



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

OUTPOST

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK



TODAY'S CLUB TOMORROW

LOOKING BACK

Barry Osborne
Maple Madness

SPOTLIGHT

Artists at the British Club
G.C. Dictum

FOUNDATION TO GRADUATION

11 Took my Key Stage 2 exams, Secondary School next!

10 Carried the flag on International Day

8 Got my Patana e-mail address today!

5 Made a sparkly Christmas card for Mum and Dad

3 I planted seeds in our garden and watched them grow

18 IB almost done, Uni here I come

17 Theory of Knowledge has really opened my eyes to the world, wow

16 Aced my IGCSEs!

14 Went on a great Residential Visit with my whole year

12 Rock-climbing was brilliant!



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BANGKOK

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OUTPOST

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FRONT COVER

The oft-used term "digital lifestyle" receives another jolt this month as Apple launches its iPad in Singapore and Hong Kong. Its wildly successful introduction into the N American and European markets suggests that the mobility and portability of data will play an increased role in daily activities, so pragmatic change and use of this growing convenience will rapidly pay off and become the norm.

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“In this auspicious month, the Management of The British Club, its Members and Staff, would like to extend their congratulations and warmest regards to Her Royal Highness Queen Sirikit on the occasion of her birthday, and to express their hope for happiness and prosperity in the coming year.”



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

MESSAGE FROM THE GM



Jesper Doepping
General Manager

Dear Members,

I am pleased to advise you that we have succeeded in changing the Verandah's performance from being 10-20% below budget to actually being above budget by 10%. This change is largely due to the business express luncheons served from Monday to Friday, so we will build on this success and continue to develop and modify the Verandah over time. Likewise, we can see that the Salas are not performing as well as they used to, especially at the weekends. These tendencies indicate to me that we need to improve in defining what the Club is and how the Members want to use the Club. From the management's perspective, the British Club is a social club where professionals and managers with their families can meet to relax and enjoy different sports and cultural activities. This thinking implies that during the week the Club will be more focused towards the professionals/managers and their spouses, while at the weekends we need to put a lot more effort into creating events and activities for families.

The focus on the Verandah will thus change it from being a 'family restaurant' to being more business orientated at lunch-time and more for fine dining in the evening on weekdays. This does not, however, mean that children are not welcome in the Verandah from Monday to Friday. Many of us have children and we both enjoy and choose to take our whole family out to eat at good restaurants, all of which allow children, though the parents take responsibility for their children's behaviour. At the weekend, the Verandah will of course still be a more family orientated restaurant.

One of our focus points in the coming months is to improve the service that all Members receive at the Club. To achieve

this, we are going to continuously train and develop our service staff. We will start with training in better English and communication skills in order to better meet our customers' needs. We expect our Members to experience a noticeable change in the near future.

For all our outlets servicing sports and recreational activities, it has been very obvious over the last 3 months that they are more popular when we organise an event or something special and different. To maximise that and create a bigger variety of events for children, families and adults, we have employed a part-time Events Manager, Briarne O'Shea, who is from Australia. Bri, as she likes to be known, will be introduced in the next issue of Outpost. She will be working closely with Reed, Somboon and William to create more events with a bigger variety for our Members. At the time of writing, the management team and I have already stolen one of Bri's ideas and organized music at the poolside on Friday 30th July. But there will be much more for all our Members.

Finally, our membership is now down to 979, and personally I think that the existence of the British Club, and what an oasis it actually is, remains one of Bangkok's best-hidden secrets. Personally I have met British, Australians and New Zealanders, theirs and other countrymen, who have never heard of the Club. From August, we will make a great effort to become known again in the expat community of Thailand, but simultaneously, the best advertising and marketing will come from our Members themselves. I would therefore ask all Members to help with introducing new people to the Club, both in the associate and the ordinary member category. As membership grows, the Club becomes a more fun place to spend time, and it also gives us the ability to maintain and develop the British Club for the benefit and reward of all its Members.

OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES

The Verandah	11am - 10pm		
Neilson Hays Coffee Shop	9am - 6pm (Tues.-Sun.)	Fitness Centre	6am - 10pm (Mon.-Fri.)
Churchill Bar	10am - 11pm	Fitness Centre	6am - 9pm (Sat.-Sun.)
Poolside Bar	6:15am - 11pm Last food orders 10pm	Thai Massage	9am - 5pm (Tues.-Sun.)

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HOUSE & GROUNDS

The monthly report on maintenance and development



On Monday 28th June, the Centre Court and Court 1 were handed over to the contractor to begin the resurfacing. The surveyors set the levels and a screen was installed to protect the occupants of the Suriwongse Sala from dust and fumes. We then waited for the asphalt work to begin. We waited patiently for several days and were then informed by the asphalt contractor that they were waiting for a window of good weather. This was slightly confusing as the first few days had been reasonably dry with only some light showers. Eventually, on Thursday 8th July, the asphalt contractor laid the geo-textile membrane and then promptly disappeared again.

While this was happening, the tennis players were having difficulties keeping their feet on Courts 2 and 3 whenever it had been raining. The green surface has turned out to be extremely slippery when wet; not at all like the blue playing area which is performing as it should. The contractor has ensured me that this will be attended to when the other defects are rectified. The Greenset acrylic surface, if installed correctly, is playable when wet. It is possible, therefore, that there is insufficient grit in the green paint.

Late on Friday 9th July, the asphalt contractor informed us that they intended to install the first layer of asphalt on the next day, Saturday. This failed to happen because their loader broke down. The tennis court contractor, Yang Ma, then lent them their own machine in order that the work could be carried out on the Sunday. To our relief, it was completed satisfactorily; we had expected some heavy rain. On Monday, the surveyors checked the levels and found that these were 90% acceptable. The correction of a couple of high spots did not delay the installation of the wearing surface on Wednesday 14th July. Unfortunately, some of the asphalt was badly mixed, resulting in rough areas where the stone was debonded from the asphalt. This will have to be rectified before the acrylic surface can be applied.

At long last, the new notice boards have been installed in the Clubhouse corridor and reception area. The lights will be added in a few days time together with brass name plaques, to identify the Section or group using the board.

Over at the poolside, there have been problems with the electrical supply to squash court 2 and the water pump. This has caused problems for the squash players. After a lot of head scratching we decided to replace the cable, located on the back wall, which delivers power from the distribution board to these facilities. This should resolve the problem.

On 5th July, the Ladies' Changing Room was handed over to the contractor for refurbishment. This project is due for completion by 28th August. The temporary changing room

wasn't quite ready on Monday the 5th, but a flurry of activity resulted in completion to the same standard as was provided when the Men's Changing Room was refurbished late last year. At the time of writing, the demolition work has been completed and the plumbing work has started.

Other work in progress has been the usual routine repair and maintenance in various areas of the Club. This has included the air conditioning of the outer Verandah which was not cooling due to the breakdown of the compressor. This was still covered by the 5 year guarantee and was exchanged by Trane for a new one. While writing this, could I please ask members to not turn the thermostat controls for the air conditioning systems down to the minimum temperature. This will not improve the performance and can result in damage to the compressor. Other routine repair work over the last two weeks saw the gutter at the rear of the Clubhouse kitchen being replaced.

Our work on a 5 year budget for repair & maintenance has resulted in the identification of a package of work which will repair and improve the front areas of the Club. Included in this are the following: Front lawn and turtle pond, landscaping, car park layout, white lining and signage, replacement of rotten and broken fences, and the improvement of the Silom entrance. Inside the Clubhouse: replacement of the red carpet. As I have commented previously, long-term Members may not notice the somewhat 'down at heel' appearance which greets one on entering through the Silom gate. However, some potential new Members have certainly been less than impressed when visiting the Club for the first time. We need to attract new Members and can only do this successfully by presenting our Club as a well-maintained establishment.

Finally, a word about termite and general pest control. Last year, Scientific Pest Management installed 20 bait stations in order to monitor termite activity. On the last inspection no termites were found in any of the bait stations and there was no evidence of termites in any of the building structures. Some minor termite activity was found on the multi-use court and in the area adjacent to the maintenance office. There is some rodent activity in and around the Clubhouse which is being dealt with. Cockroaches are not currently evident. There are a lot of ants in the Clubhouse and these are being treated. Anti-mosquito chemicals are being used regularly. At the moment, the Club appears to be reasonably free of pests.

All for now

John Boisclair
Development & Facility Manager



The Verandah Express Luncheon August 2010

2nd August- 6th August

Starter - 50 baht

Warm Nicoise Salad

Served with French beans, eggs, black olives, anchovies and probiotic cherry tomatoes

or

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Course - 130 baht

Pan Seared Pacific Dory

Served with apple scented mashed potatoes, vegetables and white wine cream sauce

or

Grilled Cajun Chicken

Served with roasted potatoes, vegetables and light brown sauce

or

Hand Peeled Pomelo Salad (Yum Som O)
Sweet and Sour Chicken (Phad Gai Peow Wan)
Wok Fried Mixed Asian Greens with Oyster Sauce
(Phad Park Ruam Mit Numman Hoy)

Dessert of the Day - 50 baht

or

Choose from our A la Carte Dessert for 10% off

9th August- 13th August

Starters - 50 baht

Garden Green Salad

tossed with balsamic vinaigrette

or

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Course - 130 baht

Hungarian Goulash

served with pilaf raisin rice

or

Mexican Style Prawn Skewers

grilled prawns seasoned with lime juice, coriander leaves and mixed herbs, accompanied with mixed salad and corn salsa

or

Tod Mun Pla (Deep Fried Curried Fish Cakes)
Phad Supparod Talay (Pineapple Fried Rice with Seafood)

Dessert of the Day - 50 baht

or

Choose from our A la Carte Dessert for 10% off

16th August- 20th August

Starters - 50 baht

Asian Chop Chop Salad

a bed of romaine lettuce topped with tofu, tomatoes, julienne carrot, cilantro, spring onion, beansprouts and cucumber. Served with sesame vinaigrette on the side

or

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Course - 130 baht

BBM

Bangers, Bacon and Mashed Potatoes

or

Grilled Gammon Steak

served with garlic mashed potatoes, vegetables and light brown sauce

or

Por Piah Tod (Deep fried spring rolls)

Tom Kai Gai (Spicy soup with coconut milk)

Phad Phak Kana Numman Hoy

(Wok fried baby kailan with mushrooms and oyster sauce)

Dessert of the Day - 50 baht

or

Choose from our A la Carte Dessert for 10% off

23th August- 27th August

Starters - 50 baht

Tomato Mozzarella Salad

on arugula lettuce and pesto sauce

or

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Course - 130 baht

Crispy Chicken Cutlet

served with baked potatoes and grilled vegetables

or

Spagheffi Vongole

fresh baby clam sauteed with sliced garlic, chili and basil cooked in flammable white wine, tossed with pasta

or

Yum Ma Muang (Julienne of Green Mango Salad)

Kao Phad Num Liab Gai (Black Olive Fried Rice)

Dessert of the Day - 50 baht

or

Choose from our A la Carte Dessert for 10% off

30th August- 3rd September

Starters - 50 baht

Bruschetta al Pomodoro

tomato, basil, garlic, olive oil and sherry vinaigrette served on garlic bread

or

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Course - 130 baht

Fish and Chips

fish fillet coated with batter or crumbed, complemented by salad and homemade tartare sauce

or

Beef Stroganoff

served with butter rice

or

Som Tum (Green Papaya Salad)

Poa Taak Kapong (Clear Spicy and Sour Soup)

Gai Graprao (Stir Fried Minced Chicken with Basil and Chili)

Dessert of the Day - 50 baht

or

Choose from our A la Carte Dessert for 10% off



F&B MORSELS



William Ong

Dear Members,

What can I say about July apart from World Cup fever, Twilight Eclipse, summer holidays and almost constant rain? I am sure that the ladies are happier now that they have their guys' attention back.

I realise that I am settling in nicely with the help and support of the management team and of course, the ever enthusiastic Members. I have been working on changing the old and designing the new menus for all the outlets here at the Club. The introduction of healthier and more innovative dishes are the main theme for the menus. Just to tickle your curiosity a little, we will have separate Thai and Poolside Menus with a new selection of healthier and tastier items. Also, a wider range of finger-licking bar snacks for the Churchill Bar and a Modern European fine dining Menu for The Verandah. Not forgetting a more extensive wine list. Tuna Tataki with Dragon Fruit, anyone?

Rest assured, much of the good comfort food will still remain in the upcoming menus. The actual launch date of these menus is yet to be finalised, but I am hoping it will be some time mid August. Please let me know if any of you would like to see your favourite recipe in the new menu. We might be able to arrange to include it.

With Mother's Day falling on the 12th August, shower your mother with love by treating her to a brunch at the Verandah which has been specially designed to cater for you and your Mum. More details on the poster elsewhere in this issue. For all mothers out there, we salute you and wish you a Happy Mother's Day.

It is a particularly hot period of the year at the moment, and midday to mid afternoon temperatures can make people feel very drained. Spending some time by the pool is a definite help, as it is cool and refreshing to have a quick dip and then you can lie and relax in the shade. To help such a pastime, every month we have a menu of Healthy dishes which are very tasty but low on calories and light to the stomach. These are perfect for keeping the wolf at bay while at the pool-side. To complement such snacks, there is a selection

of fruit drinks which are refreshing and good for you!

Our Express Luncheons are proving to be very well received. The feedback is excellent, and I wish to commend the staff for their quick service, and of course for the quality of the food served! To help Members with their planning, this month there is a page elsewhere in this issue which shows the weekly menus for the Express Luncheons for the whole month, so now there's no excuse for not dropping in for a quick favourite! I'm sure you won't regret it.

Even though we are revising menus and offering quick set meals midday, there has always been great interest in the Sunday and Tuesday carveries in The Verandah, so we will continue with these as they are really good value and very tasty indeed. Likewise, the Paella and Sangria specials every Wednesday remain popular and are delicious, so these too will stay as a fixture in the calendar.

Don't miss the Friday buffets this month. They are along a slightly different theme this month, and I would very much like Members to try them out and let me know what they think. We start on 6th August with the ever-popular curry buffet, followed by an Italian buffet (with the extra feature of a Pasta Station) on 13th August, then a Mediterranean one, and we round off the month with a Spanish buffet on 27th August. Come and enjoy some global cuisine!

Finally, I have been having discussions with Jesper about our commitment to providing the highest level of customer service in all outlets, and in every way it is applicable to food and beverages in the Club. We hope that our decisions are translating through to our Members and that the levels of service remain at a high standard. To this end, both Jesper and I would like to hear comments from anyone who isn't, or is, happy with the customer service they receive, to enable us to serve you better. So stay in touch, lah!

Have a wonderful month and I'll be in touch soon with more news.

G.C. DICTUM

REDEFINING SECTIONS

Bringing our Sports & Games Sections into the 21st Century

Sections & all that

At present we have a menagerie of Rules, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures that cover the running of special interest Sections, mainly sports and games but also a pipe band, each managed in different ways and funded by the Club to a greater or lesser degree.

The earliest Sections were snooker and bridge which were played pre-WWII and, of course, tennis which was created by the purchase of the Siam Electricity's Bangkok Tennis Club land in 1919. Post WWII, other Sections have come on board: bowling and cricket in the 1940s, golf, squash and badminton in 1960s and Sections for soccer, swimming, darts and rugby later than that. Ball Hockey became a Section in 2000. In 2007 we added Balut and the Pipe Band.

Now in 2010, we are revising the whole structure and financing of our Sections to reflect the appointment of a Sports & Recreation Manager and a desire by the General Committee, and some Sections, to have a more professional approach to the management of Sports and Games

Managing

Over the next few months, and to be completed by the start of the next Financial Year in December, we will move to two types of Club sections: Club Managed Sections and Club Sponsored Sections.

Club Managed Sections

We are starting this new type of Section as a trial with the approval of the current Tennis Section. Instead of this Section relying 100% on efforts by its committee, and thus "by the few", it will now be managed by the Sports & Recreation Manager, Reed Passmore, and be supported and guided by a small Tennis Committee elected at the Tennis Section's Annual General Meeting.

In this capacity Reed will be responsible for the development of Tennis activities and the organisation of all events, competitions, training and coaching, and will supply administrative support to the Tennis Committee. The Tennis Committee will consist of three or four people who will provide guidance and feedback as to Tennis Section Members' views

and wishes. Financing will also change but that is dealt with below as our new system will affect all Sections.

It is the mutual hope of the Tennis Section and the General Committee that this will lead to a more professional, dynamic and outgoing Tennis section that will be both a benefit to Club Members and be a source of potential new Members. Of course, all Members will still be able to play tennis, as now, but Section membership will give you access to all the professional resources, training, coaching and tournaments that the Club aims to provide.

If this trial is successful then other Sections may opt to move to this style of operation.

Club Sponsored Sections

All other Club Sections will operate as now being run by Section Committees, and Reed will now be an 'ad hoc' member of each Section Committee. This will cover Balut, Bridge, Cricket, Golf, Squash and the Pipe Band as the only currently active Sections. If Rugby and Soccer, Badminton or Hockey want to return to active Club Section status, then there will be guidelines on how to achieve this – quite possibly a Veterans Rugby Section could become the second Club Managed Section! If anyone wanted to restart Snooker or Darts or Chess the same guidelines will apply and I wonder what happened to Ball Hockey?

Financing

At present we operate an 'historical add-on' system of Sports Sections Allocations which essentially means that you get what you spent last year plus a bit more if you can haggle successfully. The Club has no real control over what the allocation is spent on and, more importantly, Sections have no opportunity to grow and develop. Section Allocations also meant that we were allocating Club money to mainly be spent in the Club!

From 1st December 2010 there will be no more Section Allocations. The General Committee will still allocate funding for Sections in total but will meet individual needs as they arise upon recommendation of the Sports & Recreation Manager.

In principle, the Club will finance:

- a. Trophies and Plaques for internal & external tournaments
- b. Entrance Fees for external (Inter-Club) tournaments
- c. Commonly held equipment (Card tables, Balut mats, Cricket stumps)
- d. Club facilities (Tennis courts, Cricket nets etc)
- e. In a tournament, the food cost for visiting teams where matched by the Section funds for the home team's food
- f. Any outside facilities that may need to be hired for a Club sponsored tournament
- g. Administration costs associated with running the Sections

In return, the Club expects the Sections to fund by subscription or sponsorship:

- a. Club team's food in a Inter-Club tournament home fixture
- b. All beverages associated with the Section's tournament, training etc.

- c. All kit and related clothing
- d. Any mementoes given to a visiting team outside of a Club plaque.

The Club does not have an endless kitty or a pot of gold but this system of defined funding will provide funds for Sections that are active and developing and ensure that Members get value for Club money. The hope is that by directing funds at 'activity' not 'existence' we will develop more dynamic and outgoing Sections.

Rolling out

As indicated above, the roll-out will be within the next few months to ensure that all Sections are 'on board' by 30th November. All Sections will have had meetings with Management and the General Committee over this period, and we hope that together we can grow our Sections.

Paul Cheesman
Honorary Secretary

RULES BRITANNIAE!

A monthly peek into our rulebook for things you probably did not know!



TEMPORARY MEMBERS!



DID YOU KNOW.....

if you have British, Canadian, New Zealander or Australian colleagues or friends working or visiting Bangkok for a number of weeks or even months, that they can join the Club as

'Temporary Members' without paying the joining fee?

Some conditions apply so see rule 49 for details.

RODNEY KEITH BAIN O.B.E.



In Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours Overseas List 2010, our colleague and esteemed Quizmaster Rodney Bain, former Chairman of the BCCT, was awarded the Order of the British Empire. The Club and its Members extend their warmest congratulations to him for this recognition of his contribution to UK/Thailand commerce.

CHEERS AND CHEERIOS

It was unthinkable that Baz could leave the Club without a goodbye gathering, but he insisted he didn't want one.

Baz consistently claims he is a very shy person! He also claimed that nobody would show up anyway, so our compromise was that we would host his farewell party together with the usual wine-tasting evening. Admittedly we let Baz invite the usual wine companies, and then the rest of the team tried their best to change it to a real farewell party with music, different canapés, Thai food outside, free bar, all the things that we know Baz really enjoys – the pictures illustrate that a lot of Members showed up and that Baz himself enjoyed it too.

Phil Alexander presented Baz with a Balut set on behalf of the Balut Section. Rumour has it that Baz is honing his Balut skills in a lot of places around town, places where the competition isn't as tough as it is in the Churchill Bar, in order for him to be better able to compete with the Club's hardcore Balut players on future visits to the Bar.

Jonathan Truslow expressed his regrets on behalf of the Committee and presented Baz with a full Membership, and Judi Fitzgerald made an unexpected speech on behalf of some Members ruing his departure.

All speakers were heartily applauded, Baz cut the delicious cake, and the evening got into its stride, lasting until after 4am. As our gallery of photos shows, a great time was had by all!





BEHIND THE BANTER

A brief chat with Baz



How did you end up at the Club?:

Back in 1994, I was here on vacation and saw an advertisement in the Bangkok Post for an Executive Chef, and I had just come from an easy but boring job in Saudi Arabia, travelled around with friends in Bali and Sri Lanka, arrived in Bangkok to rain rain rain...and paradise. I didn't want to go back to the UK or Saudi, so I thought I'd give it a go, and that was it! I met the GM (who was ex-forces) and some of the Committee members, and during the interview I found out it was more than the Chef, moving on to F&B side, so it was ideal. Four months probation, then a year, then F&B and then I sort of started to take over Events. There was no Skytrain, no Underground, no Starbucks, no Delifrance, no Irish Pub, the only competition we had was the Toby Jug and Bobby's Arms which are both gone.



So what did you like about Bangkok?:

Bangkok was just an amazing experience, and it still is, there's not a day I regret being here. And I wanted the challenge. Look, after spending nearly 9 years in the Air Force which is like an institution really, and then two years in Saudi which I didn't like as I lived on a compound with everything easy because it's done for you, there was no challenge. Here, I had to learn the language, people told me the Club had a bad name, the food was awful, lots of negativity, and I really liked Thailand, so I wanted to prove to myself that I could do it. The Club gave me lots of room to do what I wanted to do, so I could try things out and put in the effort to make it work.

The Club was different, much fewer Members, the poolside was quiet, sports were popular with tennis being the biggest, the rugby section was huge, and the soccer section, they all had loads of events, tennis almost every weekend, and there were more sections too, there was badminton and snooker too, but not that many families or younger Members, so we had very few events. The only outing I remember was the annual Sirin elephant round-up. There were no concerts, no cinema outings, no buffets, no kids activities, no catering for



dining-in nights, if we had a theme dinner it was provided by an outside hotel or Mrs Balbir, so the actual F&B side of the Club was quiet. So the next year I suggested we did a Christmas lunch, and we got 30 people and thought it was a success, when nowadays we have about 300! The Club gave me a chance to develop, and never really said no to anything. I'm happy if something I organise makes a bit of money, but more important for me is the Members being happy, I want those emails saying they've enjoyed themselves, because if they aren't, then why bother. Even the small events can be fun. I took 50 people to see Tom Jones, and I bought all of them a pair of knickers, I got a strange look when I bought them in Tesco Lotus! But the Members were so pleased, and it was such a small thing that made them enjoy the evening more, and so did Tom! Like giving the Members wine and peanuts when we were on Tonle Sap in Cambodia, or having a bottle opener on the Magic Eyes barge, or getting a couple

of 80 yr olds in a hot air balloon in Cambodia. I love doing the little things, and it makes such a difference to the people's enjoyment. It's the secret of good customer service, always give the customer a bit more than they expect.



How did you build up the events?:

I went to see Oasis ages ago at Muang Thong Thani, and the next day talking to some of the Members they wanted to know how I got there, and how I got the tickets, so when Robbie Williams came along, I ordered 40 tickets as a trial, and we sold 200 (5 coaches), so it grew from there. The biggest event was the Royal Barge Festival in 2006, we had 12 coaches plus Members who turned up by themselves, we took over the roof of 2 restaurants and of an apartment building, and we catered for about 600 people, jazz band, bouncy castle, food, and as there were lots of kids I got McDonalds to come along for lunch and do games for them and Pizza Hut did the same in the evening, and Susie



organising games, they were very happy kids! Back then we did about 100 functions and 9 events a year, now it's about 400 functions and 100 events a year. What makes that all the more amazing is when I joined there were about 90 staff, really, and far far less now! Our current staff are wonderful, and can deal with almost anything they're asked to do. Back then the Club was so quiet, and to be honest, a bit boring, much more of a gentlemen's club with a few families, there wasn't much fun, everything was organised by the Members

themselves and the Club staff rather sat back. Now the Club is far more active, we don't have the image of being snooty or snobby any more, and we try to balance events for all the different types of Members, there's all sorts as you can't join merely on money, you join on merit, there aren't seats reserved for VIPs, to me all Members are VIPs whoever from wherever, because they're Members.

Have there been any disasters or failures?:

I don't remember any. My biggest nightmare was when we had 500 Members booked to see the Rolling Stones in concert during the SARS epidemic, and it was cancelled on the morning of the day of the concert. The busiest was a week in July 2006 starting with the Royal Barge, 5 days later a whole funfair with big wheel, helter-skelter, another 400 people for our Queen's birthday. And for chaos, Guy Fawkes about 4 years ago when it deluged; there were about 400 people on the lawn which was like a mudbath. Everyone



piled into the bar and restaurant, there were people upstairs where we had a magic show and a dog show, there was a lady doing candy-floss in reception until the machine blew up, the dogs pooped on the carpet, the staff were carrying food around on trays, there was mud everywhere, and the Members were wonderful, good-humoured, and typically British: 'The show must go on'.



MAPLE MADNESS

143rd Canada Day Celebration



John Casella presenting Barry Osborne with the Canadian community's recognition award



Ladies enjoying the tug-of-war competition



The Annual Siege of BC

On Saturday 19th June 2010, the local Canadian community once again laid siege to Bangkok's British Club in celebrating Canada's 143rd Birthday. For many local residents however, it must have appeared as if the red shirts were once again on the move as over 300 Canada Day supporters dressed in bright red and white made their way to this annual celebration. After all the chaos of April and May, it was refreshing to see so many adults and children enjoying a fun-filled day on the Club's lawn.

If you're wondering why this year's celebration was held on June 19th instead of July 1st, there is an easy answer. The Canada Day Committee elected to move the event forward by a few weeks to allow more families to participate before the start of the summer home-leave exodus. Given the Committee's poor weather-forecasting skills and demonstrated history of selecting rain-soaked days for this event, I'm sure they don't have the confidence to say it was moved to reduce the risk of rain.

This year's Canada Day event continued with its family friendly feel, and provided many traditional picnic sporting events that all age groups can enjoy including ball hockey, volley ball, water balloon toss and tug of war. The event also delivered a fun-filled day for the younger kids by offering a bouncy castle, Uncle James the Clown, Ron the Juggler, face painting, colouring, silhouette cut-outs and the BNH Hospital's Mascots and Mad Scientist. Adults were treated to free first aid and blood pressure checks by BNH Hospital's on-site staff as well as eye examinations by the Laser Vision.

The British Club is always a beautiful venue for this annual event and you can count on its professional staff to make it an enjoyable day for all. In support of the 2010 celebration, the British Club delivered great afternoon snacks for the kids as well as a delicious dinner buffet that was available at three different stations. Throughout the day, the Club also ensured guests were treated to a continuous supply of cold Canadian beer, wine and mixed drinks from 3 strategically placed bars.



Mr. Greg Goldhawk Counsellor (Commercial) Embassy of Canada with his daughter and the BNH Hospital Mascots



Following dinner, a brief birthday cake cutting ceremony was conducted by H. E. Mr. Ron Hoffmann, Ambassador of Canada to Thailand, Mr. Germain Bergeron - 2010 Canada Day Committee Chairman and Mr.

John Casella - Canada Day's MC. While the children were excited about the cake, the adults were clearly more interested in the evening's lucky draw which offered over 90 prizes and a top prize of a 3 day/2 night stay for two at Club Med in Phuket.

The Canada Day Committee and the Thai-Canadian Chamber of Commerce also took time during the evening to present a community service recognition plaque to Mr. Barry Osborne, the British Club's departing General Manager. Over the years, Barry has been a strong supporter of the Canadian community and everyone wishes him great success in his future endeavours.

Canadians enjoying the Boat Races while the Ambassador officiates



Canada Day... a serious day for ball hockey

Canada Day birthday cake cutting ceremony; (L-R) Germain Bergeron - 2010 Canada Day Committee Chairman, Ambassador Ron Hoffmann and John Casella - TCCC President participate in the



A key element of Bangkok's annual Canada Day Celebration is the ever popular Caesar Drink Bar that is consistently staffed by the toga-clad Mr. John 'Caesar' Stevens and his merry band of helpers. For those of you who may not be familiar with the Classic Canadian Caesar, its key ingredients include:

- 1 oz - vodka
- 2 dashes - red hot sauce
- 3 dashes - freshly ground salt & pepper
- 4 dashes - worcestershire sauce
- 4 oz - clamato juice (a difficult commodity to find in Bangkok)
- Rim glass dressed with lime juice and celery salt
- And, served over ice with fresh celery and a wedge of lime

To the chagrin of Canada's many beer drinkers, there is an evolving movement to make the 'Classic' Caesar into Canada's national drink. Based on the local Canadian community's affection for this drink, it clearly has a chance of succeeding.

Due to the lack of any serious rain on this day, the Canadians were also afforded their first dry evening in many years to conduct the event's legendary 'Boat Races'. We wish to thank Ambassador Hoffmann for his outstanding officiating at this year's race and for ensuring a level playing field for all participants. Clearly, FIFA could learn a great deal by observing the Ambassador's officiating skills. In the end, it was a tough and durable all-Thai team that gutted it out to dethrone the favoured Canuck team. Are you wondering how the Canadians conduct boat races on dry land? If so, you'll have to attend the 144th Canada Day Celebration to get the answer.

The 2010 Canada Committee also wishes to recognize and thank the following major sponsors for supporting Canada's 143rd Birthday Celebration: Gold Sponsors - BNH Hospital, Early Learning Centre Family of Schools and Pan Orient Energy; Silver Sponsors - Bombardier and International School of Bangkok (ISB); and Bronze Sponsors - Bangkok Snow Removal, Canadoil, Laser Vision and Magna International.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's Canada Day Celebration to be held on Saturday 18th June 2011.



WHAT THE EYE SEES...

Artists at the British Club in situ



I peeked around the edge of the door to the Wordsworth Lounge, a little unsure of what to expect. Other than the far corner of Jatujak Market, I don't often encounter art (as I interpret the word) in Bangkok, nor do I see much evidence of its existence or influence on TV, architecture or even out and about the city and suburbs.

Tranquility. That's what greeted me. An atmosphere of elegant serenity; the inaudible buzz of relaxed concentration; light, plenty of light; a clutter of tables and chairs; and the oddments which in whole or in part combine to comprise paintings. Nestled within this scene were the catalysts, a handful of people poised with intent - the Artists of the British Club.

There are currently six members of this group which meets weekly at the Club for a half day of brush on paper, though only four were there when I called. Maggie Mallace (Scotland), Marion Causton (England), Karin Worthington (Kenya) and Patty Moskowitz (USA) are usually joined by Eileen Bontje (Canada) and Annie Yu Ping (Hong Kong). They would love to see additions to the group, and welcome meeting anyone who has the interest and ability, of any standard or age. They are an informal gathering, pursuing an activity driven purely by enjoyment and the satisfaction of creative achievement. During my visit, at times there was animated chatter, at times relative silence punctuated with murmured comment, which made me feel like a distracting disturbance, as the group are busy finishing off compositions which may, or may not, be selected for their upcoming exhibition.

"All Together" is the title chosen for the exhibition to encompass the breadth of nationalities, the variety of styles and the current undulance of strife with the theme of working as a group. Running throughout the month of September, the

exhibition is at the Neilson Hays Library (Suriwongse Road) in the Rotunda as well as their garden café, which I must add serves excellent coffee and cakes, amongst other fare. The official opening is on 2nd September between 6pm and 8pm, which will double as a 'welcome back after the summer recess' for Members of the British Club. The paintings will be for sale, though prices are being kept to a minimum and some include frames. Few of the items on show were planned, though there is a series which reflect the group tackling the same still-life to highlight the different perceptions that a subject can incite in different characters.



The exhibits will include compositions in oils, acrylics and watercolours. Asking about the practical difference between them earned me a nutshell explanation. "Acrylics dry so fast, about 20 minutes to touch, half a day to seal, which is an exercise in immediacy and makes painting with them difficult and the





mixing and consistency of colours particularly problematic. Moreover, the colours are not so subtle, more intense, so acrylics really do require a different, somewhat pragmatic, technique.” “Oils, in comparison, may take 3 weeks to dry and up to 6 months to be sufficiently sealed to allow framing, but with the huge range of colours possible, the ease of mixing fine tones, and the benefits of evaluation, reassessment and subsequent amendment or change afforded by the slow drying, it is no wonder that oils prove such a popular medium.” And watercolours? “In many ways, they are the opposite of oils, certainly a different approach. The paints are applied around areas of white paper, with pastels and translucent shades making it horribly easy to mess up! And, unlike oils which can be changed on a whim, messing up a watercolour means you have to start all over again! It can be very frustrating, but equally very satisfying when successful.”



Paintings to be included in the “All Together” will be selected by group assessment and discussion, based on a consensus of what is good, the space available for hanging, the subjects and colours, and by what else is being displayed. But that doesn’t mean just anything can scrape in. “Using these criteria works well, as we are a varied group of people, some teachers, some self-taught and some hobbyists. We’ve lived, painted and sold our work all over the world, so our experience is diverse though our motivation is merely pleasure. We have great respect for each other as people, and our abilities in painting, so there is no animosity in being critical amongst ourselves. Some of our work is done fast, when all the elements and influences converge and the paintings materialise with barely a hitch. Some work goes wrong, some gets trashed pretty quickly! Of course, pictures started specifically for the exhibition have taken longer,



commanding more attention and caution, but working together means we share the good and bad aspects of each others work and this helps in the critique when selecting pieces for the exhibition”.

I wondered about topics and inspiration. “Basically, people want to look at beauty and pleasure, so that is a major influence on our choice of subject, although some pictures which carry a message or which may arise to make a statement can also become pieces of work even if they are not lovely to look at, and there are many people who will enjoy and choose those. As for inspiration, there is so much which elicits our creativity, it’s hard to narrow it down, but as an example: beauty and light, nature and colour, memories and experiences, striking faces and stances, and not least, the environment.”

Our discussion, though by no means exhausted, was sufficient, and these fine people’s attention was being drawn back, almost magnetically, to their canvases. The serenity was settling on the room afresh, and the colours were dancing at their fingertips once again. I withdrew, knowing that the pictures will have their own stories to tell and thoughts to weave.

I believe there will be a good range of material worth pondering at the “All Together” exhibition, and I have made a note in my diary already to get there early in September while the choice is at its best. There is one picture I have seen already which I want enough to have allocated and cleared a wall in expectation of bringing it home, a stab of outside colour to enliven and mask the ubiquitous cement of Bangkok houses. It will brighten my mood, and remind me of that marvellous feeling of light and tranquillity when I peeked round the door and spent some time with the Artists of the British Club.





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UNPACK YOURSELF, TOO.**

LIVING IN BANGKOK 2010
Saturday, September 11
10 am - 5 pm

12th fl. Conference Center, Main Building



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REINVENT YOURSELF, AT BANGKOK'S FAMOUS ANNUAL EVENT
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Bangkok Patana School
The British International School in Thailand
Established 1957



Modern European Dining

August 2010

Set A

1st Aug - 15th Aug

Chef's Soup of the Day	75.-
or	
Wild Rocket Salad with Pumpkin and Feta Cheese	95.-
or	
New Zealand Green Lipped Mussels <i>brewed in a garlic, herb and white wine broth or traditional French garlic cream</i>	185.-
Main Course	
Pan Fried Sea Bass	285.-
<i>served with boiled potatoes coated with extra virgin olive oil, chives, sauteed cherry tomatoes and meuniere sauce</i>	
or	
Seafood Saffron Rice	305.-
<i>served with mesclun salad</i>	
or	
Tenderloin of Grass Fed Beef	595.-
<i>served with grilled vegetables, Lyonnais potatoes and au jus</i>	
Dessert	
Madagascar Vanilla Bean Crème Brulee	95.-

Set B

16th Aug - 31st Aug

Chef's Soup of the Day	75.-
or	
Mango and Prawns Salad <i>in homemade dressing and caramelized almonds</i>	95.-
or	
Tuna and Scallops Carpaccio <i>served with mesclun salad</i>	185.-
Main Course	
Pan Fried Pink Salmon	295.-
<i>served with boiled potatoes, garden salad, tomato and corn salsa with pesto sauce</i>	
or	
Roasted Herb and Garlic Lamb Loin Chops	325.-
<i>served with lemongrass mint sauce, seasonal vegetables and garlic mashed potatoes</i>	
or	
Beef Wellington	595.-
<i>served with sauteed vegetables, roasted potatoes and red wine jus</i>	
Dessert	
Tiramisu with Biscotti	95.-

A DRY BANGKOK! - No alcohol at election time

Those of us who have lived in Thailand for a while are used to the periodic 'dry days' whereby for religious or electoral reasons alcohol may not be served in public places or from retail stores. Usually these days are spread out throughout the year, but this August we will get a quintuple whammy!

The reason for this is the quadrennial elections for the Bangkok Metropolitan Council and for most of the Khet councillors. The elections are due to take place on 29th August, thus from 6pm Friday 22nd to 6pm Sunday 24th (Early Voting), and again from 6pm Saturday 28th to 6pm Sunday 29th (Voting) no alcohol can be served in public places or from retail stores.

Bangkok Metropolitan Council

This is the Thai equivalent of the Greater London Authority whose primary role is to scrutinise the Bangkok Governor in the same way the GLA does for the London Mayor. The BMC has 57 seats across Bangkok and is currently lead by the Democrat party with 35 councillors to Peua Thai's 18 with four from minor parties.

Khet Councils

Bangkok is divided into 50 Districts called Khets (the Club being in Khet Bangrak) and each has a set of seven or eight councillors who advise the (unelected) District Officer. Unlike in other major cities they have no actual power over District officers. Also unlike other cities the elections are divided: NE Bangkok went to the polls on June 6th, the rest are on August 29th.

In June the Democrat party gained 52 councillors and took 11 of the 14 Khets overturning Peua Thai's dominance of NE Bangkok. In August there are 39 Khets up for grabs with Democrats defending 176 councillors (25 Khets), Peua Thai 71 (10 Khets) and Khon Bangsu Party 8 (one Khet).

Results will be published in the English language press a few days afterward.



JUST SO YOU KNOW:

Balut (egg) A balut is a fertilized duck (or chicken) egg with a nearly-developed embryo inside that is boiled and eaten in the shell. Popularly believed to be an aphrodisiac and considered a high-protein, hearty snack, balut are mostly sold by street vendors in the regions where they are available. It is commonly sold as streetfood in the Philippines. They are common, everyday food in some other countries in Southeast Asia.

Balut (game) Balut is a game of dice, similar to Yahtzee. It was created by an American soldier stationed in the Philippines as an alternative to poker, and is a popular pastime of Danish businessmen overseas.

Make sure you know what you are asking for!

Descriptions taken from Wikipedia

H.M. Queen's Birthday Thursday 12th August 2010 Brunch Menu highlights

(11.00 am-3.00 pm)



Appetisers

Salmon Platter (Smoked Salmon and Gravlox)
Chilled Angel Hair Pasta with Tobiko
Waldorf Salad
Thai Beef Salad
Mixed Garden Salad with Condiments and Dressing

Soup

Cream of Mushroom Soup with Herb Croutons

Live Station

Honey Baked Ham and Roasted Rib of Beef
Omelette and Pancakes

Pasta Station

Cheese Station

Selection of Farm House Cheese
Served with Crackers, Bread-stick and Dried Fruits

Main Courses

Indian Chicken Curry with Papadam
Crispy Fried Dory with Sweet and Sour Sauce
Traditional Pineapple Fried Rice
Stir Fried Asian Greens with Garlic and
Superior Oyster Sauce
Spare Ribs in Red Curry
Roasted Potatoes

Kids' Menu

Chicken Nuggets
Mini Fish & Chips
Mini Assorted Sausages
Fruit Selections
Selection of Sliced and Whole Fruits
Watermelon, Cantaloupe, Dragon Fruit,
Pineapple, Papaya, Rose Apple

Dessert

Vanilla Panna Cotta with Berry Compote
Mini White Chocolate Mousse
Fresh Fruit Tartlets
Thai Sweets
Assorted Mini Cakes

Venue: The Verandah

Price:

480 baht / Adult (incl. 1 Glass of Wine for Mum)

250 baht / Child (age 3-12)

BC CALENDAR - AUGUST 2010

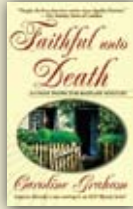
MONDAY

Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm



2

Monday Night Club
Faithful unto Death
Wordsworth Lounge
7pm



Singapore Day



9

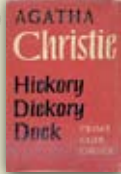
Sports Camp
9:30 am



Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm



Monday Night Club
Hickory Dickory Dock
Wordsworth Lounge 7pm



Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm



16

Monday Night Club
Ordeal by Innocence
Wordsworth Lounge
7pm

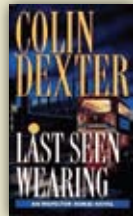


Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm



23

Monday Night Club
Last Seen Wearing
Wordsworth Lounge
7pm

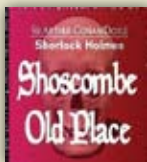


Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm



30

Monday Night Club
Shoscombe Old Place/ The Boscombe Valley Mystery
Wordsworth Lounge
7pm



TUESDAY

Tuesday Carvery
The Verandah Lunch and Dinner

3

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm



Football Mix-In
7pm



Quiz Night
Sponsored by Tetleys Smooth Flow
The Verandah 7:30pm



Sports Camp
9:30 am



10

Tuesday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch and Dinner

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm



Football Mix-In
7pm



Tuesday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch and Dinner

17

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm



Football Mix-In
7pm



Ladies Mix-In
9 am



24

Tuesday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch and Dinner

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm



Football Mix-In
7pm



Tuesday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch and Dinner

31

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm



Football Mix-In
7pm



WEDNESDAY

Paella & Sangria Special
All day

4

Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm



BCB Balut Shield
Wordsworth Lounge
7:05pm



Sports Camp
9:30 am



11

Paella & Sangria Special
All day



Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm



Paella & Sangria Special
All day

18

Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm



BCB Balut Shield
Wordsworth Lounge
7:05pm



Paella & Sangria Special
All day

25

Tennis Mix-In
6pm-10pm



1

On this day in 1972, Bobby Fischer beat Boris Spassky to become world champion

THURSDAY

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm

Sports Camp
9:30 am

Mother's Day Brunch
The Verandah 11am-

Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm

British Club @ the Toy Story 3
Meet and Greet 5pm
Movie starts 6 pm



Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm



Squash Mix-In
5pm-7pm

Table Tennis
6:30 pm

THURSDAY

5



12

Lunch 3pm



Movies



19



26



2

FRIDAY

6

Curry Buffet
The Verandah
Lunch and Dinner



Tennis Mix-In
7pm-10pm

Sports Camp
9:30 am

Italian Buffet with Pasta Station
The Verandah
Lunch and Dinner

Tennis Mix-In
7pm-10pm

Mediterranean Buffet
The Verandah
Lunch and Dinner

Monthly Wine-Tasting
7pm-10pm Surawongse Room
6pm-9pm

Tennis Mix-In
7pm-10pm

Spanish Buffet
The Verandah
Lunch and Dinner

Junior Swimming

Tennis Mix-In
7pm-10pm

Music @ Poolside
6.30pm

SATURDAY

7

All Blacks vs Wallabies
2:35pm

14



21

Springboks vs All Blacks
10pm

28

Junior Swimming

Springboks vs Wallabies
10pm

SUNDAY

1 1/8

Sunday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch only

Bridge
Surawongse Room
2:30pm

Yoga
3 pm

15

Sunday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch only

Bridge
Surawongse Room
2:30pm

Yoga
3 pm

22

Sunday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch only

Bridge
Surawongse Room
2:30pm

Yoga
3 pm

29

Sunday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch only

Yoga
3 pm

Formula 1
Belgian Grand Prix



5



Spring Roll Specials
August 2010

Chinese Spring Roll	125.-
Salmon and Spinach Spring Roll	135.-
Vegetarian Spring Roll	70.-
Spinach and Cheese Spring Roll	145.-
Spicy Tom Yum Spring Roll	125.-
Lamb Curry Spring Roll	155.-

PAST PARTICIPLE

Auspiciam Melioris Ævi

By Paul Cheesman



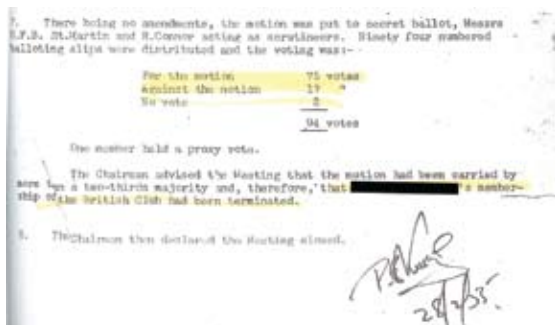
Our second year of Past Participle starts with a look at events of 1954...

1 Early in 1954 it was agreed to bestow an Honorary Membership upon the British Ambassador to Thailand and thus Berkeley Everard Foley Gage became the first incumbent to take up the honour (previously Ambassadors joined as ordinary Members). Sir Bernard (as he became in 1955) was a career diplomat educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. Thailand was his first posting as Ambassador. His nickname was "Through a Glass Berkeley" which is very well detailed in his autobiography 'It's Been A Marvellous Party', which was published in 1989. He died in 1994.

2 The Club's accounts give an interesting reflection on our activities of the era: The activities (Billiards, Bridge, Bowls, Cinema, Dances, Stag Nights and Tennis) brought in 79,507 Ticals (about £1,800) but lost 3,139 Ticals, 'The Bar' had sales of 363,530 Ticals (about £8,000) with a surplus of 85,509 Ticals and 'Snacks' took 37,449 Ticals (about £800) with a surplus of 1,172 Ticals.

Total Club income for the year 1953-54 was 230,145 Ticals (about £5,000), half of which was subscriptions, with a surplus of 18,890 Ticals.

3 Probably the most dramatic event in the Club during the whole year was the case of a Member and guest getting exceedingly intoxicated whilst playing Billiards, making a lot of noise by banging their cues on the ground, threatening the Butler and then assaulting three General Committee Members who had come down from the Bridge Room, to find out what was going on!



It would be improper to mention names but the Member was called in front of the General Committee to give an account of his behaviour, but failed to turn up. Upon his second failure to appear, an Extraordinary General Meeting was called, to which 93 Members turned up and the said Member was expelled by 75 votes to 17 with two abstentions.

Good order was restored.

4 Two Club rules were amended in 1954:

- Guests, who were themselves eligible for membership, were now permitted to use the Club only twice a year.
- The definition of Country Membership was changed from "outside Bangkok" to a distance of 20 miles (32 km) to reflect both the confusion over "Bangkok" and its boundaries (Thonburi you see was not actually "in Bangkok" in those days!) and "the ease of travel now enjoyed by Bangkokians".

5 1954 ended off with the staff being given new 'uniforms' to wear. All serving staff received long-sleeved white shirts with long white trousers, whilst all non-serving staff had khaki shirts with khaki shorts. This did not apply to the Assistant Permanent Manager or the Butler, both of whom had suits, and presumably not to the Butler's wife!

MORE HONOURED IN THE BREACH THAN IN THE OBSERVANCE

In the June 'Past Participle', I made mention that the Chiangmai Gymkhana Club was our first Reciprocal Club from 1952 to 1993. Further research has found this to be not entirely true. Due to the differing natures of the Clubs (the Gymkhana being multinational), we gave 'Visiting Member' rights to any British Member of the said Club according to (the then) Rule 37.

We continued to use this rule for overseas Clubs until 1989 when we created Temporary Membership for Reciprocal Clubs, and then in 1993 we restricted that to overseas Clubs. It is not known if any Gymkhana Members ever used this 'Visiting Member' status.

The author is currently Honorary Secretary of the Club.

RECIPROCAL CLUBS

As an active British Club Member, you are entitled to enjoy the full use of other associated Club facilities around the world. This month, we feature the Tokyo American Club in Tokyo, Japan.

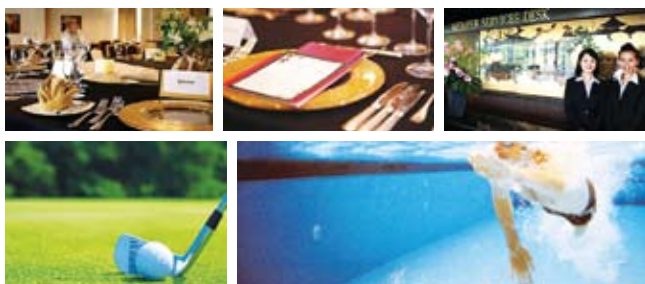
Tokyo American Club

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www.tokyoamericanclub.org



Introduction

Tokyo American Club has been fostering a sense of community among its Members and their families since it was established in 1928. With more than 3,500 Members from 50-plus nations, the Club offers a diverse range of cultural, business and recreational activities and amenities in the heart of Tokyo. Whether forging new friendships, exploring the culture, enjoying a superb meal or seeking a calm respite from the bustling city, the Club provides rich experiences for everyone.



History

The Club was founded in 1928 by 51 American businessmen living in Tokyo, choosing the top 3 floors of the Iwamoto Building in Yurakucho as its first home. Quickly outgrowing that space, the Club relocated to Marunouchi in 1935, where it was shuttered during World War II, reopening with 350 Members on July 4, 1949. As the number of Members increased, the Club moved location once again to Azabudai in 1954, renovating the site 2 decades later, attracting many Japanese and other nationalities. There, the Club entertained military personnel, celebrities, royalty and foreign diplomats while fulfilling its mission of cultural exchange and international community. A growing number of families joined and many other aspects evolved over the decades, prompting the Club's relocation to a temporary haven in Takanawa in 2008 so that a stunning new premises, designed by acclaimed architecture firm Pelli Clarke Pelli, could be built in Azabudai. Construction of the new facilities is scheduled for completion near the end of 2010 with a phased opening over the early months of the following year. The Club's new home will deliver world-class amenities and recreation to our Members for years to come.



SPORT & LEISURE

By Reed Passmore



'Summer holidays' means many things to our Members. Schools out, hot wet Bangkok weather, warm English summer days and what to do with the kids!

Upcoming Events:

Sports Camp:

We will be running another camp 9th - 13th August.

This sports camp will run longer into the afternoon with different activities for all the children - Arts, crafts and cooking.

We ran one of the biggest sports camps in July with over 30 children on the books. I really enjoy these camps as you get to see the kids playing sports, some that they never thought they could play, running around, swimming, painting and socializing with children from other schools. Great work from Rit, Amnat and Kwan for helping with ALL activities, many thanks to them.

Junior Swimming Lessons:

We run weekly swimming lessons for children 4-12 yrs old on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

We also offer private swimming lessons for children of all ages (Mains/nannies/parents too).



Swimming Gala:

Another great turn out with over 40 Members participating; family races, children's events, and a few noodle races.

It highlighted the fact that some of the parents are not watching the children's swimming lessons with the younger generation putting on a great performance and upstaging the adults - well done kids!

The swimming galas we run are a very social event so come and join the next one.



Family Football Day:

Sunday 19th September - A fun afternoon of football on the back pitch starts at 3pm; 2 children must be under 9 yrs of age and there must be at least 1 female on the team. Round robin games with BBQ, trophies and a great day out. Teams to colour code themselves and feel free to dress up like your favourite 80's player.

Amazing Race Bangkok:

The first amazing race was a blast; the second was cancelled so come and join the 3rd! You've seen the show so now you can come and play for real.

A full day of activities around Bangkok from mental challenges, embarrassing moments to a little physical fun. **23rd October, 10 am start, ok?**

First team back wins - Simple. Below are a few challenges from the last adventure.

Join as a family, part of a sports section, or bring a friend.



Transport

A little dancing

How many steps?

TENNIS

Shrewsbury International School and the British Club—an ace tennis partnership



On Sunday 27th June we had a fun afternoon with all B.C. children getting to enjoy the hard courts: It was a great turn out with 17 participants practicing, playing and running around having fun.

Junior tennis at the B.C. is constantly growing which is great for Members and the coaching staff.

Remember there will be a children's championship run later in the year over 3 months, so let me know if you would like to join in.



Thailand vs The World.

Another social tennis event which encourages members of all nationalities and all levels to join in and compete.



Thanks to Food by Phone for supporting the event and giving all the Members frozen margaritas.

A total of 26 players (Thai, Japanese, Australian, Filipino, British, Italian, Korean, American, and Danish) joined in with the Thai team again taking the honours. Congratulations!

Approx 100 Members used the tennis courts on this day from coaching, social mix in, junior tennis and Thailand vs The World Tournament. If you include the parents and spouses of the tennis players, it highlights the strength of British Club Tennis.



Ladies Social Team Mix In:

August 24th: 9am-11am
Trophy - Wine - Snacks
Bt 150 per person

SOCIAL TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

25th August at 6:30pm
Bt 150 per person - includes a beer.
Must confirm, please, as numbers are limited

**Upcoming Events:****September:**

1. Us Open Final - Extravaganza - Handicap
- Theme party, 12th
2. British Club vs Le Smash

October:

3. Social Match vs British Embassy
4. Thai Open Finals Day - Theme Party, 3rd
5. Junior Event
6. Ladies Mix In Event - Tennis and
Champagne don't Mix - who said ???



SQUASHY BITS

By Bruce Madge b_madge@hotmail.com



Aunty Dilys is Coming Over With a Pot of Home-Made Damson Jam!

But before she gets here and we start whacking it all over our toast, get a load of this:

Disclaimer: Eye Wood lick two mak its noun vat eye woodnt mike awl doze spilling misdaks in dee reporter eye writted four least mumfs Squishy Bites. Kneel Ovens.

Well, that's cleared things up nicely. Thanks Kneel!

Club Championships:

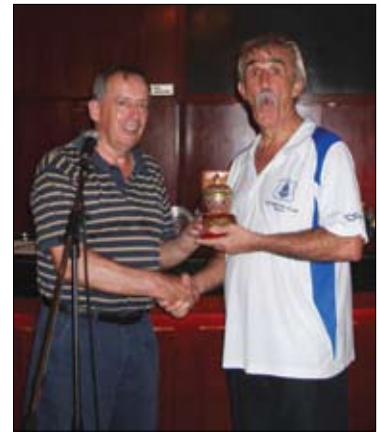
3 parts to 'em: Don Johnson Cup, Para Hardy Plate and the all-new Peter Corney Cornflakes Bowl.

Let's start with the **Don Johnson Cup**, which decides the Club Champion.

A foregone conclusion as no one was ever going to beat Gandhi (he's about 186% better than all of the other section members put together!) so I'll just enlighten you on some of those who got thrashed in the run up to him being handed the trophy. Right, all the following matches ended 3-0, or 3-1: Bob was totally destroyed by Shiraz; Shiraz, in turn, utterly decimated Tom, then went on to completely annihilate Marvyn, or Marc, or even both of them before being literally murdered by Gandhi in the semi, in front of his two daughters. (Shiraz is now deceased and was buried about two weeks ago, and, apparently, is very pleased about it!). Graeme was absolutely destroyed by Chris who then went on to comprehensively rout Dean and Rit at the



same time in a Two-On-One, Fatal-Four-Way match-up as seen last week on WWE between the Undertaker, Kane, Triple H, and the Big Show, before thoroughly laying waste to Club Captain Neil in the other semi. In the final, the Big G unerringly mutilated Chris in about 13 minutes (he's just too good, ain't he, Chris?) to claim the title which he'll no doubt hold until he leaves Thailand, gets thrown out of the club or dies (perhaps we can arrange all three!). Incidentally, he is now the Section/Club squash coach. You can hire him out for the day or the weekend, or perhaps even longer, for shopping trips or jaunts to the seaside, and the like. He has 12 seats, is fully insured, and rates start from as little as 2000 baht per day. Contact him on 0868-844-572 or at handygandhidriver.co.th



The Para Hardy

Plate bit is for those who can't hack it in the DJC bit, or were too good for the PCCB bit. That is to say, all those who got thrashed in the first bit of the DJC bit, or those who handed out a thrashing in the initial bit of the new Cornflakes Bowl bit. Last year's Club Champ Ja was in this bit as he'd been adequately turned over, yet, not wholly ravished, by Tom in the main bit (let's see how many times I can use the word 'bit' in this bit of this report-10 already!) of the competition, and Ja went on a bit more to properly trash all those before him to face Charles in the final



game of this bit of the tournament. In the run up to play his bit in the final, Charles suitably obliterated such greats as Duncan, Da, Rit, Marvyn, Me, Bob, Den So, Vorrapping, Yossapong, Gaynor, Cornflakes himself, Fire Escape, Jack,

John Vivian, Brian Ross, and David Mason. It was no surprise then, after having extensively defeated all that lot, he was a bit tired and got squarely pounded by Ja who has now won both the DJC and PHP bits of the Club Champs. Well done Ja. Tough luck Charles, but you played a bit too many matches. (17 bits!)

The Bowl. The new Cornflakes Bowl. **The all new Peter Corney Conflakes Bowl!**



This added part of our competition was devised by Reed in honour of some old bloke who has allegedly been helping out on the squash committee for a bit, or something like that.



The winner of this fine piece of crockery would come from the lower leagues or the bottom rungs of the ladders and featured new comers such as Reed himself, Carlos, Iain Hackett, Frederic Marceroo, and our new GM Jesper, along with other beginners or old hands like Steve Britton, Ignacio, Manish, Den, and thousands more.

As mentioned, this part of the competition was Reed's brainchild (brainchild? sounds like a phrase Neil would use and think it's amusing!), and he found himself in the final against Steve Britton, who had been advised by Peter after his semi-final against Vorrarong that he was wearing the 'wrong' shoes for the squash courts. 'Inappropriate' was how he labeled them. 'Illegal' was another word touted. A little harsh perhaps as the only erroneous aspect of his footwear was that the soles were dark and could mark the court. No need to call the police, eh, Cornflakes? Anyway, Steve rushed out and spent 8,999 baht on spanking-new pro-squash footwear to do battle with Reed, who had cheated his way to the last round by offering stolen Dunlop squash balls to his opponents to let him win. Despicable! In the final, Reed got his 'reward' for being vile and corrupt as Steve completely, utterly, absolutely, overwhelmingly, and quite literally, smashed him to pieces 3-0.

It was an amazing match, marked and witnessed by only me, as Steve's new shoes transformed him into a Super

Hero Squash Player: running forward to pick up a drop shot, his new footwear afforded him so much speed he found himself sprinting up the front wall and on to the ceiling where he began break dancing between the fans before performing a double front somersault to return to the floor. An incredible display! In another rally, Steve found himself blocked by Reed as he attempted to get to a ball in the front right hand corner, so Steve simply walked right over him; up his back, over his head, down his front, where he sprung the ball up with his racket before executing a perfect bicycle kick to shoot it into a dead nick in the back of the court. Phenomenal!

On match point Reed played a tight drop shot, but Steve managed to dive through his legs, flick up the ball which was just 2mm from the floor and slam it against the side wall where it rebounded back to the opposite wall. Back and forth it went between the two side walls gathering more and more momentum as Reed's head, whipping left and right, threatened to snap off as the ball flashed before his eyes. Steve, clearly knowing what was coming, retreated casually to one corner to light a cigarette while Reed became mesmerized, spellbound, hypnotized by this meteoric object dancing before him. Suddenly, the ball violently exploded into a thousand black shards winning Steve the title and covering the unfortunate Reed in rubber. Unbelievable!

Photos: Nick Mellor stole my camera to cash it in to pay for another tattoo so that left Reed in charge of photos and he failed as he does at most things. Thus, while there are pics of Gandhi being crowned Club Champ, Chris receiving his runner-up trophy, and Hulk Hogan being handed something by Cornflakes, there are no pics of Jar receiving his plate, nor Steve, in his new shoes, picking up his Cornflakes Bowl, or Reed his consolation spoon. As a result, I've had to improvise a little.



Finally, on a slightly less flippant note, the BCB Squash Section is very grateful to all those who took part in this years' competition, of which there were more than 30-a great turnout. Excellent organization by Reed, Peter and David, with sponsorship from Dunlop, lots of freebies on the final evening, in the form of restaurant and hotel vouchers, procured by Reed, a great 'Final's Night' buffet prepared by the wonderful BCB kitchen staff, a free keg of Tiger beer, again from Reed, and a new Club Champion in Haroon. Once again, all-round fantastic stuff from the BCB Squash Section.

Until the damson jam arrives.....

BCGS GOLFING NEWS

By Jack O'Flynn

'Club Day', Lam Lukka Golf Club : Sunday 6th June 2010

The scheduled "Bad Bet Scramble" event was unavoidably postponed at the request of the sponsor. In its place, a 'Club Day' involving a Bogey competition was hastily organised and played at Lam Lukka GC. Despite the lateness of the notice, the event was well-attended and it gave some the opportunity to complete their outstanding knock-out matches. James Fielder took part as a guest for the day.

John Carter, in this splendid setting, effortlessly tees off at the first hole in almost ideal playing conditions (1).



Unfortunately, these conditions did not last as the skies assumed an ominously dark and threatening look. The inevitable downpour soon followed. It was a very soggy bunch of players who trudged off at the end but true to form, everyone remained in good cheer and all rounds and matches were duly completed.

In the matchplay event, it was a case of the Milnes (Gordon & Rose) v the Ashmans (Barry & Val), with the former getting the upper hand in both matches. In the other match Peter Bond, clearly suffering from a hectic schedule abroad (can't say what he was doing!) and having little time to adjust, lost to Brian Brook.

What is it about Lam LukkaGCandVarghese? Another outstanding performance here saw him walk away with the main prize, leaving Tracy and Andrew well in his wake. Ray Bloom, showing style and grace on the tee, (2) was a serious contender for some considerable time in the long drive stakes until overtaken by – who else? Varghese of course!



Stableford Competition, Subhapruek Golf Club : Sunday 13th June 2010

The Subhapruek Club publicity brochure claims that on this course "each hole is intentionally designed as a signature hole and a challenge to test the players"; I think that all those who played the course on Sunday would agree that both claims have some justification. The approach to the 10th tee is an example of the nature and beauty of the course (3).



Twenty-two players set off in ideal conditions to compete for minor prizes as well as the main prize, the final tankard in this collection. Future Stableford Competitions will have as the main prize the best that "Wine Connection" can offer. In addition to the main competition, Peter Gale and Ricky Thompson took the opportunity to play their knockout match. Peter, despite a late night watching another dismal display by England in the World Cup, continued his good form in this competition to move on to the next round.

As referred to earlier, the course can be a delight to walk and play, but it can also lead to some frustration, if your game is not quite up to the mark. Walking down the beautiful 18th fairway has its merits if it is preceded by a few well placed shots. Oh, there's someone looking for his ball suspiciously close to the water, could it be ? No, it couldn't possible be! (4).



With all the rounds completed, most retired to the clubhouse to enjoy a well-earned rest with the usual refreshments and to hear their fate. Some, quite clearly were not too keen on the latter! (5).





However, others were, and the minor prizes went to Simon Fisher, Bob Walker, Paul Rogers and Tracy for near pins. Jenny H. claimed the longest putt and the mens' long drive went to James Fielder. Carol Ann, looking both pleased and surprised, receives her award for winning the long drive in the Ladies' section! (6)



The main prize was closely contested by five players, separated by only two points. In the end, Tracy, who has been playing very sound golf lately, produced more of the same and edged out Steve W. by one point to claim the final tankard (7).

Finally, thanks to John Bell who, at short notice, again took over the duties of Captain and saw that the organisation of the event went smoothly.

June Medal, The Royal GC, Lat Krabang : Sunday 27th June 2010

Again the flagship event of the month drew a large number of contestants to the ever-popular Royal GC. In all, 33 players turned out as the Society continues to grow in numbers. Today we welcomed four new members (Cees and Anneke Algra, Anke Bollen and Mieke Stilweg,) as well as guests Marcus Prior, David Jeffers and Alan Clark.

You can tell that this event is taken seriously with many arriving early to get a place on the driving range, (8) where they can sharpen their swings, or for others, to get some response from those aching bones or joints!



The weather again did not do us any favours as midway through the round the expected storm arrived and had many running for shelter. Those who were in the fortunate position of being near a 'drinks stop' could, if they so wished, ease their troubles with a can of their choice. Others just had to grin and bear it! (9).



What about the golf, you ask? Most managed to survive the storm and complete their rounds, albeit over many hours and with many interruptions. Perseverance paid off for Simon Fisher, Robert Gray, Varghese and the Captain for achieving near pins. George O, displaying some unusual dexterity on the difficult putting surfaces, won the longest putt award. Long Drive prizes went to Karen C and Captain Frank.

In Flight "B", second prize was shared by Karen C and Belinda with scores of net 74. However, it was the ubiquitous Varghese who dominated proceedings to take top spot with a very handy net 68 (10).



After taking a short break from playing golf, our Captain returned to the course and to top form, winning two minor prizes as well as the main prize, the Flight 'A' Medal. His score of net 70 was a considerable achievement, given the adverse conditions. Frank looks well pleased as he receives his award from the Vice-Captain, John Bell (11).



Useful contacts:-
Website: <http://www.bcgolfsociety.com/>
Email: bcgs2002@yahoo.co.uk
Phone: Golf Society Captain, Frank Fawkes - 0891651953

For those interested in a mid-week game of golf
Contact: Ray Bloom by email: rbloom_364@yahoo.co.uk
 or 0870513548.

BRITISH CLUB BALUT

By Mr C

>> THREE WONDERFUL DAYS IN SINGAPORE

11 members of the Balut Section took part in a fabulous Balut weekend organised by John Taylor and Fiona Lincoln of the Singapore Cricket Club (SCC). From our side, Orange (Bob Merrigan) organised us in military fashion with everything working like clockwork and on the competition day the team were dressed out in some super Balut Event shirts graciously donated by Orange.

Our fabulous hosts put on a tremendous spread of food and drinks throughout the two "Tournament Days" and we also had a wonderful view on the Saturday of the full dress rehearsal for Singapore National Day due on August 9th. We all felt quite at home with troops and tanks marching around the Club, guns being fired, we even had a spectacular air show with F16 jets and helicopters circulating over our heads. Kweenie was in his element!!!



TC (Phil Alexander) receives a painting trophy of the event

32 players took part in the competition with the British Club fielding 10 players and other teams playing from SCC, Singapore Recreation Club and the Kinabalu Yacht Club from

Malaysia. Kweenie (David Quine) spent most of his time with four very attractive ladies under the guise of teaching them the Team Balut system, or so he said we have our doubts. Our on-line Balut scoring system was a great success and both SCC and SRC will adopt this system in the future.

So now to the game. Our players didn't let us down and it was a neck and neck race down to the last of the 8 rounds. It looked like we would win but unfortunately we were eventually just pipped at the post.

The results of our players were:

TEAMS SCORES			
Winner	Mr. Leo Rechste (SCC)	Mr. Bill Rae (SCC)	1,589 points
4th	Sr. Carlos Romero	Sr. Carlos Romero Jnr	1,550 points
6th	Sra. Thawee Jantacomma	Mrs. Muntana Merrigan	1,536 points
7th	Mr. Phil Alexander	Mr. Clive Butcher	1,534 points
8th	Mr. Bob Merrigan	Mr. Steve Eaton	1,525 points
13th	Mr. Putthipong Merrigan	Mr. Tomjakraphan Merrigan	1,422 points

The results of our players were

INDIVIDUAL SCORES		
Winner	Ms. Yvonne Pereira (SRC)	829 points
2nd	Mr. Phil Alexander	824 points
5th	Sr. Carlos Romero Jnr.	788 points
6th	Sra. Thawee Jantacomma	787 points
12th	Mr. Steve Eaton	768 points
14th	Sr. Carlos Romero	762 points
15th	Mr. Bob Merrigan	757 points
19th	Mrs. Muntana Merrigan	749 points
20th	Mr. Putthipong Merrigan	745 points
26th	Mr. Clive Butcher	710 points
30th	Mr. Tomjakraphan Merrigan	688 points

Two of the spot prizes were also won by Swampy (Steve Eaton) and Sleepwalker (Carlos Romero Jnr) who did a great job and played very well. With part of his winnings for coming second TC (Phil Alexander) treated himself to a magnificent free-flow champagne lunch with oysters and a magnificent spread of seafood and other delicacies at the SCC on the Sunday morning, and caught the plane back to Bangkok by the skin of his teeth!!!!

Our special thanks to John Taylor and his team and, of course, Orange (Bob Merrigan) for his organisation and his generosity.

On to the Interport in style.



Sleepwalker bags a Spot Prize – bet his dad was pleased!



>> BALUT SHIELD AWARDS NIGHT

The third annual British Club Bangkok **BALUT SHIELD AWARDS NIGHT** will be held on Wednesday 1st September 2010 in the Suriwongse Room:

- 6.00pm Free Buffet, wines, beers & soft drinks ***
- 7.00pm Balut Section AGM
- 7.30pm Tournament 24 with SPOT PRIZES each round
- 9.30pm BALUT SHIELD AWARDS 2009-10
- 10.00pm Close

** Wine courtesy of OUTRIGGER HOTELS & RESORTS, Beer courtesy of Carlos The Jackal Romero.



As of 7th July the Shield stands at:

POSITION	NAME	PLAYER	POINTS	AVERAGE
Leader	TC	Mr. Phil Alexander	3,264	108.80
2	Gorgeous	Mr. George Okrasa	3,170	105.67
3	Swampy	Mr. Steve Eaton	3,149	104.97
4	Bowling Ball	Mr. Bob van Es	3,144	104.80
5	Mrs Orange	Mrs. Muntana Merrigan	3,137	104.57
6	Mrs Jammy	Mrs. Caroline Willbourn	3,113	103.77
7	The Jackal	Sr. Carlos Romero	3,035	101.17
8	DQ	Mr. David Quine	3,021	100.70
9	Slowpoke	Mr. Tony Rodriguez	3,020	100.67
10	The Chieftain	Mr. Ranald Macdonald	3,018	100.60
11	Tom	Mr. Tomjakraphan Merrigan	3,015	100.50
12	Jammy	Mr. Roger Willbourn	2,984	99.47
13	Mr C	Mr. Paul Cheesman	2,944	98.13
14	H	Mr. Haroon Rashid	2,918	97.27
15	JLo	Mr. Jonathan Loney	2,916	97.20
16	Dark Horse	Mr. Clive Butcher	2,911	97.03
17	Iain	Mr. Iain Hackett	2,865	95.50
18	Mac	Mr. Andrew McLean	2,806	93.53
19	Septic	Mr. Arnold Troeger	2,694	89.80
20	Oddsman	Mr. Jeremy Watson	2,692	89.73

Full details of Balut can be found at <http://www.teambalut.com>

THE MONDAY NIGHT CLUB

Some Members have asked "Just what is the Monday Night Club?"

Well it is a group of between six and twelve Members who come together each Monday evening to watch a detective movie or TV episode. The name derives from the original Miss Marple stories which were named "The Tuesday Night Club". The gathering is quite informal – some dine ahead of the start, some dine during the movie as we have full F&B service and a waiter to hand! We also have someone who always works out "whodunnit"!



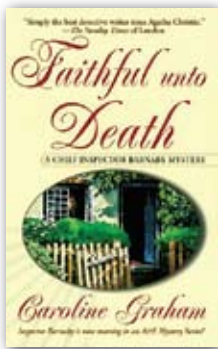
August

7pm in the Wordsworth Lounge. Full F&B Menu available.

In August, we continue with our four favourite detectives...Barnaby, Poirot, Marple and Morse... with Sherlock Holmes returning for the fifth Monday!

2nd

Faithful unto Death



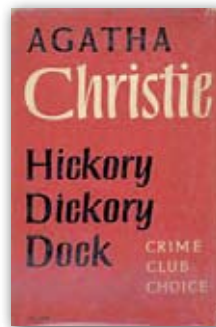
Fraud, bankruptcy, kidnap ... all we need now is murder to complete the set ... oh dear, we ARE in Midsomer after all!

John Nettles is DCI Barnaby with guest stars Michele Dotrice, Paul Brooks and Rosalind Ayres.

"Poison is a woman's weapon so they say"

9th

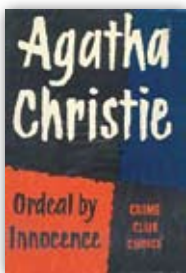
Hickory Dickory Dock



Yet another Agatha Christie nursery rhyme tale but who will be in the Dock? Kleptomania is the key or is it the stolen key?

David Suchet is Hercule Poirot with guest stars Jonathan Firth, Damien Lewis Walsh and Polly Kemp.

"No mouse but the clock did strike one!"



16th

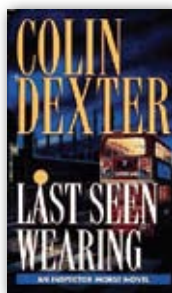
Ordeal by Innocence

"Not guilty doesn't always mean not guilty!"

A wedding invitation becomes a revelation of an innocent man hanged, and a chance remark tells that love is not blind and death it seems is only a red herring!

This adaptation has Geraldine McEwan as Miss Marple with guest stars Jane Seymour, Richard Armitage and Burn Gorman.

TV MOVIES ON THE BIG SCREEN



23rd

Last Seen Wearing

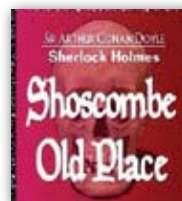
"Lies, damned lies and more damned lies!"

An intriguing tale of a girl who vanishes, a letter that appears, a death that might have occurred but didn't and a death that shouldn't have occurred but did!

John Thaw is DCI Morse with guest stars Peter McEnery, Suzanne Bertish and Elizabeth Hurley.

30th

Shoscombe Old Place/The Boscombe Valley Mystery



"When the truth is hounded out."

A Sherlock Holmes double-bill ...

- Where the truth is dog-eared and Jude Law gets his first role in Sherlock Holmes.
- When death creeps up behind you – better have Holmes on your case.

Jeremy Brett stars as Sherlock Holmes.

**YOUR OWN
GINEMA WITH
FOOD & DRINK!**

We provide **international education**
for **global understanding.**



Charter International School

celebrated being awarded double accreditation by Council of International Schools (CIS) and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) on Friday 18th June 2010 at Charter International School.

Thank you to all involved in gaining double accreditation

Charter International School is a British international school in Thailand with a vision to develop students as a whole so that they are independent, productive, lifelong learners and become responsible global citizens.

We strive to deliver a top quality educational experience to all our students and we warmly welcome all parents/guardians in helping us achieve this. We aim to provide our students with a warm and caring environment in which they always feel safe and happy and therefore learn effectively.



From left to right:
Mr. Metha Thienprasiddhi (School Manager),
Rev. Wirach Amonpattana (Chairman of the School Board),
Mr. Thada - Mrs. Lily Thienprasiddhi (Founders),
Mr. David Wakefield (Head Teacher), and
Mrs. Ajhara Osathanugrah (Thai Director)

Charter International School opens for enrolment for the academic year 2010-2011 (August 2010). For more information, please contact Tel. [02 7268283-4](tel:0272682834), send an email to charter@charter.ac.th, or visit www.charter.ac.th

THE MONTH THAT WAS!

By Dickie Whitworth

1840

On 7 August, Britain bans employment of 'climbing boys' used for cleaning and sweeping chimneys



1902

The coronation of Edward VII on 9 August brought relief from mourning the great Queen Victoria, and cultured hopes of a great new century for the British Empire.



79

The massive volcano of Vesuvius in Central Italy erupted on 24 August with such ferocity that the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum were totally buried



1963

Three men appeared at Linslade Court in Buckinghamshire, in connection with the Great Train Robbery.



1963

Over 250,000 people attended a Rally for Civil Rights in Washington DC on 28 August, where Martin Luther King made his renowned speech "I have a dream..."



1997

On 31 August, the world bade farewell to Diana Princess of Wales, when she succumbed to injuries from a car accident in a Parisian tunnel.



1964

Times Square was blocked on 11 August by fans attending two gala premieres of the new movie "A Hard Day's Night", starring John, Paul, George and Ringo



1583

On 5 August, Humphrey Gilbert founded the first British colony in N. America at St. Johns Harbour, Newfoundland



1945

The 1st atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima at 8:15 am on 6 August by the USAF plane nicknamed 'Enola Gay'.



1962

Anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela was arrested on 4 August in South Africa. After 27 years in jail, he was released, and 4 years later was elected President.



1900

On 31 August, the popular American beverage from Atlanta, Coca-Cola, went on sale in Britain for the first time



1974

On 9 August, as a result of the Watergate scandal, Richard M Nixon resigned, the only president ever to do so



KHUN LAAK'S ON THE MENU



Baked Cod with Avocado, Prawns, Cream and Cheese (Serves 2)



Main Ingredients

- Extra virgin olive oil
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 x 225g /8oz cod fillets, skinned and pin-boned
- 1 small handful of fresh basil, ripped
- 1 Avocado, peeled, stoned, halved and sliced
- 150g/5½ oz good peeled prawns, cooked or uncooked
- 140ml /5fl oz double cream
- 150g/5½ oz good Cheddar Cheese

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 220°C/425°F/gas 7.
2. Rub a baking dish or roasting tray with a little olive oil, season the cod on both sides and place in the dish.
3. Sprinkle the fillets with the basil, avocado and prawns. Drizzle the cream over and grate the cheese on top.
4. Cook at the top of the preheated oven for 15-20 minutes until golden brown and bubbling.
5. Season to taste with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper and serve simply with a green salad.

Slow-roasted Duck with Rosemary, Ginger and Homemade Rhubarb Sauce (Serves 4)

Main Ingredients

- 2 x 1.5 kg/3½ lb Gresham, Aylesbury or mallard ducks
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 255g/9oz fresh ginger
- 2 long stick of baby rhubarb
- 1 handful of fresh rosemary
- 1 bulb of garlic, cloves removed and chopped in half
- 2 red onions, finely sliced
- 2 wine glasses Marsala or Vino Santo
- 285ml /½ pint vegetable, chicken or duck stock
- Olive oil

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/gas 4
2. Season your ducks generously inside and out
3. Coarsely grate half your ginger and rhubarb
4. Mix this in a bowl with half of your rosemary and all the garlic and onion and stuff inside the duck cavities
5. Place them on a tray and roast in the oven for 1 hour, then turn the temperature down to 150C/300F/gas 2 and cook for another hour and a half until crisp and tender
6. During this cooking time, you'll need to drain the fat maybe 3 times into a bowl – it will separate into clear fat which you can keep for roasting
7. The ducks are ready when the skin is crisp and the leg bones can be easily loosened
8. Once cooked, allow the ducks to rest on a warmed plate while you make the sauce
9. Drain off any remaining fat from the roasting tray
10. Pull out all the stuffing and any juices from the inside of the ducks into the roasting tray
11. Heat the roasting tray on a low heat, add your Marsala and loosen all the sticky goodness from the bottom of the tray
12. Add your stock and reduce to a good taste and consistency
13. Pass through a coarse sieve
14. With a knife you can easily remove the breasts from the ducks and, using your hands, remove the thighs
15. Divide on to plates
16. To finish off, finely slice the remaining ginger and fry off in a little hot oil in a non-stick frying pan
17. As it begins to colour, add the rest of your rhubarb, finely sliced, and finish with the rest of the rosemary until crisp
18. Sprinkle this over the ducks and drizzle with your tasty sauce



Fruit Cobbler (Serves 6)

Main Ingredients

For the fruit

- 2 apricots, stoned and sliced
- 1 pear, cored and thickly sliced
- 1 punnet of blackberries
- 1 punnet of blueberries
- 1 punnet of raspberries
- ½ apple, grated
- 5 tablespoons sugar
- A good slug of balsamic vinegar



For the topping

- 170g/6oz butter, chilled
- 225g/8oz self-raising flour
- 70g/2½ oz sugar
- A large pinch of salt
- 130ml/4½ fl oz buttermilk
- A little extra sugar for dusting

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F/gas 5.
2. Put the fruit into a pan with the sugar and the balsamic vinegar, put the pan over the heat, and cook gently until the juices begin to run from the berries.
3. Pour into an ovenproof dish
4. Meanwhile make the topping
5. Rub the cold butter into the flour until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs
6. Add the sugar and salt, stir well, then add the buttermilk to form a loose scone-type mixture
7. Spoon this over the hot fruit (to get a cobbled effect, flick balls of dough randomly over the fruit), sprinkle with a little caster sugar, and bake in your preheated oven for 30 minutes until golden brown.
8. Serve with Vanilla Ice Cream

AUGUST DRINKS



Pink Banana

Ingredients

- 1pc Banana
- 3oz Strawberry Juice
- 2tbsp Yoghurt
- 2oz Honey
- Cracked ice

Directions

Blend ingredients and pour into glass.



Strawberry Daiquiri

Ingredients

- 1½ oz Light rum
- 1½ oz Fresh lime juice
- 4 pcs Strawberries
- ¼ Scoop cracked ice

Directions

Blend all ingredients together and pour into a glass.



Papaya Milk Splash

Ingredients

- 4pcs Papaya
- 6oz Fresh Milk
- 1oz Syrup
- Cracked ice

Directions

Blend ingredients together well and pour into glass.



Fruit Fairy

Ingredients

- 3oz Coconut Cream
- ½ pc Banana
- 1Scoop Vanilla Ice Cream

Directions

Blend ingredients and pour into glass. Garnish with a slice of banana.

SUSIE'S Kids Korner



SUMMER BREAK CRAFTS

Whirling Bird

Take this tag-along playmate for a run, and his propeller goes all a-twitter, his colourful body dancing through the air.

If you can sing in the rain, why not paint? A soggy day can transform drawings into Impressionist or Abstract Art.

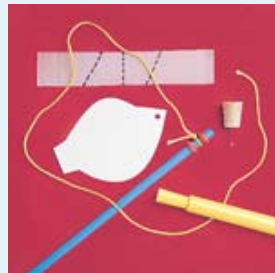
Materials

- Thin cardboard
- Craft Knife
- Markers
- Plastic milk jug (or detergent jug)
- Thumb-tack
- Cork
- A metre of string
- Dowel (3/8-inch by 18-inches long). Or, a chopstick will do.
- Rubber bands



Instructions

1. Cut a bird shape from the cardboard, and decorate with markers.
2. To make the propeller, cut a 1½ inch wide by 8 inch long strip from the milk jug. Fold the plastic strip in half, then fold down each side diagonally to the right. Pierce the center of the middle crease with the tack, then press the tack into one end of the cork so the propeller spins freely.
3. Cut a ½ inch deep slit across the other end of the cork and slide the tail end of the bird into the slit.
4. Punch a hole in the bird's beak and tie on the string. Tie the string's other end to the dowel, wrapping rubber bands around the dowel on each side of the knot to prevent it from sliding off.



Run into the wind at a moderate but steady speed to get the best twirling action.

Ocean in a Bottle

Not going to the ocean this summer? Make your own!

What you need:

- Empty 2 litre plastic bottle with a lid
- Clear vegetable oil or mineral oil
- Water
- Funnel
- Blue food colouring
- Small star-fish, shells and other sea creatures (plastic toys will do too!)
- Glitter
- White craft glue
- Hot glue (get an adult to help with hot glue)



Steps:

1. Wash and dry the 2 litre bottle and remove all labels.
2. Half fill the bottle with tap water.
3. Add a few drops of blue food colouring and swirl around to mix.
4. Add a little glitter.
5. Add sea creatures.
6. Using a funnel, fill the bottle the rest of the way with vegetable oil.
7. Make sure the rim and cap are dry, and then apply white craft glue around the rim. Seal the cap.
8. Ask an adult to spread a layer around the outside edge to keep it from leaking.
9. Turn the bottle on its side and gently rock the bottle to create your very own waves!

CLASSROOM JOKES

TEACHER: What is further away, Australia or the Moon?
Pupil: Australia, you can see the Moon at night!

TEACHER: Why does your geography exam have a big zero over it?

Pupil: It's not a zero, the teacher ran out of stars, so she gave me a moon instead!

TEACHER: I want you to tell me the longest sentence you can think of

Pupil: Life imprisonment!

The Golden Rule of Teaching - Know your Pupils

"It's clear" said the teacher, "That you haven't studied your geography. What's your excuse?" "Well, my dad says the world is changing every day. So I decided to wait until it settles down!"

TEACHER: What was Camelot?

Pupil: A place where people parked their camels!

TEACHER: Did the Native Americans hunt bear?

Pupil: Not in the winter!

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