at the Club, join the Krokodiloes events, plan a massage or sign up for the Balut Championship against the SCC!

Great reports too this month from the sports sections, and don't miss the Mini & Sports Camps on the inside back pages.

Feeling opinionated, got a good story, a clever photo or witty anecdote? Send us your contributions - Outpost needs you!

Ed



OUTPOST is the monthly publication 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/outpost Editor - Jeremy de Sausmarez jeremy@suthep.com Opinions expressed need not necessarily represent those of the Club. All events, dates and times are correct at time of press. Outpost welcomes contributions from Members, email outpost@britishclubbangkok.org - No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the Publisher. 'The British Club Bangkok is a registered Association in accordance with the Thai Civil & Commercial Code'

MESSAGE FROM the Chairman

As this year's sub-committees begin work we have been looking at trends to see how these can inform us in moving forward.

Churchill Bar: Looking at the last 12 years, the sales contribution of the Churchill Bar has been steadily going down, from around 31% of total Club Food and Beverage sales in 2005 to 19% in 2016. Last year we were forced to carry out renovations because rats and rot had invaded the floorboards and replaced the horseshoe bar with a straight one. This greatly increased the space both for staff and bar users and although some complaints are still heard about the rich red colour of the carpet, the change was generally well received.

But usage is still falling. Whilst lunchtime trade is good, the problem is in the evenings when the bar is often deserted after 9.00pm. We used the existing furniture when the bar was renovated last year and the subsequent effect is more' restaurant' than 'bar'. With TVs on silent, historic resistance to background music and a dress code in place, there is simply not much atmosphere to enjoy at night. It's fine with 20 or 30 customers present when there is a bit of a buzz, but the silence is deafening with only a handful present.

So what to do? We plan to encourage debate with a questionnaire. There are some simple physical changes that might make a difference such as some high tables as found in Molly Malone's, breaking up the space with some alcoves, a proper Spoofers/Balut area which could be created by closing the entrance into The Verandah and different lighting. But might this not also be the time to re-think the 'silence is golden' era? Would not background music make for a more congenial atmosphere? How about live music? Would the bar be more popular with a more relaxed dress code?

Not everyone will agree whatever we do, but we want to hear from as many Members as possible. We have asked Management to experiment, but please let us know your thoughts and ideas.

Membership: No less than three sub-committees are looking at various aspects of Club Membership, including the use (and sometimes abuse) made of the Club by different membership categories, possible Rule changes and a marketing strategy for new Members. We have to move with the times with the expatriate



Chairman

community constantly changing and competition forever becoming keener. We have membership data going back 37 years and these illustrate how the Club has always had to adjust to changing circumstances. Since 1979 total membership has more than doubled from around 500 to 1,100 but the composition of the membership has changed even more dramatically.

Back in 1979, 95% of our Members were from the four core countries, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, and it was only a few years earlier that Australia, Canada and New Zealand citizens had been allowed to join. Today 37% of our Members are Associate Members from about 40 different countries.

Membership first broke the 1,000 mark in 1999 and has been pretty static for 18 years. This level has been sustained to a degree by offering payment by instalment (annual, non-voting) enjoyed now by 13% of all Members, and concessions (senior and under 30s), which now make up 14% of total membership. More dramatically, the number of Country Members has increased from just 19 in 1979, through 36 in 1996 to 217 today. Back in 1979, 80% of Members were Ordinary Members paying the full entrance fee and subscriptions, whereas today only just over half of the total membership have joined at the full entrance fee and/or are currently paying the full subscriptions.

We need to take all of this into account as we move forward. Our membership has become much more mobile, with many having more than one residence in Thailand and/or also spending part of the year in one or more other countries. Our Rules and pricing structure need to reflect this and to inform this we have embarked on an analysis of usage data now available from our improved IT systems.

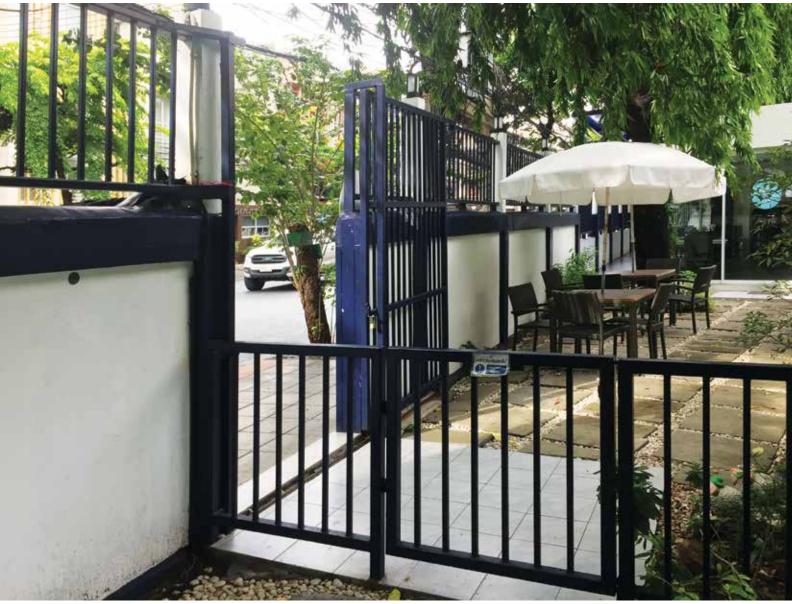
Remarkably, the Club has retained its membership with little to no marketing, most new Members finding out about us through friends or by chance. We are convinced that with a targeted marketing strategy we can make ourselves known to many more families arriving in Thailand and with all the on-going improvements, we should be able to significantly increase our membership levels. Over the years many Members have raised concerns about the perceived number of non-members using the Club and the abuse of guest rules etc. The problem has been the lack of non-intrusive controls and the lack of data. This is another area the Membership SC is looking and survey is being planned to monitor this more closely.

For a few weeks, all visitors will be recorded and Members will be required to show their cards on entry and to list their guests. All of this is in accordance with our Rules and should be done anyway, but for some reason some Members find this inconvenient and we do ask for your cooperation. Details will be announced in due course.

Silom Wing: There is not a lot new to report on the Silom Wing because a great deal of preparatory work has had to be done before anything can actually start to happen in the ground. However, all is on track.

Tender documents are almost complete at the time of writing and are due to be released by around the end of May. According to the plan, contractors will be engaged in June and we are on track for demolition of the old buildings to begin in July. The website has been reorganised and regular updates will be available on line.

Pavilion Café: The Pavilion Café will close at the end of May and work will begin converting it to the new staff facilities at the beginning of June. This will include reinstating the Surawongse Road wall, blocking the café street entrance and adding baffle boards back to the railings. This will restore privacy to the tennis courts, reduce traffic noise and improve Club security. To minimise loss of revenue, the Club will operate a temporary café in the grounds of the Neilson Hays Library from the beginning of June until we can move back into their café building when repairs to the library building are complete around October.



The Suriwongse Road wall will be reinstated







KIDS GAMES ARTS & CRAFTS PINATAS MAGICIAN CAKES SNACKS FOOD BAR ICE-CREAMS BBQ EDUCATION HEALTH BOOKS LEISURE LIVE MUSICI

KIS INCE 1706 JIM THOMPSON OF FREDPERRY

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LETTER FROM the General Manager

The Silom Wing Project starts off at the beginning of June with the conversion of the Pavilion Café into the new Staff House and we expect the work to be finished within 45 days. We will then proceed with the main programme of the Silom Wing Project. As of the beginning of June, the Pavilion Café will transfer to a site at the Neilson Hays Library. A couple of months ago we laid astroturf and put bean bags in the Silom Sala for extra comfort which now seem very popular, so when the Silom Wing development begins we will transfer this area to the Front Lawn as per the Chairman's report last month.

The rainy season is about to arrive so our maintenance team have started to clean all the drainage, the grease traps, and the septic tanks. We are also checking all the pumps around the Club and have arranged regular testing for our fire pump now too.

In June we have several functions and events such as the Queen's 91st Birthday Celebrations on 10th June which will take place on the front lawn. There will be live music, kids activities and British food for our Members, guests and invitees. On 17th June, the Thai Canadian Chamber will celebrate their 150 year anniversary at the British Club. Details of both these events are on posters elsewhere in this issue. As usual there will be Quiz Night on 13th June and our monthly Wine-Tasting on 30th June, and Khun Laak has started a BBQ Buffet at Poolside every Friday from 5.30pm to 9.00pm, and a Curry Buffet midday in The Verandah every Saturday. Further information available from Reception or on the website.

In April we arranged Swimming Pool Maintenance training from our chlorine supplier, for our cleaners and other housekeeping staff so they can understand how to use it



General Manager

properly and safely. On 29th May we will have our annual First Aid training for all staff from every department.



Visiting our reciprocal club network is easy and comfortable! There are over 350 clubs around the world who reciprocate with us, so just email *info@britishclubbangkok.org* stating which Club you would like to go to and when. We will send an introduction letter to that Club and yourself. When you arrive, you usually only have to show your BC membership card, the intro letter, a credit card and your passport. A full list of reciprocal clubs is on the website. If you know of any Club that you would like us to reciprocate with, please let us know and we will contact them.

Looking forward to seeing you all around.

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)		

OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES



START 19 MAY EVERY FRIDAY

From 5:30 pm to 9 pm enjoy a relaxing evening with a great BBQ by the Pool

Seafood

Pork Spare Ribs Beef and Pork Steak Salad, Somtam Beef Burger

Desserts

Adults Bt495 / Kids Bt300



TV RESULTS LIVE from UK! 130BT PER PERSON UNTIL 10:30 AM PPY HOUR 6AM - 1PM SPARKLING WINE 699BT PER BOTTLE HOUSE WINE

TISH CLUB

90BT PER GLASS

BREAKFAST







5th June - 9th June Starters: 65 Baht (2 Options)

Carrots, Raison and Apple Coleslaw Chef's Soup of The Day. Main Courses: 160 Baht (4 Options)

Chicken Chasseur. Grilled Seabass with Spinach Risotto Mini Steak with Gravy Sauce Pla Sam Rod, Phad Prik Khing Moo Krob, Kai Jiew

12th June - 16 June Starters: 65 Baht (2 Options)

Pasta, Chicken and Pesto Salad. Chef's Soup of The Day. Main Courses: 160 Baht (4 Options) Chicken Breast Stuffed with Mozzarella& Pesto . BBQ Pork Spare Ribs. Mushroom Stroganoff with Tagliatelle. Gaeng Pa Gai, Kai Jiew Moo Sub, Phad Khana Nam Man Hoy.

19th June - 23rd June Starters: 65 Baht (2 Options)

Chicken, Apple Salad. Chef's Soup of The Day. Main Courses: 160 Baht (4 Options)

Cajun Chicken. Fillet of Pork the Light Curry Sauce. Macaroni with White Wine Creamy and Cheese Baked. Panaeng Moo, Gai Phad Khing Sod, Phad Phak Ruam Nam Man Hoy.

26th June - 30 June Starters: 65 Baht (2 Options)

Mixed Salad, Smoked Chicken Breast, Beetroots and Mango. Chef's Soup of The Day.

Main Courses: 160 Baht (4 Options)

Chicken Stew in Red Wine. Dory Fish with Mangos Salsa. Roast Pork Neck. Tom Yum Gai, Phad Tua Ngok Tao Hoo, Pla Som Ros.

Reportings

F&B MORSELS

Mangoes are still really popular, so we're continuing with the Mango Promotion in June. There are many different ways to enjoy the taste, so try a different one next time the cheesecake is deliciously smooth! I notice that most orders for Paella are in the evening, so our promotion for Paella continues but only at dinner time, and it's a generous helping so definitely enough for two unless you're really hungry then you can have a starter first.



June is Queen Elizabeth II's birthday, and she's 91 this year so the Club is having an Open Day Celebration on Saturday 10th June like 2012's Jubilee Fête. It will be a lovely day, including BBQ foods as well as noodles, spicy salads, Gai Yang, Som Tum and many other goodies. I hope you will be here to share the celebrations with us.

Another chance to enjoy barbecue foods is Friday evenings, with a poolside Barbecue Buffet between



Executive Chef

5:30pm and 9pm, so come and enjoy an evening by the pool eating freshly barbecued foods, including steak!

And don't forget our Sunday Brunch. There are not many places where you can sample several good roasts, salmon, pasta station and the other hot dishes available. I include new dishes when ever it's practical to give you variety so book with Reception.

Our other promotion is Saturday's lunchtime Curry Buffets. Brought back by popular request, they were always one of the favourites. See the posters for this and all other F&B specials elsewhere in this issue of Outpost.

Happy Eating!



HUGH DAVIES 1935-2017



Hugh Allen Woodford Davies was born in the July of 1935 in Pontypridd, Wales. He did National Service in the Royal Army Pay Corps which he said naturally lead to a career with 'Old Mother Barclay' (Barclays Bank).

Whilst with Barclays, Hugh met his 'life partner' Ray Simpson, a fellow accountant, and they took the then very brave step for 1963 of living together and buying a home in Prince of Wales Drive in Battersea, overlooking Battersea Park. They lived there until the middle 1980s when Hugh, in his early fifties, was diagnosed with cardiac arrhythmia and the Bank early retired him.

Hugh and Ray used this opportunity to move to Italy. Here they spent their days doing some translation work for various vineyards and pursued their love of antiques and art. They also used Italy as a base to travel extensively

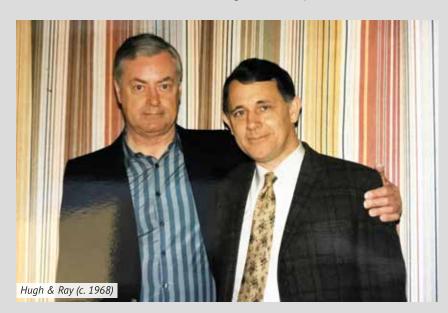
thoroughout Europe. After 20 years as 'An Englishman Abroad', they set sail for Western Australia to enable Ray to be near his

father, and purchased a beautiful property in Perth complete with a stunning pool, bar and barbecue area. This allowed them to entertain prolifically and travel around Asia, meeting friends all around the region and especially in Thailand. Hugh became an Australian citizen at this time. Sadly Ray passed on whilst they lived in Perth and after being together 44 years, Hugh made the decision to 'sell up' ... and he moved to Thailand.

Hugh lived in Bangkok for several years before, in 2011, he joined the British Club first as an Annual Member but quickly upgrading to Full Membership so he could vote. He became a regular, 'five nights a week member' with Thursday evenings and Sunday Brunch generally reserved for wine-based dining with close friends in luxury hotels ... as he would often remark "If it isn't Free-Flow, Hugh don't go!". Hugh served on the Club's General Committee in 2014-15 and was responsible for the decoration of The Alcove private dining room.



Hugh went to New Zealand to see relatives in November 2016 but sadly had a fall aboard a cruise ship between New Zealand and Australia whilst returning which hospitalised him and from which he did not fully recover. He was in



ICU then a private room in hospital for most of December. Still in great pain he underwent a back operation in January, which took many further weeks in hospital to heal. It was on his last day before discharge that he had a stroke, which left him in a coma. His friends visited him daily but almost eight weeks to the day of the stroke, his body failed. Hugh was cremated at Wat Pariwat and ashes scattered on the Chao Phraya river.

His friends will remember his good humour, generosity of spirit and his Christmas Carol parties. He leaves a Thai partner and relatives in the UK and New Zealand.

BLACK IS BACK! THE BLACK TIE SUPPER CLUB

BLACK TIE THREE, as it was unimaginatively named, was held on Saturday 13th May, and due to a series of last minute cancellations, we were back in the Club's Alcove private dining room.

Only twelve braved the challenge to wear Black Tie, and two sadly skipped off so fast after dinner they missed the photo call! Khun Laak, the Club's Executive

Chef, prepared a delicious three course meal which we started with a nice glass of bubbly ... something. With choices of soup or salad, Cajun fish or confit duck, a number of bottles of wine were drank and we toasted the memory of a friend recently departed. Conversations varied but included wondering if Australia will ever become a republic and pondering if Scotland already was!

After dinner we invaded the Churchill Bar to continue 'sampling' the wine list and this year carriages were called way before midnight so we don't know if Cinders got home safely or not. Black Tie Four is in preparation.

Our thanks once again go to Khun Laak and her staff in the Kitchen and Khun Kasem & Khun Noot and their staff in The Alcove and The Churchill Bar. A great time was had by all.







Any Friend of Yours, is a Friend of Ours

with our member get members scheme introducing your friends to the club has never been better.

Introduce a friend to the club and if they join receive 3% of their entrance fee as F&B credit on your account.

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The British Club Bangkok

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An International Club for Friends and Families

THE NON-MEMBER QUESTION



All Members enjoy the privilege of 'bringing in guests' but where is the border line between *"a colleague joining you frequently in the bar"* or *"your regular tennis partner playing when you want"* or *"looking after your neighbour's children again"* and **a freeloader**?



Honorary Secretary

All Members want new and upgraded facilities ... Silom Wing ... new Tennis courts ... restoration of the *real* Churchill Bar ... but how happy are you that, maybe 50% of the regular users will **not actually pay anything** towards them and thus extending the time span to deliver improvements?

It should be no surprise then that the General Committee has tasked the Membership Sub-Committee to research and report back on this problem and to this end a series of **NON-MEMBER AUDITS** will held during the next few months. Full details will be sent out in due course.

We ask co-operation from all Members that during this period they ensure that all guests are properly signed in and we apologise for any inconvenience which the audit may cause from time to time.

Please remember **THIS AFFECTS EVERYONE** ... OUR CLUB IS ONLY AS FINANCIALLY FIT AS ITS MEMBERSHIP and sadly it seems a lot of other people want to enjoy our facilities without paying for them through membership thus endangering our very existence.





A CONSTITUTION BY ANY OTHER NAME



Constitution of the United States

... is sadly still a constitution, and this is the point where the average Outpost reader turns the page! The 'Constitution, Rules & Bylaws' are not everybody's cup of tea, but for those of us who work



Honorary Secretary

with them it is better than when it was called 'Constitution, Rules & Procedures'.

The present Constitutional Review was started in 2015 then lapsed a bit then was taken up again last year. Members will be pleased to know that we have agreed nearly two-thirds of the rules proposed over the last two years and are set to start Member Consultation on four or five areas where there may be controversy.

Three paragraphs may not seem a long report but so far we have summarised two years' work (a combined 148 pages with 74,647 words) down to a report of 35 pages (18,467 words) and now we need to make this into a constitution (which currently has 18 pages and 8,274 words).



FRIDAY NIGHT IS ... BALUT NIGHT



Having a beer before you hit the town? ... Well every Friday night in June and July will be BALUT NIGHT in the Churchill Bar from 6pm until 7pm



If you **don't know how to play** then just let us know and we will teach you ... if you can roll three dice onto a mat then you have passed the entrance test already.

Past Player? Well we need you even more for the TENTH ANNIVERSARY BALUT CHALLENGE tournament against six teams (24 players) from the Singapore Cricket Club on July 22nd.

Want more information? See http://www.teambalut.com



BC Calendai June 2017







Friday Thursday Saturday Sunday Swimming Lessons 9am - 10:30am Swimming for **Kids Cricket** Squash Mix-In **Tennis Mix-In** Competition Book first! 8am - 11am 5:15pm - 9:45pm 6pm - 10pm 9am - 10:30am Swimming Lessons **Junior Tennis Curry Buffet** 9am - 10:30am 4pm - 6pm 11.30am - 3pm **Sunday Brunch** Poolside BBQ Saturday 11:30 - 3pm Verandah 5.30pm - 9pm Storytime 10:30am Silom Sala **Open Pairs Bridge** 2pm Silom Room 100 Tennis Swimming Mix-In Lessons 6pm - 10pm 9am - 10:30am Swimming for **Election Morning Kids Cricket** Squash Mix-In Competition 6am - Noon Book first! 8am - 11am 5:15pm - 9:45pm 9am - 10:30am Churchill bar Swimming Lessons Curry Buffet **Junior Tennis** 9am - 10:30am 11.30am - 3pm 4pm - 6pm **Sunday Brunch** The Queen's **Poolside BBO** 11:30 - 3pm Verandah 91st Birthday 5.30pm - 9pm Celebration **Open Pairs Bridge** 3pm - 9pm Front Lawn 2pm Silom Room Swimming Lessons 9am - 10:30am Saturday **Kids Cricket** Squash Mix-In Tennis Mix-In Storytime Book first! 8am - 11am 5:15pm - 9:45pm 6pm - 10pm 10:30am Silom Sala Swimming Lessons **Junior Tennis Curry Buffet** 9am - 10:30am 4рт - 6рт 11.30am - 3pm **Sunday Brunch** Poolside BBQ Canada Day 150th 11:30 - 3pm Verandah 5.30pm - 9pm 3pm - 10pm KET PLACE Back Lawn **Open Pairs Bridge** × + + 2pm Silom Room Swimming Lessons 9am - 10:30am Swimming for **Kids Cricket** Squash Mix-In **Tennis Mix-In** Competition 5:15pm - 9:45pm Book first! 8am - 11am 6pm - 10pm 9am - 10:30am Swimming Lessons **Junior Tennis** Curry Buffet 4pm - 6pm 9am - 10:30am 11.30am - 3pm **Sunday Brunch** Poolside BBQ Saturday 11:30 - 3pm Verandah 5.30pm - 9pm Storytime 10:30am Silom Sala SUNDA **Open Pairs Bridge** 2pm Silom Room Junior Tennis 4pm - 6pm Squash Mix-In Poolside BBQ 5:15pm - 9:45pm 5.30pm - 9pm **Tennis Mix-In** 6pm - 10pm Wine Tasting 6pm - 9pm Surawongse Room

AS IT HAPPENED

Two story luxury Na Pho 1985



Through the fence Na Pho 1985



Sewing class Na Pho 1985





The last three months I shared pictures I took in Cambodian and Lao refugee camps on Thailand's borders after the end of the Vietnam War. There were two quite different groups of refugees from Laos: the 'Hill tribes', mainly Hmong, who fought for the CIA during the Vietnam war featured last month; and the 'Lowland' Lao, refugees from the Vientiane and other towns and villages who had 'supported' the Americans and were persecuted by the Pathet Laos communist government. My pictures this month are from Nong Khai and Nakhon Phanom, Lowland Lao camps, refugees who had fled across the Mae Khong River.











Dreaming in Na Pho 1985

Nong Khai 1981

At play in Nong Khai 1981







CANADA DAY 150TH La fête du Canada

Saturday, June 17, 2017 | 3:00 - 10:00PM The British Club Bangkok

MARKET PLACE

ACTIVITIES

Lego Robotics & Face Painting Bouncy Castle & Tug of War Ball Hockey, Volleyball & Badminton Live Band & DJ Boat Race!!!

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FITNESS & HEALTH Kettlebells at the British Club

As a trainer I know that there are many training tools out there available for training clients but I also know that most clients have their personal favourites. Without exception my personal favourite has to be the kettlebell. When it comes to pushing weights I share the pain of most of my clients but when it comes to training with kettlebells it's just fun, feels natural is highly addictive and motivational.

If you have never seen a kettlebell, it's just a round piece of metal shaped like a cannonball with a handle, but what sets it apart from other training tools is the variety of free flowing full body exercises that challenge the body with countless benefits for both young and old, regardless of fitness level or gender.

Kettlebells were traditionally used by farmers to weight crops, but the natural competitive nature of people lead to the farmers having competitions to see who could lift the heaviest weights and are now an established tool of choice for achieving a wide variety of health and fitness benefits.

Kettlebells are great for cardio, dubbed as the piece of equipment that can raise the heart rate the fastest and



keep it raised without the monotony of more general cardiovascular exercises such as running on a treadmill, crosstrainer or cycling. Learning just a few basic exercises such as the swing, squat, press and clean, will allow you to continuously flow from one exercise to another without having to stop, get other weights or adjust numerous machines.

If fat loss is your goal then kettlebells are definitely for you. Continuous full body exercises make getting to and maintaining high intensities easier to achieve than with conventional training equipment. A study from the American Council on Exercise (ACE) suggested that participants can burn up to 20 calories a minute. Not only are you burning fat fast but you are also gaining whole body strength, improved core strength, improved muscle tone and and a great way to change your body composition by losing fat.

Due to the complex nature of the exercises used in kettlebell, training users have been shown to have an increase in overall levels of coordination, flexibility, mobility with a positive effect on overall posture that will also reduce the body's susceptibility to injuries while also improving mental focus.

Kettlebells are now available in the BC Fitness Centre. So if you are looking to spice up your training sessions or have an overall fitness goal to reduce fat, increase cardio, increase strength and mobility and overall improvement in posture, please drop into the Fitness Centre and request a session with me.







TENNIS

Presentation of Plaque by Nick Lyon of British Club to Greg Brutus of HKFC





After all the excitement of the finale to the Club Championships at the end March, April saw a return to our more regular program of tennis section events.

Mix-ins continued on Monday, Wednesday, Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons and attendance levels were trending upwards. Were people feeling inspired to get on court and whack balls after watching the starts perform on finals day?

Late April saw a return to the bread 'n' butter' of our competitive in-house singles tennis. Already there have been a couple of epic encounters. In Division 5 Nattaya 'The Nut' Teangtrong and An 'Whacko Jacko' Jackson put friendship to one



HKFC team taken at British Club on 2 April, 2017

HKFC & British Club Members



side for a two hour 'epic in the sun' last Sunday. It was classic match-up between the irresistible force and the immovable object and my money would have been on the consistent Nat outlasting the sometimes erratic shot-maker An. I would have lost my stake though as An came through in two close sets. Excellent stuff ladies!

In Division 2 league tennis was honoured to welcome back James Young to the fold. Placed somewhat controversially in Division 2, James is proving that time does in fact wait for some men and has already secured two convincing victories against opponents with significantly less candles on their cakes. From a personal point of view, you know you have been soundly beaten when the after match tipples last longer than the on court battle! Well played James I enjoyed both ::

Earlier in month we welcomed the Hong Kong Football Club Tennis Team to the British Club for a friendly match. A number of friendly doubles matches were played between the two clubs and I am reliably informed by our Team Captain Nick Lyon that had we been counting, The British Club would have emerged victorious! After the competitive stuff, the young and willing of the two teams mixed in together for a bit of social tennis while others retired to the Sala to enjoy the buffet dinner and a few well-earned libations. The Hong Kong team have been in touch to say thanks to everyone who



Plaque presentation at British Club on 2 April, 2017

participated in making them feel welcome and for contributing to a very enjoyable evening and I echo those sentiments.

That's it for this month. Enjoy your tennis

PISAMAI FUND / INTER -ADVANCED DOUBLES CLINIC

with Harold Mollin

All proceeds to the Pisamai Fund which supports the education of the children of British Club staff

BRITISH CLUB tennis 26 June 6-8pm THB 500 per player Limited to 12 Intermediate -Advanced players

Sign up sheet on the tennis notice board behind court 1

SQUASHY BITS *Penang and Fifty!*

Dear Squashy Bits Readers, Be prepared for yet more tripe! And here it is:

Penang!

During Songkran some of us went to Penang to play squash, drink beer, do other stuff and, of course, to get away from the WAGS. The some included Brian Ross (remember

him?) who moved to KL years ago after running away from Thailand while being blackmailed for 'fathering a child' with a bus driver from Surin. Nothing wrong with bus drivers or Surin, it's just that Brian had already got himself a WAG and a rugrat and had never travelled by bus or been to Surin! How did he get himself in that mess then? Something to do with an online, sperm bank, IVF, pyramid, ponzi, extortion scam scheme that Ross got sucked into when donating money (on his Thai WAG'S advice) to some Surin elephant Internet charity belonging to her real husband. What a stupid pillock!



Anyway, the some of us headed to Batu Ferringhi and the Holiday Inn and a match with some squashies from the Nicol David International Squash Centre along with some golf for the golfing gits amongst the group and a bike ride for the more intelligent and imaginative members.

Batu Ferringhi: Nice place, a little quiet, but decent hotels, friendly locals and plenty of restaurants and a few bars. The Holiday Inn was more than adequate in most aspects and has a very good Indian menu so we scoffed tons of chicken tikka while drinking oceans of cold beer while marveling at the ninjas. At one point we witnessed a ninja lift her veil and take a swig from a bottle of beer! Fantastic. Get in the pub girl!

Nicol David International Squash Centre: With a name like that we were expecting some five star treatment, but







Outpost Sports



found ourselves short of water and towels. What?! Evans had organized this gig and Ross drove us there in his lovely Beemer along Penang's surprisingly busy but beautifully scenic roads. We arrived and discovered that this place was little more than a public squash club with zero free drinking water, no towels and toilet/shower/changing facilities you'd expect in a zoo! When we asked where we could get some drinking water, we were directed to their tuck shop to buy our own! The team/group we were due to play hadn't even bothered to club together to get its visiting team from Bangkok some drinking water! Very sad. Never mind, we soon forgot about that as the Penang players were very welcoming and we enjoyed a good few hours of squash on their very hot courts. Most of us had two or three games against, Jam, Jaw, Jep, Xaw, Tang, Chan, Rajah, etc. Nice guys and quite good players. Not really a match (we got thrashed!) rather a mix-in. Bits has to report it as such in light of the previous away match Chiang Mai farce last Feb.

Anyway, when were we were all knackered, soaked in sweat, stinking, starving and dying for a beer, we called it a day and presented our hosts with a piece of metal/plastic in a box which is more commonly known as a commemorative plaque. Oh, they weren't expecting that and you should have seen their faces! Drinking water guilt! But we had already forgiven them for the water faux pas as we are just so lovely and they were very decent squashies! But then the towel situation. Their bogs had a couple of shower cubicles but no towels. It's a public facility, not a private club like the BCB, and we hadn't brought any and Ross wasn't going to let us get in his lovely Beemer dripping with sweat and stinking like pigs, was he? Answer? Ross had to drive to the local Tesco to buy some towels. And he did, and got some beers as well. What a lovely bloke! He could father my elephant in Surin anytime! Refreshingly showered and beered up we headed back to the HI in BF to ogle the beer-drinking ninjas. Sexy!

Other Penang stuff: Some of the group played golf at some posh club where they gambled over it, argued, cheated, and made complete fools of themselves as most golfers do. What a waste of a day! The two more astute members enjoyed a mountain bike tour during which they explored the more remote areas of Penang, climbed a few mountains, witnessed spectacular views and proved that riding a bike beats playing golf any day of the week! On top of that contentious point of view, we also, on a reciprocal club basis, that is to say, we go to your gaff and abuse it, but when you come to ours we don't let you in - 55555!, visited the Penang Swimming Club where we enjoyed their squash courts and sat by their lovely pool, taking in the delightful sea view while wolfing down beautiful, cool, seaside beer.



Fifty!

Madge, the idiot that pens this nonsense each month, was fifty the other week so we threw together some sort of mix-in for him and then dumped ourselves down in the sala to wolf down beers at his expense. Gallons of players (six) showed up to mix-in for his fiftieth which Ken won and then they all got smashed out of their heads and wondered how he wasn't already dead considering the crap he comes out with on a daily basis; that is to say, it's startling to realize that he hasn't yet been murdered! Happy Birthday!

Until he is.....





















HARD BALLS A Winning Streak

As everyone slowly returns from their exotic travels over the Songkran break, training sessions have picked back up, the eagerly anticipated KL tour is on the horizon, and at the time of writing we are currently riding an accolade that our research department informs me hasn't been achieved since Dr. White used to open the batting in 1856. Unbeaten in 3 games, and off the bottom of the league table; spirits are high and there's plenty of cricket in the pipeline – we've even managed to get the chairman to put his boots on. On the other end of the spectrum there have



been 3 less fortunate events rattle the section and show the true supportive nature of the cricket community; we extend our best wishes to Sarg, Dale, Rahul and families. We also say goodbye to a re-located Abbas, who makes way for Glenn (or is it Gregg?), our new Aussie recruit who has managed to survive the first few sessions.

Captain Scott XI in town: Friday 21st April

Embracing any cricketing opportunity thrown our direction, we took up an offer from a British touring side; the Captain Scott Invitation XI, named after the explorer who died in the Antarctic in 1912, was initiated by the late Harry Thompson and pals in 1979. Thompson's book Penguins Stopped Play features a humorously accurate and relatable recount of the visiting team's cricketing adventures over the years as their touring ambition takes them across the world.

After a mix-up with the fixtures, we only ended up hosting a Fireball* themed night on our home court, which turned out to be a fun evening nonetheless. The visitors were fresh in from a week of cricket and associated activities from Vietnam, looking slightly lethargic but nothing a few beers didn't resolve. Initially, we mixed the teams up to help them get their head around the rules and Jack's dodgy umpiring before battling in an intense game that we dignifiedly just about managed to hold on to in our home competition. The visitors were fed and sent on their way, with promise of an outdoor fixture next year.

*Fireball 6s world indoor rules cricket league series at British Club multi-purpose court. Series 9 commencing 18th May.





Amphawa @ AIT: Sunday 30th April

The 3rd official league game drew BC against the league leaders, who appeared unfazed as BC players began to arrive in varying states of hangover. The game was lucky to even go ahead after some overnight rain had left the pitch practically underwater, but a solid effort from both teams to soak up the flooding meant for a slightly delayed start, reduced to 18 overs per side. Rahul was fired up, back in the driver's seat after some time off with his injury – showing no lack of touch with 38 runs at the top of the

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order with Goti (17), who was also back from a fracture. The opposition bowling attack was not at all representative of a top-of-the-league team and the flurry of wides helped to ease the pressure from BC batsmen, not to mention giving Denzyl a headache and excuse for the mess he made of the scorebook. A typical explosive innings from an in-form Dale (32) built on a steady foundation and took the total to 147, in what turned out to be more than enough to seal the win.

As far as the bowling reply was concerned, there was really only one noteworthy performance – Ben struck twice for only 6 runs in 3 overs, no doubt winning the match single-handedly and surely catapulting him to the leading wicket takers spot. Rahul also picked up a wicket and not forgetting the most important of all... BC held every single catching opportunity. Dilip also took 6-23 from 4 overs – no biggie.



Pattaya @ Pattaya Polo: Sunday 14th May

After a couple of weeks to get over what was a massive win, Pattaya welcomed BC for a friendly for the 2nd time this year. A sick note from Ian made room for the team's secret weapon, that is the chairman himself – Jackers, who was more than willing to get out for a run around although worryingly reacting 3 seconds too late when the ball was hit in his direction. Once the team eventually arrived after Goti decided everyone should wait for him, Rahul won the toss and continued with the formula that had been working over the past few games, opting to bat first.



A slow start saw only Ed (21) exceed 20 runs in the top order, but encouraging signs prevailed in what is proving to be a deep batting line up – even with missing a couple of key players. Nachi comfortably retired on 36 after some good running in the humid conditions, he was partially assisted by Ben (32), who continued in racking up a helpful partnership with Glenn, who finished up 27* on his second match for the Club. BC closed the account on 167 – 6 after the 25 allotted overs had been used up.

Patrick and Dilip were given the new ball which only lasted about 3 overs before the rain started to come down. Still, Pat picked up 3-28 from 4 with some wild bowling and kept a bit of pressure on. Pattaya stayed on the run rate up until drinks before a couple of the settling batsmen were forced to retire under the friendly rules. Denzyl picked up a wicket in what felt like a king's age, supported by Aseem who only conceded 18 runs in his 4 overs. Ed (1-18, 4 overs) and Rahul (3-9, 3 overs), mopped up the tail and finished off a fairly convincing win for BC – 3 in a row!



BCGS GOLFING NEWS April 2017



Juniors and Seniors

Twelve gallant souls headed to the Banyan Golf Course in Hua Hin for the first major of the year. The field was divided in half into Seniors and Juniors or the "Senescents" and the "Nascents". The event is played over two days with the first day's bogey score against the course added to or subtracted from the second day's score.

Banyan's slick undulating greens made mincemeat of both young and old on Day 1. Bryan Dodd led the Seniors by only being 3 down with Junior John Bell 4 down. Bryan managed to hold onto his lead the next day but Junior Frank fortified with Chianti and a large plate of tagliatelle forged into the lead with 38 points after being 10 down on Day 1. Dawa Sherpa came a close second.



Some Junior and Senior Golf Trivia

- In 2014 Gus Andreone aged 103 aced a 113 yard par 3 to beat the previous record holder, a 102 year old lady.
- Julius Boros is the oldest person to win a Major. He was over 48 years old when he won the 1968 PGA Championship.
- The oldest player to make a cut on a major professional tour is Bob Charles, who made a European Tour cut at the 2008 New Zealand Open the age of 71 years, 261 days.
- Tom Morris was only 17 when he won the Open in 1868. He went on to win it 4 times.
- Michelle Wie was14 when she played in her first professional tournament
- Tiger Woods was 6 when he had his first hole in one.



Monthly Stableford

Three players topped the charts with 32 points at the monthly Stableford played at Chuen Chuen. Randall Coleman prevailed by beating Pete Gale and Karen Carter on countback.





April Medal

There was some hot golf played at Royal with Craig Griffin scoring a net 68 to win Flight A. Karen Carter won Flight B with a net 69. Snip snip went their handicaps.

Brian Brook got the accolade for most improved increasing his score by 11 on the back nine.

If you would like to join the golf society, we welcome players of all standards. We normally play on a Sunday and also have away weekends. For more information please contact us at bcgs.bangkok@gmail.com



Time	Activities		
10:00 - 10:15	Admin		
10:15 - 11:00	Games		
11:00 - 11:15	Snack		
11:15 - 12:15	Mini Tennis		
12:15 - 1:00	Lunch		
1:00 - 1:45	Play time		
1:45 - 2:30	Water Fun		

Bt 650 per day

THE BRITISH CLUB

Mon 26 June, 3,17,24 July Wed 28 June, 5,12,19,26 July Fri 30June, 7,14,21,28 July

Mini

Sports

Camp

07

- Children must be between the ages of 4 and 6 yrs.
- The children must be capable of feeding themselves. changing their clothes and using the bathroom unsupervised.
- In the interests of safety and quality for your children there is a maximum number of 8 children per day so please sign up to avoid disappointment. A three child minimum is required to run each day.
- A no show booking will still be charged at the full amount. Cancellations up to 24 hrs before will be charged 50%.
- Whilst the British Club and its staff will provide the highest level of care possible for your children, sports/activity camp participants take part at their own risk and the Club accepts no liability for injuries caused during activities on or off site or travel to or from the Club.

Book at The Fitness Centre 02-234-0247 Ext. 26 or by email: sports@britishclubbangkok.org



- · Children should be 7+.
- This is not an elitist camp, the emphasis is on joining in, trying out new sports, having fun and making friends.
- A five child minimum is required to run each day so please sign up.
- As travel arrangements need to be made for some activities, please sign up 48hrs in advance.
- A no show booking will still be charged the full amount. Cancellations up to 24hrs before will be charged 50%.
- Whilst the British Club and its staff will provide the highest level of care possible for your children. sports/activities camp participants take part at their own risk and the Club accepts no Liability for injuries caused during activities on or off site or travel to or from the Club.

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Our Guiding Statements and values lead us to continuously improve our students' learning experience at all stages of development.



From August 2017 our new Early Years learning spaces will further enhance the experience of our youngest students through:

- Even more time to inquire through play-based, experiential learning with an extended school day
- Even more opportunities for outdoor learning, creative role play and physical development in our inspiring new facilities
- Even more early years experts inspiring each child's learning

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