

AUGUST • 1998



Outpost

M A G A Z I N E



- Angkor and Much More — Intrepid Club Members Explore Ancient Cambodia
- Murder and Mystery at the BC!
- BCT Tribute to the late Bob Radford



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British Club

is a family, sporting and social club with an international membership.

For details about the Club contact the Membership Marketing Manager at 189 Surawong Road, Bangkok 10500
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Contributions

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The Outpost Magazine

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



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Weighing Angkor

Welcome to the bumper Siem Riep issue with the double-feature on the recent BC trip to the fabulous Angkor Wat complex and other famous sights in Cambodia! Many, many thanks to both Dick Taylor and Michael Reid for their great write-ups (and Dick also for the photos)... I just knew there were more capable writers out there! It sounded a great trip; hopefully this feature will encourage others to go next time the BC runs this tour. Certainly, established fixtures tend to get better support from members—look at the capacity crowd of 70 heading to Surin each year—so it would be great to see a return to Angkor next year.

For the moment at least there appears to be a tentative window of peace in that part of the country to allow the much-needed, revenue-earning tourism to proceed, as access has been restricted so much since the days when my grandfather travelled around the vast temple complex during his term in Bangkok in the mid-'50s. And while there are those who would argue against tourism, it is generally true to say that the more open a site is, the more funding is directed to its restoration or upkeep and the better documented its assets — there's no disguising the widespread relic stripping of Angkor Wat and indeed many sites of historic interest in the region for private gain at the expense of the region's rich cultural heritage.

Engage Brain Before Opening Mouth...

It's funny what you hear around the Club. Some years ago I used to write down daft things I'd heard and send groups of them in as 'quotes' articles to *Outpost*; methinks I ought to start doing this again after catching a few funnies recently. For example, this delightful instruction was barked at one young lad in the Surawong Sala last month by his mother: "You are only allowed to eat Magnums with no clothes on!" Doesn't bear thinking about if this were to be applied to all members...

So if you happen to hear (or overhear) someone saying something which sounds ridiculous when taken out of context, write it down and fax it to me on 285 4723, or leave it in the *Outpost* pigeon-hole. You don't need to include the names of those speaking; quotes are usually best kept anonymous!

As for this month's *Outpost*, there's a letter from member and ex-GM David Viccars in response to James Reid's letter from the last issue, the review of the recent BCT Murder Mystery nights at the Club, which by all accounts were a great success, and a veritable smorgasbord of sports reports; in particular the parting words of retiring football chairman Alex, and the progress of Matt "Il Duce" in his plans for global domination... today, chairman of the BC footie section; tomorrow the world.

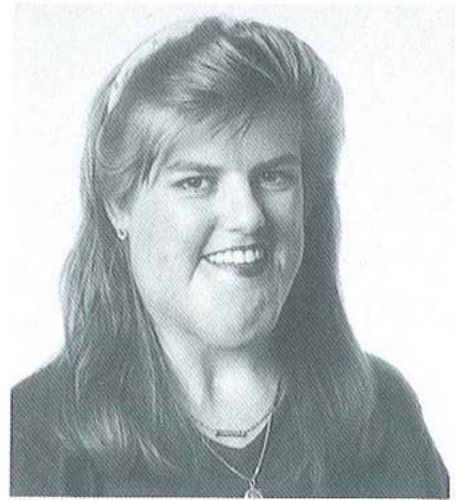
There's also an update on the Khun Pisamai Memorial Fund by Bryan Baldwin. Members who have been around for five or more years will probably know of Khun Pisamai, a well-loved member of the BC staff, and the fund which was established in her name back in 1993 when she passed away. Thank you Bryan for providing us with an update of the Fund's development.

Finally, there was sad news last month of the passing of Bob Radford, a popular and familiar face around the Club. There is an obituary on page 9 kindly penned by Eric Miller, and a tribute to him by the BCT compiled by Angela Mitchell.

Well, that's it for this issue. It's the birthday of H.M. Queen Sirikit on Wednesday 12th, which means it's also Mother's Day here... why not surprise Mum overseas with a second Mother's Day card (or a first card if you forgot the Mother's Day in the country she lives in; it's different for most countries).



Gaynor de Wit
Editor



Gaynor de Wit - Editor

Stop Press:

Tony Freeman

I was greatly saddened to hear very recently of the passing of Tony Freeman, a long-time member of the Club and an active member of the Bangkok community, who left Thailand about two years ago. My sympathies go to his wife Julia and their children in England. An obituary will follow next month.

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New Members Night

A successful get-together for all of the Club's new members took place on Monday evening, 6th July. Thank you to all the members (old and new) and society and sports section representatives for attending.

Of the 55 new members there were some 26 in attendance. It is a great opportunity to meet people who are also new to the Club and/or Bangkok and also to make contact with some older (some would say wiser) members.

Happy Hour - Fridays

TGIF! Don't forget it's Happy Hour EVERY FRIDAY from 5pm until 7pm in the Churchill Bar. Buy a local beer, pouring gin, whisky or a glass of house wine and get one free.

Masters Swim Training

For the swimmer with some experience, an opportunity to extend your stamina with the support of others on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6-7pm. The next course starts on Tuesday 18th August; please sign-up in the Fitness Centre.

Junior Sailing Camp

Running out of things to do to entertain the kids over the LONG holiday period? Give them (and yourself) a well deserved break. From Monday 24th - Friday 28th August a camp is being organised at the Royal Varuna Yacht Club aimed primarily at teaching sailing and boat handling skills; there will also be many other sporting and recreational activities organised to keep the most energetic of children entertained! Don't miss out—sign up at Reception or fax Lisa at the Club NO LATER than Wednesday 19th August.

Swimming Gala

The report and pictures from the gala in July can be found in the Aquatics write-up. Meanwhile, note the date **Sunday 13th September** in your diaries for a 10.30am start to the next gala!

Swimming and Tennis Coaching

Please enrol in this new series of coaching courses that commence in the first week of September. Limited places in some classes - sign-up is on a first come, first served basis.

Inter-Section Sports Day

The biggest sporting challenge of the year is not far away! **Sunday 4th October** (TBC) is the date; sports sections had better start training for this annual event. Can Tennis be outsmarted this year? Will Squash out do Tennis? Will Rugby have a full team at the start of the competition? Will the new sections Scuba and Aquatics be represented? Will we see a come-back by Cricket? Can Golf, Football and Badminton stand up to the pressure? You've got to be in it to win it!

Surin Elephant Round-Up

In November the Club will once again be travelling to Surin for the elephant show. Please see details later in the magazine and book early, as seats are limited.

Britclub@loxinfo.co.th

Don't forget the BC is now on the net. Please contact us on britclub@loxinfo.co.th

Earlier Sunday Carvery

The wonderful spread of carvery meats and delectable dishes is now available for both lunch (12 noon until 2.30pm) and evening dinner (5.30 until 9pm). At only Bt 380 for adults and Bt 185 for children under 12, it represents superb value for the range of tastes on offer.

Churchill Bar Closing

The normal closing time for the Churchill Bar is 11 pm, however, the bar may stay open later if members require it. In future the additional hours will be limited to 12 midnight Sunday to Thursday and 3am on Friday and Saturday evenings. These new times will commence from 1st August.

Lunch Time Buffet

As from Monday 10th August there'll be a lunchtime buffet every weekday (Monday

to Friday) in Lords. Priced at Bt220 for three courses plus coffee, or individually at Bt55 for soup or starter, Bt120 for main course, Bt55 for sweet and Bt15 for tea or coffee. If you're looking for a swift, tasty and economical lunchtime meal, look no further than the Club!

Upcoming Events in Bangkok

The following may be of interest to the members:

Magic Eyes Chao Phraya Barge Programmes - August

- Cooking on the Barge with Mrs Balbir, Sunday 23rd August, cost Bt 1,600
- The River, Art and Life, for students, Saturday 29th or Sunday 30th August, cost Bt 1,100

For information on these and any other programmes, please contact the Programme Coordinator, Michelle Zielinski, on tel 439 4748/4746, fax on 439 4754 or email barge@loxinfo.co.th.

St Andrew's Soc. Ceilidh

There will be a Scottish Ceilidh on Saturday 19th September at the Arnoma Hotel at 7.30 for 8pm. Non-members welcome for singing, dancing and a surprise or two! Tickets Bt 750, including buffet supper. Please contact Eileen Cook on tel 295 4596 for details.

ThaiCraft Sale

Saturday 5th September from 10am-1pm at the Landmark Plaza, Sukhumvit — over 60 community-based artisan groups from all over Thailand will offer quality handi-crafts at reasonable prices. Contact ThaiCraft on tel 391 6018.

There will also be ThaiCraft sales on October 3rd, October 31st and November 28th to prepare you for the Christmas present buying season!

Classes Recommence in September

Aerobics	Wednesday 2nd September,	9.30am
Aqua Aerobics	Thursday 3rd September,	10.30am
Junior Tennis Coaching	Friday 4th September,	3.15-6.30pm
Junior Swimming Coaching	Saturday 5th September,	9am-1pm
Masters (adult) Swimming	Tuesdays and Thursdays (starting 18/8),	6-7pm
Junior Squad Swimming Training	Friday 11th September,	6-7pm

The Khun Pisamai Memorial Fund

Khun Pisamai was a very popular member of the British Club staff who at various times had worked in Lords Restaurant, the Churchill Bar and poolside.

She was especially kind to children and always went out of her way to ensure their comfort and happiness at the Club.

When she died suddenly early in 1993 in her mid-fifties, many members wished to donate money, not just for the funeral expenses but more importantly to ensure the future education of her grand-daughter, Khun Pakwipa Keowraksa, now 13 years old. Members who knew the family, and particularly Keith Bell, who was the Club's Manager at the time, considered that it would be risky to hand over such a large amount of money (about Baht 100,000) to Khun Pakwipa's father, so the Committee agreed to set up the Khun Pisamai Memorial Fund to ensure the education of the little girl.

Until 1997 expenses for tuition fees, school clothing, books, etc, have been very modest and amount to about Baht 20,000. I paid these costs personally, against receipts, so the Fund has continued to grow, mainly from interest income, but also from small periodic donations and at the end of 1997 stood at Baht 211,428. This is held in a separate account at the Siam Commercial Bank and is administered by a Committee comprising myself as Chairman, plus the incumbent Club Chairman, Treasurer, Personnel Sub-committee member and the General Manager.

There is a proper "Policy and Procedure Document" in force which was modified and approved by the General Committee on 16th June 1997, which not only covers

an annual scholarship for Khun Pakwipa, but also can be extended to the child of any member of the staff, subject to salary level limitations, family circumstances and the approval of the Committee.

I like to think that Khun Pisamai would be happy to know that the British Club has done this in her name and I encourage members, sports sections and loyal societies to continue to make donations to the Fund whenever they can.

Bryan Baldwin (B12)

Obituary

Robert Radford

Members will have been sad to learn that Bob Radford died suddenly in Bangkok on Monday 6th July.

Bob came to live in Thailand when he retired after many years working in the Middle East. He joined the British Club in July 1986 and came to regard it as his second home. He was a familiar figure in the Churchill Bar, where he often took his lunch, and was a regular and popular performer in the Bangkok Community Theatre shows in the Suriwongse Room.

Those who had the pleasure of knowing Bob will remember him for his even temperament and his infectious sense of humour. He was always ready for a friendly chat and was a man who was never known to say an unkind word about anyone.

He will be much missed.

E. Miller



Janet and Alaster

Alaster and Janet Smith

Meet Alaster who, after being in Singapore for 10 years, takes over from Nigel Oakins as the new MD of the Bangkok Post. His sports were listed as "swims a little, sleeps a lot" but when awake and not at work he likes classic cars and motor sports. Janet also swims and enjoys Scottish country dancing (she's from Glasgow, after all) and

bridge. They have two grown children, the-youngest of whom at 27 is a professional single yachtswoman.



Ken and Patchalee with young Chalissa

Ken and Patchalee Lau

Already a familiar sight in the Surawong Sala, tennis playing Ken and Patchalee also swim and enjoy watching movies, reading and music. Ken, the Management Accounting Manager at Standard Chartered Bank, also lists badminton and golf among his sports; Patchalee is an Accounting Supervisor with Linmark. Seen here,

their cute but shy daughter, Chalissa, is 5 and a half and is now at school.



Linda and Marco

Linda and Marco Belonje

More familiar faces around the Club, Marco is a well known rugby player and Linda plays tennis and ladies touch rugby; nice to see them join the Club after 2 and a half years in Thailand. Linda is the MD of Media Mania while Marco is an industrial engineer for Hana Semiconductor, and are here on their first overseas posting together

for "who knows how long". This fit couple also enjoy mountain biking and diving.



John and Lamthong

John Casella and Lamthong Namnuad

John shares his birthday with H.M. Queen Sirikit, turning 29 on the 12th of this month. An operations analyst with the Dusit Hotels & Resorts group, he expects to be here "for eternity" on this his first overseas posting. His wife, Lamthong, works with Pac Rim International. Both

sporting bods, John plays ball hockey, soccer, rugby and golf and shares swimming, running, mountain biking and squash with Lamthong. John's a real adventurer, having trekked to Mt Everest base camp and Annapurna Sanctuary as well as biking over 1,800 km from Ho Chi Minh to Hanoi!



Mike

Mike Smith

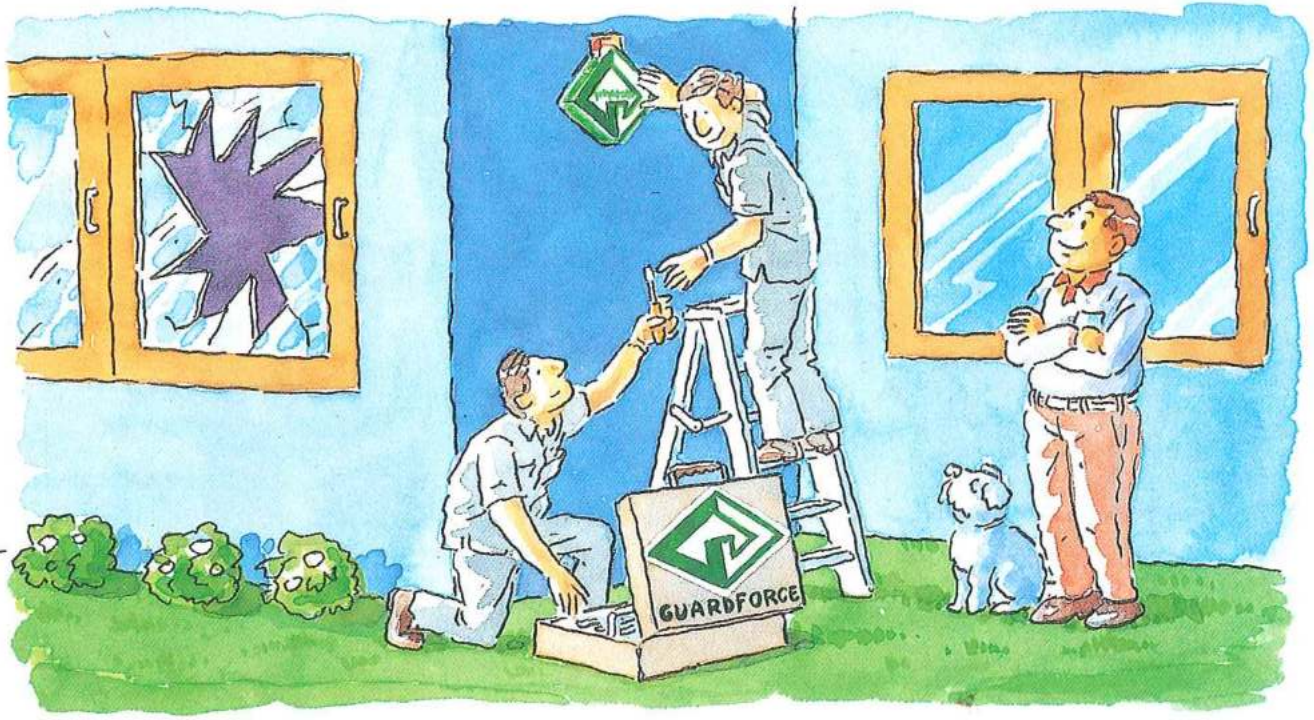
Another familiar face around the Club, Mike has been regularly dropping in on the BC for a few years on reciprocal membership from his club in Hong Kong, where he was based with IBM Asia/Pacific for some time. When Mike retired he spent 18 months travelling through South America, but now he's here he hopes to stay for "a long time". Squash players will know Mike already, and his hobbies include collecting, especially cigarette cards, and playing chess. Other postings include Florida and Sri Lanka.



Audel

Audel Dalphinis

This happy smile belongs to Audel, Projects Director for Worachak International. He's been here before: 18 months in '93/4 with EC Harris before a year in Jakarta, then back here again for the last three years with Worachak and another three expected. In his spare time, St Lucia-born Audel plays soccer, golf and squash. 1990 was quite a year for him, as he somehow travelled the world in 4 1/2 weeks (wow - I wish I'd had more time to ask him about this!) and even had a 20-second slot on "News at 10" in Britain in April of that year, talking about the UK joining the EEC... the man's famous!



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Simon and Brenda

Simon and Brenda Antrobus

Aussies Simon and Brenda have just arrived and expect 3-5 years here; Simon is the Principal Consultant with Hay Management and plays tennis, golf, snooker, scuba diving and chess. Brenda plays tennis and netball and reads as a hobby, and both enjoy travelling and meeting people.

They have two children, Blake, 5, at Patana School and Jack, just one and a half years old, and their only previous posting was in Jakarta for 18 months.



Napak and Jaap

Jaap and Napak Meijer

Dutchman Jaap is the Business Development Director with Lucent Technologies and has been here for over 5 years (and only just joined?), with another few years ahead of him yet. Both he and Napak enjoy golf and scuba diving; Jaap plays darts and with his computer while Napak lists cooking and reading among her hobbies.



Stephen

Stephen Gabbott

Meet the new vicar of this parish, Stephen, who has very recently taken over the reins at Christ Church in Convent Road.

Previously in Tanzania and Kenya, he and wife Marion have three grown children living in homeland Australia. Stephen claims to have brought none of his hobbies with him, except perhaps beach and rock fishing, though the latter could be adapted to klong fishing. When Marion isn't assisting him at the church, she enjoys swimming and meeting people.



Sally

Sally Schoon

Kiwi Sally is a Visiting Expert in Education working at Srinakharinwirot University for one academic year. She's lived here before, awarded a UNESCO fellowship to study speech therapy in Thailand back in '93/4, as well as a stint at the New Zealand consulate in San Francisco. Sporting pursuits include snorkelling, swimming, golf ('tentative!') and skiing, with hobbies of renovating houses, wine, reading, travel, art, films and theatre. Sally is a Rotarian with the Wellington Harbour City Rotary Club, and has a Dutch surname like mine!



Bill

Bill Anderson

Single and 29, this man with the medallion (!) is Bill, Senior Vice President at Seamico Securities; he's been in Bangkok for four years already and has "no plans to leave". Previously in Luxembourg for a spell, Brit Bill plays squash, tennis and darts—perhaps he could rejuvenate the Darts section at the Club?



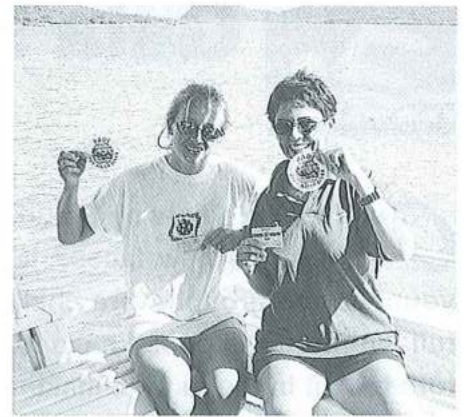
Abdul

Abdul Basudeen

Businessman Abdul came to Bangkok when he was young and expects to stay forever; he's married to Mumtaz, who works for Dhanish International Trading, and they have two children, Pavina 12 and Dhanish, 10, both born here. Abdul plays tennis, squash and cricket, and both he and Mumtaz enjoy social gatherings and are involved in charity work.

Off the Deep End

I would like to welcome our eight most recent **PADI Open Water Divers**: Alan and Rosemary Jope, Louise Coady, Mark Holloway, Stefan Chapman, Thomas Broadfoot, John G. Broadfoot and John R. Broadfoot. Six other students are presently well on their way to completing their Open Water courses this month. Steve Renshaw and Ming Gary have completed the **Rescue Diver** course. And last but not least, Simon Chisholm has completed his **Dive Master** rating. Great work!



Open Water divers; l to r: Rosemary Jope and Louise Coady

Peter Gary



Open Water Divers; front row l to r: Stefan Chapman, Thomas Broadfoot, John G. Broadfoot; back row l to r: Mark Holloway, Alan Jope, Simon Chisholm (Dive Master student), John R. Broadfoot



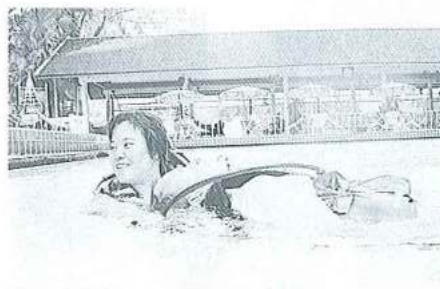
Open Water diver Rosemary Jope about to make her giant stride into the water during her open water training



Open Water diver Louise Coady making a giant stride into the water during her open water training



Ming Gary receiving her Rescue Diver certificate and patch from instructor Peter Gary



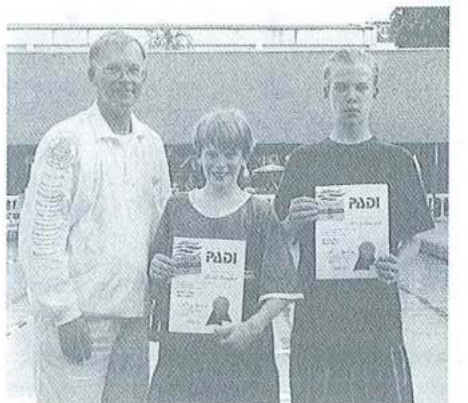
Ming Gary practising rescue skills with Steve Renshaw in the pool



Open Water diver Stefan Chapman with certificate and card



New proud Dive Master Simon Chisholm



Open Water divers; l to r: instructor Peter Gary, Thomas Broadfoot and John G. Broadfoot with certificate and card



Gala Success

Our July Gala held on Saturday 5th was well patronised. There were some new faces, new races and lots of medals. Our younger age groups were challenged, as their races are now the full length of the pool. I have to say these tiny but feisty competitors took it in their stride making great times and not showing any signs of fatigue—'(For)ever ready batteries', I'm sure!

We were glad to welcome back Ben Quarmby who generously roped in his mate Nico for the morning. This provided some thundering swims amongst the Open division. Well done to the Moffatt family—each member proved a formidable force in their respective races... including Kelvin (Dad).

A note of welcome and well done to Lauren, Christopher and Carolyn Fieldus,

Junior Award (Shark)

Nicola Clark

Sub-Junior Award (Tadpole)

Kelsey Moffatt

The age-group champions were:

Under 5's	Annika Law
5-6 years	Cameron Moffatt
7-8 years	Kelsey Moffatt
9-10 years	Lauren Moffatt
11-15 years	Nicola Clark
Open	Ben Quarmby

each doing very well in their events. Remember, our galas are for the whole family and we welcome newcomers. We have been short on 11-15 year olds so if any of you are out there come and have a go! Gala champions are determined by a points system on the day and their names are recorded onto the Awards Plaque. Our next gala is scheduled for Sunday 13th September. Left are the Club Champions for July.

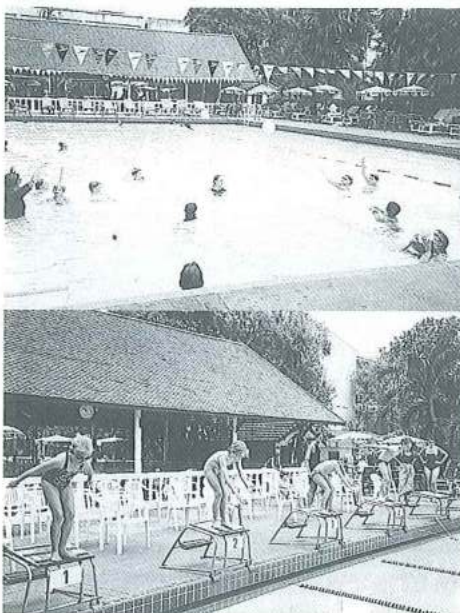
The full times for the July gala will be posted on the Aquatic Section notice board. This month each champion receives a brand new stopwatch generously

provided to us by **Speedo** (I can just imagine the summer break for the Moffatt family—there are a multitude of activities that can be accurately timed during the holidays!)

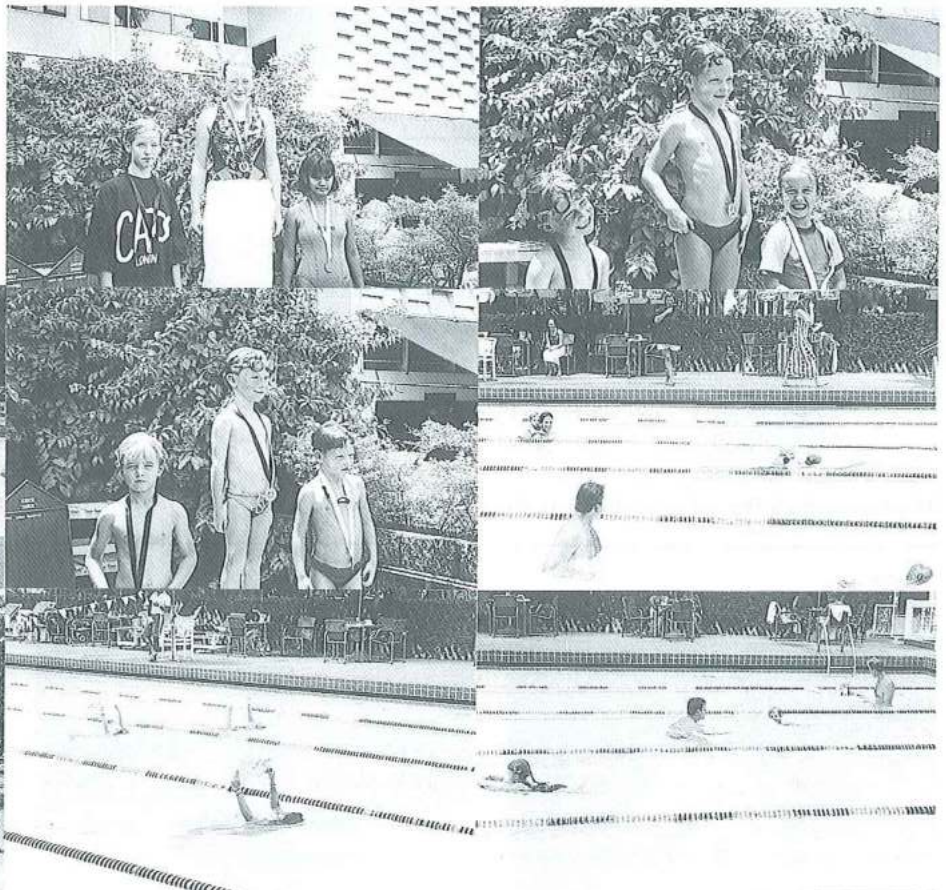
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Speedo for their support. They have provided our timekeepers with new stopwatches and our officials with hats and T-shirts to be worn on gala days. For our own convenience there is now a full range of Speedo bathing suits available from the Fitness Centre. Saturday morning swim classes will recommence on 5th September. At our next gala, Sunday 13th September, we hope to have a table of Cshirt UPF 100+ merchandise available for members to purchase. Merchandise includes everything from sun-safe gear for infants to sun-safe sarongs.

Catch you then!

Liz Beal



Scenes from the Swimming Gala in May





Swimming Gala Results from May 17th

Event	Name	Time	Event	Name	Time
Open Freestyle	1. Kelvin Moffatt	38.86	Open Backstroke	1. Marilyn Moffatt	46.88
	2. David Faulkner	43.36		2. Andy Simpson	52.91
<i>Record holder:</i>	<i>Ben Quarmby</i>	27.49		3. David Faulkner	1.10.32
11-15 years Freestyle	1. Laura Hughes	37.19	<i>Record holder:</i>	<i>Ben Quarmby</i>	37.32
	2. Jessica Beal	41.85	11-15 years Backstroke	1. Laura Hughes	46.88
	3. Sylvia Quarmby	42.08		2. Jessica Beal	49.16
<i>Record holder:</i>	<i>Chris Muldoon</i>	36.74		3. Sylvia Quarmby	56.36
9-10 years Freestyle	1. Lauren Mann	18.38	<i>Record holder:</i>	<i>Chris Muldoon</i>	44.52
	2. Darren Salt	20.41	9-10 years Backstroke	1. Lauren Mann	24.53
	3. Phillip Chantakomes	21.97		2. Darren Salt	28.38
<i>Record holder:</i>	<i>Lauren Mann</i>	17.38		3. Alex Bondoux	30.90
7-8 years Freestyle	1. Robert Hill	21.72	<i>Record holders:</i>	<i>Boys: Steven Muldoon</i>	25.02
	2. Kelsey Moffatt	21.88		<i>Girls: Lauren Mann</i>	24.52
	3. Kathryn Renshaw	25.99	7-8 years Backstroke	1. Robert Hill	30.16
<i>Record holder:</i>	<i>William Scott</i>	20.09		2. Kelsey Moffatt	32.28
5-6 years Freestyle	1. Billy Hill	14.93		3. Kathryn Renshaw	33.95
	2. Cameron Moffatt	15.00	<i>Record holder:</i>	<i>William Scott</i>	25.89
	3. Christopher Hughes	15.71	5-6 years Backstroke	1. Cameron Moffatt	17.91
<i>Record holders:</i>	<i>Boys: Jamorn Teo</i>	11.57		2. Christopher Hughes	18.62
	<i>Girls: Lisa Smith</i>	12.51	<i>Record holder:</i>	<i>Debbie Campbell</i>	17.60
Open Breaststroke	1. Kelvin Moffatt	45.41	Open Butterfly		
	2. Andy Simpson	46.10	<i>Record holder:</i>	<i>Ben Quarmby</i>	14.99
	3. Trini Faulkner	56.07	11-15 years Butterfly	1. Laura Hughes	20.69
<i>Record holder:</i>	<i>Ben Quarmby</i>	38.57		2. Jessica Beal	22.40
11-15 years Breaststroke	1. Laura Hughes	50.19	9-10 years Butterfly	1. Lauren Mann	25.22
	2. Jessica Beal	51.38		2. Darren Salt	30.09
	3. Sylvia Quarmby	51.92	7-8 years Butterfly	1. Kelsey Moffatt	14.47
<i>Record holder:</i>	<i>Chris Muldoon</i>	50.70		2. Robert Hill	15.07
9-10 years Breaststroke	1. Darren Salt	25.94		3. Cameron Moffatt	17.37
	2. Lauren Mann	27.86	5-6 years "Kick Stroke"	1. Billy Hill	30.12
	3. Phillip Chantakomes	28.49		2. Cameron Moffatt	32.67
<i>Record holder:</i>	<i>Boys: Steven Muldoon</i>	26.32		3. Christopher Hughes	38.56
	<i>Girls: Michelle Campbell</i>	26.94	Under 5's "Any Stroke"	1. Nicholas Law	17.76
7-8 years Breaststroke	1. Robert Hill	29.16		2. Conor Grogan	18.79
	2. Kelsey Moffatt	29.94		3. Hamish Moffatt	1.24.98
	3. Kathryn Renshaw	32.41	Open Girls Individual	1. Laura Hughes	1.40.69
<i>Record holder:</i>	<i>Mark Campbell</i>	26.32	Medley 12.5 m	2. Jessica Beal	1.43.38
5-6 years Breaststroke	1. Christopher Hughes	18.06		3. Lauren Moffatt	2.07.46
	2. Billy Hill	18.22	Open Boys Individual	1. Darren Salt	2.25.-
	3. Alan Simpson	18.22	Medley 12.5 m	2. Phillip Chantakomes	2.37.22
<i>Record holder:</i>	<i>Brian Loewe</i>	14.29			



Out with the Old, In with the Young

Farewell Report from the Departing Chairman

Season 1997/98 will pass into the record books as a disappointing one not only for the lack of success on the field but also for poor participation of section members and a general malaise. There were some highs as can be seen from a review of our activities.



Undoubtedly the success story for the section was the winning of the James Howard Trophy at the Manila Nomads International 6-a-side last November. This trophy is open to veteran (over 40) teams and we won two games and drew one to progress to the final where, after a valiant draw with the Hong Kong Football Club veterans team comprising several ex-professionals, we went on to win on penalties with our elder statesman Jim Howard, after whom the trophy was named, scoring the clinching penalty amid scenes of joy but almost disbelief from the crowd. After all, the BC had been trying for 10 years to win one of the two trophies on offer and had one solitary semi-final appearance in 1988 to show for our efforts. The sad thing was that of the 18 tourists in two teams, only half were section members.

Another great event well organised by Social Convenor Paul Greenhalgh was the 6th Annual Scotland vs England International followed by the quiz night. For the first time ever England won, thanks to the only goal of the game scored by Tony Green who was assisted by a goalkeeping

error. The football section was the winner, however, as there was a good turnout and the game was played in the right spirit. At the evening dinner and quiz a great time was had by all although again the numbers were not as much as hoped for. The Scots gained some consolation as 3 of their team, ably assisted by Alan May, took the honours in the quiz. Modesty forbids the Chairman from naming the winner of the Frank Haffey Trophy for the person who had most impact on the game.

Another high point was the successful running of the fourth Carlsberg Cup Tournament on FA Cup Final Day. Again well organised by Social Convenor Paul Greenhalgh, this 6-team, 9-a-side tournament was a great day's sport. The downside was there were only enough BC players to enter one team instead of the usual two. The team however did very well, defeating Patana Teachers 5-0 and drawing 1-1 with Delaney's to reach the final. Unfortunately the Chequers team proved just too strong and ran out worthy winners by 3-1. The hospitalisation of Casuals Captain Matt Duke due to a damaged ankle

put a damper on the final but it was later diagnosed as badly sprained and he appeared at the soirée on crutches.

On the touring side, in addition to the aforementioned Manila 6-a-side, we sent a team to their veterans 7-a-side in February which proved another great tour and the team record was won 1, drawn 2 and lost 2. A tour to Pattaya to play Bang Saen was another extremely enjoyable weekend as were three excursions to Ayutthaya to play a Japanese team. On the third such tour a tournament involving ourselves, the Germans, the Japanese, Scans, Brazilians and Delaney's was organised and we finished a very close second to the Scans.

The first team participated as usual in the International League and after a poor start rallied to mid-table respectability. Special thanks must go to Adam Caro who stepped into the breach when Captain Chris Davin's work commitments made him unavailable for long periods. In truth, Adam was influential in turning the season around.

The Casuals again took part in the Bangkok Social League and finished in the top half of the second season in a row. The number of teams has diluted the playing strength but this was still an enjoyable competition. Thanks must go to Matt Duke for organising our team for this and indeed throughout the year. He really has been the busiest committee member and is committed to the Club. As a result, apart from a 5-week spell last rainy season when the weather beat us, the Casuals have played at least 3 times a month.

On the sponsorship side we have been fortunate to obtain a splendid new strip from international removal company **Global Silverhawk**. Similarly the new **London Brew House** has sponsored the section's World Cup Polo shirt with the promise of a football strip and sponsorship of Manila '98. We thank both of these companies who have supported us in what are challenging economic times.



From the above there is a lot to be positive about and there is hope for the future of the Section as the foundation is there. It would be remiss of me however if I didn't sound a warning. I used the "malaise" earlier and this refers to the participation of the section members and willingness to help out. Part of the problem is I believe the crisis in the economy as we all have to work harder at our everyday jobs and/or feel our positions are under threat. Members were unavailable for games more frequently than in previous years.

The question whether we can rise above this and grow stronger is one we should all be asking. I believe we can. As said earlier, the foundation is still there and gives grounds for some optimism but there are potential pitfalls in restrictive Club rules, internal bickering and above all lack of willingness to participate in Club functions and to help organise them. The new Committee will have a hard job and it behoves us to support them.

In closing I'd like to thank the outgoing Committee namely Chris Davin, Matt Duke, Stuart Edwards, Paul Greenhalgh, Terry Grogan and Steven Duckworth. I hope no one here questions the good intentions of all these people as they have done their best in difficult circumstances. A special mention, again, must go to Adam Caro who displayed exactly the spirit we hope will pervade the Club next year by assuming the First Team captaincy more often than perhaps he would wish.

Finally I'd like to thank you all for giving me the honour of being Chairman. I'd like to have built on what Vaughan Elias, the previous Chairman, achieved but for reasons outlined above we ended in a holding pattern. My hope is you all give my successor full backing and we find the right formula for team spirit. Thank you.

Alex Forbes

New Chairman's Report

A man once said "we have nothing to fear



but fear itself". That, and a flagging economy. The football section has a struggle ahead of seemingly insurmountable vastness. How do we balance the need to capture the spirit and feelings of yesterday and at the same time allow for the current crisis in the Thai economy? The knock-on effect of the crisis impacts the British Club too. Consequently, they are asking the sports sections to come up with a plan that addresses both the needs for a formalisation of the non-members status with regard to using the facilities and the sections' need to stay competitive. As outgoing Chairman Alex has pointed out, last year saw a more or less steady decline in the number of players available for both First XI and Casuals football. I believe that Alex is quite right when he points out the potential reasons for the decline. The new committee has been charged by the mem-

bership to keep the section going. Here is my opinion on the state of play in general and my vision for the section over the next 2 years (or until the members get disgruntled and stage their own putsch!). As I look back a few short years ago to when I joined the section and then the Club (an important distinction) I remember the things that attracted me to the team. Firstly there was of course the regular games. Well, we still have that to offer. Then there was the training nights on Tuesday. Nothing has changed there. Next we had the competitiveness of the Farang League. I believe that that is still running. Lastly there was the social functions such as the tours and the quiz nights. All of these have continued over the last two years and everyone who has participated has had a great time. So why do we struggle to make enough numbers for a team? Is it because



people are more interested in saving their jobs or have left because they have no jobs? That's certainly part of it but in amongst the pessimism and the feeling that it's always the same old stalwarts who support the section; there is also the fact that this year's first team captain and this year's chairman are relative newcomers. What we need to do is ensure that new players are more thoroughly brought into the fold. Are we a clique? I don't believe so but I can understand how it might seem that way to other teams and outsiders. It's our duty to put that image behind us.

And how about those new players? Is it clearly explained to them the benefits of being part of the team? Well, I explained earlier the reasons I joined and why I'm still committed to the section but there is more. Once ensconced into the warm, womb-like security of a cohesive and friendly football section, new players (if they are not already members) will have a chance to appreciate the many benefits associated with belonging to the British Club. However, it is my belief that those who want to join and can afford it will do so. Some will not be so lucky. Can we field a Farang League team without using non-members of the BC? Certainly we can but in order to compete at a higher level we need to occasionally allow for so-called 'associate' members to represent us. Right now our membership does not have sufficient numbers to field both a competitive Farang League side and a Social League side that attempts to honour the 3 Farang League players only rule. We will try our best but we will only get back what we put in. The days when we had an over-supply of players are over. I'm asking all the membership to move up one more notch in their support and not only attend games and training, the tours and the functions, but go out there and get new players. Encourage them from other teams, bring mates from work. I invite all BC members

who currently play for other teams to come back and join us at least for Casuals games. You owe it to your Club. If we have a healthy number of committed players we won't need to use outside players and all the periphery activities that you all expect and complain if we don't run will be that much more enjoyable.

Finally I'd like to thank out-going committee members Alex Forbes, Steve Duckworth and Chris Davin for their help and support last year. I'd like to welcome Mel Birkinshaw as First XI Captain, Vaughan Elias as First Team Manager and Dave Currie as our Ad Hoc committee member. Personal thanks go to Steve Jones and Vaughan Elias for stepping forward and helping out with the Casuals when needed this past year. We say Bon Voyage to Terry Grogan who returns to England after several years of playing and organising BC football. We'll miss his wry sense of humour.

England vs Ireland Game

A rainy night on June 26th witnessed one of the more successful social events in recent BC football history. With the help of Delaney's Chairman Paul Gambles we were able to organise the inaugural annual England vs Ireland match. This, followed by a buffet reception and quiz night at the BC, finished up (for most of us) with watching the England vs Columbia game in the Churchill Bar.

Despite worries that the game would have to be cancelled due to rain, an impressive 30+ footballers turned up at Soi 15 to do battle for the trophy. A steady fall of rain throughout the match added to a nostalgic feeling and very pleasant, if somewhat greasy, playing conditions. Ireland captain Marc Ryan relied on a defence anchored by Ian Halliday and Danny Poole, with midfield directed by Adrian Campbell and Terry Grogan and spearheaded by Andy "scar-face" Lazenby. England Captain Mel



Birkinshaw relied on seasoned campaigners Steve Jones and Vaughan Elias to marshal the English defences ably assisted by the tireless Greg Solomon. Solid midfield support as always was provided by Mel, Colin Harlow and Adam Caro, while returning Paul Greenhalgh and veteran Colin Hastings mixed it up with the Irish in attack. The free flowing game saw many attacks at both ends and despite the slippery conditions some excellent football was played. Ultimately the English team had the upper hand with 7 goals to 4, but the great spirit exhibited before, during and after the match reaffirmed that football is still fun in Bangkok.

The evening's entertainment continued at Lords with a splendid buffet and one of the most difficult quizzes anyone can remember. After receiving the trophy from Marc, Mel then presented the Club Man of the Year award to Adam Caro for his tireless devotion to First XI and Casuals football. We finally made it into the Churchill Bar at about 1.30am with just enough time to settle in before watching England's exciting win over Columbia. Thanks to all those that made the evening such a success. Hope to see you at training on Tuesdays and on the Songkhla Tour at the end of July.

Il Duce



A Momentary Lull

All quiet on the western front this month for the Tennis Section, with the Japanese match postponed again and with a fair few away. Mind you, after a few slow weekends the mix-ins seem to be picking up again in July, possibly in preparation for the weekend in Pattaya scheduled for the 17-19th of last month. Yes, the section were due for another sortie of Pattaya, hopefully including some lazing around the pool, good food, fresh air and perhaps a revisiting of the distinguished Marine Disco...

Otherwise, this joke hot in from Jaree in Texas:

A man goes jogging in a park and while running he spots a brand new tennis ball lying near the path. Looking around, he sees no one coming to collect it so he quickly picks it up and pops it in his pocket. On jogging home he has to stop at the main road until the traffic light changes, and while he stands there, catching his breath, this stunning lady pulls up alongside him in an open-top car.

"What's that?" she says, looking down at the bulge in his shorts with a gleam in her eye.

"Tennis ball," he replies, out of breath.

"Oh," she says, "That must be painful.... I had tennis elbow once."

That's all from me for this month. Below is an article supplied by Lisa Fitzpatrick to improve our game... some may say a fruitless task, but nevertheless, here it is. Anyone who doesn't understand the

expression "split step" may refer to the SRC for further instruction or can join us at the Marine Disco next time we're down in Pattaya. This also applies to the "hitting zone"...

**Lotsaluv
Me**

Tennis Tips

The return of serve is considered the second most important stroke in the game behind the serve. Many players tend to struggle with this aspect of the game and hence do not perform as well as they expect. If you are having trouble returning serve consistently try the following points the next time you go out to play:

- **Split step** as your opponent makes contact with the serve — The split step is important as it allows you to react quickly to

the direction of the serve and provides balance. Ensure that you split step as your opponent makes contact with the serve; not before and not after!!

- **Anticipate** where the server may be going to serve the ball — If you watch where your opponent throws the ball when serving you may be able to get some clues as to where they intend to serve. If you can't tell, then you'll just have to guess!

- **Decide where to return before** they serve — Under pressure it is a good idea to try and hit your best return, i.e. either cross court or down the line. If you hit this then you'll develop confidence in your play and put pressure on your opponent's serve.

- **Reduce your backswing** — By reducing your backswing you have time to contact the ball in the "hitting zone". Too much backswing will cause you to be late and lack control and consistency.

Due to the fact that you have very little time to react to the serve, doing the above will help your reaction speed, decision making and control.

Farewells

A smaller bunch of members departing; doesn't look so many when it's only one month's worth. More familiar names, more sad goodbyes and good lucks:

Timothy and Nartnalin Andrews, Jerome and Marie Casalta, Brian and Pina Davies, Kerrie and Trevor Day, Jonah Foran, Michael and Elizabeth Huddart, Carol and George Kirkwood, Somnuk Kyavatanakit, Jaree Lee, Ken and Sharon Linthicum, Clare Meehan, Jeremy and Susan Oates, Christian and Rie Rasmussen, Kenda and Hassan Rehayel, Peter and Gitte Svarrer, Chuni and Orathai Thakar, and Stephen and Julie Woolley.



BC Rugby Team Go Where No One Has Gone Before

No, nothing illicit has taken place before you get too excited. The headline simply refers to the rugby section's recent tour to Khon Kaen. Yes, I know many people have ventured there before and that some people actually live there, but it is fair to say that we must be the first expatriate rugby team to have ever played there. (No doubt some old sod like Jim Howard, Colin Hastings or Vince Swift will claim to have done it before, but we know that it is just old farts' bar talk!)



The Khon Kaen rugby tour wasn't meant to be a Khon Kaen rugby tour at all. The original idea was to go to Laos and play the Vientiane expat side, but the prospect of taking Trevor Day, John Prichard & co to a country that has never seen the likes was too fraught with danger. Instead we decided to meet the Vientiane boys in Khon Kaen and play the local university lads as well. At least the Thai police are a known quantity should anything get too out of hand.

As always, the trip began on a Friday after work in that terrible restaurant at the domestic terminal. One huge improvement, however, was the assignment of two ladies and a trolley to keep the beers flowing. I guess the restaurant has learned through painful experience what to do when 30 horrible looking people in pink and black arrive wanting copious amounts of beer.

Skipper Rod Kerr assigned duties and away we went, Alan Lovell safely stowed

away in Keith Rowley's pocket. Frederic the Dutchie was to wear a block of Edam cheese around his person at all times, Alec Stewart was to wear the Sofitel dressing gown wherever he went, Tim Bacon was to wear his clothes inside out, Trevor Day was not allowed to use a lift, Alan Teflon was to carry a ball at all times as therapy for his inability to catch a ball and Dicky Barton was to act as Eddie Evan's personal assistant. Alan Lovell and Nigel Wixcey

were appointed sneaks and yours truly the judge, while Rusty was commanded to speak to all others with his head lower than the person he addresses.

The games took place in the beautiful grounds of Khon Kaen University. The rugby failed to match the surrounds as the BC, Vientiane and KU all played four draws against each other. The end result was that each team had played two and drawn two, but we decided that the BC had won the round robin on alphabetical order. Even the 15 a side game against the university ended in a tie as did the ladies touch game.

Possible reasons for this bizarre set of results include, 1) Everyone was useless, 2) David Viccars was referee, 3) the BC had too many beers in the morning, 4) Nigel Wixcey can't even score when he is over the try line, 5) El Niño.

The post match function began on a sedate note in a too posh function room at the Sofitel. Matt Minich, Eddie Evans and John Prichard don't really go in for finger food, while the presence of wives and girlfriends in the Laos party made the first part of the evening seem more like an embassy cocktail party than a rugby tour. Even JP was running around like a hen asking all the boys to mind their "p"s and "q"s.





Thankfully, sanity prevailed and someone began to sing a horrible song which changed the tone of the evening completely. Even the ladies seemed to enjoy crudity to civility. Strange, that!

Romance finally blossomed for Tim Grayson after his repeated efforts to shake off the emotional and physical scars of a British boarding school education and Oxford University. Tim was last seen with a divorcee from Vientiane called Betty, who worked for an anti-perspirant company.

The traditional Sunday court provided the retribution that was thoroughly earned. With Judge Andy Davies, Prosecutor John Prichard and David Viccars as the lucid defence, none of the guilty stood a chance (save Roger Fitzgerald who received 100 baht for insulting the English). Highlights

of the court included 10 star jumps from Keith Rowley who then 'sprinted' into the pool. Tim was provided with a papaya to wear down his pants, Alan Lovell was confined to the children's pool, while Alec Stewart suffered the wrath of a bystander for applying sunscreen to himself.

The purpose of the tour (if there ever is a purpose for such things) was to provide Tim Grayson, Peter Smedley, Trevor Day, Alec Stewart and Matt Minich with the

kind of send off that they deserve. Unfortunately, we couldn't find a cesspit to put them in, so we failed on that count. On a sincere note, the BC is losing five first class people and we will miss them enormously. Good luck and best wishes to all of them.

Andy Davies



Calendar

British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - August

Sunday



30

August
11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
11.42am Golf-Lad Krabang
12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

2

11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

Monday



31

August
8am BWG Mahjong
9.30am Aerobics
10.30am Aqua Aerobics
6-8pm Squash Coaching
7-9pm Tennis Team Training

3

8am BWG Mahjong
9.30am Aerobics
10.30am Aqua Aerobics
6-8pm Squash Coaching
7-9pm Tennis Team Training

2.40-5.30pm Vacation Swimming

Tuesday



Venues

Soi 15 NIST grounds
Soi Nares Behind Bangrak Police Station
Aerobics Surawong Room
Golf - As advertised

4

7am Ladies Golf
9-11am Ladies Tennis
7-9pm Soccer Training
8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22
8-11pm Friendly Bridge
9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

2.40-5.30pm Vacation Swimming

Wednes day

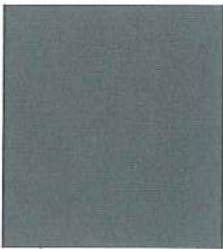


5

9.30am Aerobics
5-8pm Squash Coaching
6-9pm Tennis Mix-In
6-9pm Squash Teams competition

2.40-5.30pm Vacation Swimming

Thurs day



Opening Times

11.42am Golf - Lak Krabang
10am-11pm Churchill Bar
11.30am-2pm Lords Restaurant - Lunch
6-10pm Lords Restaurant - Dinner
7.30am-10pm Poolside Bar
6am-9pm Fitness Centre - Mon-Sat
9am-9pm Fitness Centre - Sun/Hols
9am-5pm Thai Massage - Tue/Sun

6

10.30am Aqua Aerobics
6-9pm Squash Mix-In
7-9pm Rugby Training
8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22

2.40-5.30pm Vacation Swimming

Friday



Sports - Contact the following:

Aquatics	Liz Beal	262-9351
Badminton	Anant	654-0002-29
	Leighrahathorn	
Cricket	Nick White	246-0832
Football	Matt Duke	545-5555
Golf	Bernie Adams	861-0608
Rugby	Jon Prichard	712-1650
Scuba	Cheryl Lamb	258-1382
Squash	Peter Corney	712-4398-9
Tennis	David Blowers	285-4721-2

7

9.30am Aerobics
3-9pm BC Tennis Coaching
5-7pm Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
7pm Social Darts

2.40-5.30pm Vacation Swimming

Satur day



1

8am Junior Tennis
9am-1pm BC Swimming Coaching
8-11am Tennis Coaching
4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15

8

8am Junior Tennis
9am-1pm BC Swimming Coaching
8-11am Tennis Coaching
4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15

Don't Forget !!

- Send the kids to Pattaya for a week of fresh air, exercise and companionship at the Junior Sailing Camp, from Monday 24th to Friday 28th at the Royal Varuna Yacht Club. Sign up by Wednesday 19th please!
- Masters Swim Training returns on Tuesday 18th for another course of intensive swimming on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6-7pm.

9

9.40am Golf - Vintage
 11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
 12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
 3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
 5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

16

11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
 12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
 3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
 5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

23

11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
 12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
 3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
 5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

10

8am BWG Mahjong
 6-8pm Squash Coaching
 7-9pm Tennis Team Training

17

8am BWG Mahjong
 9.30am Aerobics
 6-8pm Squash Coaching
 7-9pm Tennis Team Training

24

8am BWG Mahjong
 9.30am Aerobics
 6-8pm Squash Coaching
 7-9pm Tennis Team Training

Junior Sailing Camp**11**

7am Ladies Golf
 9-11am Ladies Tennis
 7-9pm Soccer Training
 8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22
 8-11pm Friendly Bridge
 9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

18

7am Ladies Golf
 9-11am Ladies Tennis
 6-7am Masters Swim Training
 7-9pm Soccer Training
 8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22
 8-11pm Friendly Bridge
 9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

25

7am Ladies Golf
 9-11am Ladies Tennis
 7-9pm Soccer Training
 8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22
 8-11pm Friendly Bridge
 9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

Junior Sailing Camp**12**

9.30am Aerobics
 5-8pm Squash Coaching
 6-9pm Tennis Mix-In
 6-9pm Squash Teams competition

19

9.30am Aerobics
 5-8pm Squash Coaching
 6-9pm Tennis Mix-In
 6-9pm Squash Teams competition

26

9.30am Aerobics
 5-8pm Squash Coaching
 6-9pm Tennis Mix-In
 6-9pm Squash Teams competition

Junior Sailing Camp**13**

6-9pm Squash Mix-In
 7-9pm Rugby Training
 8-10 pm Badminton - Soi 22

20

6-9pm Squash Mix-In
 6-7pm Masters Swim Training
 7-9pm Rugby Training
 8-10 pm Badminton - Soi 22

27

6-9pm Squash Mix-In
 6-7pm Masters Swim Training
 7-9pm Rugby Training
 8-10 pm Badminton - Soi 22

Junior Sailing Camp**14**

3-9pm BC Tennis Coaching
 5-7pm Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
 7pm Social Darts

21

9.30am Aerobics
 3-9pm BC Tennis Coaching
 5-7pm Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
 7pm Social Darts

28

9.30am Aerobics
 3-9pm BC Tennis Coaching
 5-7pm Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
 7pm Social Darts

Junior Sailing Camp**15**

7.30am Golf - Bangpoo
 8am Junior Tennis
 9am-1pm BC Swimming Coaching
 4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15

22

8am Junior Tennis
 9am-1pm BC Swimming Coaching
 4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15

29

8am Junior Tennis
 9am-1pm BC Swimming Coaching
 4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15



Drowning Their Sorrows

The Johnnie Walker team experienced their first defeat against a Chequers team represented by the golfing cream of the Thai Army. They went down 1-5 and now lie third in the league but not far off from the leaders. Don't despair chaps... here is a golfer's lament entitled "Comfortless" to cheer you up:

"I do not see the sunbeams dance,
Nor hear the birds", said he.

"There's something faulty with my stance,
I can't get off the tee.

"All day I've shanked my mashie shot,
My putts rimmed every cup,
I'm doing something I should not:
I think it's looking up."

"Poor man," I said, "'tis very sure
No help for you appears,
The woes you bear I tried to cure
Myself for thirty years.

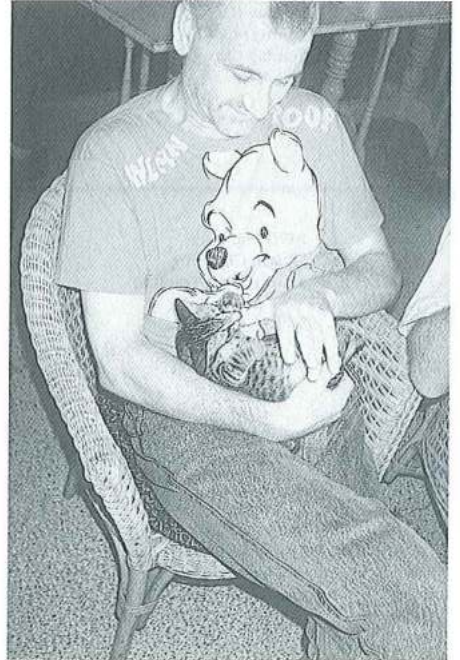
"And still my mashie shots I shank,
And still I slice the drive,
And with the dubs expect to rank
As long as I'm alive.

"Through time all other griefs may cure,
All other hurts may men,
The miseries of golf endure:
To them there is no end."

Captain's Day

Those people expecting a conventional stableford or medal round at Khao Kheow were sadly disappointed as Captain Bernie's imagination ran wild with all sorts of surprises on every hole. We were teeing off with pitching wedges and seven irons, swapping clubs and balls and putting with three woods. The pièce de résistance came on the final hole when everyone had to tee off with one of Bernie's clubs... he was the only left hander on the course. The results were impressive, with a combined total of 42 balls entering the lake to the left. Men were forced to drink a pint when not clearing the ladies tee and ladies had to knock back a gin with every air shot. Empty beer cans counted towards the score.

And the winner was Jill Barclay with an impressive score of 89 points closely followed by Judy Fitzgerald and Pat Dean.



Bernie gets some pussy at last

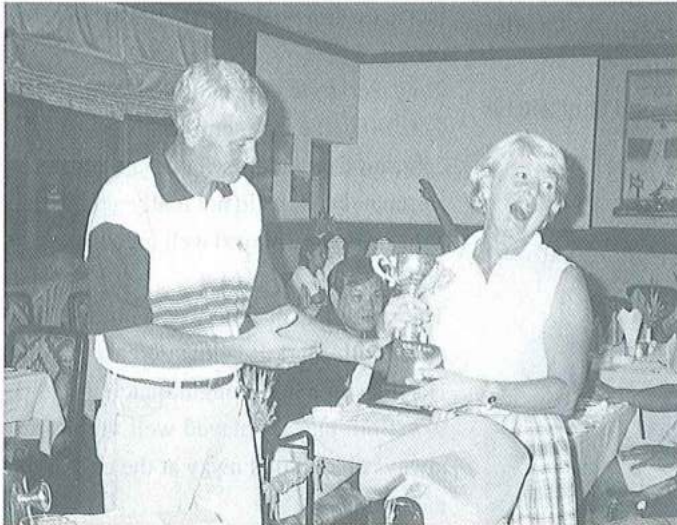
Dave Haworth won the booby prize. Bernie presented the triumphant "slag" with a designer golf bag (it looked Versace from a distance). The happy day was celebrated by all with a glass of Andre Mimosa. Yes, it looked like Tissera never made it to the Gents. Thanks to Bernie for all his hard work in making Captain's Day so much fun.



The Johnnie Walker team drown their sorrows



Past Captain Dugal presents current Captain Bernie with the Davidson Cup



Jill Barclay presented with Bernie's Bowl



Judy Fitzgerald takes a sip from the other Bowl

Speeding Up Play

We're not sure whether it's our propensity towards alcoholism or the overwhelming psychological need to hear that clunk as the ball falls into the hole but the average round of golf is now taking between 5 and 6 hours. So that you can spend more time with your loved ones (those at home, not those on the golf course) the committee would like everyone to adopt the following common sense practices to help speed up the game:

- Dispense with honour on the tee—if you are ready, tee off.
- Select your club and get ready whenever you're waiting for the fairway or green to clear in front of you.
- Keep your caddy and your golf clubs near you.
- Putt out.
- Gimmies in marked circles or one putter's length on unmarked putting greens except in medal competitions or instructions to the contrary at the beginning of other competitions.
- In stableford and matchplay competitions, pick up if you can't score.

- Keep drink stops brief.
Thank you for your cooperation.

"Verheyen Brought Down Jesus"

There are many of my heroes currently vying for the title of "Golfing God". However, the Bangkok Post has now finally vindicated Mark's claim... (the above line was extracted from the Belgium vs Mexico World Cup match report).

Next Outings

Rysome Bowl (sponsored by **Castrol**)

- Sunday 9th August, 9.40am at Vintage
- Johnnie Walker match vs GeeGees —
- Saturday 15th August, 7.30am at Bangpoo
- Medal — Sunday 30th August, 11.42am
- at Lad Krabang
- Club Day — Saturday 12th September
- Johnnie Walker match vs Wanderers —
- Saturday 19th September, 7.30am at
- Bangpoo
- Match vs GeeGees — Saturday & Sun-
- day, 26th-27th September

Karen Carter



Dave Haworth looks pleased he didn't win that bag



Tony Takes the Honors

The Mercure Hotel Sunday Mix-in was held on 5th July and was won by Ian Walton, Mike Smith, Wayne Needoba and Guy Bondoux.

Three players went away with a dinner for two at the *Mercure Hotel* and Guy will be presented with a bottle of wine.



Dawee Cup participants

League 130

League 130 was completed in June 15th and the winners of each division were:

1. Tony Perkovic
2. Peter Corney
3. Tom Livingston
4. Marvyn Lewis
5. Dave Herron
6. David Parks
7. Graham Sullivan
8. Wayne Needoba
10. David Fewster

The league winners and all those players who completed all their matches were in the draw for a dinner for two at any hotel in the **Central Group**. This was won by Mike Lamb.



Guy finally receives his wine

Further draws were made for a subscription to *Tatler* magazine, which was won by Mike Smith, and a subscription to *Traveller* magazine won by Dave

Ramsay. These yearly subscriptions were kindly donated by the **Bangkok Post** and Colin Hastings' *Traveller* magazine.

Once again, 12 players completed all matches.

Don Johnson Cup & Parra Handy Plate

These two competitions were hit by illness, which gave some players an easy passage through the draw.

In the final of the Parra Handy Plate Bob Faherty defeated Rene Frei 9-7, 9-2, 7-9, 9-6. This was a great effort by Rene who is seeded much lower than Bob. Halfway through the fourth game Bob was definitely regretting his late night partying and



The "Dawee Cup" goes back to the Polo Club

had to make a final effort to finish the game off.

Tony Perkovic defeated Nick White 9-1, 9-3, 9-0 in the first semi-finals of the Don Johnson Cup held on Saturday 27th. Unfortunately Nick did not really get into the game and Tony played well for a very easy win.

The second semi-final was a much closer affair with Mark Reading defeating Colin Hastings in a hard fought match 9-7, 9-5, 9-7. Both players played well with Mark always able to pull away at the end of the game.

In the final of the Don Johnson, held on Sunday 28th, Tony was a convincing winner. In the first games Mark fought very hard but by half way through the second game he was feeling the effects of his hard match on the Saturday and faded towards the end. In the third game Tony finally found perfect length and was awesome with Mark not even getting a serve.

Tony Perkovic won the **Don Johnson Cup** 9-6, 9-4, 9-0.

Dawee Cup

The annual Dawee Cup against the Polo Club was held on Sunday 21st and the BCB was thrashed by the Polo Club 7-3. Unfortunately illness and injuries prevented us submitting the best team but all players acquitted themselves well. The results are as follows:

Mark Reading	0-3	Win
Tony Perkovic	3-1	Louis
Colin Hastings	1-3	Supich
Rudi Spaan	0-3	Jate
Dick Anwar	1-3	Charnchai
Phil Evans	0-3	Geoff
Marvyn Lewis	0-3	Robert
Tom Livingston	3-0	Jem
John Vivian	3-2	Robert

Well done to Tony, Tom and John for winning on the day and saving us from total embarrassment.

The highlight of the day was the match

Squash



Mark and Tony after the final of the Don Johnson Cup



Parra Handy Plate finalists

between Tony Perkovic and Louis. It was hard fought and demonstrated Tony's ability to raise his game a couple of levels when he needs to.

Future Events

- British Club Handicap Tournament

The Handicap Tournament and Plate will be held over August and September. The sign-up list is on the Squash notice board. This is a chance for anyone, regardless of ability, to win a tournament. Make this the most successful championships yet!! We're aiming for 50 entries.

All participants will be eligible for a draw, in a prize to be donated by the **Mercure Hotel**.

Peter Corney

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Many expatriates believe, mistakenly, that UK tax concerns only UK residents – **a misconception which can prove expensive**. It is essential to receive expert professional advice if you are to be free of the UK tax net and capitalise on being an expatriate.

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- ◆ Failing foul of the complicated residence rules which determine UK tax status.
- ◆ Wasting the potential benefit of independent taxation of husband and wife.
- ◆ Misunderstanding the new Self-Assessment system.
- ◆ Failing to plan for a return to the UK.

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It has been great to see such a positive response to the holiday programmes organised over July and August. After a few events in June were cancelled due to people not signing up, it can now be seen that members are making the effort to enrol in forthcoming events—thank you!

Looking back to July

The highlight (for most of us) was the World Cup football. It was not surprising to see Brazil make it to the final, but France came through as an unknown quantity to take the title on home turf, the first time ever they've won the cup. A memorable event, with the largest TV viewing of any sporting event in the world. Likewise, Wimbledon also caused sleep-deprived nights for many. Great victories to Pete Sampras and Jana Novotna. The competition was almost as fierce at the Swimming Gala held here on July 4th. See the Aquatics section for details of age champions and results of the previous gala.

At the time of writing a week of vacation swimming was organised for children aged 2-14 years in the week commencing 20th July. The last week in July is planned as a Sports week for all ages of children. Reports on both these events will be in next month's Outpost.

Looking ahead:

- **Vacation Swimming Course** - Due to the popularity of the course run from 20th-24th July, another week of lessons has been organised for the 3rd-7th August from 2.40-5.30pm. Please contact Reception to sign up.
- **Junior Sailing Camp-24th-28th August** Running out of things to do to entertain



Lisa Fitzpatrick - SRC

the kids over the LONG holiday period? Give them (and yourself) a well deserved break. A camp is being organised for the end of August at the Royal Varuna Yacht Club aimed primarily at teaching sailing and boat handling skills; there will also be



More pictures from the recent "Indoor Sports Day"

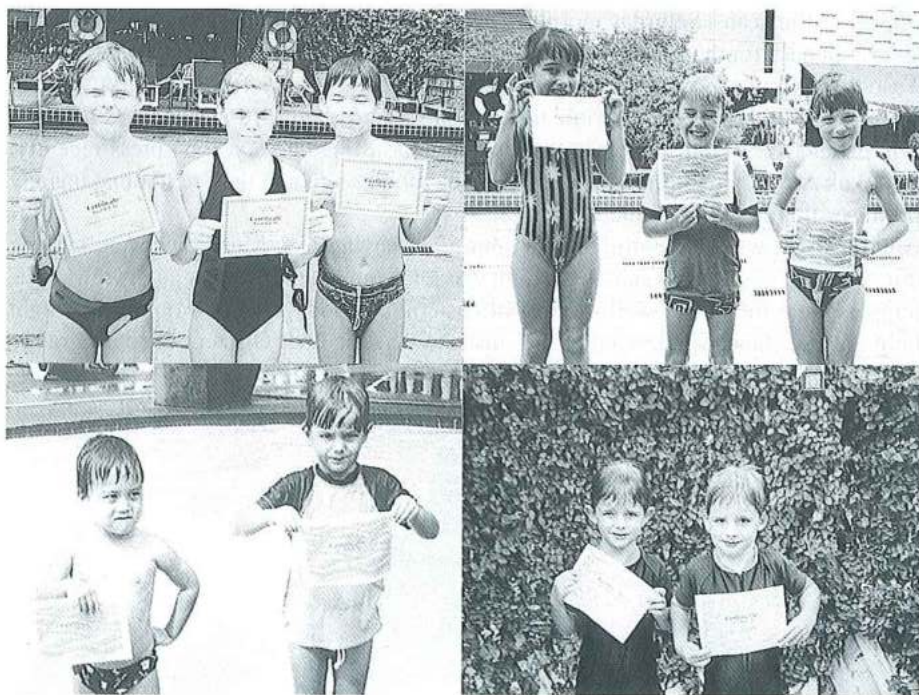
many other sporting and recreational activities organised to keep the most energetic of children entertained! Don't miss out—sign up at Reception or fax Lisa at the Club **NO LATER** than Wednesday 19th August.

• **Swimming Gala — Sunday 13th September**

Sign up for the next gala outside the Fitness Centre. This is one area that needs a conscious effort by members to sign up prior to the day of competition. The Aquatics section are put under a great deal more pressure when people just turn up on the day. The event sheets with participants' names are written up in advance to assist in the smooth running of the event. Please assist them by **signing up no later than 2 days before.**

• **Inter-Section Sports Day — Sunday 4th October**

This annual event is fast approaching! Each section comprises 6 players and at least one scorer (to monitor your own section's game all day). The aim of the day is to WIN, i.e. to beat the other sections in fun and friendly (and occasionally competitive) games. Start training your team now! We hope to see every section represented this year—no excuses, you have plenty of notice!



The latest swimmers to complete a coaching course

Classes Recommence in September

The following dates mark the start of the new season of sports courses:

Aerobics	Wednesday 2nd September, 9.30am
Aqua Aerobics	Thursday 3rd September, 10.30am
Junior Tennis Coaching	Friday 4th September, 3.15-6.30pm
Junior Swimming Coaching	Saturday 5th September, 9am-1pm
Masters (adult) Swimming	Tuesday 18th August Tues & Thurs, 6-7pm
Junior Squad Swimming Training	Friday 11th September, 6-7pm

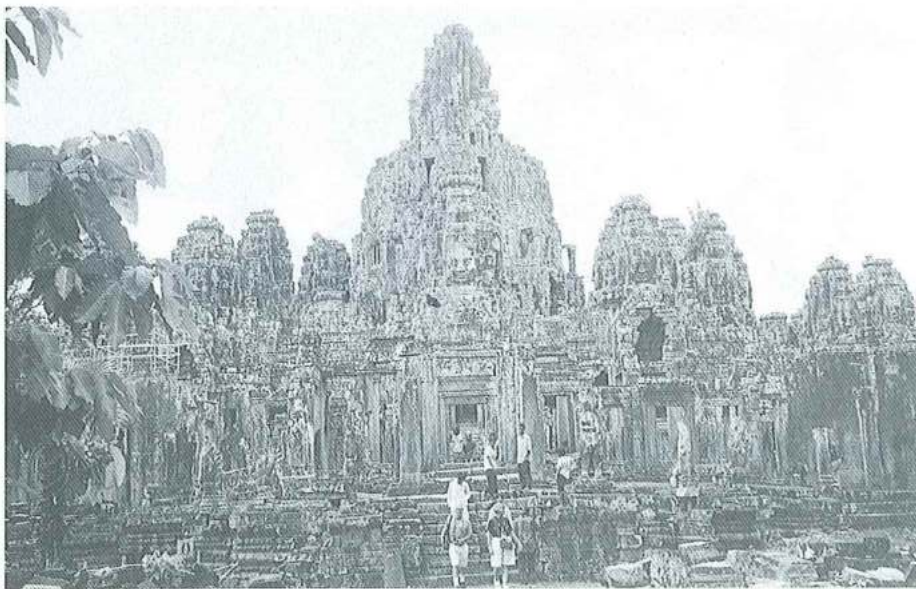
And to finish, here are the photos of the swimming course participants receiving their certificates at the end of the last course, and some more photos from the "Indoor" Sports Day that weren't ready in time for last month's *Outpost*.

Lisa Fitzpatrick

Wats "R" Us

Six-thirty on a Saturday morning found seventeen of us at the Bangkok Air check-in desk for the flight to Siem Reap, the airport that serves the temple complex of Yasodharapura (Angkor Wat is the most famous but there are lots of others) vaguely wondering if this was all a terrible mistake and does Travel Insurance cover "repatriation under fire"? Well, let's face it, Cambodia hasn't had a very good press recently; Bangkok Air only re-started this service three months ago and they're not making any promises that it will continue.

But our flight was uneventful and an hour after leaving Don Muang we were making our approach into Siem Reap — the pilot was kind enough to give us a good view of the temples from the air, as well as most of eastern Cambodia; Jamie Woodford thought he'd got lost, Janet Sparks said he was just showing the First Officer where his granny



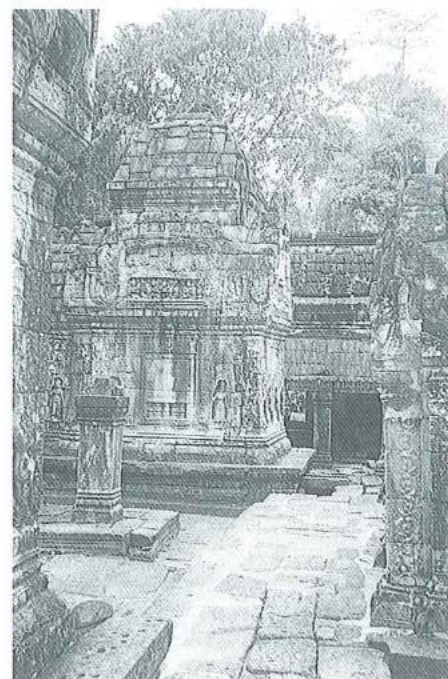
lived and Ken Gibson reckoned that we were just flying around until the Air Traffic Controller had finished his breakfast and let us land... he may have been right, Siem Reap is very much a "one horse town". Unfortunately that description also applies to the Immigration Department and there was a hot, tedious half-hour of queuing in the Arrivals Hall whilst we applied for, paid for and were finally given visas. And after *that* came customs... but we finally met up with our tour guide, Vanna, who was waiting for us in the car park with an air-conditioned bus, and we never looked back.

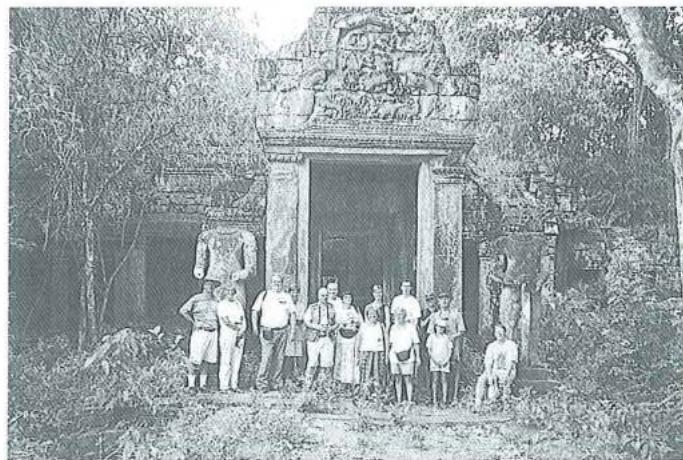
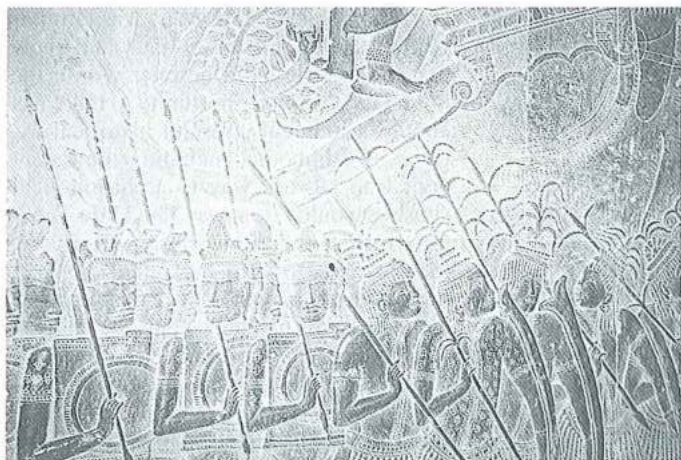
* * *

With only two days to view what is the largest religious complex in the world we elected to kick off sightseeing straight away rather than go to the hotel and freshen up. The Ta Phrom temple was our first stop. Finished in 1186 this Buddhist temple has been deliberately left unrestored to give visitors an idea of how Angkor Wat looked when Henri Mouhet first "discovered" it in 1860. It was an appropriate way to begin the tour, giving a "before and after" view of the restored buildings, but there was something so awe-inspiring in the way that the roots of the Strangling Fig and Banyan trees had casually ripped apart gigantic blocks of masonry and toppled walls that several of us felt this was the most impressive part of the whole weekend.

It was here that we discovered a couple of disadvantages to viewing the temples at this time of the year - red ants are abundant and an incautious encounter with a nest brings instant—and painful—results. Fortunately they're so large that they are easily seen and avoided. Not so the other drawback: it was very hot and humid and the massive stones seemed to absorb and re-radiate the heat of the sun; there wasn't a breath of air in the enclosed temple courtyards and all members of the party were soon perspiring freely

and looking forward to a lunchtime beer... We stayed at the Nokol Kok Tholk Hotel on the edge of town and whilst not 5-star it was comfortable. To avoid the hottest part of the day Vanna collected us at 3pm and we headed for the main attraction, the temple of Angkor Wat. This stunning piece of architecture was built by Suryavarman II and was dedicated to the Hindu God Vishnu in 1131. Having seen Ta Phrom in the morning we were able to appreciate the immense effort that has gone into restoring the temple. Most of the work has been done by the French and, speaking as one who has seen the Georges Pompidou Centre, I have to say they have done a wonderful job. Angkor Wat is an architectural masterpiece but it's really famous for the quality and quantity of its bas-relief carvings. For more than a mile along its outer galleries armies march and do battle on the engraved walls, acrobats perform for the entertainment of the king and the beautiful Apsara (dancing girls) are everywhere, each detail so faithfully recorded that the figures really do seem to come alive as you walk along the corridors. As well as a fine eye for detail the sculptors had a keen sense of humour; in one notable scene the king is leading an army to fight the Cham (a vanished people who lived in central Vietnam). The Cambodian troops are marching in stern, disciplined ranks as are the





King's Chinese allies, however, the Thai contingent—for once fighting with the Cambodians rather than against them—are portrayed as laughing, joking and out-of-step; one warrior is shown "goosing" the man in front, much to the amusement of his comrades...

The carvings were not finished when Angkor Wat was abandoned in the 1440's but in the 16th century King Chan ordered the frieze to be completed. Unfortunately by then the Cambodians had lost the art of such delicate carving and Chinese masons had to be employed. Whilst doubtless skilled craftsmen, the difference between their merely competent efforts and the supple, graceful figures of the original artists really brings home just how good they were.

Saturday evening was a quiet affair—hardly surprising in view of the early start—dinner was laid on in the hotel but Jerry and Susan Oates took Rachel off to the Grand Hotel, the only 5 star hotel in town, looking for a hamburger... (well, that's what Jerry claimed). Back in the Nokol Kok there was an appalled silence when the barman called "last orders" at 9pm but to be honest after a day of walking around temples and climbing up monuments in the heat most of us were more than ready for an early night.

* * *

Sunday was something of an endurance test as Vanna seemed determined to show us as many of the temples as we could fit in; we tackled Bayon, a giant piece of self-publicity by Jayavarman VII, the king's head is carved on almost every available surface..., the temple and palace of Banteay Srei and the Elephant Terrace, all in quick succession. After lunch there was a lightning tour of the local market for yet more rolls of film—all except Mike Reid who was brandishing the latest thing in digital camera technology—and souvenirs before hitting the tourist trail to Bak Eng (a stiff climb in the afternoon sun but with a superb view of Angkor Wat on the plain below) and finishing at Prea Kan, another temple losing its battle with the jungle. By the time the day was over we were close to being "all templed out" and more than ready for a shower and a drink.

That evening we were taken to a Thai restaurant—coals to Newcastle?—and if it wasn't quite what we were used to (Thai food without chillies?!) it all seemed to get eaten. And anyway, the beer was cold and the company convivial so a good time was had by all. After dinner Bob Jacobs, John Hall and Bert Terry went off to find the nightclub (still awaiting a coherent report on that one) whilst Karen Carter led the Woodfords and Gibsons astray in search of the cocktail bar at the Grand... the six of them returning, much poorer, in one small taxi at some appallingly late hour.

* * *

By any standard it was an exceptionally good weekend even if we were exhausted by the end of it. Of course it was our own fault, we tried to do too much in too short a time but there was so much that we just *had* to see; luckily we had an excellent guide and I think we gave all the important sites at least a glancing blow. Best of all (for me any-

way) was the fact that we seemed to have the place almost to ourselves. Of course there were other groups around but they were few and far between and, such is the size of the temple complex, we rarely saw them.

The whole of Siem Reap seems to be holding its breath waiting for the election in July; as an indication of what might happen. Building materials are stacked along every road and there are hoardings everywhere proclaiming the site of yet another luxury hotel—permission has been granted for the building of 7,000 new hotel rooms—but for the moment there is an almost eerie quiet over the temples - or there would be if it weren't for the hawkers and souvenir sellers. The downside to being the only tourists in town was that the hordes of local children offering cold drinks, scarves, flutes, drums and wooden toys of every description—all priced at US\$ 1—had no other audience and we were besieged on all sides everywhere we stopped... Oh well, that's life.

Dick Taylor
June 17th 1998



A Brief Insight into an Ancient Land

I had been inspired by my Grandmother's journey to Cambodia which she took in 1974 and I had long been awaiting the opportunity to visit the country myself. The risks involved had always decided me against such an adventure until the British Club arranged such a journey for the weekend of June 13th 1998.

Saturday 13th June 1998

Our trip to Siem-Riap started at 8am from Gate 39 at the Bangkok International Airport when we boarded Bangkok Airways flight 930. The flight took us close to an hour to reach our destination, a very small airport in the middle of nowhere with a rather antiquated cement airstrip. Our landing to say the least the bumpy, however, the flight had been comfortable and we were lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the inland sea known as Ton Le Sap and of Angkor Wat itself. The airport presented certain evidence that we were about to enter a third world country. Frankly, it reminded me of the old Bangkok International Airport to which I had arrived on various occasions during the early eighties. The airport at Siem-Riap was rather worse off than that. On disembarkation three sets of forms had to be completed: visa application (+ US\$ 20 fee), immigration form and customs declaration. The customs declaration was of particular importance. Cameras had to be declared; the declaration form relating to this had to be stamped and we were told not to lose this form. Cameras would have to be shown again on departure, theoretically preventing a black market in photographic equipment. Alas, the authorities had not yet arrived at the idea of lap-top computers needed for the downloading of digital photos which is the method I now use. The officials though formal were courteous, showing no sign of aggression as in some western countries. They wore khaki uniforms that had begun to show definite signs of wear and tear. We were entering an impoverished country with an impoverished infrastructure, of that there was no doubt. 30 years of hardship enforced by a civil war had ensured the country's ruin.

We, as tourists, were the "hope" for Cambodia. Tourism was the country's only industry as explained to us by our guide Mr Wana (Apsara Tours, tel: 855-23-212819). The industry was projected to grow to 4,000,000 tourists per year. We, being the initial wave, were not as yet subjected to the inevitable overcrowding of archaeological sites. Siem-Riap, however, was indeed under construction. Hotels were being built by the dozen just about everywhere, and generally by "hand". There was no evidence of any machinery. Lots of workers clambering up scaffolding was the

sight we beheld.

Our first objective by popular consent of our seventeen fellow passengers on the tour was to visit a temple and not to waste time in going to our hotel. Mr Wana had designated the Temple of Ta Phrom to be our first destination. Ta Phrom was built by King Jayavarman VII in about 1186. There is a historical reference to that date. This temple was a good point at which to start since it was and will probably always be in the same overgrown condition as Angkor Wat was discovered by the French traveller Pierre Loti in 1901. Ta Phrom was as you may expect, overgrown with tropical vegetation, notably the Strangler Fig Tree. It was certainly an impressive sight to see the deformation of solid stone structures by the power of nature in the form of the ever embracing tentacles of the Strangler Fig Tree. Besides the ruins there were some very pretty surprises in the form of apsaras and friezes.

Having learnt from our guide about the history of Ta Phrom and observing our first ruined temple in its unkempt beauty we were taken to our hotel for lunch. Our route took us along the moat surrounding Angkor Wat. The water, interestingly enough, was not stagnant as one might expect, but clear and clean.

Our hotel, the Nokor Kok Thlok Hotel, was a three star establishment; clean, simple, comfortable and air-conditioned. Nothing luxurious but enough for a two-day visit to Siem-Riap. Unfortunately no evidence of national heritage or culture was in evidence at the hotel. I am sure the "Grand Hotel d'Angkor" would have provided the guests with a more interesting atmosphere, but at a price. Meals were palatable and fairly basic. The staff, some of whom spoke Thai, were polite and welcoming. They were also willing to give us information regarding their country and were unafraid to speak to foreign tourists unlike as I have seen in China and Eastern Bloc countries whose populations were formerly crushed by authoritarian regimes. Having been a French colony, the Cambodians understood the meaning of a "siesta" which fortunately meant that we could have a couple of hours of rest to prepare for the next visit, which was to be Angkor Wat. Our guide, duly, came for us at 3pm and we left our hotel in pouring rain wondering how on earth we would survive a

walk around Angkor Wat in a tropical rain storm. Fortunately, Mr Wana was familiar with the weather of his country and knew that the storm would be over within the hour. He took this opportunity to talk to us about various cultural and historical aspects of Cambodia, including the recent civil war. On our way to archaeological sites we would often pass **The Halo Trust** (a British foundation whose objective is the clearance of anti-personnel devices: mines) and this would give rise to information regarding the recent war and its consequences. For example, we were told that 250 people are injured daily by anti-personnel devices—mines, in this case. These had been planted years ago and their location consequently forgotten. In order to block any free passage along the Thai-Cambodia border 10,000,000 mines had been dug into the ground. It was the unenviable task of the Halo Trust to dig these mines up so the much needed agricultural land could once again be put to good use. Local governments and village communities had tried to defend themselves from the Khmer Rouge by placing these devices, which they had purchased from the Soviet Union, around the perimeter of their villages. Alas, this form of defence had had no positive effect against the Khmer Rouge who would attack at night and would use the route that an informer had probably provided.

When we finally arrived at Angkor Wat, to our dismay the deluge continued, but not for long. It was a tropical rain shower and we soon found it convenient to leave the coach in spite of the drops. While we were waiting for the moment to make our exit we were happy to see some young people enjoying the full blast of the rain storm. These were the local children who were playing in and enjoying the coolness of the rain by lying down in the puddles. For a moment they had regained their childhood innocence, a change from their daily routine of selling souvenirs, drinks, postcards and acting as guides. The rain also provided us with an enhanced effect on the stonework of the temple. For photographers the rain had added contrast and colour to the stonework, producing an immeasurably beautiful effect with the added quality of dramatic cumulus clouds as a backdrop. The wet vegetation also enhanced the beauty of the site. The tropical rain storm although causing us an inconvenient delay had in fact provided us with a magnificent setting for our cameras and our sense of perception. The clouds, as one member observed, reminded one of cloud formations often depicted in Renaissance

paintings.

Our tour of Angkor Wat took approximately 2½ hours, stopping here and there to listen to Mr Wana's very interesting commentary and to take photographs of the beautiful vistas that presented themselves at every corner of our walk. The friezes that covered the temple walls, like an ancient wall paper, told us much of the life of the people living at the time that Angkor Wat was being built: AD 1150. It must have been a true awakening for Pierre Loti, the French explorer who wrote of his journey to Angkor Wat in 1901, to imagine an ancient civilisation as the one portrayed by the continuous frieze on the walls of such a massive site as this Great Temple. Attractive and beautifully worked apsaras became the focal point as one moved from gallery to gallery; or walked through a doorway leading to another section of the Temple.

Angkor Wat is built in three tiers with steep steps leading up to each tier, similar to Aztec temples in Mexico. The steps of an Aztec temple are, however, less dangerous and more substantial. In order to climb from one level to the next a certain degree of fitness was required. The obstacle course was not that simple for some. Children bearing drinks, postcards, T-shirts for sale and others who spoke adequate English offering to be our guide, all for the price of a dollar, became our retinue. The children, though poorly dressed, were polite and welcoming in carrying out their day's work in support of their families at home. It appeared to me that the children were being taught English as a national policy in their schools for their future as guides or hotel employees, since the language was being so widely used by our young guides. Strangely, French did not seem to be on the agenda. I tested a number of the young people in French by pretending to be French; there was a scarcity of young people who spoke the language. Obviously the colonial era had been somewhat left behind. Colonial influences were still noticeable in the construction of roads with trees bordering the highway, and the occasional red and white marker indicating the distance to an outlying village or to Siem-Riap. Our guides seemed quite healthy, their teeth in good order and no distinct signs of malnourishment; perhaps their dollars held them in good stead. It was different, however, for lactating mothers sitting in the odd corner with their emaciated babies, holding out the begging bowl for the generosity of passing tourists; also elderly war veterans missing a leg, or walking on crutches beseeched our

goodwill through the compassionate strings of a musical instrument or sitting with an imploring look. As a frequent visitor to Thai temples, even when I arrived in Thailand fourteen years ago, this activity was little to be seen in the vicinity of a temple, such as it was at Angkor Wat. As a photographer I have visited many places of artistic or historic interest in Thailand and have never experienced the feeling of poverty clinging to my heels as I did at this important temple. I do hope that the wave of foreign tourists that is expected in the next few years will put an end to this country's dire poverty.

The seasons in Cambodia seem to be somewhat behind those of Thailand. The orange flame tree had still not blossomed in the vicinity of the temple, whereas in Thailand the show had been on for at least a month. Likewise, there were no flowers to speak of in Siem-Riap. One can only imagine that no one had thought to plant them. *Bougainvillea* was sometimes to be seen. Flowers did not flourish there as they do in Thailand.

We returned to our hotel that first evening quite exhausted from our long day. Dinner was a buffet. There was nothing particularly intriguing in the way of food nor was there anything on the menu particularly characteristic of the country which we were visiting. The food was bland but rather more tasty than food I have eaten in China. As in many cases the food of a country is sometimes better in a restaurant overseas offering the national cuisine than in the country itself.

Sunday 14th June

Sunday's first objective was Angkor Thom, Nakorn Thom in Thai, and built some thirty years after Angkor Wat. Built as a city it accommodated 500,000 inhabitants. It is approached by a causeway with statues carved into the low walls on either side of the road. The causeway crosses a moat and acts as a bridge. As one makes one's approach to Angkor Thom the figures to the left depict souls gone to heaven and those on the right, the souls of those gone to hell. Frankly, as an observer I didn't notice much difference. The horrors of the nether world were not as well described as at Angkor Wat, where I did see one poor person being impaled through his posterior by a post which eventually made its exit through the poor fellow's head. What a punishment that must have been. We were again met by a swarm of young children, offering the same as the previous afternoon, some of whom we recognised. Apparently, these children follow the tourists like migratory birds; af-

ternoon: Angkor Wat, morning: Angkor Thom for the simple reasons of the whims of the photographer and the direction of the sun. It is unusual to take photographs into the sun. At least, this was the explanation provided by Mr Wana. At this point I managed to negotiate the sale of a bronze head. The price started at US\$ 15.00 and the final purchase was made two hours later from the same vendor at US\$ 6.00. In other words, patience is to your advantage. The vendors know only too well the route of the coach. The desired article should be purchased at the end of the tour, as the coach is about to leave. Frankly, lugging a heavy piece around on one's walk is not much fun anyway. Bronze work is actually quite beautiful and so is the silverware (40% silver) with its intricate design. The latter is sold at the market in the centre of Siem-Riap.

Angkor Thom was built by Jayavarman VII. It is important to note that it was the French who advised the Cambodian archaeologists on the use of numbers after the names of Kings. The side consists of three major areas; the Bayonne, the Elephant Terrace and the Bapuon. The Bayonne, which is the temple, was originally gilded; evidence of this comes from a Chinese merchant who visited Angkor Thom in the thirteenth century. The temple, instead of having five towers as at Angkor Wat, had 54 representing each of the provinces of the Empire. Then there is the Elephant Terrace along which the King would proceed to the dais from where he would watch sporting events and take part in ceremonious parades or processions. The pageantry of the period must have been superb.

Here at Angkor Thom there was much more evidence of restoration projects, notably, being undertaken by the French and Japanese. Personally I was not as impressed by Angkor Thom as I was by Angkor Wat. It was very hot, and there were a lot of flies. The latter disturbed me rather a lot. From a photographic point of view there was less to photograph; there were very few interesting vistas. Something could be said for the Elephant Terrace which was magnificent. The towers of the Bayonne were difficult to organise into a coherent or aesthetic image.

Lunch was to follow at a restaurant in town called the Siam Pheap. At least that was what written on a placard over the entrance. The food was a pleasant change from the hotel buffet, though again nothing to get excited about. However, it gave me the opportunity to meet fellow members of the BC and to converse about what



we had seen over the last twenty-four hours. Unfortunately the sight of a screaming paraplegic was to remain with me for some hours. The last time I had come across a screaming mendicant was at the railway station in Naples in 1970.

For the afternoon was planned a visit to the Temple of Bakhen which is located at the top of a hillock to the Northwest of Angkor Wat. From the summit, there is a splendid view of Angkor Wat, bathed, on this occasion, in sunlight. There were also very good views of Ton Le Sap and the mountains separating Thailand from Cambodia. The trip to the summit can be done on the back of an elephant at the cost of US\$ 15 each way. The alternative is a slog up the hill and a dangerous descent for some. The walk up takes 20 minutes and again the climber is accompanied by young children waving fans, which can be helpful, or cold drinks which are definitely refreshing. Frankly, these children offer a good service but their constant call for pecuniary attention becomes rather irritating. I was fortunate enough on this occasion to meet a seven year old girl who guided me around the site. She was most fragile and yet she climbed up the hill with no problem at all, waving her fan briskly near my face so that I would remain cool. She deserved the dollar and perhaps two. Fortunately, I was offered a drink at the top and gave her more. I was introduced to an elder sister and I photographed them both for another dollar. Once more down the hill, a third sister materialised and offered me a nice cooling beer. I was really very happy to have the young girl on that rather hot afternoon, in such a beautiful place with a 360 degree view of the surrounding area. For once I did not feel so irritated as I had been by the calls for the greenback, since there was some merit in clambering up a rather difficult stone path to provide a cooling drink and some much-needed ventilation. At this point I felt rather sorry for the calamities that had besieged Cambodia for so long and I hoped that these children from whom I was buying the odd coca-cola and the occasional sou-

venir were indeed the representatives of a peace-loving generation: "the hope" of Cambodia.

Our last stop was the Temple of Preah Khan which in history had been the battlefield where war had been fought between the Khmer and the Chams. There is in fact an inscription written in the time of King Jayavarman VII referring to this event, speaking of a "field of blood". This field of blood was where the Temple of Preah Khan now stood. The temple was very much overgrown by tropical vegetation, in my opinion more so than at Ta Phrom which we had visited the day before. There was a rather foreboding atmosphere created by the darkened galleries with their low ceilings that led from one part of the temple to the other. One remarkable area of the temple was the Hall of the Dancers where there was a frieze depicting beautiful girls of the period dancing in their god-given and natural dress. It was quite apparent at this temple that so many ancient



statues had been stolen to fill the coffers of Cambodian officials. The devastation of a nation's heritage was particularly evident here. A group photo was taken and again we contributed to the welfare of the local children.

On the return journey to the hotel—using the right-hand side of the road as in continental Europe—our guide spoke a little of the corruption of Cambodian officials; presumably those who had sold off the country's heritage and who were now enjoying the use of BMWs in Phnom Penh or assuring their offspring with a guaranteed university degree by purchasing it for US\$ 4,000 (1989 price, when our guide was at university).

Then as we passed the moat surrounding Angkor Wat we beheld lots of local folk, hand in hand, or enjoying an evening picnic. This practice was indeed new to our guide, who was born and raised in Siem-Riap. To him, the evening walk was a phenomenon of which he attributed to the "awakening" of Cambodian people. Per-

haps the younger generation of the inhabitants of Siem-Riap were forgetting the terror of the civil war and beginning to enjoy the tranquillity of a new age.

Having reached our hotel, a quick shower and we were off again. This time for dinner at the Sawatdi Restaurant. Unfortunately for the owner, who was Thai, custom was very quiet. We were the only partakers of a fairly good meal at her restaurant. A palatable French wine was on offer at US\$ 20 per bottle. It was a change from drinking the local Angkor Beer. Again the staff were polite and cordial.

The next morning we left the hotel at a reasonable hour - this time for the airport. On our way we beheld a rather amusing sight of a pig being taken to market on a motorcycle. He had probably been sedated but he was, we were told, still alive. After showing our cameras to the customs officials, as we had been warned, and paying the airport tax of US\$ 8, we waited for our Bangkok Airways flight 931 to return us to the hub of Southeast Asia.

In all it had been a fascinating journey through the remarkably beautiful vestiges of an ancient civilisation where we had met and been made welcome by a population awakening from the ravages of civil war, who held "tourism" as their only hope for a resuscitation of the country's economy. Our short journey gave us a glimpse of a country whose potential wealth lay in the display of its ancient heritage, and the kindness of the local people. Their constant demand for hard currency was through necessity and not at this point through greed. Their poverty was such that any contribution came as a regenerator for a stable economy. That is at least how I felt on leaving Cambodia with the hope that this first visit would lead to further exploration of the country.

Michael J. Reid
June 22nd, 1998



Dear Editor,

I am writing primarily to clarify a point, my resignation as Club Manager, made by James Reid in his letter to the Editor as published in the July 1998 *Outpost*. He is correct in that certainly there were moments in my tenure of management when I came into conflict with the Committee, in almost every case these differences arose because I felt that certain of the Committee lacked sufficient knowledge of the current workings of the Club to reach a practical solution to a particular issue. On the other hand, there were frequent occasions when the opinions and advice of those Committee members with long experience of the Club were invaluable. Of one thing I am sure, having attended over 2 years of Committee meetings with, in those days, meetings held twice a month, I am full of admiration for those who so willingly give up so much of their time for the benefit of others. I understand that the Committee now only meets once a month and that the management structure of the club is already much changed with the Manager being allowed far more autonomy than in my day; in short it seems that the goals as stated by Dugal Forrest in February 1996 have been largely achieved. Now to the clarification; my resignation came about simply because I felt that it was time to move on. I can assure Mr Reid that I did not resign because of any perceived lack of support from the Committee.

To turn to another point made by James, on which I agree with him, the method of choosing the Club Chairman. I have always felt that it was a trifle cosy for the Committee to elect its own Chairman and surely it would be more open for the Chairman to be elected by the membership at the AGM? Of course this assumes that enough members will attend the AGM! As far as I am aware, a Rule Change would need to be proposed to the AGM to achieve this.

Lastly, while writing, I would like to take the opportunity of, once and for all, correcting another myth which I have often heard voiced at the Churchill Bar. The fact is that the dreaded security gates at the Club were not installed by the Company I now work for, neither was the contract signed nor negotiated by me and the decision to proceed with this plan was taken after my resignation. It is, however, true that when I was the Manager of the Club I did advocate such a system because I felt that proper gates would discourage usage of the Club by those not entitled, prevent the Club being used as a thoroughfare and protect the staff from being assaulted when they tried to deny access to those not entitled to enter the property - as happened on one memorable occasion. From my casual observations I would suggest that these objectives have been achieved.

Whilst on the topic of security Mr Reid points to the benefits of employing Club staff on security duties; there is a down side as well! A sub-contractor has to provide a service every day thus must cover absences, sickness, etc; the sub-contractor also covers all the uniform and employment costs thus, in general, employing a sub-contractor may be cheaper and may also allow for more Management flexibility than employing Club staff on these duties. The other factor is that a sub-contractor can change and rotate the guards whenever needed, thus breaking any bonds which have developed between the guards and the Club staff and members. While in a club such as ours it is a good thing for the staff to get to know the members, familiarity can lead to some security concerns, especially with regard to property loss, for example, without implying anything at all, if the necessary checks are not carried out properly due to friendships and relationships between the guards and the Club staff. Within Bangkok, very few premises employ their own uniformed security team, in-house detectives, and dedicated 'Membership Checkers' (as at the Polo Club) are another matter and often these staff are direct employees. The skills, client requirements and therefore levels of pay of these employees make it difficult for a sub-contractor to provide such staff. Of course, it is up to the Manger and the Committee to determine what security measures are applied at the BC but any Club such as ours will always have to tread a fine line between effective, and thereby necessarily intrusive, security measures, and the convenience of the membership. Thus this letter finishes where it started, back with the Committee!

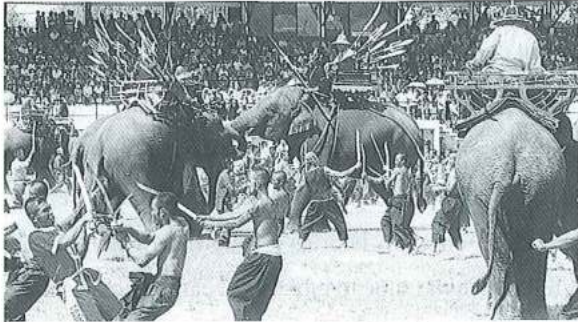
David Viccars

V49

BC Surin Elephant Round-Up Trip

"Certainly the most stylish trip available."

On 13th November the British Club will once again be packing the cooking utensils and sleeping bags ready for you to join them on this very exciting, once-a-year event—the elephant round-up in Surin, which makes news around the world.



An elephant extravaganza, with 250 of the giant beasts demonstrating their noble place in Thailand's history, along with a cast of hundreds of people, in a superb show the sheer scale of which is unmatched anywhere else in Thailand. Young and old enjoy this event, with the Club securing prime covered seating for the entire show. Leaving Bangkok's Hua Lumphong train station at 8.30pm in air-conditioned sleeper cars, the tour arrives in Surin at around 5am, where you are whisked off to a local

school for a (Thai-style) shower and a hearty BC breakfast. At around 7.30am we set off for the showground nearby. The show keeps you spellbound for over 4 hours (a cushion for the wooden bench is recommended); from there we take you to a tran-

quil historic Khmer ruin site for a leisurely and delicious BC picnic, washed down by a tittle or three from the BC mobile bar! The afternoon comprises a trip to the famous Phanom Rung temple, a much-restored Khmer temple high on a hill with spectacular views over the Buriram plains and



across to the Cambodia border hills. There's also a fascinating market at the site. Back to the school for dinner à la BC and a wander round Surin town before getting back on the train at 8pm, and before you know it you're back in Hua Lumphong. We expect the price for this wonderful trip to be around Baht 3,700 for adults, Baht 2,700 for children 4-16 years and Baht 1,200 for children under 4. As the trip takes place in November, this price is still a guesstimate; the total price will depend on the price for the train ticket, bus rental and show entrance.

Photocopy and Fax Back to the General Manager On 235 1560

I, _____ (name), _____ (Club number), would like to reserve the following spaces on the **British Club Surin Elephant Round-Up Trip**:

Adults (names):

Children (names and ages)

Bookings required by Friday 14th August

** Please note that cancellations will not be accepted after 21st August 1998 and a deposit of Baht 1,200 per person will be debited to your account on booking (not refundable after 21st August 1998) in order for the BC to reserve the train and show tickets.

F&B Manager in Murder Mystery Gunshot Horror

We all know him to be the very soul of efficiency, calm and good humour. But on the nights of Thursday 25th June to Saturday 27th June our own Barry Osborne reached his limit of tolerance and ran amok. Was it the stress of England's poor World Cup showing? A duff shipment of cauliflower? Or even a love affair gone wrong? We'll never know. But during the performances of Bangkok Community Theatre's "Death at the Manor" Murder Mystery, Barry finally cracked.



Admittedly, Barry had received a fair amount of criticism during the course of the evening. The evening had started for audience member Cathy Kell when a drink was "inadvertently" thrown over her during the pre-dinner cocktails on the lawn. Then she had received a sequence of incorrect orders, cold food and a caterpillar in her salad.

In the face of her complaints poor Barry eventually snapped. Pulling a gun, he opened fire on the hapless Cathy who fell to the floor in a hail of bullets, blood and crème caramel.

General Manager Tom Bain rushed into the mayhem. "Barry, what have you done?"

"Heart attack", said our Barry, not missing a beat. "I pulled a gun, she saw it and must have had a heart attack."

"But Barry", says Tom, "that's the fourth new member this week".

"Yeah well, she complained about the desert."

"Oh well, that's fair enough then", says Tom. "Might as well put her down in the freezer with the others and let's go get a beer."

Lady Lavendar - All Venom and Bosoms

Directed and co-written by Angela Mitchell, the evening's entertainment proved a busy time for the coroner all round. Two other dastardly murders were perpetrated, leaving a mere 18 characters still alive for the audience to sift through as likely suspects. All of them had more than ample reason to murder Lady Lavendar Bottomly. Played by Stephanie Lott with a magnificent combination of venom and bosoms, she made Pauline Hanson look like Mother Theresa.

Lord Percy Bottomly III, played by Roderick Turner in an ill-fitting wig, was probably too busy revelling in Cook's dumplings, or chasing the housemaids to have been the culprit. Next to go was Julian Love, played with gay abandon by Nico Torio. Perhaps he knew too much, particularly as he had seen a certain member of the cast on the "Jungle Float" at the Gay Mardi Gras in Sydney, wearing nothing but a Boa Constrictor. Maintaining the animal theme, Julian appeared to be gunned down

by a gorilla, though that could well have been a cunning disguise.

Whatever the truth of the matter, the Murder Mystery proved a great success and played to full houses every night. Tickets were sold out far in advance and the excellence of the food and the acting challenged each other for the evening's star billing.

Jonathan Hughes eventually "exposed himself" as none other than Inspector Moss of the Yard. His most brilliant summing up and analysis left cast and audience alike in a state of utter confusion and happy inebria.

Certainly in this particular case the butler was guiltless, unless the crime of which he was accused happened to be blatant but brilliant overacting! Patrick L'Argent gave his all as the gentlemen's gentleman from hell. A cross between the Hunchback of Notre Dame and Sir Les Patterson on speed. Finally, the Saturday evening performance witnessed the last stage appearance of Bob Radford, who sadly died the following week of a heart attack. Aged 76, Bob was a most wonderful trouper to the last. He will be dearly missed by all of those who knew him. But then, what a way to go!

Barry Daniel



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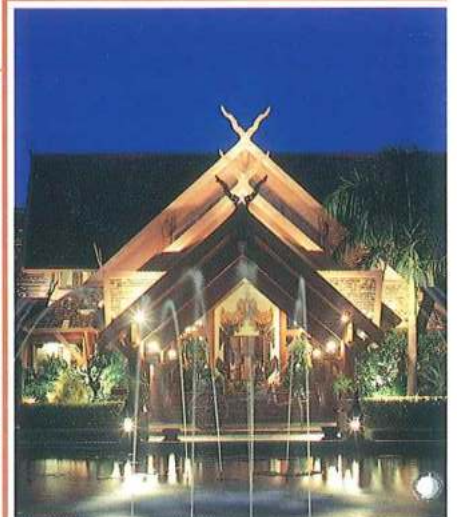
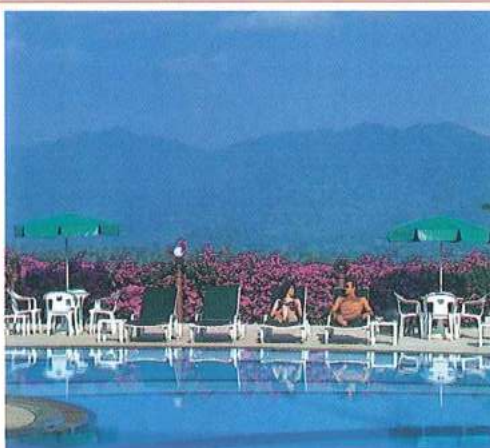
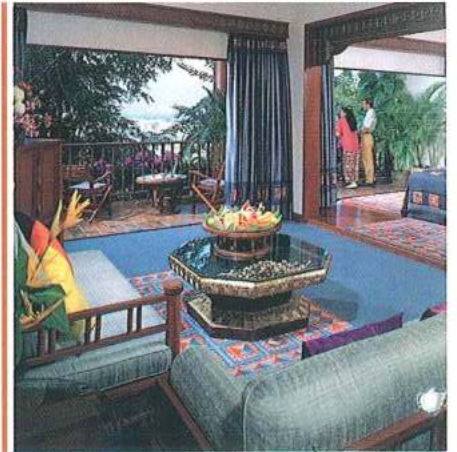
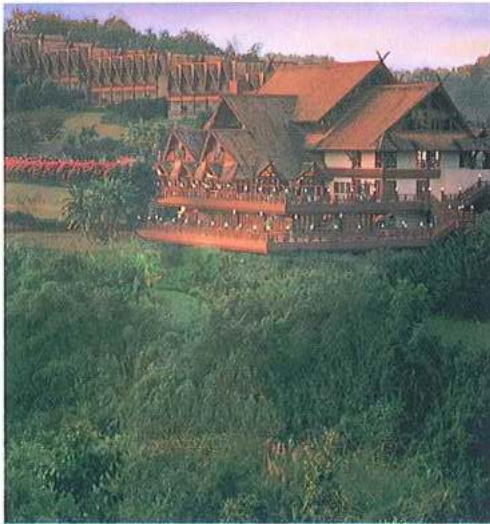


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This month we will take a look at **Club Development**. Often an area that is taken for granted but the facilities we enjoy take a great deal of TLC. As usual with all properties, the cost of all repairs and maintenance are always to the fore. As any homeowner will tell you, the older the property, the greater the cost of the upkeep. The British Club is no exception.

I have asked David Henton to comment on his current thoughts and as always would be very pleased to hear from any member who feels they would like to make a contribution to the debate.

**James Young
Chairman**

The Club Development portfolio (which previously went under the guise of House and Grounds) covers both the maintenance of existing club facilities (both major and minor) and the implementation of new projects.

The Club is approaching its centenary and some of our existing facilities are only a few years younger. A strict regime of preventative maintenance is needed to catch the ever-present building problems early enough to prevent more serious damage from occurring. Obviously this forms a major part of Tom Bain's role as GM and he is fortunate to have the assistance of K. Sarakit, our Maintenance Manager, who has been with the Club for 32 years. Although the costs need to be carefully controlled in today's economic climate, it would be a false economy to skimp on these daily and necessary tasks.

A number of areas of the Club are showing signs of wear and tear and consume a large proportion of the ongoing maintenance budget. Potentially these could require major expenditure in the not-too-distant future. Two major concerns are the kitchens and the pool. The latter has had two significant problems needing major repairs within the past 5 years.

The Club's financial policy is that the monthly membership fees along with other income should be adequate to cover the

running costs. This should include the regular maintenance of the Club. Income from New Members joining fees should go into a fund for capital expenditure for new projects and major items of repair and/or replacement. However, all of these joining fees currently disappear immediately to cover the operating costs deficit. The solution to this is, of course, to increase the monthly income to match the costs by increasing membership and, as you will be aware, steady progress is being made towards this goal. James will provide an update on how the membership drive is going next month.

However, economies do change (sooner rather than later we hope) and we do need to look to the future. A list of possible improvements has been compiled, outline designs and costings done for some schemes and attempts to prioritise the list have been made. Items of major maintenance affecting the daily running of the Club take priority, in particular the overhaul of the kitchens. After this, the selection of the most suitable projects becomes more difficult with members having diverse priorities. These include: children's play equipment, enlarged and better-equipped gym, air-conditioning or ventilation for the squash courts, replacement of all the old tennis court fences, air-conditioned family area. By far the most ex-

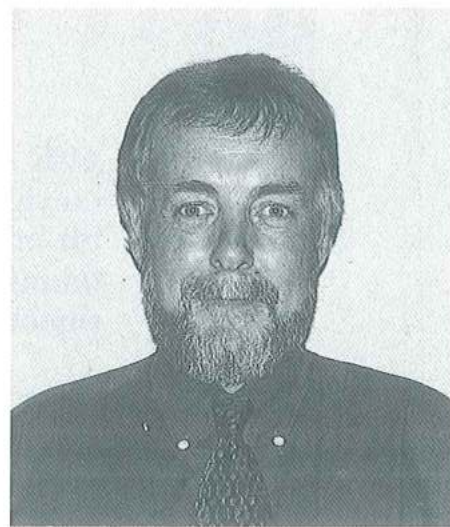
pensive scheme would be the rebuilding of the poolside area where the structure is showing signs of age.

If and when the Club has money to invest it will be faced with two options. Option 1 is to leave the facilities as they are now and refurbish area by area, as it becomes necessary. Option 2 is more ambitious. The role of the Club has undergone changes in the last decade, as has the mix of the membership. Bangkok has also changed and there are a large number of alternative social centres now available for the decreasing number of expats. Should we be looking at a major modernisation programme to provide members with a much larger choice of activities and to attract a larger membership?

Such decisions will require extensive consultation with the membership and any comments or suggestions would be welcome.

David Henton

David Henton has been a member of the Club since 1992. He was seconded to the General Committee in January 1996 and has held the Club Development portfolio since the AGM of that year.



David Henton



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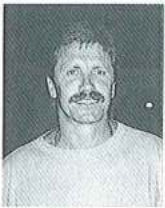
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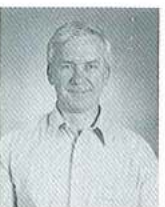
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The Committee is:

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Mike Lamb	Vice Chairman	Tel: 237 0777	Fax: 237 0780
Nick Bellamy	Treasurer	Tel: 236 5227-9	Fax: 236 5226
Bernie Adams	Sport	Tel: 861 0608	Fax: 861 0484
Dugal Forrest	Club History/ Centenary	Tel: 398 3807	Fax: 399 1564
Colin Hastings	Food & Beverage	Tel: 240 3700-9 x1511 Fax: 240 3843	
David Henton	Club Development	Tel: 254 6819	Fax: 254 4849
Peter Bond	Entertainment/ Promotions	Tel: 253 9521	Fax: 255 5759
David Turner	Policies and Procedures	Tel: 618 6516	Fax: 279 1234
James Woodford	Security and Membership	Tel: 326 0660	Fax: 326 1123

Club Staff

If you have any questions about the British Club or if you have any suggestions, please call any the Committee Members above or the General Manager on 234 0247, 266 4734 or 266 0597 or email us on <britclub@loxinfo.co.th>

A Tribute to Bob Radford

For someone whose timing was usually impeccable, Bob's death earlier this month caught us all unawares. Only a week before he died, he was treading the boards in a Murder Mystery Comedy right here at the British Club, and as usual, he had the audience hooting with laughter at his jokes and wisecracks delivered, typically with just the right pause or quizzical facial expression.



Bob had a wonderful talent for making people laugh, a rare gift that over the years brought much pleasure to his friends, acquaintances and the general public. Many of his hilarious ad-libs during rehearsals for a show would find themselves written into the final script! Rehearsing for a play is usually a time-consuming and often frustrating process. Above all, it needs patience, understanding, good humour and dedication to get through the many weeks before opening night. Bob had these qualities in abundance. He never complained or lost his patience, and never had a bad word for anyone. In fact, his calm enthusiasm and wicked sense of humour was contagious to everyone who had the privilege of performing alongside him. Bob joined Bangkok Community Theatre 15 years ago, soon after he arrived in Thailand. Having been involved with theatrical companies in Iraq, Dubai and the UK, he soon settled in with BCT and in 1983 landed the lead part of Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol", his first production with the society. Many roles followed. He played an ugly sister (Tutti, opposite Frutti!) in "Cinderella" in 1986 and then appeared in "Noises Off" some months later. Two more pantomimes followed—"Aladdin" and "Knights and

Dragons" in 1987. In 1988 he played Major Metcalf in "The Mousetrap" and then appeared at the Oriental Hotel in 1989 in "A Noel Coward Review", where he assumed a variety of different "Coward" characters as part of the hotel's 110th anniversary celebrations. He was perfect "Badger" in "Toad of Toad Hall" in 1993, and over the years had principal roles in four other BCT Family Musical shows: "Pinocchio", "Sing a Song of Sixpence", "Robinson Crusoe" and, more recently, "Flibberty and the Penguin", which was staged on the back lawn of the British Club in 1996.

Yet it is for comedy that we shall remember Bob the most. His infamous Stanley Holloway monologues in our "Old Time Music Halls" were classics, and his regular appearances over the years, with good friend Eric Miller in their various "Two Ronnies" sketches, had audiences literally rolling in the aisles! Those who have ever seen Bob perform in one of our many pantomimes staged over the years will know that he was a natural to this genre, and his performance as one of the "Dames" in the 1986 production of "Cinderella" brought the house down and is still being talked about today. Last year, British Club members may also remember seeing Bob in



"Radio Daze", a comedy radio variety show, where again he had us laughing out loud with his hilarious characterisations. Finally, at the end of June, he played his last role for Bangkok Community Theater as Alf Crump in our Murder Mystery Comedy, "Death at the Manor". Alf was the vulgar father and war bore who embarrassed his daughters with his ceaseless dirty jokes and innuendoes! As always, Bob was a joy to work with. He was a wonderful actor, comedian and raconteur. He was also a good singer (although he always denied it) and over the years had even taught himself to tap dance! One of his last lines, when told by another character that her father had moved to Pattaya to "try to find a little peace", was "Well, he won't have any trouble in Pattaya, I found myself a nice little piece last time I was there." Well, we hope you have found a little peace, Bob. Thank you for enriching our lives; we will miss you terribly.

Angela Mitchell



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