

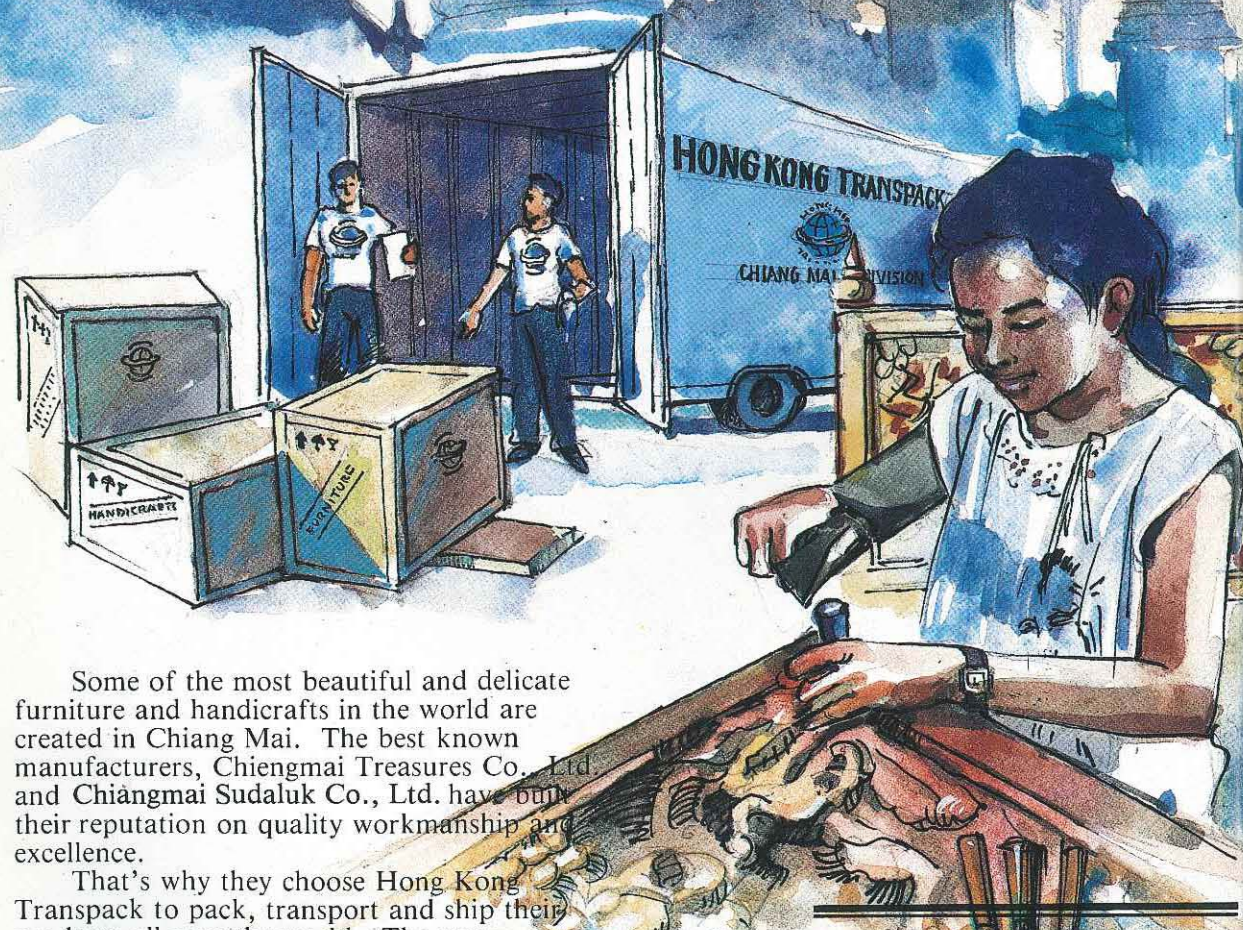
OUTPOST

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB

OCTOBER 1987



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Durbar Square.



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DIARY

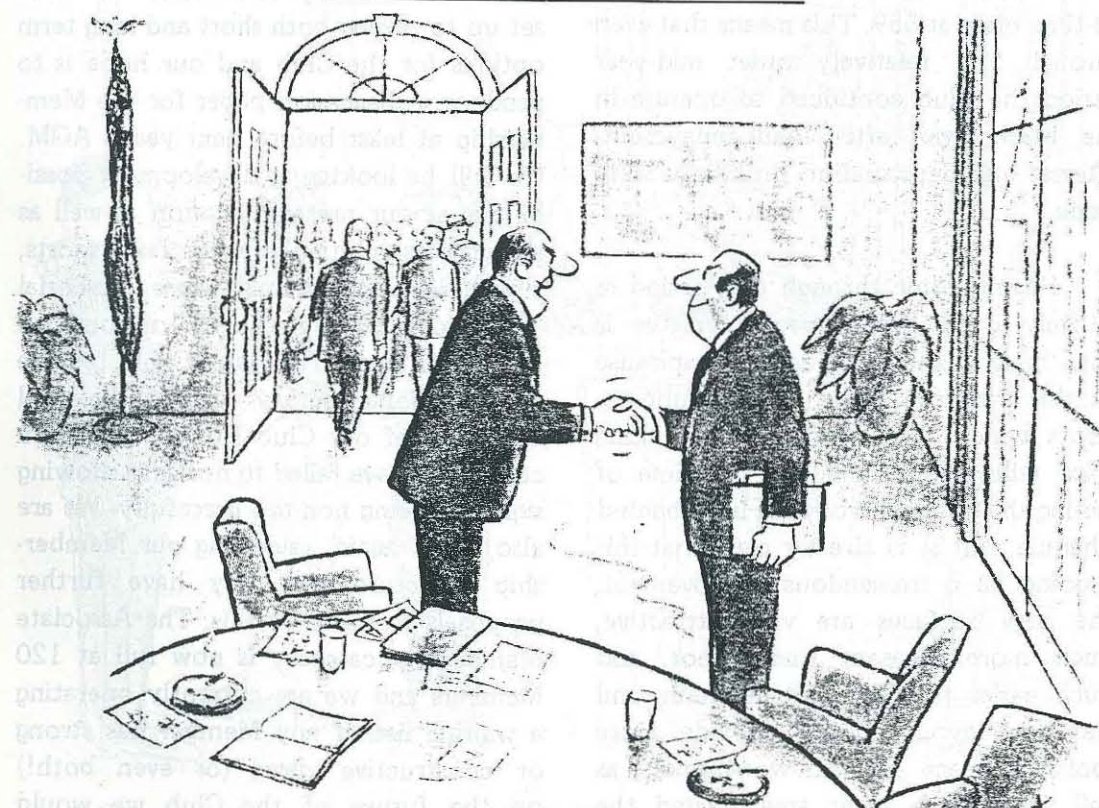
OCTOBER

Thu 1	Ladies' Tennis Ladies' Squash <i>BWG Visit to Bangkok Dolls</i> <i>BCT Club Night : Community Services, Soi 33</i>	8.30-10.30 a.m. 9.00-12 noon 9.30 a.m. 7.30 p.m.
Sat 3	Dinner Video	6.00 & 8.00 p.m.
Sun 4	Buffet Supper	From 5.00 p.m.
Mon 5	<i>BWG Mahjong : Wordsworth Room</i> Ladies' Tennis New Members' Night/Happy Hour Men's Tennis	9.00 a.m. 3.00-5.00 p.m. 5.30-9.00 p.m. From 6.00 p.m.
Tue 6	Ladies' Golf Bridge	7.30 p.m.
Wed 7	<i>BWG Bridge : Wordsworth Room</i> Tennis & Squash Club Night General Knowledge Team Quiz Night : Suriwongse Room	9.30 a.m. From 6.00 p.m. 7.30 p.m.
Thu 8	Ladies' Tennis Ladies' Squash <i>BAMBI Meeting at the BC</i>	8.30-10.30 a.m. 9.00-12 noon 9.00 a.m.
Sat 10	Dinner Video	6.00 & 8.00 p.m.
Sun 11	Buffet Supper	From 5.00 p.m.
Mon 12	<i>BWG Mahjong : Wordsworth Room</i> Ladies' Tennis Happy Hour Men's Tennis	9.00 a.m. 3.00-5.00 p.m. 5.30-9.00 p.m. From 6.00 p.m.
Tue 13	Ladies' Golf Bridge	7.30 p.m.
Wed 14	<i>BWG Jumble Sale : British Club</i> <i>BWG Bridge : Wordsworth Room</i> Tennis & Squash Club Night	9.00 a.m. 9.30 a.m. From 6.00 p.m.
Thu 15	Ladies' Tennis Ladies' Squash	8.30-10.30 a.m. 9.00-12 noon
Fri 16	<i>St. Andrew's Society Ceilidh : Shangrila Hotel</i>	
Sat 17	Dinner Video	6.00 & 8.00 p.m.
Sun 18	Buffet Supper	From 5.00 p.m.
Mon 19	<i>BWG Mahjong : Wordsworth Room</i> Ladies' Tennis Happy Hour	9.00 a.m. 3.00-5.00 p.m. 5.30-9.00 p.m.
Tue 20	Ladies' Golf Bridge <i>St. George's Society Trafalgar Night : Hilton Hotel</i>	7.30 p.m.

Wed 21	<i>BWG Bridge : Wordsworth Room</i> <i>BWG Combined Women's Lunch : Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel</i> Tennis & Squash Club Night	9.30 a.m. 11.30 a.m. From 6.00 p.m.
Thu 22	Ladies' Tennis Ladies' Squash	8.30-10.30 a.m. 9.00-12 noon
Sat 24	Dinner Video	6.00 & 8.00 p.m.
Sun 25	Buffet Supper	From 5.00 p.m.
Mon 26	<i>BWG Mahjong : Wordsworth Room</i> Ladies' Tennis Happy Hour	9.00 a.m. 3.00-5.00 p.m. 5.30-9.00 p.m.
Tue 27	Ladies' Golf Bridge	7.30 p.m.
Wed 28	<i>BWG Bridge : Wordsworth Room</i> Tennis & Squash Club Night	9.30 a.m. From 6.00 p.m.
Thu 29	Ladies' Tennis Ladies' Squash <i>BWG Coffee Morning : Contact Gill Hough Tel: 391-7192</i>	8.30-10.30 a.m. 9.00-12 noon 9.30 a.m.
Sat 31	<i>Christ Church Harvest Festival Bazaar</i> Dinner Video	9.30 a.m.-3.30 p.m. 6.00 & 8.00 p.m.

Note: Non Club events in italics

For further information: Ladies' Golf (Tuesdays) contact Penny Whalley. Tel: 258-9415
Ladies' Squash (Thursdays) contact Barbara Overington. Tel: 260-1965



"Well, Marsden, perhaps we should get together for another pleasant but fruitless exchange again sometime."

Stan Hunt

From the Chairman

THE silly season is now officially over and the Club is getting back into full swing after something of a lull. If, like me, you have recently arrived back from leave and discovered that just about everyone else you knew here has either left or just received their marching orders, let me first of all reassure you that in spite of this mass exodus, the Club has survived remarkably well. We have lost 90 members during the last 6 months which is the highest desertion rate recorded for this period over the five years I have records for, but happily we have also gained 90 new members which again, of course, is something of a record. Membership remain, therefore, close to an all-time high, at 559. This means that even through the relatively quiet mid-year period the Club continued to operate in the black even after loan repayment, interest and depreciation provisions were made.

Having come through this period in relatively good shape the Committee is now busy planning ahead to capitalise on this position. Some of the improvements which have recently been taking place will help in this. At the time of writing the poolside work is a little behind schedule, but it is already clear that this is going to be a tremendous improvement. The new surfaces are very attractive, much more pleasant under foot, and much easier to clean and maintain, and the new layout should provide more pool-side space for sun-worshippers as well as a much nicer area around the paddling-pool for the mums (and dads) with very young children. By the time

you get this, the bar ceiling will also have been replaced, but our promises to improve the telephone system are currently bogged down for bureaucratic reasons which I could not explain even if I wanted to. Hopefully this will be resolved soon.

The other main development has been the appointment of Khun Surapol to take over our F and B operations. Khun Surapol has a wealth of experience and very soon we hope you will see an improvement in our catering standards and some long overdue new ideas and presentations.

What then for the future? Well, the inevitable Planning Committee has been set up to review both short and long term options for the Club and our hope is to produce a discussion paper for the Membership at least before next year's AGM. We will be looking at development possibilities at our present location as well as alternatives, particularly for field sports, elsewhere, and doing some essential 'homework' so that realistic options can be formulated. The latter will include a professional survey of the physical condition of our Club House which you can hardly have failed to notice is showing signs of ageing non-too gracefully. We are also, once again, reviewing our Membership structure and may have further proposals to make on this. The Associate Membership category is now full at 120 Members and we are currently operating a waiting list. If any Member has strong or constructive views (or even both!) on the future of the Club we would welcome these. This would include any ideas you might have on new facilities

you would like to see provided at our present site. Ideas floating around include an accommodation block, a Health Club, family facilities, badminton courts, etc...etc...

Whatever is decided for the future, the immediate period ahead should be a good one for the Club. It is now in better physical shape than it has ever been, Membership is high, and the Club is being used for an ever widening range

of activities. As always, I would urge all of you to make as much use of our facilities as you can and bring along anyone you think might be interested in membership. Our Membership Committee is poised ready to launch even more fantastic rewards for everyone who introduces new Members. We need your support.

Jack Dunford



"Congratulations, Dave! I don't think I've read a more beautifully evasive and subtly misleading public statement in all my years in government."

Khun Surapol Ekwonapol



KHUN Surapol was born in the Huamark district of Bangkok in 1941. He finished his secondary education at Suan Kularb High School and then attended the Railway Vocational Institute, where he graduated in Administration. He then went to the United Commercial College and graduated in Hotel Business. During this time, he also attended many special courses held by both the government and private companies.

For 12 years, Khun Surapol was a Correspondence Officer with the State Railway of Thailand. He then began a long and varied career in the hotel and catering business. At the Bangkok Sheraton Hotel he was the Room Service Captain, as well as the Coffee Shop Supervisor. His work then took him to England for over a year, where he worked at the Leicestershire Centre Hotel, the West Centre Hotel, the Bloomsbury Centre Hotel, the Tower Hotel, and the Royal Garden.

Back in Bangkok, he joined the Mandarin Hotel as Banquet Manager for one and a half years, followed by a year at the Windsor Hotel as Food & Beverage Manager. Khun Surapol then joined the Bangkok YMCA as Restaurant Manager for 3 years, during which time he attended conferences in Malaysia and Taipei. For two years after this, he managed Room Service, the Cafe Restaurant, and Banquet Operations at the Hyatt Central Plaza.

Prior to joining the BC, he was Restaurant & Marketing Manager for the Uokuni Restaurant (one of a worldwide chain of Japanese restaurants).

Khun Surapol is married with a 22 year old daughter who works in banking. His wife is a nurse at the Lersin Hospital on Silom Road. He enjoys gardening, tennis, badminton and Thai football.

FROM THE EDITOR

YOUR editor has, as usual, left everything to the last moment. So I'm sitting here with Gill and Rachel standing over me with a rolling pin demanding to know where the editor's letter is. A very good question. I'm asking the same one. I became so enthusiastic about the new ideas that I forgot about the old ones.

I must say, that it has been nice to come back to all your smiling faces. I hope that you had wonderful holidays and even if you didn't get a rest, at least you probably breathed fresh air for a few weeks! The White family got on a train and went to Hungary (not from Thailand, I hasten to add!). Where did you go? Hint, hint.

I know that the busiest time of the year is approaching, but in the midst of it all remember us (sob!) — ie. don't forget the writing! You've been great so far — keep it up. On this subject, sadly we are losing Jenni Harris, who has been doing the Children's Corner for many moons. We want to keep this as a monthly feature and so need a volunteer or two to provide contributions every month. Please give me a ring. Very many thanks to Jenni for all the fantastic children's pieces she has done. Similarly, a number of our other regular contributors have left the Club over the Summer months, SO, all you video watchers, book readers, and restaurant goers, we need reviews on a regular basis. If you watch a good movie, read a memorable book, or visit a restaurant worth recommending (or not, as the case may be), please tell everyone about it! "Well Worth Watching/Reading" and "Scofferies" are some of our best read features — please don't let them fall by the wayside. Get those articles rolling in!

Many thanks too, to David Williamson who single handedly (one arm in plaster — ho ho!) produced the September issue. Very good it was too — we'll have to go away for TWO months next year!

Musings

*I couldn't bear yet another cartoon;
After the last, it came too soon.
So, I thought a poem I would write
Just to give you all a fright.*

*But what can I in eight lines say,
That will drastically alter your view of the day?*

*Not an awful lot, it seems to me
And, after this, I'm sure you'll agree.*

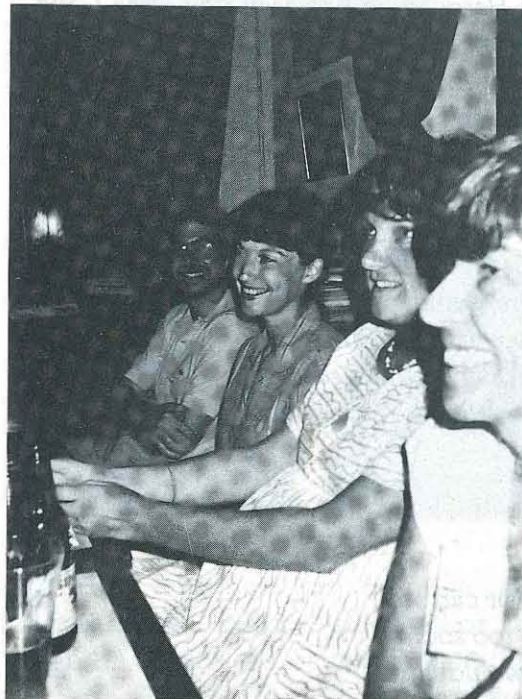
Tee, hee!

Maren White

Meet the New Members



Suphak and Fongcham Saphakkul with Jack Dunford: Suphak works with Les Currie at Ciba-Geigy, Fongcham for Lever Brothers. There are three young Saphakkuls, all boys. Suphak thinks that the bar is great, it reminds him of an English pub.



Chris Munro and Ruth Sinclair-Jones with the Dunnes: Chris works for C.U.S.O., Canadian Development Organization. Originally from Scotland, but grew up in Toronto. She has been in Thailand for seven years teaching English in Songkhla. Her major sport so far? Sitting! Has joined the B.C. to swim.



David Sinclair-Jones: closely related to Ruth. He writes short stories. I didn't manage to interrogate him as he was so busy talking to everyone else!



Jeff and Sandra Mingay with Dugal Forrest: Originally from Chalk Farm and Lewisham, they went to Australia in 1971, but have spent the last 3½ years in Jakarta. Jeff's here with Balfour Beatty as "the power behind a leading light" (pardon?). There are two wee Mingays.



Mr. Harry Vandyne: in the check shirt. Doctor of Mechanical Engineering. I became rather confused when talking to this gentleman (so what's new) — he sounded incredibly British, but said he was 100% Dutch. This cannot be. He works in THAT large white building next door!



The Gem and the Barefoot Dancer: two of our **SPLendid OUTPOST** team.

For some reason the camera failed me at this point. Maybe I forgot to press the button! So apologies to Karen Shaw and João Guimarães. João is one of only eight Portuguese in Bangkok, he works for A.I.T.. Karen recently starred in "Old Times" here in Bangkok.



Our Frank: world famous bowler, well known for his wifes. Wide what? A man of many talents, this month he was secured from the I.S.B. soccer team for an undisclosed transfer fee.



Chris Wilson and Mike Poustie: Chris, a Qantas man, just dropped in for a drink on his way from London to Sydney. Mike was a new member last month, but got missed out. He works for I.C.I.. His wife, Angela, spends most days here and he spends the nights (well that's what he said).



***** THE BUMS AT THE BAR! ***** But who's?**
A bottle of champagne will be given to the first correct entry pulled out of the hat.

To: OUTPOST

The "Bums at the Bar" are, left to right:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Deadline 31st October.
Please hand in at reception.

NAME:

CLUB NO:

LETTERS

SL 1045/1

25 August 1987

The Manager
The British Club Bangkok
189 Suriwongse Road
BANGKOK
THAILAND

Dear Mr Williamson,

On behalf of the Officers and Ship's Company of HMNZS SOUTHLAND I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the British Club for so generously offering your facilities and for arranging the sporting fixtures in golf and rugby.

The friendliness and hospitality extended by your members contributed greatly to the overall success of our recent visit to Bangkok, for which we are very grateful.

With thanks and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

J.G. LEONARD
Captain RNZN
Commanding Officer

CLUB MANAGERS

Club Managers must pleasant be
Howe'er to rage they're goaded,
Have eyes that instantly can see
An ashtray over-loaded.

The food that each will satisfy
By members is expected
And service prompt they must supply
So none will feel neglected.

Club Managers have much to do.
 A fact there's no denying.
 Must daily spend an hour or two
 The Club's provisions buying.
 And though no one would call them saints,
 Until the day is ended,
 With patience they must hear complaints
 From those who've been offended.

They must make sure the ice is cold,
 The meat they serve is tender,
 Must know the Members, young and old,
 The thrifty and the spender.
 For all occasions they must dress
 In proper tailored raiment,
 And keep in mind, or try to guess,
 Who's posted for non-payment.

Club Managers must smiling be
 Despite their endless duties,
 Must treat the ladies graciously,
 The ugly ones and beauties.
 With velvet gloves forever on,
 To handle all the politicians
 And moody whims of committee-men
 In varying degrees and positions.

Here sits the British Club Manager
 Who labours from dawn 'til dusk
 Who started the job as a strapping youth
 And will end as a withered husk.
 He tries to play as a "pig in the middle"
 With Committees and Members and staff
 But the job, it appears, is an endless riddle
 And he never'll get the last laugh.

In Memorium
 Here lies a man of many talents
 Condemned if he did
 Condemned if he didn't
 Condemned if he could
 Condemned if he couldn't
 Condemned if he would
 Condemned if he wouldn't.

*Submitted by someone
 from a very similar
 establishment.*

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 stop over in Amsterdam with my budget?"

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TRAVEL LOG

Travels in Nepal : Patan

FROM Bhaktapur we took another taxi to Patan. This ancient city, historically called Lalitpur, is situated on the southern bank of the Bagmati river, about 5 kilometers south-east of Kathmandu.

Again, Durbar Square, situated in the heart of the city, is the centre of ancient palaces, temples and shrines. Visit the unique Buddhist monaste-



Stone Carving.

ry of Rudra Vasna Mahavihar, where in ancient



Temples & Shrines.

times Nepalese kings were crowned. Krishna Mandir temple, built in the 16th

century, has some wonderful stone carvings depicting ancient Hindu epics,



Durbar Square.

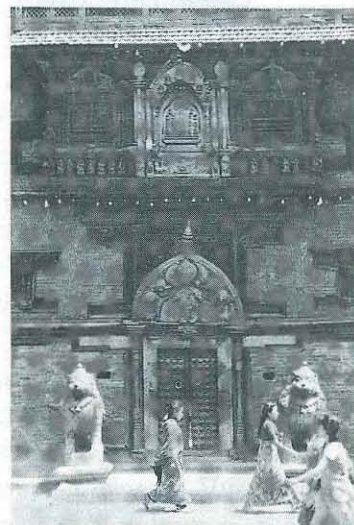


Prayer Wheels at a Patan Temple.

the Ramayana (Ramakien) and the Mahabharata.

As before, we left the tourist trail to explore the real city, capturing everyday sites, until we became thoroughly lost in a maze of side streets. Eventually we were forced to hail the only available, ancient, taxi in order to find our way back to Kathmandu.

In this brief pictorial tour of Kathmandu and the surrounding ancient



Happy faces.



2-man power.

cities, I have tried to fire your imagination. I hope I have succeeded and that you will take a few days whilst you're in this part of the world to visit the wonderful Kingdom of Nepal: to move back in time and to experience a way of life and a peace of mind sadly fast-disappearing from our busy life in Bangkok.

Ray Butler

Golfing in Western Australia

HAVING just returned from our week's holiday in Perth, courtesy of Qantas Airlines and the Societies' golfing weekend in Hua Hin in April this year, I feel I should let you in on what is known locally as "Europe's best kept secret" Perth is a modern city but similar in size to Southampton or Winchester, ie. not very big for a city. It is very quiet and this is very noticeable after Bangkok. Streets are very wide and cars are very few. Walking

is a joy in the city itself as there are so many parks, but there are no buildings older than about 50 years.

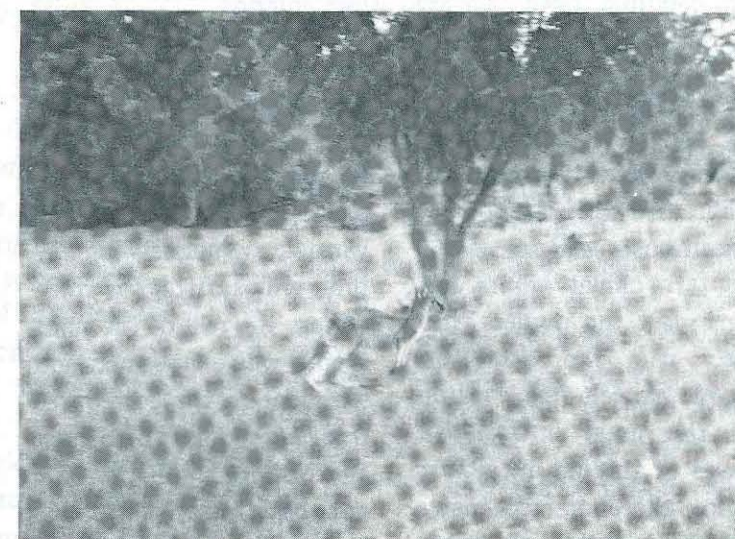
Fremantle is, of course, well worth visiting because of its fame for the America's Cup, but there is nothing left to see apart from a lot of Kookaburra signs. There are many outdoor eating places around the harbour which makes it particularly pleasant for a day's visit.

From Perth we went south to Bussleton, Gilga-

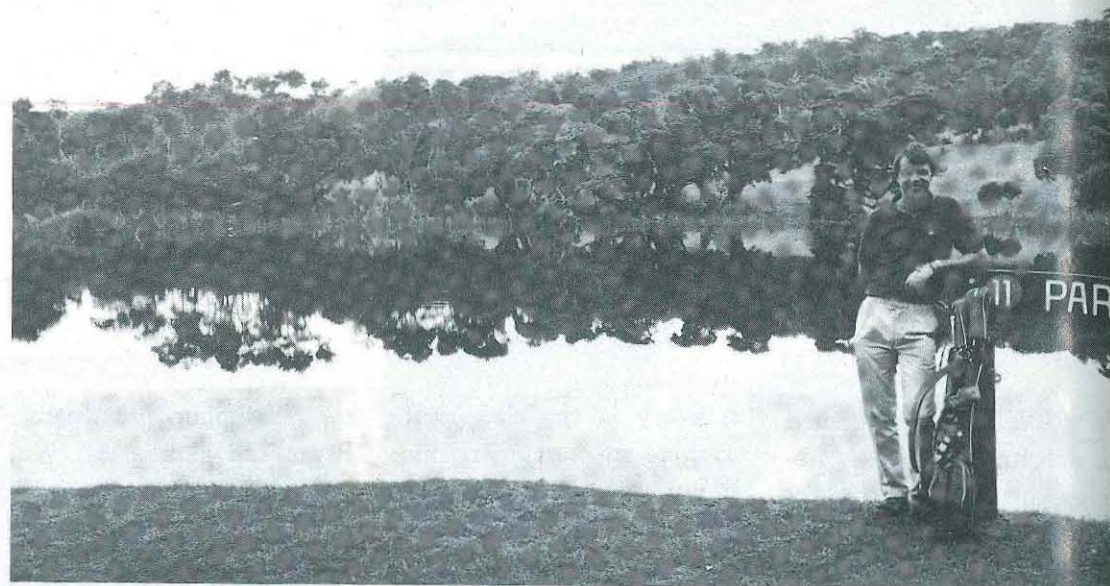
ra, Yallingup, Margaret River and Pemberton. We only stopped because we ran out of time, but everywhere had so many interesting things to see that we tended to be forever wishing we had planned to stay longer. Scenery varies from farmland to Karri and Jarrah forests. Of course, September is Spring there so everywhere is particularly green, but people say in the summer months it is quite parched and brown



London Court, Perth.



Many a kangaroo on the golfcourse!



Wonderful views on the golfcourse.

so I think we saw it at its best. For those of you who've been in Africa the similarity with the settlers is quite remarkable. We met so many people, particularly those running guesthouses, on the farms and in the wineries, who are ex-Africa hands. Many, of course, are Brits too. They are people who appreciate the finer quality of life and enjoy peace and tranquility. There are some wonderful guesthouses and self-catering farm chalets where you can meet the owners who also run the establishment. We felt this was one of the most informative ways of finding out about living there and so many of them had such experiences of their initial set-

ting in to relate that it made fascinating dinner-time conversations. In one such establishment, we actually shared dinner with an ex-National cricketer who played for Australia with Don Bradman (fame at last).

Having realised how the "byo" system worked, it became quite an important quest each day to find a good bottle of wine to go with the evening meal, so it meant visiting the various wineries to try their wines. After the third winery the rest of the sight seeing was abandoned and we went to the golfcourse thinking this the most appropriate activity for our condition, since this is usually the state in which the best scores are

made on BC outings. This proved to be a wonderful idea as we saw so much birdlife and even kangaroos in abundance, so that the golf was quite incidental.

Our introduction to Australia was certainly a memorable one and we were greatly impressed with all we saw, so much so that the thought of emigration is quite an attractive idea. Thank you to BC golf for making it all possible and, of course, Qantas for such generous sponsorship. We wish everyone a wonderful year's golf and hope we'll be back again. There's a good chance!

Bob & Terry Merry

SPECIALS

Excerpts from a Paper "Of Tobacco"

by Joseph Fume 1839

"... the use of tobacco was known in Ireland long before the invasion of that country by the Danes.

I have seen a collection of small short pipes in the possession of a gentleman who was curious in such matters; most of them were found in a field in Dundalk, and had undoubtedly belonged to certain heavy-breeched Batavian dragoons who were quartered there in the reign of King William of "immortal and pious memory," though the "pisintry" generally suppose that such small pipes had belonged to the fairies. The representatives of Oberon, Puck, and Robin Goodfellow, in Irish Fairy Mythology, are frequently described as *smoking elves*;"

"It is a curious fact that there is scarcely any loathsome preparation, either animal, mineral, or vegetable, that has not at one time or other been recommended by doctors as a remedy for some disease, and scarcely an article of wholesome food that has not been condemned by others of the faculty as injurious to health."

"The quantity of cigars legally imported into England bears no proportion to the quantity consumed. Most of the cigars sold as "real Havannahs" and

"prime old Cubas," are manufactured in the neighbourhood of Goodman's Fields; where, also, musty old leaves, which have, as the brokers' circulars express it, "rather an oddish smell," are converted into genuine Bengal cheroots."

"Though the custom of smoking has been frequently condemned as a filthy vice, injurious both to bodily health and to the free exercise of the mental faculties, wasteful of money, and a thief of time, yet its prevalence in all countries must be admitted, even by its opponents, as a proof of its being a very fascinating and pleasant vice notwithstanding. Sages, equally with savages, have indulged in it; and the only reason for our not finding any saints in the list of distinguished tobacco-takers, is, that the race had become nearly extinct before tobacco was introduced into Europe."

"... this roguish tobacco! It's good for nothing but to choke a man and fill him full of smoke and embers. There were four died out of one house last week with taking of it, and two more the bell went for yesternight; one of them, they say, will ne'er 'scape it: he voided a bushel of soot yesterday, upward and downward."

"Every Man in his Humour"
Ben Jonson

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NEW HORIZONS

Investing in Precious Stones

THIS article does not aim to tell you where to buy gems, but to aid the consumer to understand what he/she is buying and what choices are available inexpensively in Bangkok.

Import/Export

Bangkok is the international cutting centre for gem trade and the gem import/export business in Thailand is immense. Thailand produces 80%-90% of the world's facet quality rubies. About 50% of its gem exports are rubies and 40% are sapphires. A full 90% of Thai gems are exported to the USA, Switzerland, and Japan. Switzerland is Thailand's most important customer for rubies.

As far as imports are concerned, there is much 'gem rough' brought to Thailand for cutting and heat treatment (90% of the rubies and sapphires sold in Bangkok are previously heat treated!). Sri Lanka, Burma, and Australia produce the bulk of the rough. Why? Thai cutting costs are 15 times cheaper than in the West. For this reason, 60% of Australia's blue sapphire rough is shipped to Bangkok for cutting and then shipped back for resale, or sold here.

Cutting

Thai cutting quality has improved dramatically over the last few years. Cabochon cuts are quite fashionable in Europe.



Cabochons are usually used on stones which have special effects, e.g. star sapphires, or on stones with too many flaws to make facetting viable. Cabochons should be much cheaper than a faceted stone of the same colour and intensity.

The best stones to buy in Bangkok are rubies, sapphires, garnets, spinels, and any other coloured faceted gems. Emeralds, topaz, and aquamarine are also reasonable.

Diamonds

Diamonds are no cheaper here than anywhere else, as they are sold at controlled market prices. In addition, they are not rare and so do not often hold their value if resale becomes necessary. For this reason I would not recommend diamonds as an investment.

There is an advantage in surrounding a coloured stone with many small diamonds in jewellery. Low labour costs here ensure that such a piece of jewellery becomes more valuable abroad. An appraiser in England, for example, will appraise the labour costs of setting such small stones on English wages and for this reason, re-sale of such an item abroad can be advantageous.

Fancy coloured diamonds, ie. yellow, champagne, pink etc, are extremely rare stones. These would make a good investment or potential family heirloom for those with very high spending power.

Diamonds have a hardness of 10 on moh's scale and are the hardest natural material known to man. After generations of wear a diamond should still be unscratched and brilliant.

Cubic Zirconia

Cubic zirconia is the modern, man-made imitation of diamond. To the untrained eye it looks identical, when new that is. CZ, as it is called, has a hardness of 8-8½ on moh's scale, which means that it is considerably softer than diamond and more brittle, and after a few years of wear CZ

will look quite abraided and dull next to a diamond. If you can afford diamonds to set off a coloured stone they will last much longer than CZ.

Corundum

Corundum is the collective term for ruby and sapphire. They are cheaper in Bangkok than anywhere and have a hardness of 9 on moh's scale. They are resistant to abraision. The term corundum includes rubies and blue, yellow, pink, green, and star sapphires.

Ruby

Ruby is an intrinsically rare stone which is increasingly in short supply and high demand. Ruby prices have spiraled over the last few years and as it is unlikely that any new mines of consequence will be found to meet this demand, the price may continue to rise. Rubies are a good investment for those who want nice jewellery and a stone which will retain its value.

Tips for buying rubies:

The price of rubies (and most precious stones) increases greatly at the carat mark (there being 100 points to one carat). A 90 point ruby of good colour of the size shown at A below, could cost £3,000 per carat. If the same quality stone could be found at one carat 10 points (see B below) the price may be £5,500 per carat.

A



B



In other words, do not buy a stone if it is one carat 20 points. It would be much better value to buy at one carat eighty points, as the price jumps dramatically at the one, two, and three carat etc marks.

Rubies are often described as Burmese, Thai etc, which simply refers to their colour rather than origin. A Burmese ruby which is actually Burmese will fetch a premium price over a Thai ruby. The reason is that Burmese rubies are a warm, pinkish, purplish red - Thai rubies can be a darker, less pleasant red (see Table 1).

Blue Sapphire

Blue sapphire may originate from Australia, but these are often too dark, almost blue-black. Thai stones are often dark blue.

The most desirable blue comes from Sri Lanka and these stones fetch a premium

price. However, Kanchanaburi-Thai-blue can be a similar hue to Sri Lankan stones without commanding such a high price. Most people believe that the darker blue a sapphire is, the better. This is not true. A blue sapphire should be an electric blue colour. If the blue does not flash as the stone is turned it is probably too dark (see Table 2).

The most important thing to look for in a blue sapphire is shades of green or grey. This is undesirable. The sunlight in Thailand is strong and bright and a sapphire with greenish or grey tints in Bangkok will appear positively lifeless in the grey skies of England.

Yellow Sapphire

These are not at all rare and so to have any value, should be flawless. The orange-yellow colour is highly prized by the Thais which puts the price in Thailand up artificially. Sri

Lankan yellow sapphires are usually heat treated to enhance the colour. This can be unstable and the stone may eventually fade slightly in time.

Star Sapphire

A stone with a six-rayed star on the surface caused by inclusions in the stone. A star sapphire can be any colour, but most common is black. It makes a good ring stone for men and is cheap at £200-£500 per carat. The Thais prize the yellow star sapphire and due to its popularity in Thailand it is, again, overpriced here.

When purchasing black star sapphires, check the base of

the stone near the setting. Sometimes breakage occurs which may be filled with a resin to obscure it. If any signs of breakage are obvious on purchase they may worsen with wear.

Emeralds

These can be purchased in Bangkok at a reasonable price. The best colour is a pure green (see Table 3). Emeralds normally contain many flaws so the clean stones are expensive. Be aware that any large cracks which reach the surface of the stone may be detrimental to the life of the stone. Ask if the emerald is oiled. Often the cracks in emeralds are injected under pressure with cedar oil.

This is common practice and not dishonest but, one should be informed because oiling camouflages cracks which may later be bumped accidentally and worsen. In addition, oiling may dry out after a long period and a crazed appearance will become obvious in the stone and the once hidden cracks will become visible to the eye. Good quality emeralds are exquisite and are not cheap. Therefore, demand to know what treatments have been performed on your stone.

Tsavorite

Tsavorite is a green garnet which is more rare than emerald and which is available in Bangkok. It has a lustre and brilliance which surpasses emerald. The hardness is similar to that of the emerald at 7½, but tsavorite is less brittle and so less susceptible to cracks and breakage. It is generally a clean stone and can usually be found without flaws.

Tsavorite is still relatively unknown and can be obtained at prices much less than one would pay for a comparable emerald. Under one carat and 40 points one can purchase a quality tsavorite for £8,000 per carat upwards. Over one carat and 40 points the stone becomes a collector's item and the price rises dramatically. In small sizes of less than 80 points, £3,000 would be sufficient.

Spinel

This stone is available in large quantities in Bangkok. It comes in a variety of colours,

Table 1. Hue Position Preferences.

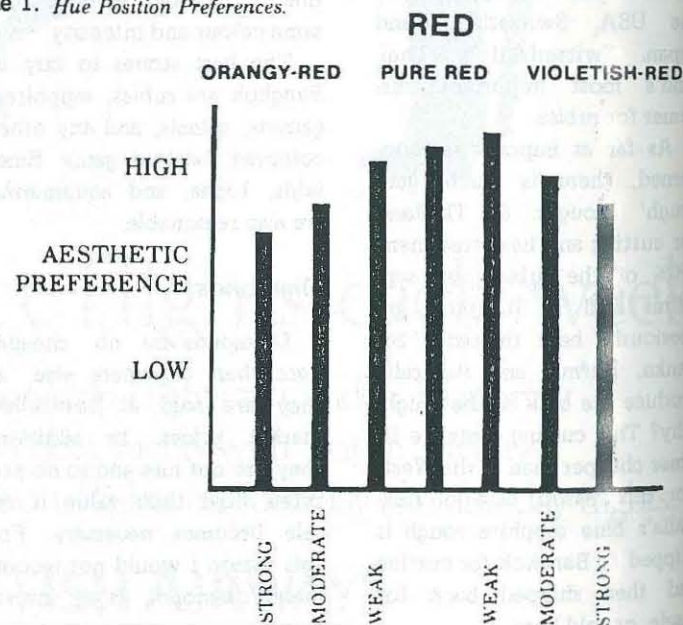
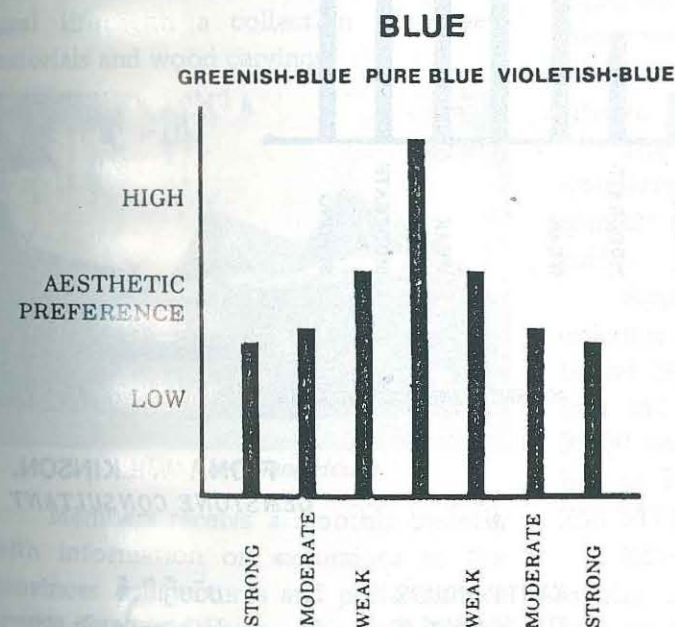


Table 2.



pink and red being the most sort after. As the price of rubies has increased over the last few years, many wholesalers have turned to spinel as an alternative.

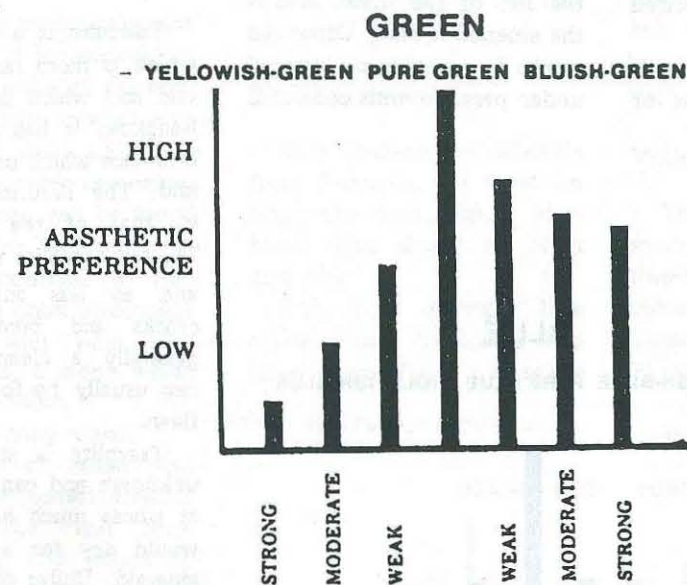
Spinel is affordable. To give a guideline, a ruby which is a good red and costs £26,000 will have a red spinel equivalent of £4,000-£8,000. So why doesn't everyone buy spinel? Well, it is not as rare as ruby, but in large sizes, over 2 carats, deep red spinel is also rare.

Due to the continual rise in ruby prices, red spinel is becoming popular and the price is beginning to rise. Spinel has a disadvantage in that in some red spinel the colour does not look good under artificial light and takes on a salmony-red appearance. A top quality red spinel does not suffer from this problem and retains its red glow under any light source. This is easy to check in the jewellery shop and for those who prefer a red or pink stone without the heavy price tag, the spinel is a good buy.

There are many other stones of quality which the consumer is unaware of. Rare stones need not be expensive and due to the public's lack of awareness they often do not have commercially high values. There are many stones like tsavorite and spinel which adorn the ring fingers of gemmologists and stone collectors, but which escape the notice of the general public.

If you would like any further information or advice, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Table 3.

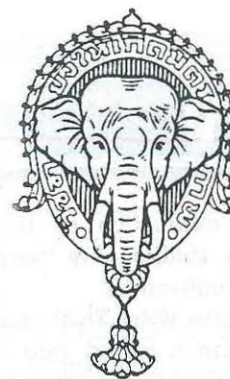


ACCREDITED GEMMOLOGIST A.I.G.S.

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The Siam Society

NEWCOMERS to Bangkok are often interested in learning about Thai history and in seeing interesting places, both in Bangkok and the provinces. One way of doing this is by joining the Siam Society, founded in 1904 and located at 131 Sukhumvit Soi 21 (on the right between the Green Route and Sukhumvit).

On the premises, which are open from Tuesday to Saturday, are an interesting library and beautiful Thai house, known as The Kamthieng House, a traditional northern Thai house, showing rural life with a collection of woven materials and wood carvings.



The Kamthieng House.

Members receive a monthly bulletin with information on excursions to the provinces and lectures and performances at the Society's home. The lectures are

on varying subjects, usually about Thailand, South East Asia, or other parts of Asia. The excursions run from half-day trips around Bangkok to longer journeys to the provinces and, sometimes to other countries, such as China and Burma.

In September, the Society took an excursion to old teak buildings in Bangkok. This month, there is preview of the Royal Barge Procession, with members gaining special admittance to the dress rehearsal. At the end of the month, there is a long weekend in Phuket planned, exploring prehistoric paintings, marsh and mangrove forest, primary jungle, and visits to old buildings and other sites of interest.

The provincial excursions provide a wonderful way of seeing Thailand in comfort and safety, with a knowledgeable guide.

Applications for membership are welcome and can be made to the Administrative Secretary of Society. Membership fees are £10,000 for a life member, £800 annual dues for an ordinary member, or £50 for students. Tel: 258-3491, 258-3494.

Ed's Note: I will put current information up on the notice board in the Club for interested new members.

CONSERVATION MATTERS

THE loss of wildlife and forests is certainly regrettable in moral, aesthetic and cultural terms, but talk of conservation in Government circles often raises the question, "Are plants and animals more important than human beings?" As a partial answer we can say that at least 75% of Thailand's people are directly dependent upon the land and the sea for their livelihood, and many of those who clear our forests and shoot wildlife must do so in order to survive. What will happen to these people and their children when the soil is exhausted, when the only forests left in Thailand are virtually inaccessible, when an entire day's hunt brings no meat? The continuing migration from the north-eastern provinces demonstrates the human hardships which massive environment degradation brings — an alarmingly frequent cycle of flood and drought, poverty and hunger and urban congestion. The problem, moreover, is not confined just to poor north-easterners, but is rapidly becoming apparent countrywide and in every sector of society. Our rivers carry a huge volume of eroded topsoil which is beginning to fill up the dams upon which we rely for irrigation and electricity; the dam silt is destroying the marine breeding grounds which provide much of our food. Industrial pollution, pesticides, and herbicides poison our water; many of the fish that survive contamination retain some toxins in their tissues which are eventually eaten and absorbed by man. Disturbingly high counts of micro-organisms which cause cholera, typhoid and hepatitis are being found in the Chao Phraya, Mae Kong and other rivers which empty into the upper Gulf.

This sad litany goes on and on, providing endless economic and 'human' reasons for rational conservation strategies sensibly integrated into national development plans. Thailand's admirable conservation legislation still awaits adequate enforcement and realistic fines and penalties. A step in the right direction was taken in 1975 when the National Environment Board, which advises the Government on environmental matters, was set up. The present 5-year development plan requires that develop-

ment be done without destruction of the environment. Conservation studies have been introduced into schools and universities.

As around the rest of the globe, Thailand's expanding human population is locked into a vicious spiral. The more degraded the environment becomes, the more rapidly the remaining resources are depleted as more and more people scramble for less and less. But unlike Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Nepal, parts of India, and other countries whose citizens are now suffering terrible hardships caused by gross deterioration of the environment, Thailand still has a very limited time to reverse the trend. Instead of asking, "Are plants and animals more important than human beings?" we should more correctly ask, "Is this generation of human beings more important than those who will follow?"

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

1. By becoming a member of the Wildlife Fund Thailand and subscriber to the WFT Newsletter, (£ 200 per year, or £ 2,000 for life membership), thereby simultaneously keeping yourself posted on conservation movements and contributing to their funding.

2. By donating funds, technical services, or equipment and supplies towards WFT's various projects.

3. By donating professional services or becoming a volunteer. From time to time WFT requires specialised services or a temporary extra task force in various aspects of their office and field operations.

4. Drawing on WFT's resource library of colour slides of Thailand's natural history subjects, scenes etc., for your corporate calendars, greeting cards, or advertising.

5. Co-sponsoring projects to arouse public awareness of conservation.

6. By joining the 999 Wildlife Trust.

7. By leaving a legacy to the WFT.

Donations to the WFT under the patronage of H.M. The Queen are tax deductible, and may be made by cheque payable to "Wildlife Fund Thailand," at their new address: 255 Soi Asoke, Sukhumvit 21, Bangkok 10110. Tel: 258-9134.

Rod Carter

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Car Games

SITTING in the back seat of the car, furthest from the air-conditioning and without the nasty distractions of driving or giving directions, don't you find that car journeys around Bangkok are getting longer and even more boring? Books or tapes seem the best solution, but if reading makes you car-sick and you've heard the tapes countless times before, here are some car games for you to try. You will need willing fellow passengers to play with.

Twenty Questions

Choose someone to be "It," who must then think of something with which everyone in the car is familiar. Other players take it in turns to ask questions in order to guess what the thing is. Each question must be a yes-or-no question; that is, it must be asked in such a way as to be answered by the word 'yes' or 'no'. For example — "Is it alive?"; "Is it a person?"; "Is it a person in this car?" Count up the questions, and if by twenty no-one has guessed correctly, 'It' thinks of another subject. If someone does guess the answer, this person becomes the next 'It'.

How Long is a Minute?

One person, who will need a watch, is the judge. She/he says 'go'; the remaining players then have to indicate when they think a minute has passed. Whoever is closest wins.

Trap

One person is the questioner, and tries to get everyone else out by trapping them into saying either 'yes', 'no', 'black' or 'white'. The other players must try to answer questions without using any of these four words.

My Aunt Went to Town

This is a memory test. The youngest player starts. The aunt is wildly eccentric and incredibly wealthy, and the players list the highly improbable things she buys on her trip to town, remembering all the objects on the list in the correct order. So, the first person begins by saying "My aunt went to town and bought, for example: an elephant's foot umbrella stand". The next player then says "My aunt went to town and bought an elephant's foot umbrella stand and a" — and adds her own object. Everyone continues to add to the list in turn, but they are out if they forget an item already included! It's very simple really!

Buzz

This is a spelling game, but fun to play in spite of that! The first player starts by saying a letter, and each successive player adds another letter. The object is to avoid completing a word. The player who completes a word is out, and play begins again without him until only one player remains — the winner! Three letter

words don't count – so you won't be out if you add E to T H, but if the next player says N, he's out. You must have a word in mind when you add your letter; if the next player says N, he's out. You must have a word in mind when you add your letter; if the next player thinks no word is possible with the letter you've added she can challenge you, and you will be out if you can't think of one.

A Chain Story

One person starts telling a story, as exciting as possible, and breaks off in the middle of a thrilling bit. Either the next person in a clockwise direction must go on with the story, or someone the first story-teller chooses. When the second story-teller has had a turn, she stops suddenly to let someone else continue.

Squashed Fruit

Each player chooses a fruit. One person begins to tell a story. At a suitable point in the story, the story-teller tries to say the name of a fruit three times

before the player who chose that particular fruit can say it once. If the story teller succeeds then the player whose fruit has been named takes over the story and tries to catch someone else. This is easier to play than to explain!

When you've played all the games, and you are still stuck in Silom Road, you could always swap jokes. Here's a few?

Anne: Mum, what was the name of the last station we stopped at?

Mother: I don't know. Don't bother me now, you can see I'm knitting.

Anne: That's a pity, because my brother fell out there

An apple a day keeps the doctor away – if aimed right!

What do koalas take on holiday?

All the bear essentials!

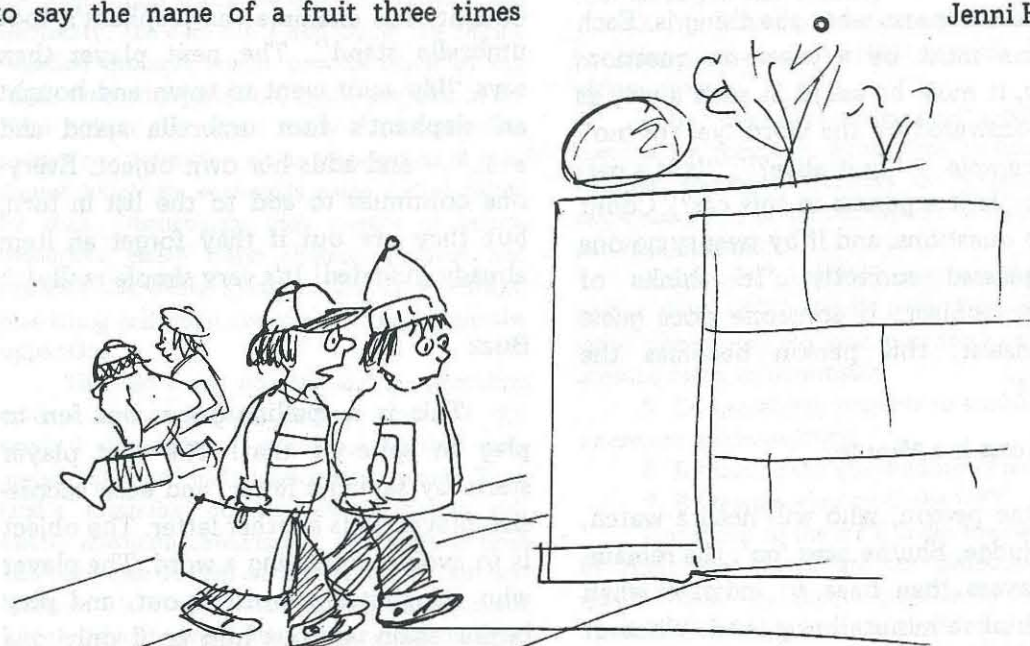
What's fishy and goes dot-dot-dash-dash and lives in Norway?

The Norse Cod!

What do you get if you cross a chicken with a cement mixer?

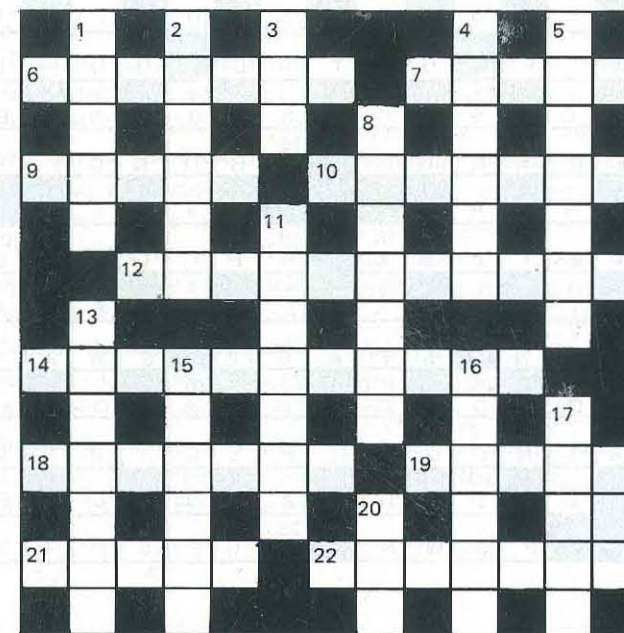
A bricklayer!

Jenni Harris



"One plus one equals two. Two plus two equals four. Three plus three equals six, and so on and so forth. Well, that's life."

CROSSWORD



CLUES

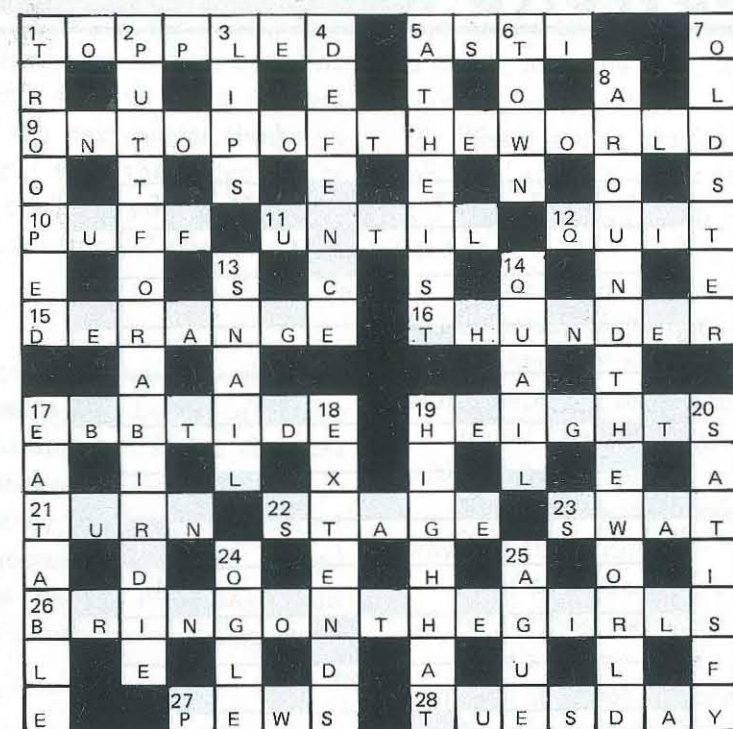
ACROSS

6. Support the wrong oracle.
7. Hardly the drink for slimmers!
9. It's clear the pupil is in great discomfort.
10. Feel affection for everyone when there's no score. (2 words)
12. Subordinate fraternities, ready for off?
14. All right, go – being extremely rich. (3 words)
18. Game and set – right. Got along well.
19. Commence, for example, in a receptacle
21. yet, it produces liquor.
22. Sounds sweet, but leaves in the lurch.

DOWN

1. Doctor unwell in regular practice?
2. Little work into wrong choice.
3. Not the tint for Taurus!
4. Be there to see the last of an abstainer.
5. Try clue for table appointments.
8. Cool men adapted an eyepiece.
11. Always in 3 down ... greatly looked up to.
13. It has to be paid when ten play badly.
15. Youth leader in time for the annual.
16. Tentative suggestion – by one who can never be insensitive?
17. Put them up for a fight.
20. Allowed – by the landlord.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



"I'm just a number here, like you, Caswell—but a higher number."

CRICKET CRICKET

This is not going to be the world's longest ever cricket report. There are no overseas tours, pot-smokers or aluminium bats to keep us going through the dead months of the off-season, just the sad sight of one's box at the back of the cutlery drawer and the fading memory of the time when one almost scored a four last season. As for what hard news there is, it all falls wrongly for scoop reporters like one's good self, the change of management over at the Sports Club having taken place on the eve of one's hols, and the BC Cricket Section AGM inconsiderately bisecting the editorial deadline and the appearance date of this magazine. Binnsy is leaving, just as he was about to have his best season for the club; Chiangmai and its Pakistani restau-

rateurs can sleep easily again. And while one is on the subject of Chiangmai, our trip up there at the beginning of December is likely to be even more out of control than usual, as we will be saying farewell to Tony Buckley, one of the best-liked, and best cricketers in Thailand. One piece of good news, hot off the (June) press: our beloved captain, J. Dunford, will not be leaving us as threatened ... all immensely relieved ... no-one else could do the job ... immaculate field-placing ... fluent stroke-player ... sunny disposition ... (stick in a few words from the Thesaurus, will you, Maren?) ... and one hopes he will be leading one again next season. Nets begin in November.

One David Hall



Once again, miracles have been performed by the AIT groundsmen during the closed season.

GOLF



GOLF

ROSE GARDEN : AUGUST 23rd

"Merry Farewell"

Bob and Terry Merry provided the prizes on this, their last outing with the club. Scores were excellent on a warm, sunny day on the beautiful Rose Garden layout.

The winners were:

"A" Group:	1st	:	Bob McEwan
	2nd	:	N. Hardy
	1st Nine	:	B. De Cozier
	2nd Nine	:	J. Leicester
"B" Group:	1st	:	M. Binns
	2nd	:	A. Pickup
	1st Nine	:	D. Ferguson
	2nd Nine	:	K. Armstrong
Long Drives:	Men	:	L. Currie
	Women	:	J. Jurgens
Closest Pin	:	Les Vize, Bob Merry A. Johnston, L. Currie	

ROSE GARDEN : SEPTEMBER 6th

"Binns Farewell"

Mike and Wendy Binns sponsored this their last outing with the club. The round, unfortunately, was played completely under a steady rainfall. Some golfers obviously found it to their liking as some excellent cards were turned in.

"A" Group:	1st	:	L. Houghton	Points
	2nd	:	S. Chappell	40
	1st Nine	:	D. Williamson	16
	2nd Nine	:	Decho	19
"B" Group:	1st	:	A. Rider	41
	2nd	:	D. Ferguson	37
	1st Nine	:	B. Mancell	16
	2nd Nine	:	K. Chappell	19
Long Drives:	Men	:	D. Benham	
	Women	:	K. Chappell	
Closest the Pin	:	B. Dawkins, L. Vize, D. Ferguson		

Good Luck "Merrys" & "Binns"

LADIES' GOLF



LADIES' GOLF

Tuesday golf is back into full swing now with most girls back from leave. A break has obviously done wonders for some as there have been some fantastic scores. Congratulations to Margaret Ross who has qualified to play with TALGA in the Singapore Ladies' Open in September.

A sad farewell to Terry Merry who has been a regular supporter during her stay here, and whose handicap dropped a dramatic 10 strokes in no time at all. We hope you will find time for golf amongst the domesticity in England!

COMPETITION RESULTS

11th August — Par Bisque

				H/c
Flight A	Winner:	Joan Guthrie	+ 10	25
	R/Up:	Ginger Lash	+ 9	10
Flight B	Winner:	Kristeen Chappell	+ 15	28
	R/Up:	Benjamin Bronee	+ 11	40T
Fantastic games by Joan & Kristeen!				

18th August — Better Nines

			Nett	H/c
Flight A	Winner:	Kanda Phillips	34	24
	R/Up:	Nena Reid	34½	17
Flight B	Winner:	Terry Merry	34½	25
	R/Up:	Penny Whalley	35½	25

25th August — L.G.U. Medal

			Nett	H/c
Silver Division	Winner:	Nena Reid	79	17
	R/up:	Dolores Aaron	81	13
Bronze I Division	Winner:	Wendy Binns	71	20
	R/Up:	Merle Decot	76	25
Bronze II Division	Winner:	Mal Chessman	75	36

Overall there were some very good scores on this day considering we were off our L.G.U. handicaps!!

1st September — Stableford

				H/c
Flight A	Winner:	Margaret Ross	36 pts	9
	R/Up:	Joan Jurgens	35 pts	16
Flight B	Winner:	Penny Whalley	40 pts	25
	R/Up:	Kanda Phillips	31 pts	24
Flight C	Winner:	Kristeen Chappell	40 pts	28
	R/Up:	Helen Benham	37 pts	36

Finally Wendys are obviously NOT meant to be Captains!! After Wendy Morris leaving after 6 months into term, Wendy Binns is now on her way to Hong Kong after only 3 months!! However, Penny Whalley, our new Captain, is dermined to see her time out, and we wish her the very best of luck.

SOCCER



SOCCER

Hi there!

It seems like only a few days since Billy Duncan was contemplating hanging his boots up (again) when the new season is upon us. September is only a few days old and we already have three matches under the belt of the full side, and one for the newly formed Casuals or social side.

The pre-season was not entirely quiet and two new players, Frank Hough and Simon Edmonds, have been enticed away from I.S.B. with the offer of a season of sparkling wit and camaraderie (some people are very gullible). It is rumoured that Andy Massie may also join and these three additions will considerably strengthen the player-pool and with it, our hopes of glory. In addition to the transfers we have also added to the section Jonathan Letchfield, a relative new comer to Bangkok, and 'lapsed' members Peter Downs and Roger Crutchley. To all the incoming players a hearty welcome and we hope you will enjoy your soccer. Anyone else interested in playing either competitively or socially please contact Alex Forbes Tel: 541-1970 (Office) or 260-1950 (Home).

One addition to the off the field team has been the recruitment of former player Duncan Niven as Coach. Duncan will help at training, generally advise the captain and, on match nights, will be responsible for substitutions and general strategy once the game is underway. Being an estimated 83 and once having reputedly spilt a whisky over the legendary Dennis Law, Duncan brings a wealth of experience to the team.

The other major close-season move has been the formation of a social side. Inevitably with a squad approaching 20 players some are disappointed at not getting a regular game in the League side. Other club members, usually after a couple or ten Klostors (sorry, can I mention beer in a family magazine?) (yes, Ed) have said they would not mind the occasional run out, but do not want to commit themselves to the serious stuff. It is hoped the Social side will fill the gap for both these types. Mark Twemloe who just

cannot seem to displace the ageless Craig "The Cat" Rennie in goal has agreed to skipper the side, so if you want to have a run out contact Mark on 391-3714.

MATCH REPORT

The season opened with a farewell game for ex-stalward Pete Howley who is returning to his adopted home in the U.S. A game was arranged against an All Stars XI from the League and was well reported in the Bangkok Post.

An exciting end-to-end encounter ended with a 2-1 win for the Club with the scorers being Vince Swift and the Derby Dynamo, Steve Casteldine. The select's goal was also scored by the BC with a glancing header from Colin Hastings finding the net to the total incredulity of all present. As quoted in the "Post" the after match celebrations were tempered somewhat by the medical state of several players. Swift was in shock at finally scoring, Hastings went to a "Shrink" to have his brain checked and goalie, Craig Rennie, was taken to the local vet after a cat-like performance in goal. Man of the match was, in fact, Rennie for three of four excellent saves and a very safe performance. All in all a match to remember and an ideal opener for the season.

Our next game was against traditional rivals, the Royal Bangkok Sports Club, whose team these days seems to be comprised of budding Thai Internationals with the ability to run as fast as Alan Wells for the full duration. It was not unnatural, therefore, that there was some trepidation at the thought of such an early meeting when the summer 'beer bellies' had not yet worn off. The long and short of it, however, was that we turned on as fine a team performance as could be expected and came away with a nil/nil draw. We were missing a couple of regulars, but everyone played their part and the chances were evenly shared. Man of a very entertaining match was again Craig Rennie for two outstanding saves.

The Sports Club fixture was followed by one against a Unocal Select. The notorious

Bangkok traffic upset team planning due to the delayed appearance of skipper Alex Forbes with the kit (some guys will do anything to get a mention in OUTPOST). As a result Unocal went two up at half time with goals from Mike Pomfret and Teerawit. Unocal were bolstered by four 'ringers' from the State Railway side and, at that stage, were proving more of handful than expected. However, a reorganised British Club side had by far the better of the second half and two goals by Andy Maynard gave us a well deserved draw. Maynard then announced he would have to withdraw from the Casual's squad for the following day's game since he had forgotten he was getting married. I always suspected he had one too many bangs on the head. To cap his night of pre-marital bliss Andy was narrowly voted the Man of the Match over Steve Casteldine. It was no small coincidence that the writer received his first vote for this auspicious honour as his wife happened to be there for the first time this season. Thanks dear!

Our final match before going to print was a Casuals match against the touring British Navy from Hong Kong. The Embassy had arranged the pitch which, to say the least, was bumpy and to tell the truth was abysmal, but both sides turned on an enjoyable end-to-end encounter with the Navy lads winning 5-3. Notable highlights were the penalty save by young Simon Hough, for me man of the match along with Peter Rogers, and Peter Down's first goal since World War II. There were some weary limbs that Saturday night due to an appalling lack of substitutes which meant most of our Social players having to go almost the full distance (and loving every minute of it).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

By the time this "hits the streets" we will already be well into the I.S.B. 4-a-side competi-

tion which is the traditional opener to the Farang League Season. The League itself is due to start the first week in October and we are honing ourselves to peak physical fitness although the closure of the Churchill Bar upsets our training schedule. The club also has a tour to Chiang Mai scheduled for 23rd-25th October to coincide with the Chulalongkorn Day holiday. We will depart on the overnight train on Thursday 22nd and return on the Sunday evening. Games are arranged against the Gymkana Club and University. If you are up north at the time why not come and support us.

Finally, we are considering running a 50 Club as a fund raising venture. If we have 50 people contributing Bht 250 month we would have a monthly draw with prizes of Bht 5,000, Bht 2,500 and Bht 1,000. On Cup Final Day we would also have an extra draw for bottles of spirits etc. If you are interested in joining this please contact Vince Swift, Andy Maynard, Alan Morton or Mark Twemloe.

Well, that about wraps up the news and views for this month. Don't forget if you are keen to play either competitively or socially, give us a call or leave a note to me on the Board.

As a total aside and since this is now a family magazine here's a real tear jerker for the wives.

The carrot and the potato were best friends. They went everywhere together, doing things in harmony. One day when they were crossing Suriwongse the carrot was knocked down by a Tuk Tuk. He was rushed to hospital for an emergency operation and the potato anxiously waited outside, it's eyes filled with tears. Eventually the surgeon appeared and said, "I'm sorry, I've got some bad news" (everybody have a little sob ... that's enough!). "He's going to be a vegetable for the rest of his life" ... groan!

Don't forget - Keep Smiling - It makes everyone else wonder what you are up to. - Bye ...

Alex 'Scoop' Forbes

SQUASH SQUASH

August and September have been fairly dull months in the squash section, with a large number of players away from Bangkok on their annual leave. The Wednesday Club night has been very poorly attended recently, while the Sunday mix-ins have simply failed to happen as only one or two players have been present on Sunday afternoons. This should now change as members begin to drift back and as the weather becomes more suitable for dashing around in non-airconditioned courts.

However, not all activity has halted with the 65th squash league being played with the smallest number of competitors we have seen for some time, a problem compounded in some divisions by 50% of the players retiring injured. At this point we normally print the list of league winners and issue the appropriate noises of congratulations, coupled with encouragement to those who failed to have themselves placed two divisions under their rightful position. Unfortunately though, I've forgotten to bring the list and the article has to be in tomorrow, so this is not possible. In any case, well done the winners (whoever you are) and hard cheese to everybody else.

The first weekend in September also saw BC play host to two ships from the Hong Kong squadron who were passing through Thailand on their annual courtesy visit (or, in Naval parlance, "jolly"). By careful manipulation of the seedings, pre-game applications of Kloster, and some rather cynical tactics (like asking Jane Rodgers, Fiona Casbon and Barbara Overington to play) BC managed to sweep the board. In all fairness Her Majesties' patrol boats do lack the facilities for fine tuning squash skills and the margin was not as large as the games' results suggest. The tournament was followed by a pleasant barbecue in the pouring rain.

Enough of the past. Upcoming events include:

Ladies' Squash:— yes chaps!!!! ladies' squash has started again and all grades are welcome. The viewing galleries will no doubt be packed with squash fans.

The British Club Open (1st to 11th October) — come and watch all these wretchedly young, fit folks try to demolish the front walls using only a small piece of rubber. You too can join in the fun, all you need is a racket. In all seriousness, the Open tournament produces some fine squash and is a spectator event worth pencilling into your diaries. The final will be played at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday the 11th October.

And finally, a visiting team from ISCI is scheduled to play the BC during the weekend of November the 6th. The next squash article will reveal who ISCI are, as I have no idea.

Get Your Feet Right (or Wrong)

For the benefit of those players who like to muse on the position of their feet whilst lunging through a red haze to dig the ball out of the corner, there is some advice from Jonah Barrington (you know, the champ before Geoff, who was before Jahangir, who was before Merv). This advice should comfort those who have been doing it 'wrong' all along. Although written about 15 years ago, its timeliness, like BC's squash commandos (motto/prayer: "Don't let it go to five, please God") still lives on today.

'Wrong' Foot

Per kind favour. "Barrington on Squash"
By Jonah Barrington

"When going forwards to strike the ball, try to get your feet placed correctly — left foot leading for the forehand and right, for the backhand. However, when forced backwards I have learned, to work off what the textbook coaches have called the 'wrong' foot. My Australian adversary, Geoff Hunt, is the best exponent of this technique. He keeps cropping up, doesn't he? Anyway try it for yourselves.

Hit the ball to the back of the court — forehand side and then move to it, placing your left foot leading towards the corner, the only stroke you can play satisfactorily from that position is a boast, and look how difficult it is

to move back to the centre of the court, after completion — your body is locked.

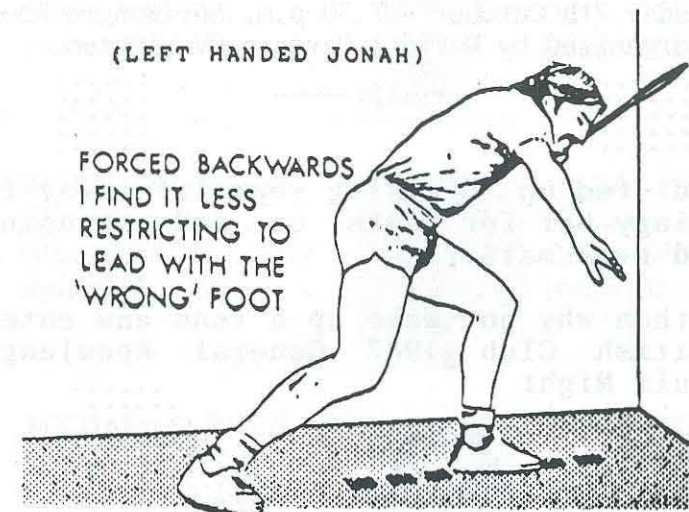
Now, hit the ball to the same area, right foot leading towards the corner, and besides having room for almost totally unrestricted hitting, there is an immense advantage in freedom of movement as well. The method is also

successful when moving sideways to take the ball. It is more difficult on the backhand side, but nevertheless has paid a handsome dividend for Geoff and myself — a reasonable recommendation."

Andy Hawkins & Dick Souter

(LEFT HANDED JONAH)

FORCED BACKWARDS
I FIND IT LESS
RESTRICTING TO
LEAD WITH THE
'WRONG' FOOT



TENNIS TENNIS

Due to the holiday period it has been a very quiet time with tennis activities. The only inter-club match to be played in August was against the Japanese Association. The following members played for the Club:

Dick and Mal Chessman, Steve & Kristeen Chappell, Bob and Terry Merry, Barbara Noon, Mervyn Rattray, Sucharit, Derek Tonkin, Dave Mulligan and Simon Bolton.

Once again we took a beating by 9 matches to 3, the only couples to win being Mal & Terry, Dick & Mervyn, and Dick and Mal.

Let's hope we have better luck in our next match which will be arranged when Dick returns from leave this month.

Ladies' Tennis has now started again on Mondays and Thursdays. We would like to welcome all new members to the section and hope to see them at our club activities:

Ladies' Tennis	Monday	:	3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.
	Thursday	:	8.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.
Men's Tennis	Monday	:	6.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.
Mixed Tennis	Wednesday	:	6.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE TEAM QUIZ NIGHT

Wednesday 7th October - 7.30 p.m. Suriwongse Room
: organized by David & Barbara Overington

Are you fed up drinking your life away in some dingy bar for weeks on end not using the old grey matter?

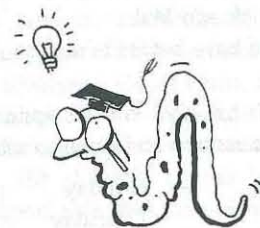
Yes - then why not make up a team and enter the British Club 1987 General Knowledge Team Quiz Night?

FORMAT

Tables of 4 to 6 compete as a team. No limit to number of teams as all questions are answered. Adjudication will be by the organizers and their decision will be FINAL.

SIGNING UP

Sign-up sheets are in reception so why not put your name down now? A £50 entrance fee will be charged to your account to pay for prizes, tea and coffee. If you don't know anybody to make up a team with, never mind, come anyway and teams can be formed on the night.



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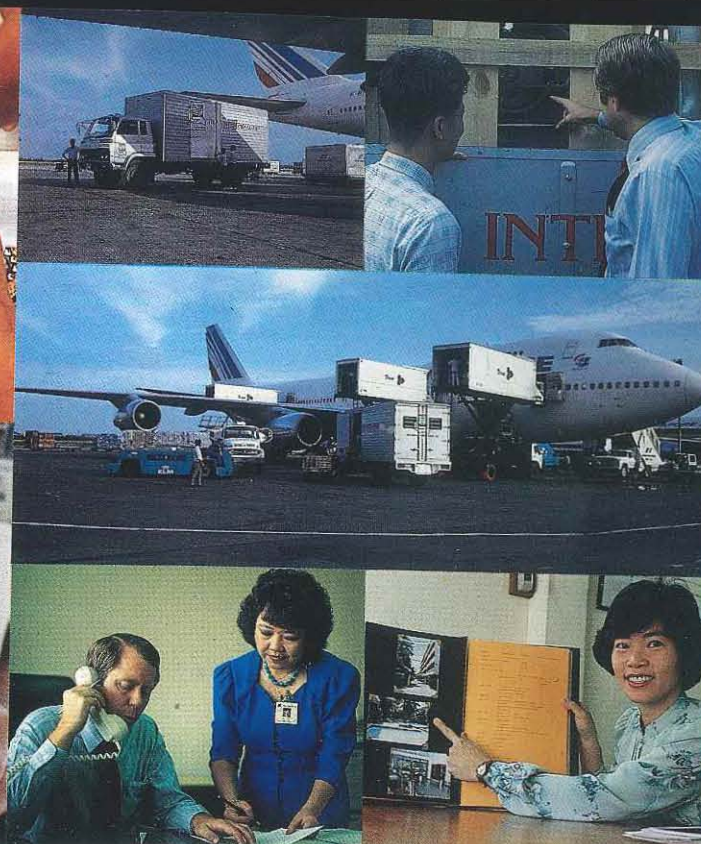


SURAPOL EKWANAPOL
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ACTIVITIES

ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN ANY ASPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES SHOULD CONTACT:

BILLIARDS/SNOOKER	— RON ARMSTRONG	390-2445
BRIDGE	— MIKE EVANS	236-8655-8
CRICKET	— JACK DUNFORD	236-0211
DARTS	— MIKE MAJER	513-1970
GOLF	— RON ARMSTRONG	390-2445
LADIES' GOLF	— PENNY WHALLEY	258-9415
OUTPOST	— MAREN WHITE	258-1481
RUGBY	— FIACRE HENSEY	234-3031
SOCCER	— ALEX FORBES	260-1950
SQUASH	— MIKE KELLY	253-0191 x 220
SWIMMING	— ERIKA MAJER	252-7492
TENNIS	— BRUCE POINTER	286-0500



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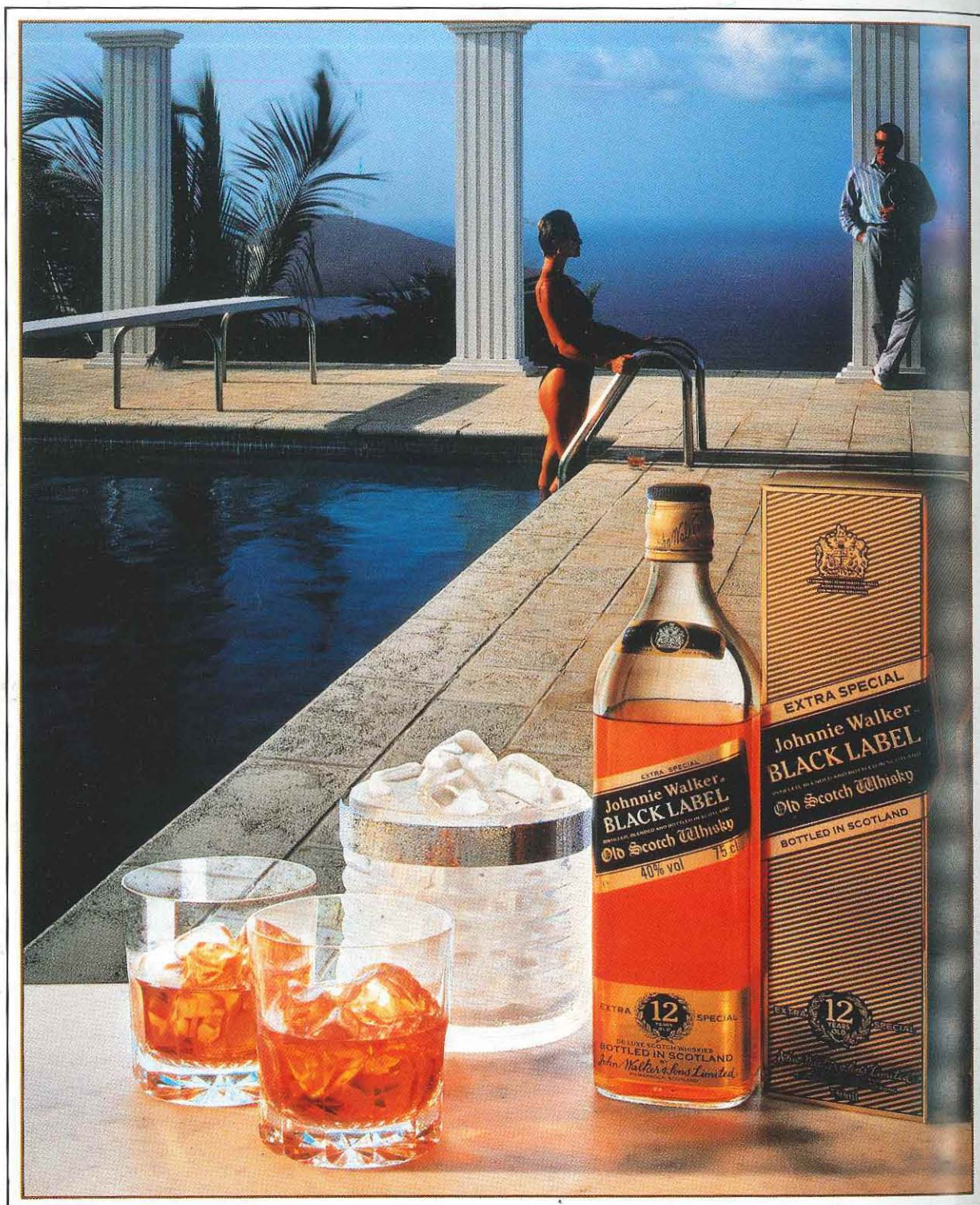
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