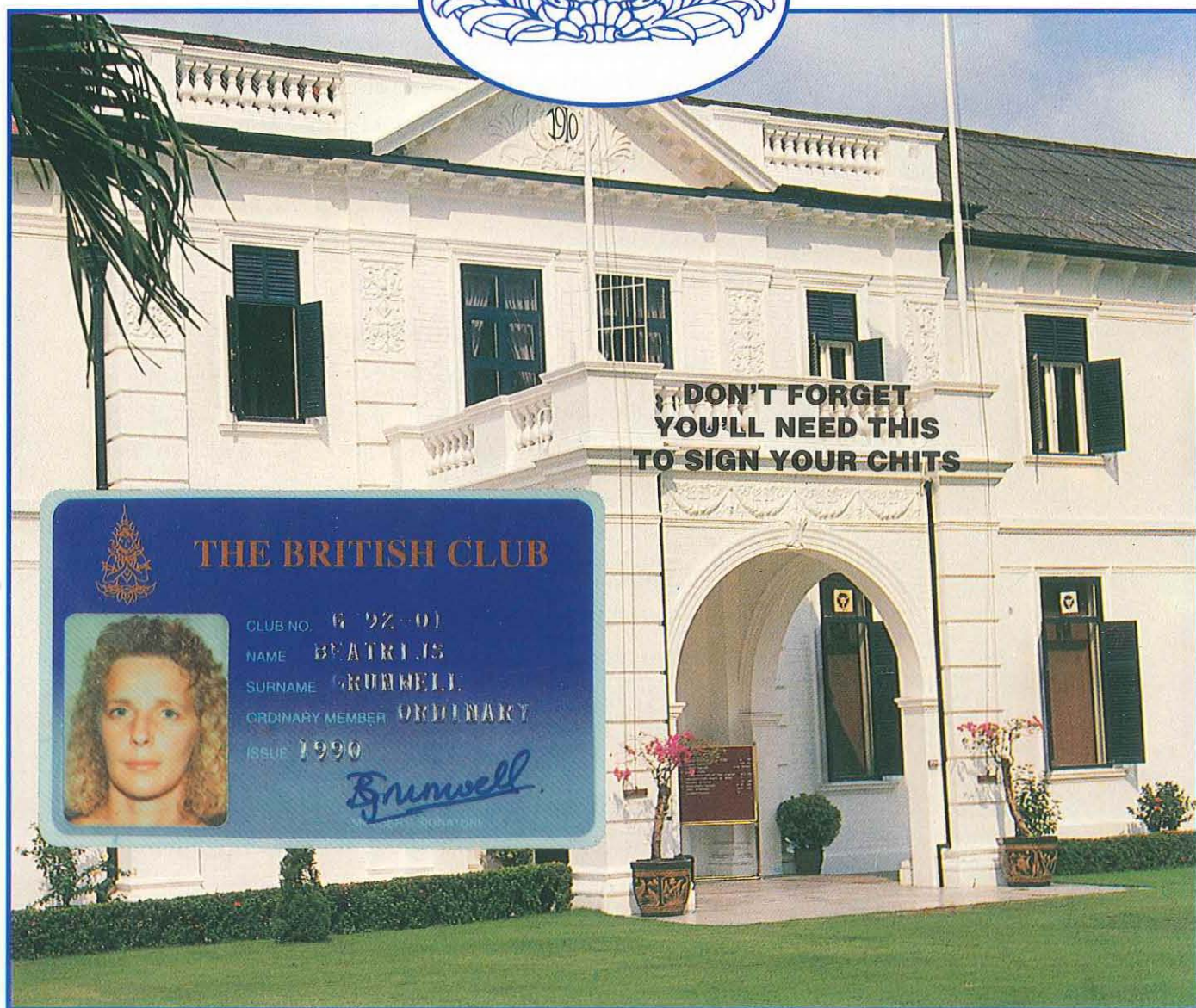


OUTPOST

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB, BANGKOK



**DON'T FORGET
YOU'LL NEED THIS
TO SIGN YOUR CHITS**



THE BRITISH CLUB



CLUB NO. G 192-01
NAME BEATRICE
SURNAME GRUNWELL
ORDINARY MEMBER ORDINARY
ISSUE 1990

Grunwell
Schwartz

JULY 1994

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NOTE: FROM JAN. 3RD OUR
NEW ADDRESS WILL BE:
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CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to contribute to Outpost Contact Bea Grunwell on 2589509. All photographs articles should be received by Bea on 1st of each month.



THE BRITISH CLUB

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The contents of the magazine are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor or General Committee

ADVERTISING

Please contact
Bea Grunwell on
Tel/Fax 258 9509

*If you would like to
advertise in Outpost*

ELEPHANT ROUND UP IN SURIN

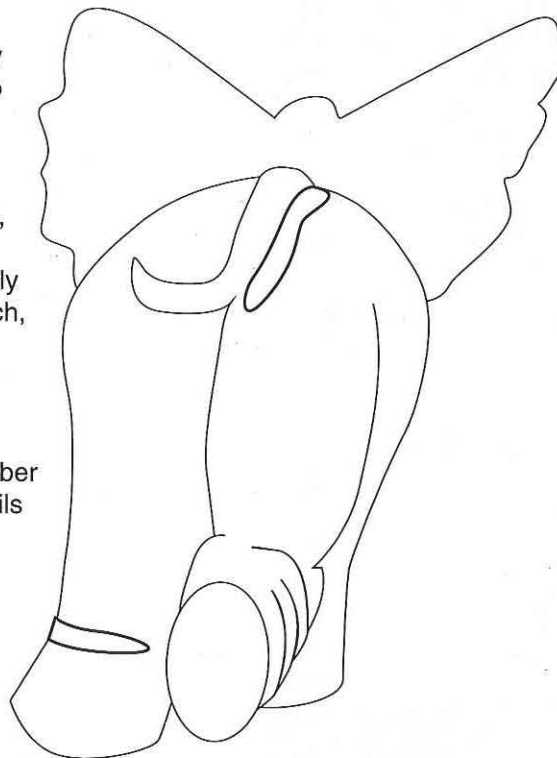
Fancy watching hundress of elephants in Surin? The yearly elephant round up is a spectacle that needs to been seen to be believed. Bring your children and join the British Club entertainments team on a trip of a lifetime.

We have booked 48 overnight sleepers on the train to Surin, leaving Bangkok on 18th November at 21.00 hrs from Hua Lumpong Station, arriving in Surin at the bright and early time of 4.30 am. the cost for the train tickets is Bht. 950 each, and the Elephant Round Up tickets are about Bht. 250. Breakfast will be had in Surin and then it's off to see the elephants at 8 am.

We have planned an overnight stay in Surin on 19th November but are not sure about the hotel prices yet. Once hotel details are known we will send a flyer to all the people who have booked, but in the case of an overnight stay the train will leave Surin on 20th Novembr at 21.46 pm, arrive Bangkok 21st at 5.20 am. The second day will be used to visit the silver factories around Surin and several local places of interest.

The other possibility is to go back to Bangkok on 19th November on the 21.46 pm train, arriving in Bangkok at 5.20 am on 20th November.

If you would like to come please fill in the attached form and fax to **Joe Grunwell** on **258 9509** or send to him at the British Club.



Yes, I would like to come on the Elephant Round up Trip to Surin on 18th November 1993.

I am/I am not interested in an overnight stay in Surin on 19th November.

Traintickets Leave BKK 18/11, Return BKK 20/11..... Tickets

... Adults,Children (Ages.....,,)

Traintickets Leave BKK 18/11, Return BKK 21/11..... Tickets

... Adults,Children (Ages.....,,)

Name :

Club Number :

Contact Number :

Signed :

Please note that cancellations will not be accepted after 17 August 1994 and a deposit of Bht. 1,200 per person is needed before 10th August 1994 in order for us to pay for the train tickets and the Round Up Tickets. The full amount has to be paid before the actual trip.

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Looking through an 'old' Outpost of 4 years ago, actually the month we joined the British Club, I realised that we are still struggling with the same problems.

Editor of that time Maren White is requesting articles from Members, censoring articles from "the lads" on a Friday Night Out on The Town.

New members (11 of them) were all answering the same questions as they do now, only Suzanne and I had to 'do' 30 this month. We were confused but some of the new members were even more confused. Sue did one half of the room and proceeded with the other half. I sat down to interview another couple and after 5 or 10 minutes, Sue said to me: "Bea I have spoken to these people already!" Well, they did not realise as so many people had come up to them to ask them the same questions, they even thought Suzanne was Joe's wife as he had told them I'd be 'round in a minute (or 200) to speak to them.

Maybe a different system is in order here, Sue and I thought of plonking ourselves behind a table with assorted drinks, snacks and fags and inviting the new members to join us for a chat and a drink, this way



maybe we could get to see all of them and not have to apologise on a regular basis to all the people we missed. Yes, sorry but we missed some again this month.

The camera saga is another story altogether, I honestly had it checked out and it worked in the shop. But unfortunately it was not "alright on the night". Every time I had people posing in interesting and relaxed ways, the camera gave up on me. Sometimes this resulted in great hilarity, other times in slight annoyance at my unprofessionality, most times people understood and waited patiently but rather unrelaxed, for me to kiss it better, kick it better and do whatever to get it going.

Loads of single men around this month girls, I am taken but please make your way to the club and check the scene out!

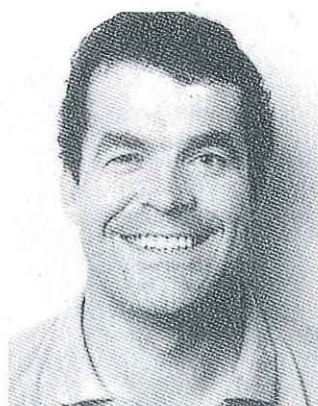
For all of you who are leaving us for the summer have a

great time in your temporary residences, for those of you who are leaving us for ever have a wonderful time in your new jobs, hope you miss us all. Take Outpost on the plane it makes great bed time reading.

See you after your summer hols! For those of you who are staying, don't worry Bangkok does stay open for the summer and so does the BC. Still lots of people around, lots of traffic, so all have a good time and see you at the Club.

Bea Grunwell

From the Manager



July already and are the worst of the rains now behind us, or have they not seriously started yet? As a new boy I know not, all I can say is that we have taken measures which should prevent any more flooding of the Club, provided the defenses we have built along the Surawong Road side of the Club hold, if they are breached then we may have more trouble! All I can say is that the improved system of pumps and drainage channels we have constructed can cope with the rainfall on the Club's premises (he said confidently!!!), but we can not cope if all the rain which falls in

Bangrak funnels through the Club on the way to the river, as has happened in the very recent past!

The Membership card issue must be getting as boring for you as it is for me! One poor individual has been through the hoop five times, and still his card comes back wrong! He does not have a difficult name, only 6 letters, but no matter! Firstly the name was misspelt, then the number was wrong, then he had someone else's photograph, then the first name was wrong, and now we are back at square one ... the name has been spelt wrongly again! This in spite of the fact that we write in clear capitals the details on the cards, we give the company a typed list and a computer disk with all the information on as well, then we place the card and the member's photograph (again with the name and number clearly written on the back) in it's own small individual plastic bag. And still they get one in ten wrong! Frustrating or what! All I can ask of those members who still do not have their membership card is to be patient and try again! A passport sized photo and a signed card are all that is required, hopefully! Seriously you will need your

card for each and every purchase at the Club when the imprinters are introduced this month so please do try to get one, and bear with this impossible manufacturing system for a little bit longer!

It is good to see so much happening at the Club at the moment, the pool is busy every day with swimming lessons, the tennis and squash courts always seem to be in great demand, especially the new squash court 3, and ladies aerobics is packing them in! Added to all of this we have another dinner theatre spectacular from our friends of the BCT, don't forget that their last production was sold out and over 60 people could not get tickets. You would be well advised to book early otherwise you may be one of the unlucky one's this time! Lastly we have the children's summer camp coming off in a week or so, it promises to be an active time at the Club in July!

David Viccars
General Manager

STAFF INCENTIVE SCHEME

If you find any member of staff particularly helpful, please fill in the form below and send to Mr. David Viccars, to recommend this staff member for the quarterly staff incentive bonus. Line managers are not eligible for this bonus as they will be helping the Manager balancing the votes from the membership.

I WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING STAFF
MEMBER FOR THE STAFF INCENTIVE SCHEME:

STAFF MEMBER

DEPARTMENT

REASON

CLUB MEMBER

CLUB NUMBER

MANAGEMENT NEWS

THE RETENTION OF CHITS AFTER MAKING A PURCHASE

There have been precious few problems with the system whereby members are given copies of their chits at the time of purchase. Admittedly the office staff have very occasionally sent out the wrong chit summary with the statement, and for that we apologise, but at least that problem is simply resolved by a call to the office and we can then print the correct chit summary. Also some members have queried the occasional chit, and again it is easy to dig out the particular chit in question, the problem comes when members ask for copies of all their chits for the month! Sadly we cannot do that due to the length of time such a search would take. Please, if you wish to see copies of all your chits, keep them when the staff give them to you!



AEROBICS

Every Wednesday and Friday, at the Club in the Surawong Room, at 09.30am, there is Ladies Aerobics. It really is a great success and much enjoyed by all, come along if you can!



SWIMMING LESSONS

Do take the chance to improve your swimming, or teach your children to swim, all at the Club at any time, simply see our resident instructor Khun Champan, or his deputy Khun Paitoon. Individual tuition is available as are group lessons on Saturday mornings. Cost is B100 per session.



STAFF TRAINING

Management are trying to carry out a degree of staff training and to give certain members of staff who have the wish, and show the aptitude, the opportunity to move into a job at the Club demanding a higher skill level, and therefore more pay. Most of these positions are in the service areas, so please if you see a member of staff attending a certain function, and you recognise him/her as being normally a cleaner/gardener or whatever, please be patient. They are there for a reason, and will be carefully monitored. All we are trying to do is to give the individuals a chance to better themselves.



NEWS FROM THE EMBASSIES

THE BRITS. The foreign and Commonwealth Office have recently set up an 'arrest fund' for those UK passport holders who fall foul of the local laws and end up in gaol. All of these unfortunates are visited by representatives of the Embassy and given what assistance the Embassy can provide. The vast majority are simple cases involving traffic disputes, visa problems or trade difficulties, but they all need help with simple needs like clothing washing equipment etc. The Embassy is asking for donations to boost the fund over and above that offered by the 'F.C.O.'. Contact Miss Sharpe at the British Embassy for details.

THE AUSSIES. The Australian Embassy are updating their list of nationals in Thailand. If you have never registered, have moved or your circumstances have changed, pick up a form in the Club's membership office and return it to the Australian Embassy.



ENTERTAINMENT

The Entertainments Committee is putting together a great programme of fun and enjoyment for Members of the British Club. They do need your help however. Firstly, by attending the functions and secondly by passing on any suggestions on how we can approve the entertainments programme to suit the needs of all of you. We have made up a form for Members to fill in and if you are interested in seeing the Club come alive and filled with people, please fill it in and fax it to Joe Grunwell 258 9509 or drop it in at the British Club for his attention.

PROPOSED ENTERTAINMENT FOR 1994/1995

EVENT	DATE	PLANNED/PROPOSED	INTERESTED
Bar Quiz	15/07/94	Already planned	Yes/No
BCT Dinner Theatre	16/07/94	Already planned	Yes/No
Childrens Sportsday	18/09/94	Already planned	Yes/No
Intersection Sportsday	25/09/94	Already planned	Yes/No
Murder Mystery Night	21/10/94	Already planned	Yes/No
Swimming Gala	Sept	Proposed	Yes/No
Rocky Horror Show	October	Proposed	Yes/No
Guy Fawkes Night	5/11/94	Already planned	Yes/No
Loy Kratong	12/11/94	Already planned	Yes/No
Outing to Surin	19/11/94	Proposed	Yes/No
Christmas Ball	17/12/94	Already planned	Yes/No
Kid's Christmas Party	20/12/94	Already planned	Yes/No
Christmas Carols	20/12/94	Already planned	Yes/No
Halloween Party (Kids)	29/10/94	Already planned	Yes/No
Sunday Entertainment for Kids		Proposed	Yes/No
Childrens Camp Out	27/12/94	Already planned	Yes/No
Boat Trip New Years Eve	31/12/94	Proposed	Yes/No
Last night of the Proms		Proposed	Yes/No
Casino Night		Proposed	Yes/No
Outings to beaches		Proposed	Yes/No
Outing to N.Thailand.		Proposed	Yes/No
Jazz on the Lawn		Proposed	Yes/No
Food Promotions		Proposed	Yes/No
Croquet Match		Proposed	Yes/No
Fashion Show		Proposed	Yes/No
Speakers		Proposed	Yes/No
Viz Night		Proposed	Yes/No

If you have any remarks on the above events please write here

.....

.....

.....

If you have any suggestions for other events please write here

.....

.....

.....

LET US MAKE YOUR NEXT MOVE



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Members

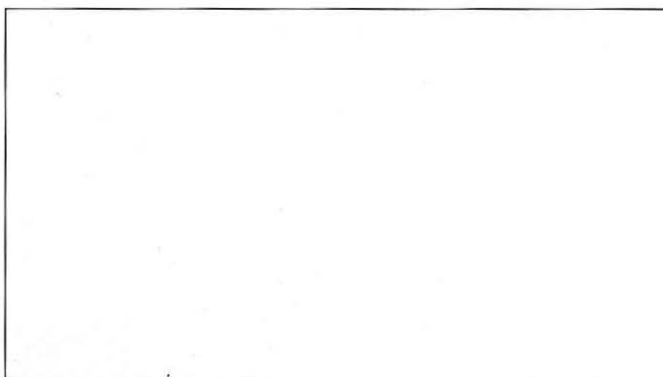
th, saw another night of hundreds (or seemed) prospective Members of the Club arrive at the Surawong Room. were very keen on being interviewed, so keen they were interviewed by both me and I. I am now looking for a sponsor a new camera as I must have really enjoyed some people with my peculiar antics. Never mind, all good fun with Suzanne's help, we only missed 8 e. Sorry folks, we hope to meet Michael r, Pamela Edmonds, John Tran, Wandee kaserm, Paiboon Kujareevanich, Santi wasakul and Peter Gangsted at a later Hope you will all enjoy being members of the club and now all the formalities are ... have a great time.



Raeburn works for Inchcape has been here for 2 weeks. s married and has 2 children, his wife will be joining him member. He plans on supporting the bar, play bridge, and maybe play some soccer. He thinks the club is a good g place. According to Ron Aston, Philip is better looking mmer than his predecessor.



and Fanny Bayet have been here for 3 months. He or Carbaud Metal. Phillipe looks forward to playing and golf and they are both sure they will like their stay kok.



Michael and Rhona Miller have been here for 4 months and were in Hong Kong before. Michael works for Crosby Research and used to train and swim for a club in HK. He likes to play golf. Rhona used to work in HK but now looks forward to spending Michael's money and do some cooking.



Bert and Jody Terry were interviewed twice and were completely flabbergasted by all the same questions from lots of different people. He works for Unocal and has been here for wait for this ... 4 years. He is Canadian, maybe that's why and Jody is American. They are looking forward to visiting the pool with their two children. Bert played golf when he first arrived here but gave up because of the traffic. He hopes to start again though now they've joined the club.



Zydre and Bob Pember have been here since January and March respectively. They are Australian and came here from Adis Ababa. They have joined to have a chance to meet people and want to play bridge and tennis. Zydre's name is Lithuanian (for those of you who wondered). They have 3 grown up sons aged between 19 and 26 who are in Oz. They think Bangkok is hot, humid and has too much shopping, but is easy to live in.

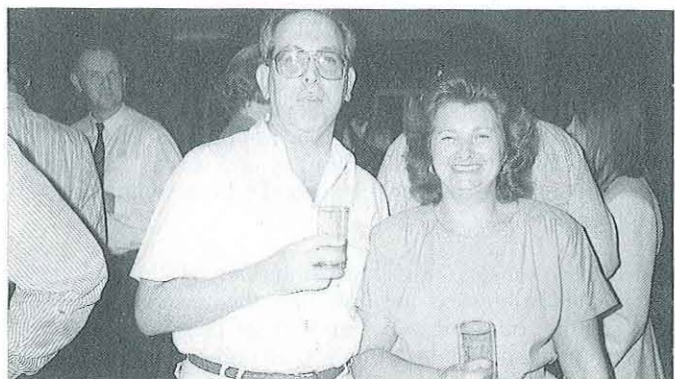
New Members



Michael Eyre, Australian, has been here for 5 months. He has had many overseas postings including 5 years in London. I assume his wife's name is Kathy as Suzanne now proceeds to write that Kathy will use the club more than Michael, she is interested in using the pool, gym and doing some aerobics. They have a six month old baby so Kathy is also involved with BAMBI.



Prabhas Sakunwadhna comes from a very old Thai family who own a textile factory. Prabhas is a lawyer and is a Senior Partner with Deacons Graham & James. He was an ex Grand Master of the Hash House Harriers and is still a member today. He used to play rugby for the British Club 20 years ago and plans to spend plenty of time in the Churchill Bar and the snooker room.



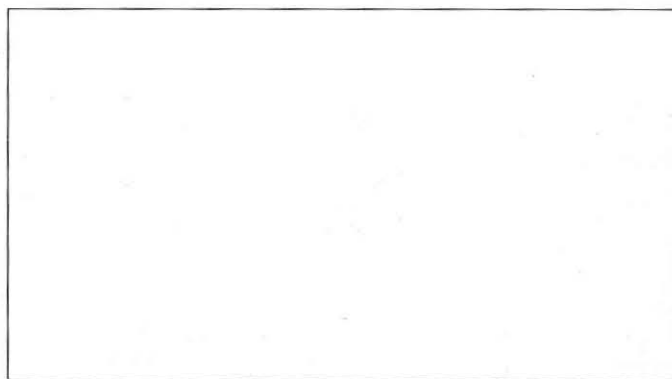
Chris and Elaine Layfield have been here for 2 months but Chris says it feels like 2 years. He is here with Lever Brothers Thailand and is their Trade Marketing Manager. He considers himself to be the worlds worst sportsman but plans to take tennis lessons. Elaine plays snooker and hopes to join the aerobics group at the BC. They have 4 children in the UK. Chris is totally impressed with Bangkok's traffic.



Bill Randall is the Department Manager Oral Healthcare for Diethelm, is a keen football player and already made several guest appearances for the BC football section. He hopes to get involved with squash and also plans to spend plenty of time in the Churchill Bar. (It's going to be busy there Ed.)



Chris and Sally Taggart were severely harassed by my camera, apologies Sally, you don't have to go through this again ... probably. He is the Technical Manager for Sika Thailand and they have been here for 5 weeks. He likes the Thai beer and is enjoying Bangkok. They lived in Singapore and Hong Kong before. He is interested in tennis, swimming and the gym. Sally is a chartered accountant and is hoping to work whilst they are here.



Damrong Patana-Anake is the Vice President Sales for Riche Monde and joined because he thought it would be good socially. Likes to swim and play snooker. Paul Choong recommended him to join. He has 2 daughters who are looking forward to using the swimming pool.

New Members



Krai Panyarachun is the sales manager for his parent's company Sea Tours. He enjoys playing golf and has played rugby whilst boarding in England. He also plays squash and badminton and is looking forward to using the club socially. Suzanne and I were sure he was in Tatler a while ago and was one of Bangkok's eligible bachelors, apologies to his wife if he is married.



Trevor and Gabrielle (Gay) Fitzsimon are from Australia and have been here for 3 years. When I asked them what took them so long, they said they'd been too busy before. Trevor works for Swedish Transport which is the leasing and contract hire division of Swedish Motors. They have 2 children at home aged 21 and 24. Trevor has brought his golf clubs and hopes to take lessons. Gay was a nurse before and spends quite a bit of her time visiting orphanages. She is a member of the Aus/NZ womens group.



Owen Shannon is the General Manager of Thai Aviation Services and has been in Bangkok for 4 weeks. He has been in Thailand, working in the South for 14 years though. He is married to Carolyn who will join him in 2 months. He enjoys rugby, swimming and tennis and Carolyn likes reading and aerobics. They lived in Australia before. Owen is a Kiwi and wanted me to note that Alex Forbes was sorely missed on the night. OK done!



Ian and Jeanette Elliott have been here for 4 and 1 month resp. They are from the Isle of Man, they have 3 children, the youngest a boy of 2 who terrorises the maid. Unfortunately Jeanette had to leave early because he'd woken up and decided all he wanted was his mum. Jeanette lived in Holland for 10 years and speaks an impressive amount of Dutch. Ian is a consultant for OFS (Far East), a Financial Securities and Off-shore Investment Company. Ian enjoys tennis, squash, cricket and music. He plays the piano very well his wife told me and has a very good singing voice. Jeanette spends most of her time looking after their little boy, enjoys reading and eating Thai food.



Andrew (Andy) Davies is Welsh/Australian, his mother is an Ozzie. He has been here for 31/2 years and that's probably how long I have known him. He is finally making things legal by marrying Tu the mother of his two lovely children Stella and Patrick. All the family are coming over for the wedding. The children are being christened the next day, so Andy and Tu are looking forward to a busy time. Andy is a high school English teacher at ISB and also teaches rugby and soccer. Rugby and Soccer are also his favourite sports. Tu likes swimming and shopping.

The next three males (single) were interviewed simultaneously and wanted to be asked questions like "If you were a tree which kind would you want to be" and "If the club was an animal what animal would it be", this was all going over my head so I've kept it simple.

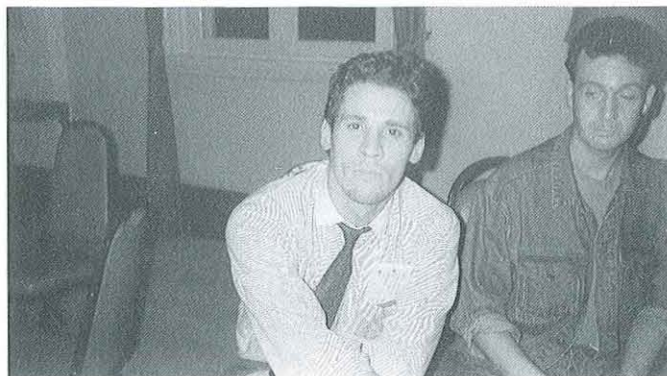
New Members



Todd Martin is from Vancouver, single and is a Research Investment Analyst for Kerry Securities. He has been here since October thinking he'd be here for 2 months and now will probably stay for the rest of his life. He enjoys tennis, squash, badminton and football.



David Blowers finally made it to the Club after 3 new members nights went by without his delightful presence. He is single with two beautiful daughters Georgina and Sarah aged 5 and 7. He is a partner in Creative Partnership a publishing company. He enjoys squash and loves the happy go lucky atmosphere at the club.



Ian O'Sullivan is single, from London and a stockbroker for Kerry Securities. He has been here for 1 month. He says he lost the company half a million dollars and was banished to Bangkok but I would not believe that if I were you! He had his worst hangover ever on one of the local beers and has been recommended to try the Gold version next time. He plays tennis, football (he is a goalkeeper).

Gregory Brown from Australia, another single man, is here with Diethelm and travels a lot between Thailand, Laos and Burma. He has been here since January on a permanent basis. He used to row and snowski in Australia and now plans to play squash as none of the above can be practiced here. Unfortu-

nately by now my camera had completely given up, so no photograph, sorry! But he's tall, blond and handsome, so you'd recognise him anyway at the club.



Rangsinmant Pichaironarongsongkram (am I glad Thai people usually only use their first names) has just graduated from University in the states and is looking for a job in a public relations company. She enjoys swimming and singing in the shower and also with friends. She used to come here with her parents when she was younger and enjoys the atmosphere at the club. She is single.



Surassawadee Champhun has spent 7 years in London studying and went back to visit in January. She loves the cold weather and misses England. She is an Associate Director for Richard Ellis's commercial department. She plays snooker, tennis and swims. She is married to Voravut who works for Thai Airways and could not make it tonight. He also plays snooker, tennis and likes a good swim.



Ratanavadee (Gee) Senadisai was a Human Resources Director before she retired to become a temporary housewife. She is married to Panja and they have 3 children aged 16, 13 and 7. Two boys and a girl. Now if I have this right the 13 year old boy is in England in boarding school and the other two are at ISB. She likes tennis, reading and travelling.

P.S. Spot the mistake. David is really Gregory

St. Andrew's Society

The Bangkok St Andrew's Society held their Annual General Meeting on Friday 13th May (perhaps tempting fate). At the meeting, which was very well attended, the following Committee were elected for the year 1994/95.

Chieftain	:	Alex Forbes
Vice Chieftain	:	Doug Nielson
Hon. Secretary	:	Elsie Evans
Hon. Treasurer	:	Roy McGregor
Committee	:	Willie Carruthers Sandy Flockhart Graham Lean Hazel Spencer Ron Thompson

Any Scot, or person of Scottish descent wishing to join the Society will find forms at the BC beside the notice boards or alternatively can contact Alex Forbes. Further if anyone has recently changed address, please notify Elsie Evans.

After the AGM we changed the traditional format of a dinner for members to a ceilidh for members and friends and this was a great success with around eighty people dancing till after midnight.

The next event is the Autumn gathering scheduled for the 24th September. Put this in your diary so you can kick off the new season of parties and social events with a hoots mon! when the schools go back.

Bye the noo

Scoop

TO : The General Manager
British Club
189 Surawongse Road
Bangkok 10500

Fax: 235 1560

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE TO MEMBERS DETAILS

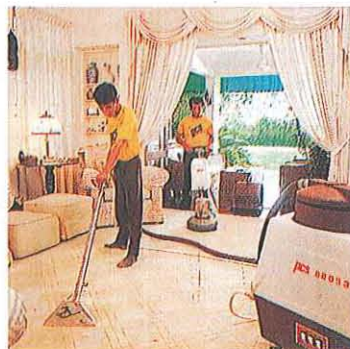
1. Members name:
 2. Members number:
 3. Date of change:
 4. New home/office (*)
address:
 5. New home/office (*)
telephone number:
 6. New home/office (*)
fax number:
 7. Other change:
- Signed
..... Name
..... Date

(*) Delete as appropriate

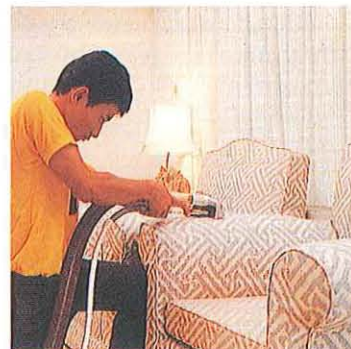
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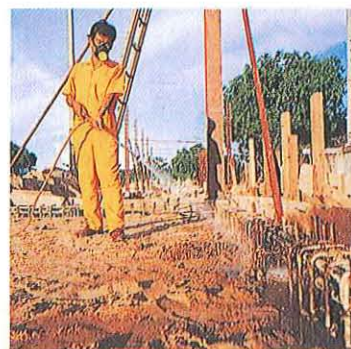
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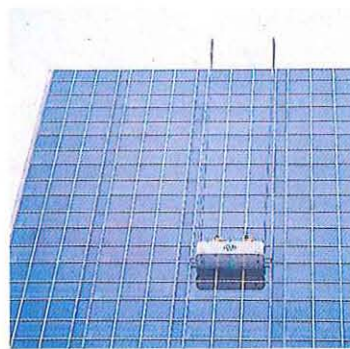
department stores



and factories



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Staff News

THE SWIMMING STAFF

Below are the details of two new Staff recently taken onto the strength of the Club. These two gentlemen will look after all aspects of the swimming pools, including behaviour and monitoring of the Club rules regarding usage of the pools.



KHUN CHAMNAN

Khun Chamnan has a long career in swimming training and pool maintenance. He has worked at the International School, the YMCA and the RBSC before promoting to the post of pool supervisor here at the British Club. Khun Chamnan has qualifications as a swimming and lifesaving

teacher and is very keen to do as much instruction as he can. Contact him direct for lessons at any time.



KHUN PAITOO

Khun Paitool is 23 years old and has been taken onto the Staff of the Club as Khun Chamnan's assistant and as a pool attendant. Although not a swimming instructor Khun Paitool will work with Khun Chamnan to monitor the safe use of our pools. Previously Khun Paitool had a similar job

at the Grand Condotel in Pattaya.

THE JUNE STAFF AWARDS

Members will recall that each quarter the Club makes awards to members of staff who have performed well in that period. Club Members are asked to complete the voting slip in the magazine to express their wishes in this regard.



KHUN KANCHIT

Khun Kanchit is 25 and has been employed at the Club as a poolman for 18 months. In the last few months he has been doing far more work than his job requires as he has stood in for the poolside supervisor, pending the selection and appointment of Khun Chamnan.

He has taken on the organisation and control of the poolside staff and has impressed with his hard work and diligence.



KHUN PASSERT

Khun Passert has been at the Club working as a waiter in the Lords dining room since rejoining the staff in December 1993. Before that he had spent 18 months working in Phnom Penh, and before that he had again been employed as a waiter in the BC. Passert received the most support from

members in this period. He was commended for his attentive and efficient work in Lords and for standing as the supervisor on many occasions.



KHUN SOMKID

Khun Somkid has worked as a receptionist at the Club since February 1993. In the last few months she has worked far longer hours than required due to the sudden disappearance of the other BC receptionist! All this and she is expecting her first baby in July as well!

MEMBERS INFO

ATTENTION MEMBERS PAYING THEIR MEMBERSHIP ON THE NON VOTING SCHEME!

The General Committee have recently decided to offer Members joining the Club on the non voting scheme the chance to repay their loan from the Club early. In effect the non voting scheme is a loan from the Club to the prospective member to cover the entrance fees which may then be paid over two years, but also which attracts interest. The early repayment rates serve to reduce the amount of interest paid and are shown below, please note that these amounts are for the early settlement of the entrance fees, members still have to pay their monthly subscriptions. If you wish to settle early then please contact the Manager.

SETTLEMENT FIGURES FOR NON VOTING MEMBERS

	FAMILY	SINGLE
Within the 1st Month	34240	27390
After 1st Monthly repayment	26700	21400
After 2nd Monthly repayment	25900	20700
After 3rd Monthly repayment	25000	20000
After 4th Monthly repayment	24100	19300
After 5th Monthly repayment	23100	18500
After 6th Monthly repayment	22200	17700
After 7th Monthly repayment	21200	16900
After 8th Monthly repayment	20100	16100
After 9th Monthly repayment	19100	15300
After 10th Monthly repayment	18000	14400
After 11th Monthly repayment	16800	13500
After 12th Monthly repayment	15600	12500
After 13th Monthly repayment	14400	11600
After 14th Monthly repayment	13200	10600
After 15th Monthly repayment	11900	9500
After 16th Monthly repayment	10600	8500
After 17th Monthly repayment	9200	7400
After 18th Monthly repayment	7800	6200
After 19th Monthly repayment	6300	5100
After 20th Monthly repayment	4800	3900
After 21st Monthly repayment	3200	2600
After 22nd Monthly repayment	1600	1300
After 23rd Monthly repayment	0	0



Mike Brann the Chairman of the Snooker Section hands over the Donofield Cup to Gavin



Trixie congratulates Gavin on winning the Donofield Cup

SNOOKER

THE DONOFIELD HANDICAP TROPHY took place on the 22nd of May, there were ten members of the Club on the sign-up sheet. Unfortunately Ken Ross was unable to play because his wife Sarah couldn't be left alone (she was about to give birth to twins), we thought that it was a good excuse not to turn up!!! sorry Ken we hope that all went well, no news yet, but we are all dying to know!! Anyhow this meant that Mike Brann had a 'Bye' to the next round.

Because Mike O'Connor didn't turn up for his game against Brian Griffin, Brian had a 'Bye' as well.

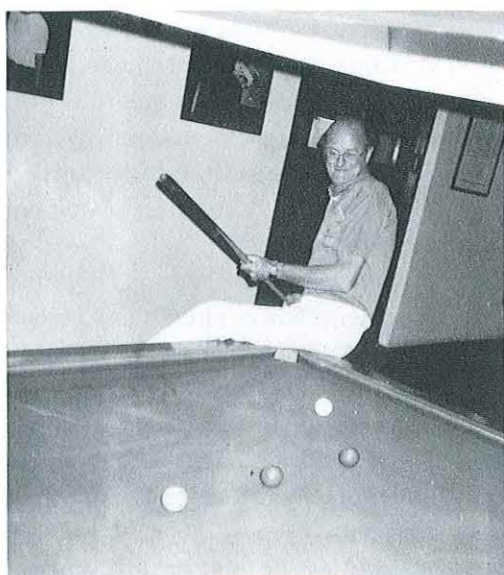
The first match to be played was Jaap van Gelder against Gavin Broad, both players were a bit nervous to begin with, but after a while they settled down to some very good snooker. I must say that Jaap's game has improved these past few months. Gavin was the eventual winner.

The next match to take place was Doug Mather and Andy Pickup, some very good snooker was played too, Andy hadn't played for such a long time, but it was obvious that he was capable of potting some cracking shots. I think that Doug Mather has been getting some practice on the sly, we hadn't seen him play such excellent snooker, maybe it takes a tournament match to bring out the best in some players, well done Doug!

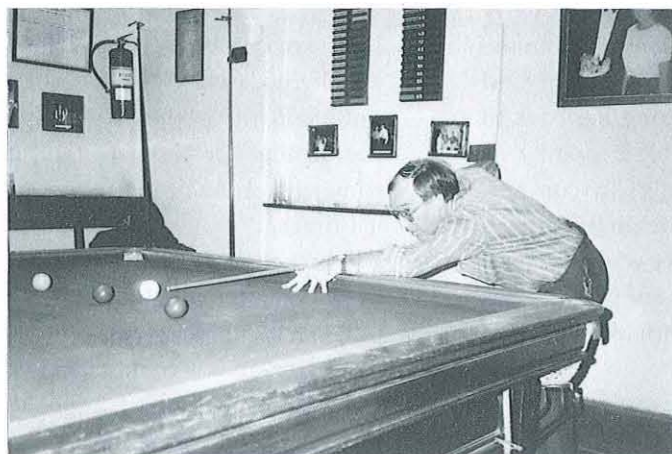
The next match was Graham Wainwright against Trixie Brann, what a match that turned out to be, both players potted some smashing balls, it's a match like this where it's a pity there has to be a loser!



Gavin Broad



Doug Mather



Graham Wainwright (Tossing the caber)



Mike Brann

In the next round Mike Brann played well enough to beat Brian Griffin, Gavin Broad won his match against Doug Mather. What happened next was very sad, because we were a player short (Mike O'Connor) three names had to go into a hat to decide who the semi-finalists were to be, Trixie's name was pulled out so she got a 'Bye' to the final.

I don't think anyone would wish for a situation such as that in a tournament, I suppose in the preliminary rounds it is acceptable, but having a 'Bye' for the finals and the cup, just didn't seem right!!

At the end of the day the best player won the DONOFIELD CUP, it was Gavin Broad, very well done Gavin, you were certainly 'on form' and played some wonderful snooker!

Everyone said they had a good time, which is all that matters. The general feeling was that we should have had another tournament sooner then was planned! I certainly hope so, details to follow as soon as possible.

Many thanks to all the players who turned up on the day, and a big thank you to the players who did that little bit extra, by being referees. THANKS!

Don't forget that we are still playing for the top three players on the ladder!! Sunday is the day, so come down and play!

Snooker on!!
Trixie Brann



Brian Griffin



Trixie practicing

SQUASH

I must admit to a huge stack of work itus this month which has kept me away from the much more important business of writing about those little black balls with yellow dots, for the Outpost magazine. However, one thing a good education did teach me, was the ignoble act of plagiarism. So with the heartfelt thanks to my saviours - let me introduce this month's effort as falling into two camps, firstly the 'serious', then the 'not so serious'...

THE SUNDAY MIX-IN

Despite it being Easter Sunday, the monthly mix-in was well attended; eighteen players took part and were divided into 3 groups of varying standards. With court 3 still out of action there was some doubt as to whether all the games would be played - the last one finished at 4.30pm, three and a half hours of gruelling squash. A new handicap system, worked out by Paul Taylor and Marvyn Lewis, was tried and proved very successful, this will be used in future mix-ins. The end results were so close, it was decided to split the prize money and give the winner of each group B150, instead of B300 to the winner and B150 to the runner-up, as we have done in the past. The winners were Jack Dunford, Martin Reed and Matthew Overington. Now that court 3 is operational we can accommodate

more players in the mix-in, so come along and join in. Its held on the first Sunday of every month, registration time is 12.30. The next one is Sunday July 3rd.

THE WELSH'S ARE LEAVING

Although Keith has not been as active on the squash courts last year, Alexis has been hard at work organising the squash leagues - not an easy task at times. She has been a very valuable member of the committee for the last 5 years and will be sorely missed. Keith has been posted to Atlanta, Georgia and they leave early July. As well as being involved in the squash section Alexis is also an avid sailor and this will bring her back to Bangkok in October for 2 months, as she is also in the King's Cup committee. We hope to see you on the squash courts then, Alexis. We wish you both all the best in your new posting and thank you one again for all your hard work.

COURT 3

Remember this court - it's the one down the path past the children's pool, it should be finished by the middle of June, a little bit longer than originally planned. A few obstacles were encountered which dragged the job out, but thanks to Marvyn Lewis and his band of merry men, who worked all one weekend to patch the walls, it should now be right for a few years. Court 2 needs doing up the same way but it will depend on the availability of funds in the club as to when this can be started.

An now for the 'not so serious' ... a contributor writes

"I've been playing squash for the past 20 years (almost continually) now and I thought readers would be interested in some of the excuses offered by opponents on the (increasingly)

rare occasions when they lose to me. As I am a gentleman, of course, I have always abided by the rule that you should never take anything away from somebody else's victory by saying that you would have won but ... well not very often anyway.

Anyway here they are. I hope my opponents will be embarrassed when they recognise their own contributions. I've also borrowed some from other people. I'm sure that other players will also have their favourites and I encourage them to compile their own lists.

My favourite and probably often-repeated excuses are:

I'm sorry but I'm really knackered. I was with two girls until 5am and in the belief I was performing for Great Britain at some sexual Olympiad, managed it 4 times.

- * I've just come from the monthly businessman's lunch and I've 7 pints swilling inside me.
- * The memsahib is on home leave and I didn't get home until 5am.
- * I'm sorry but I was at the Ball last night.
- * I can never play on Saturday afternoon anyway.
- * I only got in at 4am this morning and that sweat is pure alcohol.
- * The ball was too bouncy.
- * The ball was too slow.
- * The ball was too old and polished.
- * Where did you get that ball anyway?
- * Your style of game is not proper squash anyway.
- * I've just bought these new shoes and they are not broken in yet.
- * My feet are blistered.
- * Your feet were unshod and I was scared to tread on them.
- * As you called a foot fault on me at game point it was evident that you had a psychopathological disfunction I let you win.

Squash con't

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| * The court was too hot. | * The roof was too high. | leave and I felt sorry for you. |
| * The court was too cold. | * The floor was too slippery. | * I'm coming down with a cold. |
| * I can't play in court 2 as the nicks are too big. | * The floor was too hard and unspringy. | * I'm just getting over a cold. |
| * I can't play in court 1 because the smell of cooking makes me nauseous. | * The floor was too polished. | So there it is. You need never be short of a good excuse for losing again! |
| * I can't play in court 3 because I keep thinking about the massage man. | * The floor was too dark. | |
| * The roof was too low. | * The walls were too polished. | Happy squashing, |
| | * The time of the day was nutritionally wrong for me. | <i>Barry Daniel</i> |
| | * The time of the month. | |
| | * I've just come back from home | |

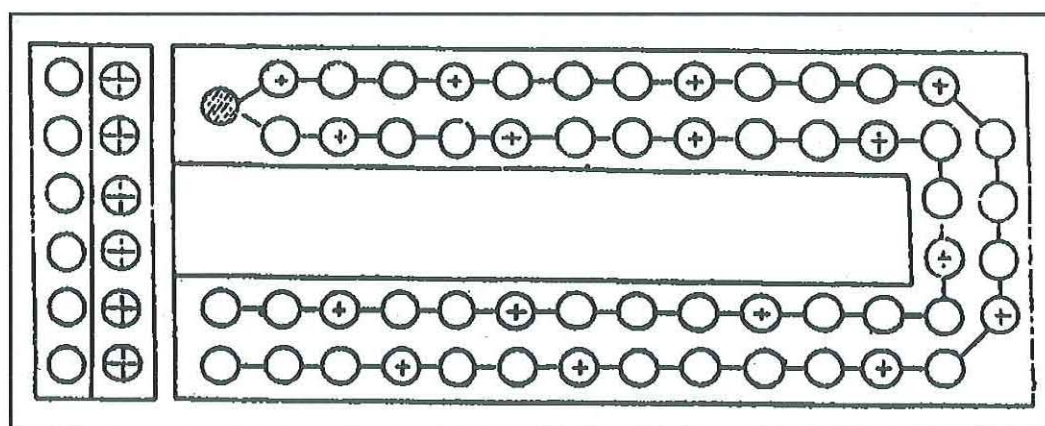
THAI WAYS

On a recent purchasing trip to Chiang Mai for our wood business, Jane and I bought some games to give to relatives in the UK. We were completely flabbergasted by the instructions, see what you make of them!

RACE HORSE – 2 PLAYER

THE OBJECT: Has to rancing pegs to the triangle (the winner placed) on the board;

PLAY: You make bolling the dice, one at a time, toget the start one colour peg, you move alternately placing on the board. If you have the lost peg (of the.. rancing lines have many holes to capture the rancing pegs) who're lost peg, you must begin at starting-point and get the start one colour peg. After the player who're lost 6 same colour pegs on the board is defeated or can be move to the triangle on the board winner of the game.



BRITISH CLUB – SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME, JULY 1994

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1
				9.30 am 6 pm
4 8-10 am Ladies Tennis 9 am BWG Mahjong 5-8 pm Squash Coaching 5.30-9 pm Happy Hour 7-9 pm Badminton 8 pm Tennis Practice 8 pm New Members Night	5 7 am Ladies Golf 7 pm Rugby Training 8 pm Bridge 7-9 pm Football Training 9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof	6 6-8 am Early Bird Tennis Mix-In 9.30 am Aerobics 5-8 pm Squash Coaching 6-9 pm Tennis Mix-In 8 pm Final Bar Quiz	7 7-9 pm Rugby Training 7-9 pm Badminton 6-9 pm Squash Mix-In	8 9.30 am 6 pm
11 8-10 am Ladies Tennis 9 am BWG Mahjong 5-8 pm Squash Coaching 5.30-9 pm Happy Hour 7-9 pm Badminton 7-9 pm Tennis Practice	12 7 am Ladies Golf 7 pm Rugby Training 8 pm Bridge 7-9 pm Football Training 9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof	13 6-8 am Early Bird Tennis Mix-In 9.30 am Aerobics 5-8 pm Squash Coaching 6-9 pm Tennis Mix-In 8 pm Final Bar Quiz	14 7-9 pm Rugby Training 7-9 pm Badminton 6-9 pm Squash Mix-In	15 6 pm
18 8-10 am Ladies Tennis 9 am BWG Mahjong 9-1 pm Children's Sports Camp 5-8 pm Squash Coaching 5.30-9 pm Happy Hour 7-9 pm Badminton 7-9 pm Tennis Practice	19 7 am Ladies Golf 7 pm Rugby Training 9-1 pm Children's Sports Camp 8 pm Bridge 7-9 pm Football Training 9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof	20 6-8 am Early Bird Tennis Mix-In 9.30 am Aerobics 9-1 pm Children's Sports Camp 5-8 pm Squash Coaching 6-9 pm Tennis Mix-In 8 pm Bar Quiz	21 7-9 pm Rugby Training 7-9 pm Badminton 9-1 pm Children's Sports Camp 6-9 pm Squash Mix-In 8 pm Dinner Theatre BCT	22 9.30 am 6 pm 9 pm
25 8-10 am Ladies Tennis 9 am BWG Mahjong 9-1 pm Children's Sports Camp 5-8 pm Squash Coaching 5.30-9 pm Happy Hour 7-9 pm Badminton 7-9 pm Tennis Practice	26 7 am Ladies Golf 7 pm Rugby Training 9-1 pm Children's Sports Camp 8 pm Bridge 7-9 pm Football Training 9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof	27 9.30 am Aerobics 6-8 am Early Point 9-1 pm Children's Sports Camp 5-8 pm Squash Coaching 6-9 pm Tennis Mix-In 8 pm Bar Quiz	28 7-9 pm Rugby Training 7-9 pm Badminton 9-1 pm Children's Sports Camp 6-9 pm Squash Mix-In	29 9.30 am 6 pm 9 pm

OPENING TIMES

CHURCHILL BAR	10 am-11 pm
LORD'S RESTAURANT	11.30 am-2 pm 6 pm-11 pm
POOLSIDE BAR	7.30 am-10 pm
FITNESS CENTRE	Mon-Sat 6 am-9 pm Sun + Hols 9 am-9 pm
THAI MASSAGE	Tues-Sun 9 am-5 pm

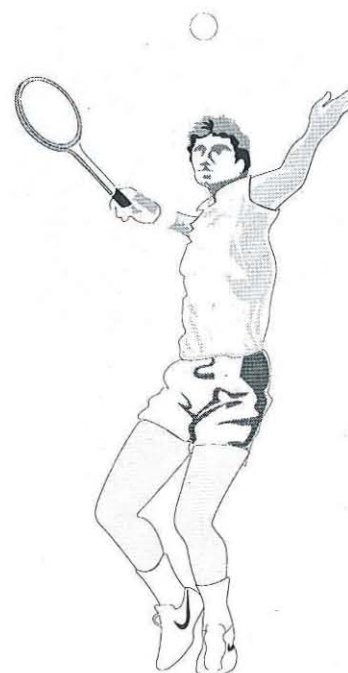
VENUES

ALL EVENTS ARE AT BRITISH CLUB EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING:-	
CASUALS FOOTBALL	- BANGKOK PATANA SCHOOL
BADMINTON (SUNDAYS)	- NEAR BANGRAK POLICE STATION
BADMINTON (MONS-THURS)	- SOI KLANG RACKET CENTRE
LADIES GOLF	- AS ADVERTISED

ALSO THIS MONTH

DON'T FORGET
Signing up for:
Surin Elephant Round
Fill in Entertainment

DAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
0 am Aerobics 9 pm Tennis Coaching 9 pm Accumulator Lucky Draw	2 8-10 am Children's Tennis 10-12 noon Tennis Coaching 4.30 pm Casuals Football	3 11 am-1 pm Badminton 9-11 am Tennis Childrens Round Robin 1 pm Squash Handicap Mix-In Children Sports and Video
0 am Aerobics 9 pm Tennis coaching 9 pm Accumulator Lucky Draw	9 8-10 am Children's Tennis 10-12 noon Tennis Coaching 4.30 pm Casuals Football Tennis Section Summer Party	10 11 am-1 pm Badminton 2-6 am Tennis Fun Tournament 6.30 pm Tennis Buffet Children Sports and Video
9.30 am Aerobics 9 pm Tennis Coaching 9 pm Accumulator Lucky Draw 9 pm Dinner Theatre BCT	16 8-10 am Children's Tennis 10-12 noon Tennis Coaching 4.30 pm Casuals Football 8 pm Dinner Theatre BCT	17 11 am-1 pm Badminton Children Sports and Video
0 am Aerobics 9 pm Tennis Coaching 1 pm Children's Sports Camp 9 pm Accumulator Lucky Draw 9 pm Dinner theatre BCT	23 8-10 am Children's Tennis 10-12 noon Tennis Coaching 4.30 pm Casuals Football 8 pm Dinner Theatre BCT	24 11 am-1 pm Badminton Children Sports and Video
0 am Aerobics 9 pm Tennis Coaching 1 pm Children's Sports Camp 9 am Accumulator Lucky Draw 9 pm Dinner Theatre BCT	30 8-10 am Children's Tennis 10-12 noon Tennis Coaching 4.30 pm Casuals Football	31 Tennis away trip Ayutthya



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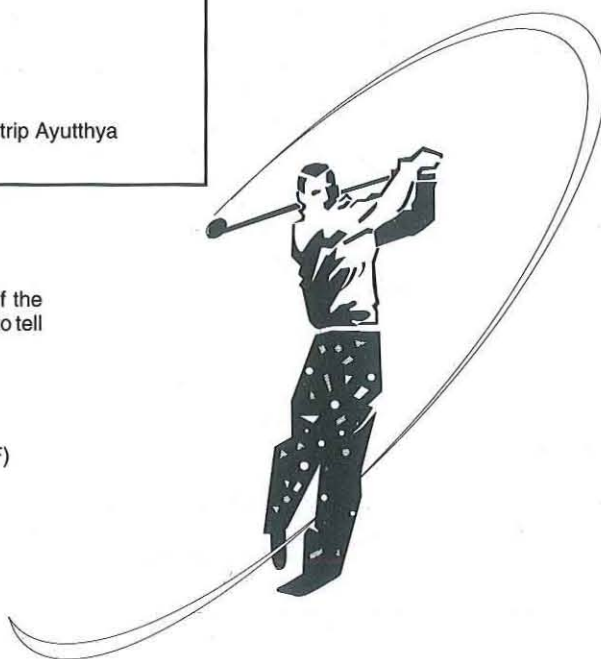
SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS

If you are interested in joining one or more of the Sports Sections of the British Club, please contact the following person(s), they will be happy to tell you all about their particular sports!

BADMINTON	David Overington	312 0100
CRICKET	Peter Young	314 2520
DARTS	Frank Hough	642 1500
GOLF	Stuart Davy	367 1000 (F)
RUGBY	Joe Grunwell	271 2574
SNOOKER	Mike Brann	385 8794
SQUASH	Barbara Overington	258 7306
SOCCER	Peter Rodgers	240 0678
TENNIS	Maurice Lamb	272 4530

NON BRITISH CLUB SPORTS:

LADIES GOLF BCLB	Wil Agerbeek	259 7019
LIGIT LADIES GOLF	Eileen Cook	287 3605

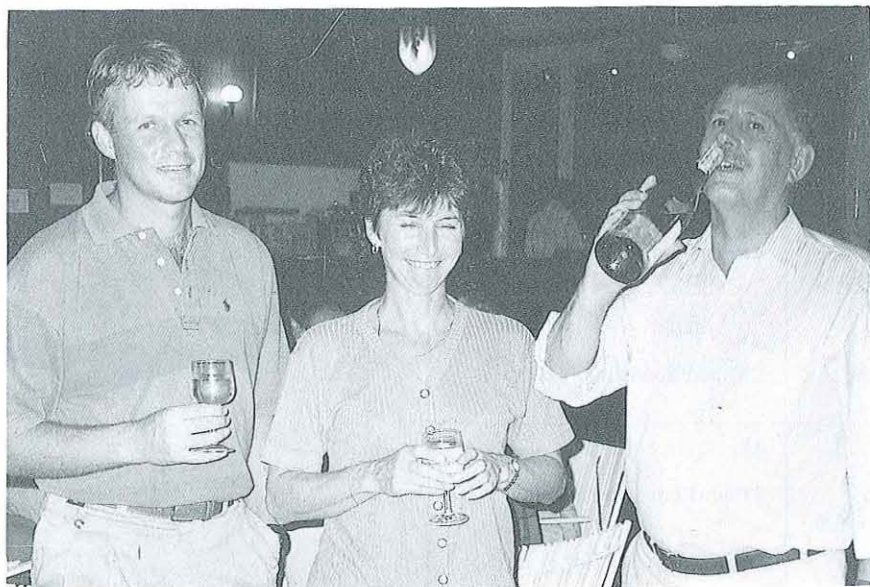


1 Up
Form

THE LATEST SCOOP:

MAURICE WON SOMETHING!!!

(No joke - read the reports, gentle readers)



American Tourney champ Maurice celebrates in style with Eileen, with runner-up Chris cashing in on the booze.

The aim of July is FUN, FUN, FUN: fun for the kids with the Round Robin on the 3rd, fun for the adults with the Tennis Summer Party on Saturday 9th, followed the very next day by the appropriately labelled "Fun Tournament" for all who can hold a racquet ... which may be all we are capable of after the night before. ENJOY!!

Of less fun will be the away match against the Royal Bangkok Sports Club on 10th, judging by past scores against same, but our lot will enjoy it all the same. What will be fun is the tour to Phuket planned for the bank holiday weekend next month (11-14th), so sharpen your pencils and scrawl your name down on the relevant Maurice (new name for a sign-up) and give it to anyone who looks important enough to be on the committee.

Getting back to May, that really was a corking case of "Water, water, everywhere but not a drop to drink." Lor lummie, did we have a downpour that Saturday night (not to mention the drizzly evenings). Sadly, it had to be the Sunday of the childrens Round Robin, so that was well and truly washed out; with flooded courts and foot-rot almost putting paid to the American Tournament in the afternoon, but the British spirit soldiered through, etc, etc, What happened to the frigging hot season, with temps of over 40 degrees Centigrade, like last year, that's what I want to know. One significant footnote to this: although the all-weather courts can be played on for longer when it starts to rain, it was noted that after the floods had subsided, the hard courts were playable within 20 minutes whereas the all-weather (sic) were waterlogged for several hours, and even then it was like playing in a mudpit. Another vote of confidence for the hard courts.

AMERICAN-TOURNAMENT AND AGM - SUNDAY 8TH MAY

It happened here! Maurice actually won something! And he wasn't the only entrant, either, he really did win something. What did



Andy's swimming trunks were in there somewhere!

I tell you earlier this year? Who says I'd make a lousy talent scout. But back to the competition, there were a surprising number of entrants (20, I think), considering that some had left behind houses with all furniture upstairs, fish attempting to scale staircases, etc, not to mention the number of stalled cars; it was a credit to the section. Play wasn't overly spectacular, with the most overused expression of

the day being one of Gisi's gems: "I've paid for the frame so I might as well use it", which might give some idea of mishit frequency. Sad. Anyway, the results of all that squelching around courts in damp plimsolls was that Maurice, with a little help from Eileen, championed the day, beating Vice-Chair Chris into second place (isn't that part of the job, allowing the Chairman to come first?), who was playing with that voluptuous beauty, Alex Forbes.

Gourmet's delight followed with the section acting as guinea pigs for an aroi maak buffet; the F&B committee, with a healthy show of tennis players on it, tried out several of their new recipes on us, which they will hopefully incorporate into the main menu. The licked-clean buffet trays bear testimony to the popularity of the food, and I would strongly recommend the lasagna!

This treat was followed by the Annual General Meeting, painlessly short like last year, which more or less maintained the status quo for the time being. Maurice gave a round-up of what has been an incredibly eventful year, John convinced us all he wasn't hiving off thousands from the accounts and all the committee were voted in for another year. A great day, pity it started to chuck it down again in the evening to end the day as it had begun - wet.

So you've got much of the same committee as last year... for the time being. Shock news was John Bueno getting a transfer this month to Buenos Aires, his "ardent contribution over many months" on the committee, equalled only by the man he replaced (Howard), will be sorely missed. However, most-improved-man Robert Campbell bravely stepped in, and promptly got given the arduous task of sorting out the ladder ... hence his first nickname, Robert the Ladder (kind of like Jones the Steam). Things improve with time, so they say, and the first committee meeting was no exception, with Robert also being landed with the task of ordering section sports equipment, thus earning him the nickname of Robert the Skirt. I'm not sure which I like best, so please let me know which you all prefer! Anyway, best of luck to John in his new job, which is much closer to his sort-of homeland, Columbia, than Thailand is.



But Gisi was ready for the elements!



Jim Crabbier, top ranking player, approves of the new surface.

MATCH VS JAPANESE - SUNDAY 29TH

Can't give you too much of a report on this, it happening so near the end of the month. That junior whizz reporter, David Henton, has I believe been asked to write a report for next month. I do know that as ever, we lost, but our ladies only by 3-2... yet again, the men's team let the side down. Having said that, unbelievably the only winners on the men's team were ... Maurice and David Henton himself (yet again not the reason he is writing the report -G). At this rate Maurice will be ascending dizzy new heights. The after-match celebrations took place at the Japanese Club on Sathorn, where at certain tables the Scotch flowed like the May rainwater. It did not go unnoticed that David Henton never made it back to the Club that afternoon. More next month.

VISIT TO SIRIRAJ HOSPITAL - TUESDAY 31ST

Report supplied by Ladies Captain Eileen:

On Tuesday 31st May, two incubators were presented to the Premature Baby Unit of Siriraj Hospital by the British Womens Group. The tennis section donated Baht 40,000 to the fund thanks to our charity tournament sponsored by British Gas. Carol and Eileen represented the section at the official presentation.

The two incubators are now fully operational and occupied as you read this by two tiny scraps of life, one a little girl, born at twenty-six weeks and weighing less than 1 kg. Pauline Dalton, who master-minded the whole project, tried in vain to conceal a few tears and even those of us who had contributed in only very small ways found it very moving. These two little babes would not be alive today without our efforts. With an average of fifty-five births a day at the hospital, the incubators are sure to be fully occupied for many years to come. A big thank you to everyone, especially British Gas, who made it all possible.

Following that report by Eileen, it reminds me that I promised you the full Pennant Ladies Doubles League results this month, and here they are:

Section 1: Royal Bangkok Sports Club

Section 2: BWG - Eileen and Joy

Section 3: American Womens Group

Section 4: BWG - Gisi and Kate (at last!)

The first '94 season was rounded off with a slap-up lunch at Bali, the Indonesian restaurant in Ruam Rudee, which sounded very pleasant by all reports.

On the subject of leagues, here's the tragic April's mixed league result:

Leagues 1 & 2 : cancelled due to not enough matches played

League 3 : Marie-Jose Moor and John Sands

League 4 : Jaree Lee and Andy Hunter

Believe me, your committee are looking seriously into the problem of the better players not finding the time to play. For the

singles league, we have the relegation system now in operation for delinquent players (see June OP). For the doubles problem, it has been suggested that we try mens and ladies doubles ladders to vary the play, which starts this month, so now you'll have to pay extra attention to the notice board to see which league is coming up.

Ladder results for April:

1st	Surin
15th	Mel Leddy
30th	Brian Walker
45th	Gaynor de Wit ... again
60th	Kiyoshi

with the B500 being dealt out yet again to a member of the Weekes family, this time Mike. Hmmm.

The Volvo League started last month, although the rules and regs were not translated until end of May, so I now have a copy and I can confirm that outstanding play is required of everybody. For example, the lowest class of players (Level 3)

must be at the stage where they "can't hit control and balance a ball well"; the middle class must be "able to play a little bit trick ball"; whereas the better players are expected to "make a few mistakes, velley (sic) the ball from far position, play the tricky ball, half velley", etc. Demanding stuff.

However, judging by some of the play observed in mix-ins of late, I would say we have discovered a talent in the club - that of **parabolic excellence**, with many balls forming the perfect parabola at approx 20-30 feet over the net. So we have decided to offer the BCBS scholarship for all good students of physics and engineering at Chula/Thammasat Universities, whereby they can get some real-life experience on court of trajectory-planning, parabola-angle calculations and airborne missile wind resistance above heights of 40 feet. Just think how we're helping the nation's future geniuses. The resulting research should predict which topped balls/lobs will land within the baseline. Not that I'm suggesting that we could do with a coaching drive in the Club or anything, heaven forbid no.

Which reminds me, the adult coaching sessions on Saturday mornings from 10 till 12 could do with a boost in membership, so Shelagh informs me. Bearing in mind the above ...

COMMITTEE WITTERINGS

While worrying themselves about vitally important matters such as Houdini-esque marker pens, the following has ground its way past committee mitts:

1. There will be a reduction in paperwork!! We're just full of good news this month, eh? This beneficial change can be brought about due to the wonders of modern technology - a computerised mailing list of all active members of the section and anyone else who has expressed an interest in playing. All non-tennisers will have no reason to moan in future.
2. Being of really fiendish nature, Shelagh has cunningly thought up a plan to get you long-suffering parents out of your comfy pits (beds) first thing on Sunday mornings, as well as on Saturdays for kids coaching: ... a **new** coaching session!! Actually this is good news, the extra coaching requirement is due to the high demand, which can only be an encouraging sign. More details as they become available.
3. Now a Committee Wittering wouldn't be a Committee Wittering without the mention of a floodlight on the blink, would it? Yup, there's another one gone, on the hard courts, but I won't bore you with the details. It's being looked at.

Here endeth another long'un. Roll on the tour to Phuket next month!!

Keep the grip.

Me
XXX

Hello again,

*In the summer time when the weather is hot
The British Club is almost top of the lot
But it is not to be
For the title went to RBSC
De De Dee Dee De De Dee Dum*

Our story this month is of a gallant failure in the final furlong of the League title as although we finished level on points with RBSC they had a superior goal difference of three thanks to a ludicrous decision to allow an 8-1 victory of theirs to stand against an ISB team that started the game with only six players. A hint of sour grapes perhaps but not really as over the season we proved ourselves the better team in matches with them.

MATCH REPORT

Our penultimate game was against the Scandinavian Vikings and trailing the RBSC by three points it was obvious only a win would do. The Scans lead by Johan Gustavson put up a plucky fight and their stand-in goalkeeper was in immense form. Midway through the first half we open the scoring when a calculated lob from yours truly rebounded off the bar and fell sweetly for Captain Willie Carruthers to volley home. Made in Scotland, what more can on say. Surprisingly against the run of play the Scans got the equaliser before half-time and questions must be asked of the defence for not clearing the ball cleanly. Indeed there was a tentativeness about our play at this stage that we indicated the tension that was involved in a four pointer. As we have done so often this season however we clawed our way back and carried ourselves through with the fantastic team spirit that has typified our campaign. The winning goal came late in the second half when in a frantic scramble after a corner at the Klong end Ron Aston finally squeezed the ball home. The Scans who had fought well were really disappointed and strove hard to get back on level terms in the last ten minutes but it was not to be. We were now set up for a show down with the RBSC in our last game.

The position was that the Sports Club was one point behind us but had two games in hand both against the bottom of the table French scheduled for the following week. A win for RBSC would therefore secure them the title, a draw would give them a comfort factor whilst a BC win would at least leave them with some work to do. For us it was a Cup Final and we took to the field missing key defender Roger Hough but otherwise with our first choice line up.

The game opened on a semi waterlogged pitch with the RBSC throwing everything into attack. We were not playing well perhaps due to nerves and the Sports Club

exerted a lot of pressure down our left with their pace, causing some problems. A cross from their right wing hit the bar and the ball stopped dead in the mud at the foot of their left winger who rammed it home. A rather fortunate bounce for them which led to crisis time cos remember we had to win. We were on the rack until half-time.

We made one substitution at half time introducing John Shehan. Fifteen minutes into the half we scored twice in a minute with two of the sweetest struck left foot volleys you will ever see. Both of these came from Adam Caro and it is hard to find a superlative adequate enough to describe their quality. RBSC went berserk as the match had been a trifle physical (they started it) and tempers were frayed. Ten minutes later it is disaster for us. A high punt from the Thai defence looked to be covered by Greg Watkins who just could not jump high enough. It fell behind him and the race was on.. Yours truly beat the winger to the ball and hits a firm pass-back to our keeper. It sticks up in the mud and the RBSC winger won race number two to score the goal. Ten minutes left and Peter Hockley is sent of for a second yellow card offence - and a real soft one. When the going gets tough however - We pushed forward and with 5 minutes left from a corner chairman Ron rose majestically like Michael Caine in "Escape to Victory" only fatter, to head the ball home.. Its 3-2 and Boy's Own stuff. A frantic finish ensued. Two minutes left the ball squirmed across our goal mouth with keeper Neil Torrence beaten and the left winger going for his hat trick. Modesty forbids me to say who managed to get the outside of his left foot to the ball to flick it past the post bit it was from sinner to hero. Willie Carruthers then chested the ball off the line in the next attack as the RBSC threw everything at us. We now know how Custer must have felt. Suddenly we broke out into their half and peep.. it was all over. Sincerely it was as exiting and satisfying a game as I've played in since coming to Thailand and not one for the faint hearted. All thirteen players used played with true grit but we must single out Adam Caro for those "Oh so sweet" goals and goalkeeper Neil Torrance for a first class display.

The post match cocktails slid down so well one would have thought we had won the League and we conjured up visions of headlines such as "Ten Man Terrors Topple Top Thai Team". Ouch! We had certainly proved ourselves the best team having beaten everyone else and taken three points out of four from the RBSC.

It was not to be however, as I mentioned in the introduction, but we were five seconds from it. RBSC now needed three points from their last two games against the French. They won the first one convincingly but in the second they were 1-0 down when they scored with the last kick of the game. No I am not making this up.

Que sera, sera; but it was the closest anyone could ever come and whilst the records will not reflect our effort in years to come it was a season we will all remember. It has to be realised we had lost nine regulars from the 92/93 season, we're all a year older and yet performed with a

pride and passion rarely seen these days. What makes the year "special" was the team spirit that carried us through. This was not perhaps the most talented group we have ever had but it was a true team with everyone committed to the cause, no prima donnas and willing to play for each other, be substitute, fetch the water or do whatever was necessary. It was a pleasure to be part of it.

Wipes team from eye and moves to Postscripts.

POSTSCRIPTS

We had hoped to report on the annual Scotland-England game but unfortunately the early rains has caused a postponement till after press time. We did have a very pleasant Post Scotland-England Match come End of Season Dinner Disco at the Club. An accomplished after dinner speaker John Reilly was imported from Singapore and gave a very entertaining speech on the History of the Game which was totally unbiased as he mentioned England twice. Seriously, England have won the real thing 42 times to Scotland's 40 unlike Bangkok where Scotland hold the lead by one game. If you work out wins per million people of population Scotland streaks ahead at 8 versus 0.84. It's the quality that counts.

Chairman Ron then gave the unbiased England view which also entertained the crowd and with music provided by the Tartan Terror until well after 0:100 hours it was an enjoyable evening. We also took the opportunity to present a bouquet to Sharon Freakly on behalf of the Section for all her help with tour organising, running raffles etc. Thanks Shar.

One final point on the dinner is a word of thanks to David Viccars, Khun Orasa and the staff of the BC. We are all too quick to criticise standards at the Club and I feel some of this is unjustified. On the night we had a good wholesome meal, pleasantly served for a fair price with lots of drink to wash it down. I think the BC food and beverage staff do very well and their friendliness more than compensates for any short fall in ambience or silver service. Get out there and try the Club. You may be pleasantly surprised.

In many ways End of Season is a misnomer. In the coming month we still have the re-arranged Scotland-England match, a visit of a touring team from Penang and two tours ourselves. The first of these is our premier visit to Ho Chi Minh City for a quadrangular tournament. For this we have to thank PEPSI for sponsorship in the shape of tour shirts, hold-alls etc. Later we are off for our second Songkhla Tour to play Unocal at football and the Royal St. Songkhla Golf Club at golf. This will take us through to pre-season warm up games.

Before this reaches you however, we will have seen the last of club legend Steve Casteldine, who is taking up a new teaching post in Stockholm. Steve, in his two separate stints in Bangkok over 9 years, has been a real stalwart. He captained the side for four seasons, has been Chairman of

the Farang League three times, has won every trophy except the League title, played in every representative team and been, well, just Steve. A man of incredible enthusiasm with a passion for football and life itself, he will be missed not only for his exceptional, if a trifle undisciplined, talent but also for his bubbling infectious personality. Hey up, Steve we wish you well in your new career. You'll have a place in our hearts and memories and we hope to see you back here again. Incidentally, thanks to league referee Augusto Romei for an absolutely superb party in Steve's honour. Haste ye back Steve.

Not only is Steve going, but we are about to lose the services of Chairman Ron Aston, another sure Hall of Famer in the annals of BC Soccer. U will leave the farewell to the Chairman for a later issue as we hope to have him around at least for a couple of months but the double departure will weaken the Section both on and off the field. Hopefully some of the members who have enjoyed the playing side without the hard grind of committee work will come to the fore to help out or perhaps there is a new member who is either bursting to play or be involved in some capacity.

Meanwhile on a lighter note:

There were two minutes to go in the Irish University Challenge and the score was nil all. A voice from the audience shouted "Give them an easy one". Bamber Casgoigne asked "Your starter for 10. Complete the following sequence: 1, 2, 3" Buzzzzzz "O'Leary".

What do you call a Happy tin in the USA.

A merry can - Sorry I had to have something for the 4th July.

A "Scoop"



Winner Eric Hudson – Inchcape Representative Julian Fryett



L-R: Eric Hudson, Dugal Forrest, Neville Bayliss, Ron Sparks

**DIMPLE MEDAL - 2ND ROUND -
22 MAY 1994
SPONSOR - INCHCAPE CALBECK
MCGREGOR/DIMPLE**

Twenty five golfers took part in the Second Dimple Medal Event of the year at Royal Golf and Country Club.

RESULTS

Flight 'A'	1st	Eric Hudson	Net 71
	2nd	Dugal Forrest	Net 71
	3rd	Geoff Rydon	Net 77
Flight 'B'	1st	Alex Southcombe	Net 67
	2nd	Geoff Lamb	Net 71
	3rd	Neil Buttery	Net 71
Flight 'C'	1st	Liz Southcombe	Net 79
	2nd	Mike Poustie	Net 80
	3rd	Graham Hunt	Net 80

A great day for the Southcombes. According to Alex celebrations at home after the event would go on for some time.

NEAREST THE PIN	Lynda Hunt
	Alex Southcombe
	Nick Helms
	Geoff Rydon
LONGEST DRIVE	Geoff Lamb
	Liz Southcombe

New member Nick Helms playing his first game, tried to convince us that his unofficial handicap was 24 and proceeded to Par 10 Holes with a total of 89 off the stick. Once Nick has submitted the required number of cards I am sure the handicapper will not be so generous.

Julian Fryett from Inchcape was on hand to present the DIMPLE trophies. We take this opportunity to thank INCHCAPE CALBECK MCGREGOR and DIMPLE once again for their support.

Happy golfing,
Neil Buttery



L-R:
Mike Baker,
Eric Hudson,
Neville Bayliss,
Sue Baker



L-R:
Brian & Levita
Hughes,
Eric Hudson,
Neville Bayliss
– AGS-Sponsor



Winner
Liz Southcombe,
Inchcape
Representative
Julian Fryett



Winner
Alex
Southcombe,
Inchcape
Representative
Julian Fryett



A CHAMPAGNE CELEBRATION

A special competition sponsored by Judi Leddy in celebration of her "HOLE IN ONE" was held on May 10. Eighteen golfers competed for 3 prizes. Judi added an element of fun by giving prizes for shortest drive, most lost balls and near pin on hole #17 using a 5 iron.

Special guests included Judi's husband Mel, Angela and Guy.

RESULTS OF THE "XL ECTIC"

On behalf of the BCLG I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Joanie and AXEL for sponsoring the one month eclectic.

Our prize committee, Ade and Joke, did a great job on selecting the appropriate prizes, carved wooden dogs. It was a close race to the finish. The winners were as follows:

1st Prize	Sue Burley	- Net 62 c/b 30.5
2nd Prize	Sally Knoll	- Net 62
3rd Prize	Lavita Hughes	- Net 65 c/b 32
4th Prize	Gail Paoli	- Net 65 c/b 32.5
Runner Up	Alison Stevens	- Net 65 33.5

Happy Golfing

Barbara Wehrle



Judi's "Hole in One" Celebration !



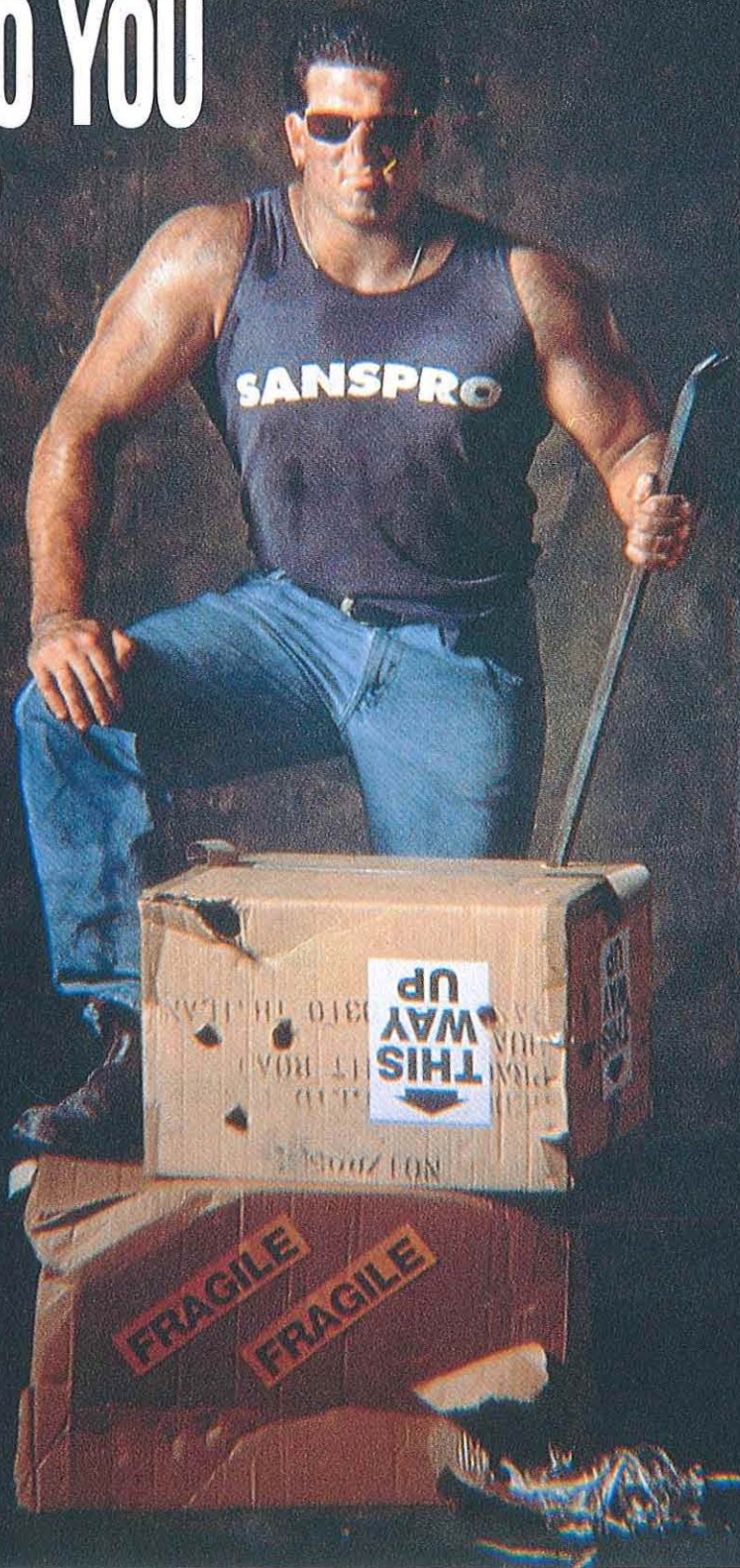
Judi receiving her "Hole in One" Trophy



L-R: Lavita, Sue, Gail, J.J. Missing from photo Sally Knoll

♦ Sue Burley, J.J.

WHERE DO YOU WANT IT?



YOU'VE SEEN THIS GUY BEFORE.

You have to move, you call a big name mover and the next thing you know he's at your door. And he's unforgettable in the worst sort of way. He thinks your lampshades look better with dents. He confuses your Ming vase with your basketball. And he leaves his mark, usually with his dirty boots on your Persian carpet.

If this disturbs you, call JVK. We guarantee the kind of custom care and professional service you pay for but seldom get. That's because we *don't* subcontract. Period. Our man-

agement knows each of our packing crews personally and insists they pass various staff training programs and daily performance reviews. At JVK, organisation procedures are standardised and detailed, down to individually wrapping – and addressing – each item. In short, your valuables are as important to us as they are to you.

JVK
INDO-CHINA

ALLIED PICKFORDS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Bangkok: (662) 379-4646, Regional Offices-Hanoi: (844) 260-334, Ho Chi Minh: (848) 294-989, Rangoon: (095) 1-22622,
Singapore: (65) 221-7971, Vientiane: (856) 21-216-413, Phnom Penh: (855) 232-7511.

YIP-DEE-DOO-DEE! and all sorts of other silly Yankee expressions; we're crossing the pond (the Pacific, from here) to the great US of A for inspiration for our competition this month: yep, it's the American tournament on Sunday 24th!

So roll up for the thigh-slapping event of the summer, postponed from last month due to organiser absence - apologies. I'd like to see a really good turnout for this new competition format, whereby a partner is drawn out of a hat and you stick with them for the whole tourney. Of course, all players will be roughly graded so that two mega-champs won't be teamed together, or two mega-chumps for that matter, so in theory everyone stands a chance of glory and getting their mugshot and their name in lights in this hallowed journal. As usual, the fun will kick off at 11am at the Bang Rak courts (around the corner from the Club), try and be prompt so we can sort the couples out quickly and fairly. The more people entering, the more balanced the partnerships will be and hence the more enjoyable the day, so encourage all fellow members who have been known to swat a shuttle or two to come along. Cheers!

In the meantime, a quick flashback to May and we remember one helluva a wet month, although in fact the worst of it was one particular Saturday night (with a few Thursday evenings thrown in for good measure), which drowned the whole of Soi Naret (see picture), effectively canceling Peter McCullen and Gaynor de Wit for being the only two brave (foolhardy?) souls to have actually made it to the courts anyway, getting feet seriously damp in the process. Such dedication to the sport!

As mentioned last month, Pattaya didn't happen. At least, the return match against the Pattaya Players, didn't, for the most part due to several people being away or having already booked to go elsewhere for the long holiday weekend. We're looking at later rainy season/early cool season for attempt, and this time we've resolved to be more organised and more positive and make quite sure that we have a team worthy of the journey to the coast! Do let any of your slaving committee know if you have any other suggestions on the match front, including corporate competitions.

That's it for this month's news. Unfortunately, the Gaynor-Guide appears to have suffered the same fate as the Saudi jewellery and disappeared into thin air, with no thieving magpie in



Soi Naret as you never saw it on Sunday 8th May.



This is taking sport too far.

sight. Let's hope it follows the same pattern as said jewellery, whereby it turns up in totally mysterious and inexplicable circumstances in about a month's time and, of course, with still noone to blame. Except perhaps one poor soul who in reality wouldn't recognise a Gaynor-Guide if he fell over it, let alone realise its true worth. Don't you just love this country?

In the meantime, a new occasional series for the avid reader: the "Where Are They Now?" column, as done (and dropped -G) by the BBC back in the halcyon days of the 60's. It has been noticed that some Badmintonian old-timers are rarely seen at the Club these days, least of all at Sois Naret and Klang, yet they are definitely still members. I'm kicking off this month with Sudaluck Tan (Su) - see photo, who has participated in some of the major memorable events of our section, such as the inaugural Pattaya weekend, but hasn't been seen anywhere in ages! Apologies in



*"Whatever happened to...?"
Su (Sudaluck) Tan*

advance to Su for this (she'll kill me!); I know you're very busy, but we'd love to see you back on court, Su!

So get slinging them lassos and stirring them beans. Have a nice day, y'all!

*Lek Farang
XXX*



Rugby Section Committee

Remember all you rugby fans out there, the Kodak 7's (won by the BRITISH CLUB) last year, will be played on 23 and 24 July. The Cup and Saucer Trophy will be played for by the Barbarians on August 13th.

Come and watch the games, quite often played at the conveniently located Chulalongkorn University ground near the British Club.

Players, supporters if you are interested in more information or you would like to join the British Club please contact any of the Committee Members.

MATCH REPORT

CHULA/POLICE XV 0 BRITISH CLUB 12

On Saturday 4th June the BC narrowly defeated a lively combined Chulalongkorn University and Police side by 12-0. Tries by Andy Davis and Henri Young, the latter being converted by Graham Carson, secured a deserved victory.

The first half was a dour affair in which both sets of backs failed to cross the gain line on many occasions. This resulted in continued breakdowns and higher than the average number of scrums.

In the second half the BC pack settled itself as Wacka Payne called for the alkaseltza plan. Regular line out ball was obtained and rucking and mauling reached text book standard as the game neared the end. With the pack winning good ball, they were able to release the backs early and again we saw flair and pace from several players which has been evident throughout the beginning of the season. Trevor Day and Andrew Vipond were particularly outstanding.

M Y Opic

Committee:

Joe Grunwell	Tel : 2589509
Jon Prichard	Tel : 2358547
Jim Howard	Tel : 3921066
Suzanne Partridge	Tel : 2587939

Where the grass is greener

An article written By Don Reeder for the Straight Times, Singapore in 1989 still proves very much up to date.

WHERE THE GRASS IS GREENER

Let's eavesdrop on our old friends, Bruce and Cynthia Expat:

"Welcome home, dear. And how was your day at the office?"

"Grrrrrowfff! I've had it with Singapore! We're going home as soon as our tour end in July. Another year of trying to explain to these people how to make mugglefarts, and I'll go bonkers."

"You think you have trouble communicating? I've told our amah today to scrub out the bathtub, and she did the laundry instead."

"Well, you won't have that trouble when we get back home. We couldn't afford to hire a maid in the US even if we could find one. Say, did you ever learn to fry an egg without burning it?"

"Hmmmmm."

"Anyway, that amah is a genius compared with my driver. A dinky little island like this, and he managed to get me lost in Jurong this afternoon."

"That's another problem we won't have when we go back home. Not only no driver but no hired Mercedes either. What was the commuting time from our house to your office - and hour and a half?"

"Hmmmmm."

"Say, did the repairman come today to fix that crack in the marble floor of the living room?"

"Yes, and he had the nerve to charge \$50 for it. It was only a teensy-weensy crack, where you dropped that magnum of champagne last weekend at the party for Boopsy."

"Well, there goes another worry out of the window. I don't recall any marble floors in our little duplex in Gritsville. No swimming pool, guards or gardener either, come to think of it."

"Hmmmmm."

"Anyway, where do you want to go over the long holiday weekend? The McPhersons want us to join them on that new cruiser to Tioman, the Schmidts asked us to fly up to Chiang Mai, or we could hit Hong Kong again with the Fizzulis."

"Just think, back home we'll know exactly what we'll be doing every weekend - sitting on the pier at Klinkerhoff's Lake, drinking warm beer and counting the dead fish washing ashore from the fertiliser factory."

"Hmmmmm."

"By the way, I heard from the home office today about our living allowance. They're only going to raise it by a measly \$1,000 a month. How do they expect us to entertain properly on a pittance like that? Fred Frumpacker over at Blotto Products gets twice the expenses I do."

"Yes, and Fred's wife Frieda says that's exactly why they came out here last month. Back home, he was working under some pimply-faced kid right out of college and was just barely making enough to pay the mortgage."

"Hmmmmm."

"Did we hear today from the kids at school?"

"Did we! Throckmorton needs money again to repair his Porsche at Stanford, and Winona wants to join her Vassar friends on a tour of Europe this summer."

"Boy, if the company wasn't paying their expenses as one of our overseas perks, we couldn't even afford to send them to Bilgewater Junior College."

"Bruce?"

"Yes, Cynthia."

"About our tour of duty in Singapore - let's extend it for another three years."

"Three? Let's make it six years, lah!"

Bangkok Community Theatre is doing it again!



BCT members rehearsing *Plaza Suite*
Act I, Bonnie Zellerbach and Bill Busca



Act III – Ismael Mercada, Jane Schofield, Laura Allen

Were you one of the lucky ones to get a ticket to last December's pantomime, *Mother Goose*, or the more recent BCT production of Neil Simon's comedy, *Plaza Suite*? If so, then you know what a great evening of entertainment the BCT can provide.

BCT has just finished casting and is now into rehearsals for their next production, *Straight and Narrow*, to be directed by Alex Lanham. This new production is a dramatic comedy by a new English playwright, Jimmie Chinn. The play has been staged several times in the UK to critical acclaim, but this summer will mark its debut performance in Bangkok.

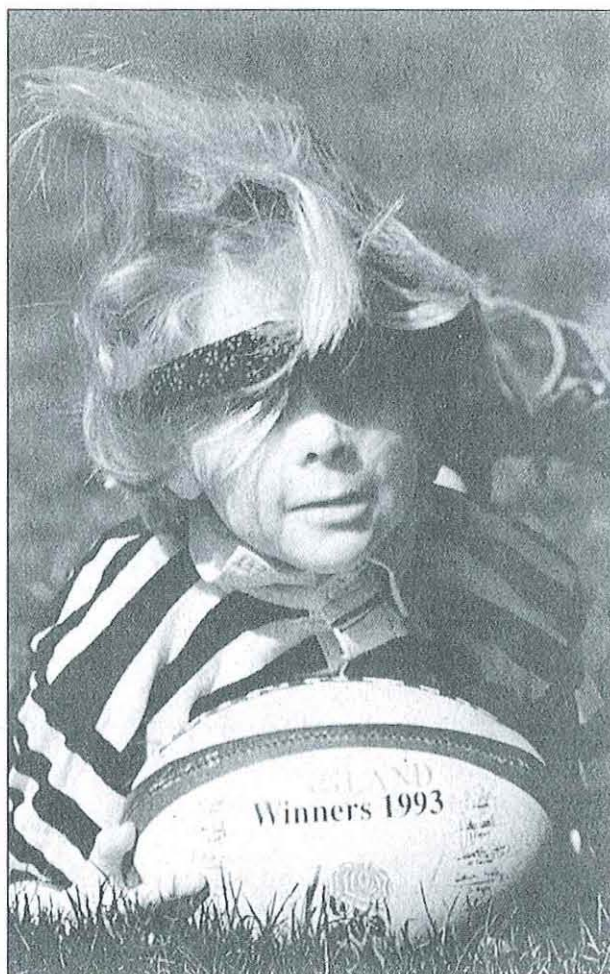
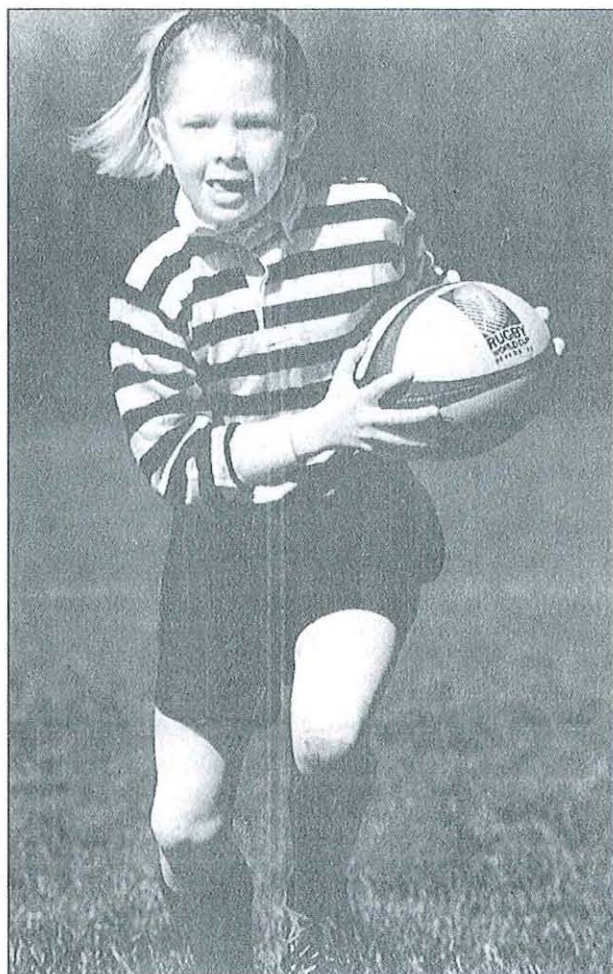
The play revolves around the emotional upheavals of a Manchester family's daily life. It is both outrageously funny and tearfully poignant as it deals with the results of a broken marriage, the acknowledgement (or not) of the only son's homosexuality, and the matriarch's on-going control of her family.

The play will be performed as dinner theatre here at the British Club on July 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23. Tickets will only be on sale in advance at the front desk of the British Club as well as at Asia Books. Make sure you book your tickets early to avoid disappointment - BCT and the British Club had to turn away more than 50 prospective audience members when *Plaza Suite* sold out in March.

Lastly, if you are interested in helping out with the production or becoming a member of Bangkok Community Theatre, please contact BCT Chairman, Roderick Turner, at 252 2486 or come along and introduce yourself at the BCT Club Night, the first Thursday of every month here at the British Club. See you opening night!

- Notes:
- * You do not need to be a member of the British Club to attend
 - * Tickets will not be sold at the door
 - * The play deals with adult themes; parental discretion is advised

SCORING SENSATION ABIGAIL IS HEADING FOR TWICKERS



LOOK out England, young Abigail Blackburn is aiming to score under the posts at Twickenham. While the cream of England's rugby union crop had big problems scoring tries in the recent Five Nations tournament Abigail is having a run of success.

And she was looking to continue it when she played in front of thousands at the famous ground a few weeks ago. Seven year old Abigail will be the only girl in the Mowden Park Darlington under-eights team joining other youngsters from Hartlepool, Stockton and Westoe, South Shields, for demonstration five-a-side games before the County Championship Final between Durham and Yorkshire. Her scoring run continued with a scoring run in a mini rugby tournament.

Abigail still at infant school, is in her third season at Mowden Park. She first played rugby union at the age of four-and-a-half. She became interested when brother Oliver, nine, started playing and it's certainly a family affair as father Stuart coaches the young team with mother Anita an administrator.

Well done, Abigail, maybe an example for all you girls in Bangkok. The Mini Rugby team takes on girls as well as boys.

CHILDRENS SUMMER SPORTS CAMP

Hey kids, did you know there is a children's sports camp on at the BC in July? Ask your mum and dad about it. You can participate in all sorts of sports, there are coaches available and you'll have a fun time with all your friends. There is still time to sign up if you are quick!

SUGGESTIONS ** IDEAS ** GAMES ** ENTERTAINMENT ** FOR YOU!!

Have you ever thought what a great place the British Club really is? How nice it looks and how amazing it is that a peaceful place like the BC exists in the middle of busy Silom? How lucky we all are to be able to run there and play, swim, watch videos, play football and games? No? Recently there has been quite an outbreak of wild behaviour of children at the club. Are you bored, would you like us to organise something for you? Let us know, write to Bea Grunwell or telephone her on 258 9509, ask your mum or dad to send a fax to the same number. Let us hear from you, what you would like us to do for the young people of the BC, what you would like in Outpost. If we don't hear we think you are all happy and we will just assume that you'd had a bad day that Sunday when you were once again pulled off that large tree on the back lawn!

DISAPPEARING PENCIL

YOU NEED

- A handkerchief
- A pencil

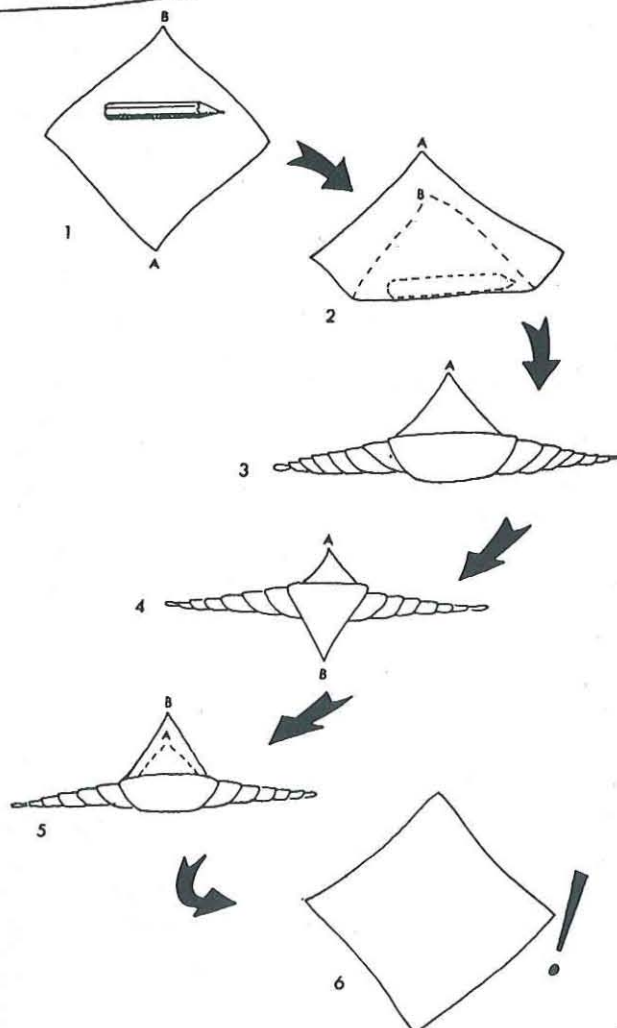
Place the handkerchief on the table with one of its corners pointing towards you. We will call this nearest corner 'A' and the one pointing away from you 'B'.

Lay a pencil on the handkerchief. The positioning of the pencil is quite important – it should be as in the picture (1), just a little above the centre of the handkerchief.

Lift corner A and fold it up to just above corner B (2). Now roll the pencil in the handkerchief (3). Keep rolling until corner B comes out from beneath the handkerchief (4). Keep your hands over the middle of the handkerchief so your audience do not see this happen.

Keep rolling for just a little bit more and corner B will come over to rest on top of corner A (5).

Now pull corner B gently back towards you to unroll the handkerchief. When you unroll the handkerchief the pencil is now underneath it. It seems that it penetrated the material by magic!



Taken from Outpost July 1990, thanks to Maren and her team !

TRAVELS IN VIETNAM (FALLING OUT OF LOVE)

by Alastair McManus

The Vietnam Airlines new Boeing was immaculate. Half empty and peppered with Vietnamese girls clad in the delightful "national dress" of ao dai or whatever they are called - in reality flimsy bell-bottomed slacks with skin-hugging slip top, often with up to 90 per cent transparency - the plane climbed away from Don Muang towards one of the world's few remaining communist capitals. An hour later we were to be in Hanoi.

It had taken three weeks of careful cajoling to get onto this plane. One writing/photographic assignment paid for the ticket, another for expenses and living. A previous property assignment covered a mammoth overstay fine. Accompanying new "sample" golf clubs were hopefully to be sold to provide additional cash. Last minute hitches were overcome. Time for a beer.

I pulled the photograph out of my wallet. Long black hair, Chinese

eyes, a whimsical smile, wonderful shape (for her age). Her name was Yung. I was in love (nearly as much as golf).

The picture had been taken on the Saigon River nearly two years before and treasured since. Work and golf in Hanoi for a week and I was free to seek her in Ho Chi Minh City.

"Ice Sir?.." - "What, its not cold?" - No, just warm. Coffee consisted of a plastic cup of tepid water and a sachet of instant. The food was not much better. "Er, excuse me, another beer please - with ice". Relax, it doesn't matter - you've made it.

Immigration and customs were easy, my transport was there. Now only a matter of finding a hotel room. We sped towards Hanoi city on a good new highway, the driver skilfully using his horn to urge overloaded trucks and buses to move over. Verdant green rice fields, power lines and brown rivers sped by before we were on the outskirts of the city, now negotiating



"By Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (Hanoi)"

bullock carts and bicycles on a narrow road atop a high river dyke, overlooking houses made of laterite bricks and red clay tiles. Driving on horn, brake



"Vietnam national dress with hat (Danang)"

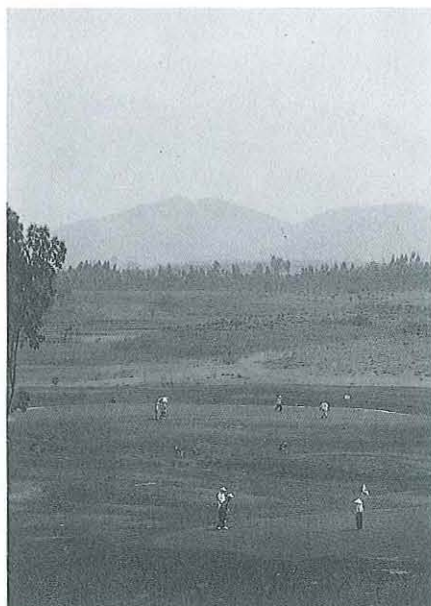


"Hi! - Young girls in Danang"

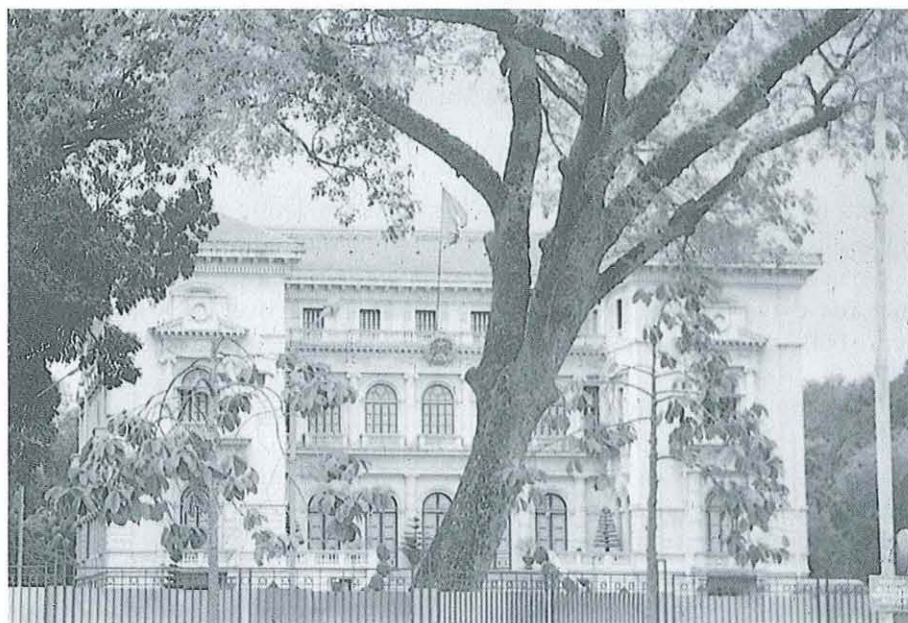
Travels in Vietnam



"Shave Sir? Hanoi street barber"



"Golf scenery at King's Island"



"Presidential Palace, Hanoi"

ing meals partaken, good expat bars found. Other highlights included visiting the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum area - wonderful aura of history, trees and buildings, encaptured by a huge single flagpole acting as a cenotaph; discovering "bia hoi" - streetside beer - ice cold, dirt cheap; shopping for interesting items at world class low cost; walking at midnight through a deserted central Hanoi - quieter than even Vientiane; and playing golf at King's Island. The latter provided a "Perfect Moment" (for Spalding Gray fans):

"Going by one of King's Island's minibuses, the crowded streets of Hanoi were quickly replaced by open countryside and small hamlets, as we sped along a good road, built by Cubans. An hour later, we were beside a huge lake in high countryside comparable to England's Lake District. Goats and cows grazed under the shadow of a mighty hill range that extends up into China. Fishermen toiled away nearby. A mixed group of Koreans, Taiwanese, Swedes and Finns, plus even Samoans and a BBC film crew, awaited the short boat trip to the course. I played with three transplanted Finnish engineers, each with a very full complement of international blasphemy, tastefully offset by a complete lack of inherent golfing skill. After a hot and humid day, a huge thunderstorm cleared the air. Mother Nature gave a dusk command performance for over an hour in terms of cloud formation, monolithic mountains and sunset. We sped back to Hanoi in an ochre light, wind rushing by. Miles Davis was played. Magic."

Travelling on to Ho Chi Minh City via the peaceful city of Danang, I looked forward to my remaining week of relaxation and humour. I would be rid of the beggars and hustlers that plague Hanoi and looked forward to seeing Yung.

[These assumptions turn out to be incorrect. - See next month's issue of *Outpost* for the conclusion of this gripping yarn - does he find her or not, is love castigated? ...Ed.]

and swerve, we were soon in the middle of Hanoi where I was dropped at a small French style villa populated by some seven North Americans and their local girlfriends, there to build and run a golf course. - No room but they would try and find one elsewhere. Meantime, off for a sundowner.

A recently abolished British Club Member (during the first O'Connor Purge - 1993) was found propping-up the most expensive hotel bar in Hanoi (that I later discovered to be also the worst bar in Asia for undernourished spirits and padded bills, all served with great disdain by an eclectic band

of kleptomaniacs). Still, an interesting mix of salesmen, writers, executives and hangers-on theatrically mingled around the Thieves Den. Several expensive Carlsbergs later, it was back to the house to be whisked away to "the last room in town".

[Two international exhibitions plus the now omnipresent U.S. trade delegation were in Hanoi.]

My week in Hanoi was, on the whole, enjoyable. After shifting to a cheap and central guesthouse, work assignments were completed. Hanoi Hash House Harriers were enjoyed (great countryside), several outstand-

Men with the Knowledge



The traditional black vehicle that has been a familiar sight around London for over 25 years.

Knowledge, according to the Oxford Dictionary, is understanding gained through experience. To the 15,000 licensed taxi drivers in London it stands for something more, much more. Like members of a secret society, they all share something quite unique. They are all privy to "The Knowledge".

In most cities of the world driving a taxi is usually a means to an end, a fill-in job that people drift in and out of. In London many working people actually aspire to driving one of the distinctive black vehicles that ply the streets and suburbs. It offers the chance to be your own boss, and keep your own timetable while providing a secure meal ticket for life.

But becoming one of the privileged few is not easy. To be accepted as a London cabbie you have to subject yourself to an awesome test of learning - committing to memory every street and landmark within a ten-kilometre radius of central London. Known as "The Knowledge", it involves 468 set routes, thousands of street names and several hundred landmarks. It's an examination of a would-be cabbie's knowledge of the

streets he or she must travel that's unparalleled anywhere in the world. It's also a guarantee to the customer that the driver knows the shortest route between any two points in the city.

Qualifying is usually an arduous two-year process for any potential "Knowledge Boy". The prize at the end for the small number that make it is a cabbie's badge and the right to drive one of the city's 'sherbet dabs', as the vehicle is known in Cockney rhyming slang.

The British government toyed with the idea of getting rid of this examination and deregulating the taxi trade, which would have broken the monopoly that graduates now have on picking up passengers on the streets of London. Fortunately for all those who subjected themselves to acquiring "The Knowledge" over the past twenty years, the government decided that a free-for-all would be to the public detriment and changed its mind.

Those taking the arduous examination liken it to gaining a university degree.

'In many ways it's as difficult,'

says knowledge school instructor Doug Sadler, who has been helping would-be cabbies learn the streets and landmarks for over ten years. 'Most of those studying it take up to two years to complete the process and during that time they have to eat, drink and sleep it.'

Every year over 2,500 hopefuls embark on the long process of memorising the 468 set routes in the London cabbie's bible - the 'bluebook.' Most of them study during their spare time and many attend special schools where, each day, they sit with other 'Knowledge Boys' and test their memory.

As well as memorising names, the aspirants also don crash helmets and ride round the actual streets on small motorbikes, a clipboard with a list of the day's streets in front of them, trying to commit the routes to memory. Hundreds of hours of repetitive learning, cross checking and driving around the streets in all weather are necessary before a 'Knowledge Boy' is ready to face the examiners. And it doesn't end with just one test. Applicants must pass a succession of them

Men with the Knowledge

held at varying intervals, from weeks to months, before the examiners are satisfied they know the shortest route between any points in London. Needless to say, there is a high drop-out rate. But enough 'Knowledge Boys' always get through each year to keep the ranks of the city's cabbies at full complement.

The oldest successful applicant was 63 when he got his badge and London's oldest working taxi driver recently retired at the ripe old age of 83!

Undertaking the quest for 'The Knowledge' is not for the fainthearted, says Sadler, a London cabbie for 22 years, whose wife is one of the city's one hundred or so women taxi drivers. 'Many of them come to a school like ours because of the discipline, because there is no other way of doing it well.'

When an applicant has finished memorising the blue book and spent about a month learning the major points around the city, he (or she) is ready to be tested, says Sadler.

'Between tests can be anything from 56 to 84 days. Then, if they do well, the gap narrows to 28 days. If they do badly they go back to 56 days,

if they do well it goes down to being tested every 21 days.'

If a 'Knowledge Boy' gives up at any stage, he is left with nothing, no matter how long he may have devoted to the course. And even passing the test and getting the badge is not the end of it. To be licensed to drive one of the lumbering, diesel powered vehicles they have to pass a special driving test as well.

'You can imagine the strain they are under,' says Sadler. 'You've done your knowledge, you've learnt the suburbs and then you have to do a special driving test. You can either come out of it as a taxi driver or go through it all over again.'

Many 'Knowledge Boys' have the added stress of doing a days work on top of studying for the tests. Yet for all this, few would-be cabbies would want it any other way. 'Nobody in the trade wants lower standards,' says Sadler.

Considering that licensed cabbies must go through all this and then pay about BPS 8,000 to buy one of the black cabs or rent one for about BPS 100 a week, it is understandable they are loath to see the city's profitable taxi trade become an unlicensed free-

for-all.

People from all walks of life want to become cabbies in London, it seems; milkmen, musicians and former policemen rub shoulders with labourers and teachers in the knowledge schools. For many London cabbies, driving a taxi is also a way of life. Not only do they drive the same kinds of vehicles and ply the same streets, they tend to socialise together. After all, they are members of a rather large exclusive club.

Some changes have gradually crept into the tradition-bound world of the London cabbie, however. Many drivers now prefer the lighter and sleeker Metro taxis, often painted red or blue rather than black. And the traditional black vehicle is now likely to be powered by a Japanese-made Nissan diesel engine rather than the British-made Leyland or Rover engine of yesteryear.

But as far as most London cabbies are concerned, that's about the limit. 'Why bother to change it when you have the best service in the world? These guys are in love with London, in love with their jobs,' says chief instructor Phil Phillips.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By now World Cup fever will be well and truly on the way to epidemic proportions and hopefully those honorary "Brits" the Irish will be living up to their pre-tournament promise as dark horses. It must be the Guinness. My money is on Holland however as Bea Grunwell, editor of Outpost, seems like a perfectly decent human being and if she is a typical example of a "cloggie" then they must be in with a chance.

Of course, it isn't quite the same without England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland competing but at least we are spared the misery of late nights in front of the box watching hopelessly inept teams failing to live up to their pre-match promises. Hopefully "El Tel" will change things and England's pre-qualification for the next European Cup will at least ensure we make it to the first round



stage. But maybe our soccer teams back home should take a leaf out of the the British Club Bangkok's book and form a United Kingdom side. In recent years our team has done well against the French, Germans and Italians, and I can't help thinking that a U.K. team would be strong enough to lift major honours on the European and world stage too.

In fact we do have enough soccer players to form separate teams as the now annual England vs Scotland game

testifies. But like our counterparts back home. I am sure if we tried it the results in the "Farang" league would be equally disastrous.

Enough of soccer. At the latest new members night I met a couple of top class swimmers who are anxious to get us all back in to the water at the British Club. We used to have a very active swimming section and it would be great to get things going again. With the introduction of pool attendants and swimming instructors plus active participation from keen members, there is no reason why not.

Nigel Oakins
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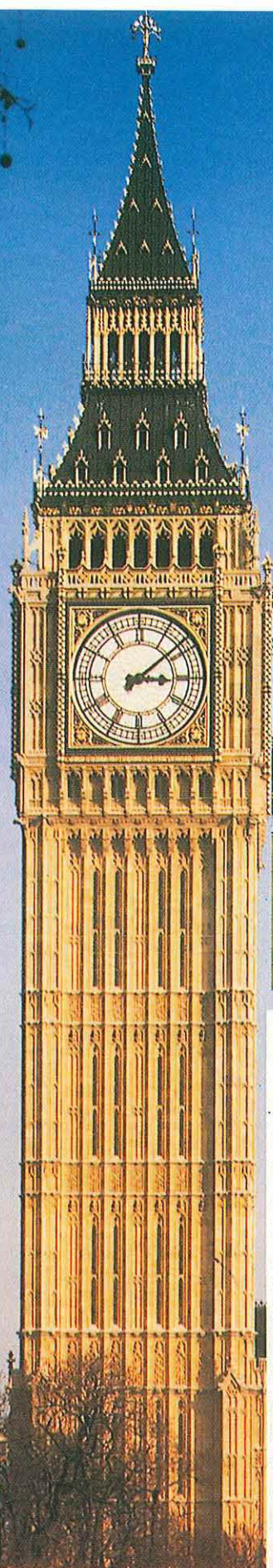
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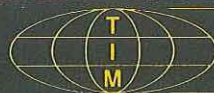
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