

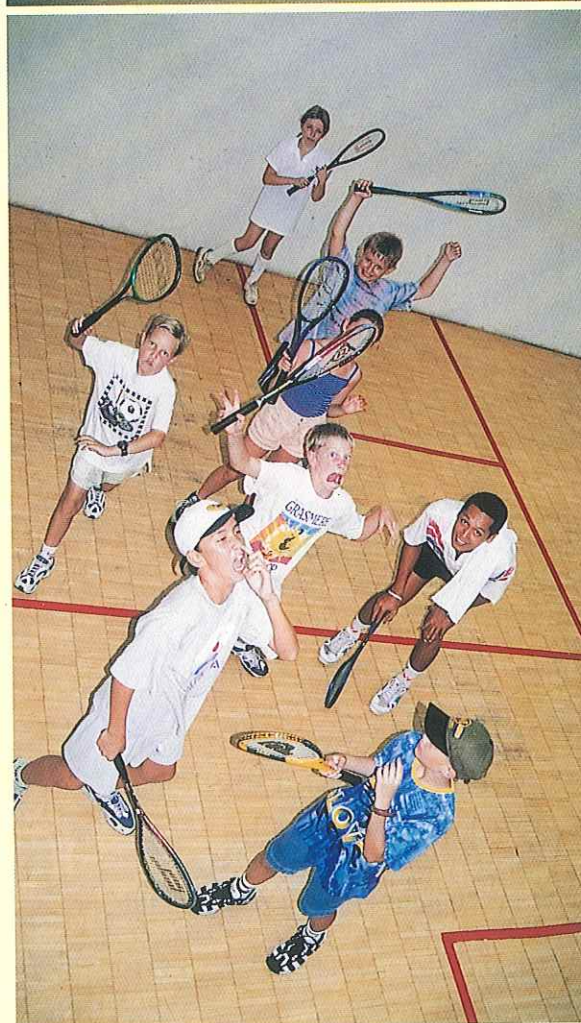


Outpost

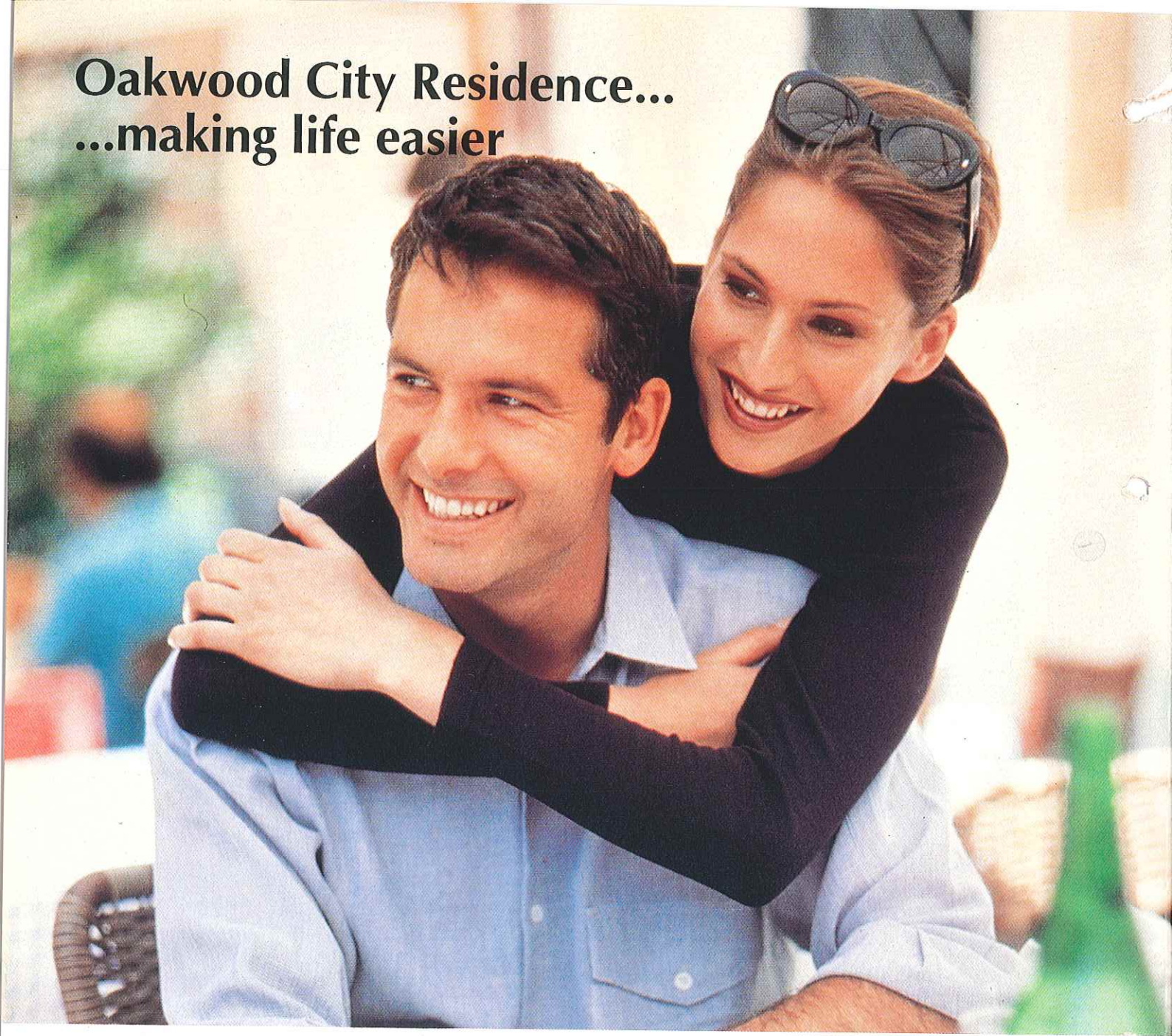
October

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1999



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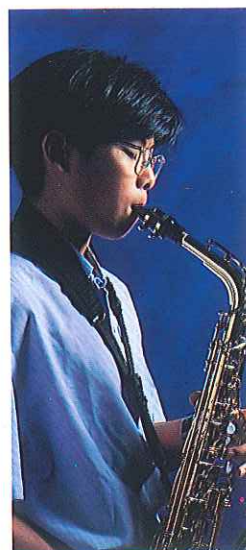
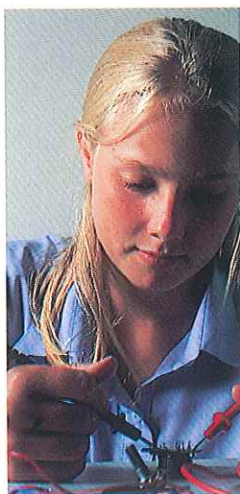
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The British Club

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

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

If you would like to Contribute to Outpost please contact the Editor, Sherry Conisbee, on Tel: 285 4721-2, Fax: 285 4723



Outpost Magazine

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



On the Front Cover:

Newish members René and Louise Lammers
Leaders in the race, Pattaya
BC Rugby Section Tug-of-War team
A delighted David Lamb gets a prize from Bernie
Learning how to play squash and pull faces



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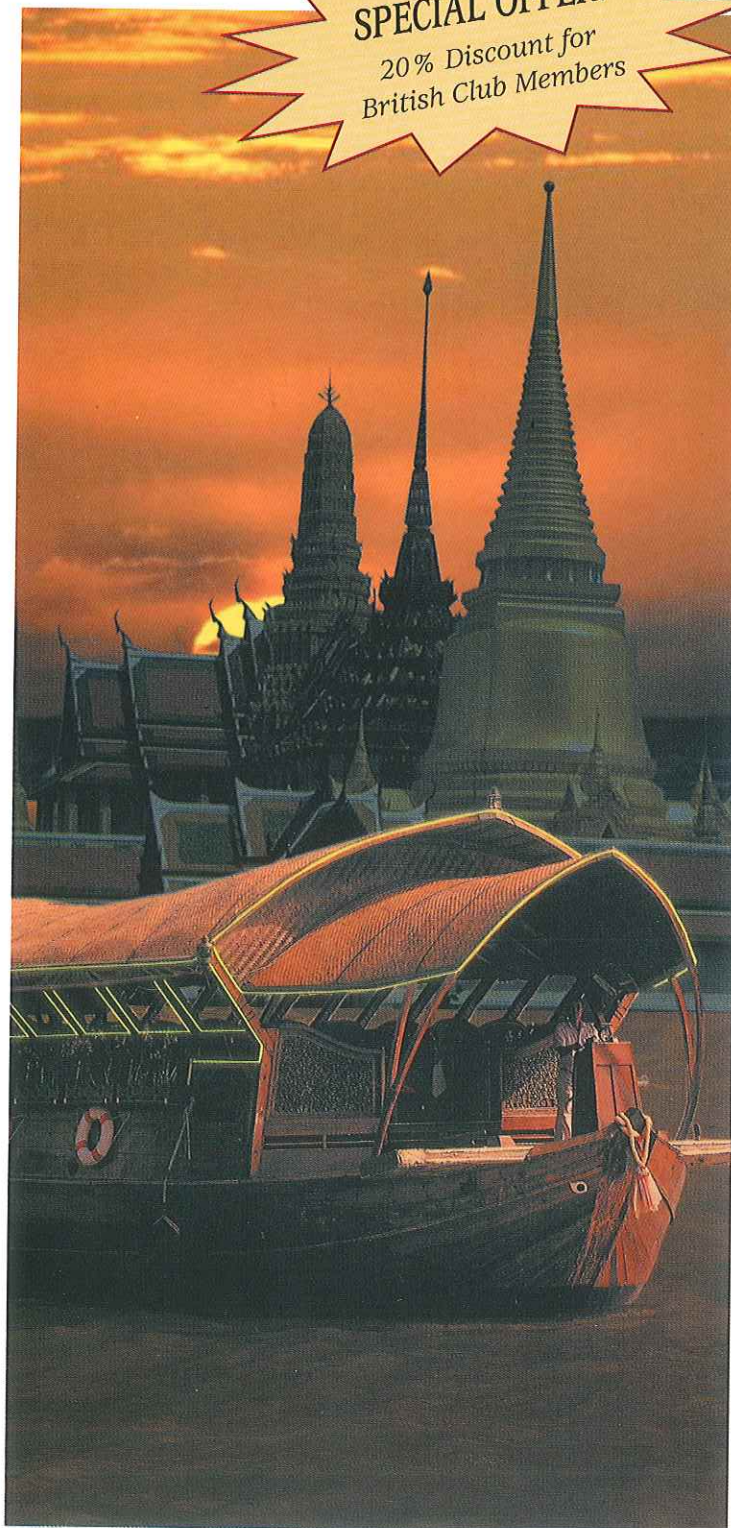


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Hello all,

It's me again, grabbing the best page so I can show off my new hairdo. I feel grrrreat so it was with fresh optimism that I swung into action on this issue, enthusiastically chivvying up the management and committee for their copy and gaily promising a page of colour to the squash section if only they would provide photos. And nobody let me down. *Outpost* is overflowing with news, views and special events. Even the Committee's head honcho made a commendable effort with his update on sub-committee issues - you get a gold star James!

Yeah, nothing beats a bit of photo doctoring to lift the spirits (thanks guys in the design studio). It reminds me of a CNN anchor person I met a few years back who, on seeing her press release photos, faxed the PR department saying she liked her face, it looked lived in... "and would you PLEASE put my wrinkles back!"

So what's new at the Club besides the Surawong Sala? Well, for starters the staff have adopted a new philosophy and with it a new motto. "Yes... We Can!" It's kinda catchy, I like it. Perhaps the yellow badges they're all wearing are a bit naff, but what the heck do I know about motivation tactics. Not much. I tend to think, "aim low, reach your goals, avoid disappointment".

It only needs a quick glance at the Management News to see that the weeks leading up to Christmas and the Big Milly celebrations are full of excitement in and around the Club. No need for me to repeat what's on as Tom covers it nicely. My only gripe is that the ballroom dancing lessons had to be cancelled due to lack of support. Come on guys, there's no shame in knowing how to tango. Show some support and we might get the lessons back on the calendar next year... please.

In the Letters page this month, Goodface takes some serious flak from two concerned members, and one kind individual told me I wasn't a voice in the wilderness as far as Lords Restaurant was concerned and took the trouble to write in with her suggestions. Thanks to all of you.

I'm almost out of space so can avoid the question no longer. I must ask... what do you think of the new Sala, so far? A couple of staunch Lords supporters I bumped into one evening in the Bar tried to deflect me from editorial outbursts against Lords by suggesting that fresh controversy was really what the pages of *Outpost* needed. I wonder.... will the renovation work on the Surawong Sala provide this? Do write in if you have any thoughts, any thoughts at all. I'm waiting.



The new me!

Sherry Conisbee

Sherry Conisbee
The Editor

It's October already! Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night are looming up. The elephant round-up, St. Andrew's dance practices and Loy Krathong are just around the corner. Then there's Christmas - the ball, children's party and carols. Very soon it will be 31 December - the river cruise and the countdown to New Year 2000!!! With all members back from their summer holidays and switching into party mood, the last quarter of the year is always hectic at the Club and packed with excitement. There's certainly plenty to celebrate, so why don't you come down to the Club and try out some of the entertainment. While thinking of Christmas, Rev. Stephen Gabbot, the vicar of Christchurch and an active British Club member, has kindly offered to update our Club carol book. Unfortunately, some of the more popular Christmas songs are not included in the Church's hymn book, so Stephen would be grateful if members could help by providing the words and/or music to any Christmas songs/carols they may have. If you have Good King Wenceslas, Jingle Bells or any others, then please send them to me and I'll forward them on.

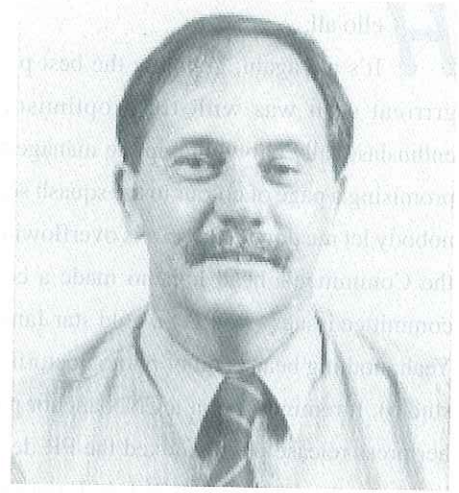
You will all have noticed the work taking place in the Surawong Sala. It was due to have been finished by now but unfortunately numerous problems have been encountered with the sandstone floor tiles. As I write this message, the architect and contractor are doing their best to solve the problem and I hope it will be resolved soon. The major concern is that the tiles are absorbent and in many places the grouting has penetrated into the stone itself.

The new tables and chairs have also been delayed. They are going to be specially made in teak and will be ready by the end of October. When the floor is ready, we will re-open the Sala using the old furniture at first.

I am sure I speak on behalf of the committee as well as myself when I apologise for these delays in the completion of the Sala upgrade.

Perhaps the more observant of you may have noticed the yellow badges being worn by the staff featuring the motto "YES... WE CAN!". This is all about providing the right service to members. The staff are currently involved in a motivational training programme provided by The Winning Edge, a professional training company. Please help the staff to help you and together we can improve the level of service for you, our members.

And finally, a note for the kids. Your new playground equipment is here so get down to the front lawn for some rough and tumble. Our sincere thanks goes to Club member, Nicholas Lynx-Lomonde and his company, Inca Plastics (Thailand) Ltd., for so generously donating this.

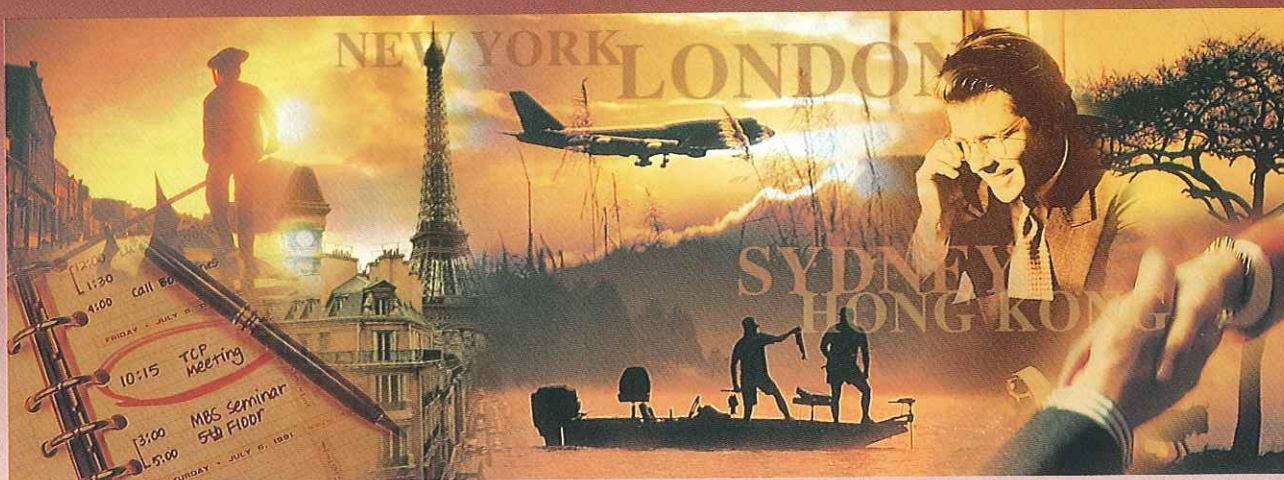


Tom Bain - General Manager

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tom Bain'.

Thomas Bain
General Manager

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Yes... We Can!

Italian Food Promotion

22-24 October

Come to Lords Restaurant and enjoy an "Eat as Much as You Can Buffet" rounded off by Amaretto coffee for just B500 for adults and B300 for children under 12. Friday and Saturday (22nd & 23rd) evenings only, and on Sunday (24th) both lunch and dinner.

Halloween Party, 31 October

Bring the kids along for the spookiest event of the year at the Children's Halloween Party on Sunday 31st where there'll be prizes for the most ghoulish fancy dress, Halloween games and ghostly stories. B270 gets you all this, plus food and drink. Please sign-up at Reception.



St. Andrew's Dance Practices, start 1 November

Join in the five practice sessions at the Club every Monday in November, starting on Monday, 1 November. The annual "Beat the Retreat" is on Wednesday, 1 December and the Post-Ball breakfast starts at the Club at 6.00am on Saturday, 4 December.

Beyond Therapy 4-6 November

Bangkok Community Theatre proudly presents this amusing play about a couple who meet after advertising in, and responding to, a Lonely Hearts column. A great comedy which



shouldn't be missed. Tickets at B350 (B250 for students) will be on sale at The British Club from mid-October. The performance will be staged at Alliance Francaise starting at 8.00pm. Not suitable for children. Call Angela on 310-3466 for further details.

Royal Barge Procession 4 November

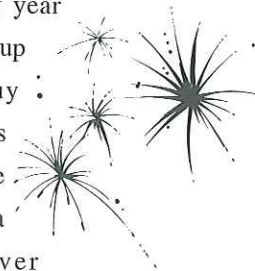
The response from members for this once-in-a-lifetime outing to the river was staggering. 120 people have signed up - so, sorry folks, you'll have to go on the waiting list if you haven't yet reserved seats. Please talk to Khun O.

World Cup Rugby Final 6 November

Starting on 2 October, the televised games are being shown here at the Club. For the Final in November, there is a special function with curry buffet starting at 9.00pm and you can watch the Final on the big screen in the Surawongse Room at 10.00pm. Nothing beats the big screen atmosphere! Price B290.

Guy Fawkes Night, 7 November

It's the time of year again to get fired up about Guy Fawkes! Join us for an explosive evening with a better-than-ever bonfire party and fireworks display plus a Guy competition. Starts at 5.30pm and entrance is by ticket only. Please read the safety rules later in the magazine but for those without a ticket remember that the



Club/Car Park will be CLOSED from 4.00pm. B290 for adults and B170 for children under 12. A BBQ is available for those who want it at additional cost.

Surin Elephant Round-up 19/20 November

With 80 people having reserved seats, this trip is also fully booked and we are unable to obtain any more places on the train. We'll keep a waiting list in case there are any cancellations so contact Khun Weena in the office if you want to be wait-listed.

Loy Krathong, 21 November

Celebrate the magical Full Moon Festival with a traditional Thai buffet on the back lawn of the BC. Wear your finest Thai costume (there's a prize for the best) and bring your Krathong to float, or buy one from the Club. B270 for adults and B200 for children.

British Club Christmas Ball 11 December

Mark your diaries now for a sensational night under the stars. Truly this BC Christmas Ball, the last of the millennium, should not be missed. Tickets at B1,250 per head will be on sale at Reception from Monday, 1 November.

Christmas at Lords

Bookings are now being taken for Christmas Day lunch and dinner. Seats are filling up fast so hurry and book, either at Reception or Lords Restaurant. Remember, you can enjoy traditional Christmas fayre in Lords starting on 7 December.



Staff Motivation Training

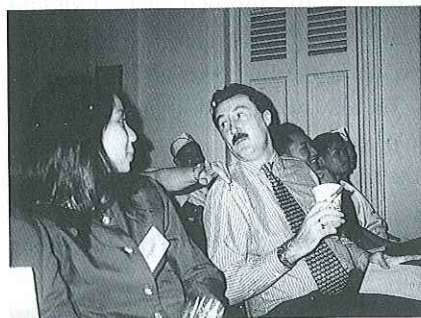
For the full story, see page 15, but here's some snapshots from the staff training session.



The GM with staff presenters, Khun O and Khun Dong



Bert Van Walbeek from The Winning Edge keeps an eye on proceedings



Pay attention Barry!



Enjoying the training

Club News



Khun Sutin, the new House & Grounds Manager



The new playground equipment. Thanks to Nicholas Lynx-Lomonde (L152) and his company, Inca Plastics, for kindly donating this.

Obituary

Michael Alley 1931-1999 A great loss to the Club

One of our most respected Club members died last May. Mr Michael Alley first joined the British Club in 1969. He was a keen bridge player and organizer of the Bridge Section, a strong supporter of Christ Church, a hardworking businessman - but especially a quiet, well-spoken gentleman in the true sense of the word. He was much loved and will be sorely missed.

Michael was a caring man who respected others, felt for them and made many staunch friends as a result. He was one of those rare individuals who listened without judgement and who, if asked, would give thoughtful and relevant advice and guidance.

He was a loving father to his daughter and four sons, one of whom is Chris Alley (also a member of our Club). He took great pains to instill the highest standards of life in his children. He provided the best possible education for them and encouraged them to read widely and develop a rounded and well-adjusted outlook to life.

Michael was a devout Christian, but respected the religious beliefs of others. He was not only tolerant of other faiths, but even studied their scriptures to better understand their diverse views and practices.

We of the Bridge Section in the Club will miss Michael dearly. He was devoted to his bridge. On his last night in Bangkok, he arranged his busy schedule so that he could play several hands with us before going to the airport to catch his flight to the UK. This was his last hand with us. He died only a few days later in England.

Michael was a wonderful man and a good friend to all who knew him. We are privileged to have known him and we are enriched by his contribution to our lives.

The Bridge Section



A Great Way to Start!

After an impressive string of victories in pre-season friendly matches, the BC Casuals team started their 1999/2000 Social League campaign with an excellent 5:0 win over Gemkey on 19 September.

Despite the scoreline, it was a tough match and the BC responded well to the pressure applied by Gemkey.

The Social League programme of fixtures is now posted on the football section noticeboard at the BC for anyone who is interested.

In a previous friendly match against MRTA, we were pleased to welcome a BC stalwart, Nigel Oakins, who now hangs his boots in Hong Kong. Nigel turned out for the opposition and even bagged a late goal to show that he has not lost his predator instincts.

Broken Bones!

We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Gerry Dorian, who broke his leg whilst playing for the BC on 29 August. Gerry was breaking in some brand new boots after his maid threw his old ones away because they were 'airing' on the balcony! There must be a moral to this story somewhere.

Farang League Update

It is a little disappointing that certain BC members and non-member regular guest players have opted to desert the BC and play for other teams in the Farang League this season. We wish them well - except

when they're playing the BC!

Fortunately we have been pleasantly surprised with a new intake of keen footballers in the past weeks and believe that we will mount a creditable challenge for both leagues this season. Extra players are still needed for both squads so don't be shy, contact one of the section committee members.

At the time of writing this article, the Farang League programme has not been set up but we expect first team football to start in November.

On the sponsorship front, we continue to receive support from the **Londoner Brew Pub** and have received a kind offer from **Adidas (Thailand)** of a substantial discount on their sporting equipment and apparel. Additional sponsors are still being sought so if your company is interested do not hesitate to give us a call.

Our planning is well advanced for the international tournament in Phuket on 23/24 October 1999. Any players who are interested and have not signed up should contact Martin Conisbee immediately.

Footballers can be sociable

The section held its first social function of the season on 14 September in the

Churchill Bar after our regular Tuesday night 5-a-side session. Around 30 section members showed up to enjoy an excellent curry buffet with cold beer to wash it down, courtesy of 'Baz' and the excellent BC catering staff.

As always, anyone who is interested in joining the BC football section should contact one of the committee or simply show up at the BC astro-turf tennis area any Tuesday evening for training and 5-a-side practice.

In the meantime...

Enjoy your football
The Gunner

Match Result Round-up

22 Aug: Casuals vs Gemkey

Casuals won 4:2 with goals from Mel Birkinshaw (2) and Suradej (2)

29 Aug: Casuals vs Austill

Casuals won 3:0 with goals from Rene Lammers (2) and Suradej

5 Sep: Casuals vs MRTA

Casuals won 5:4 with goals from Mauro (3), Paul Greenhalgh and Laurence Billington

19 Sep: Casuals vs Gemkey

Casuals won 5:0 with goals from Mel Birkinshaw (2), Adrian Colman (2) and Chris Power

Farewells

Twenty-three new members joined the Club in August - not bad for that time of year - and happily only 4 resigned with 14 members of different categories joining the ranks of the 'absent'.

So we must say au revoir to the following members and their families in the hope that we see many of them again before too long:

• Stuart King • Glenn Ward • Alan Sherrard • Per Saltvedt • John Barnes • Melissa Perkovic • Malcolm Hossick • David Dance • Alex Bach • Richard Bolt • Fons van der Heijden • Huey Lim • Hoeng Lim • Joseph Smith • Elena Flores • Phanvadee Krisnarach • Paul Beresford-Hill • Steven Doerr.

Skippy turns Pom

Remember Lisa Fitzpatrick? Our previous Aussie SRC who last year was charmed into leaving Bangkok for Brighton, England where a life of wedded bliss awaited... well that and a few other things like thermal underwear,



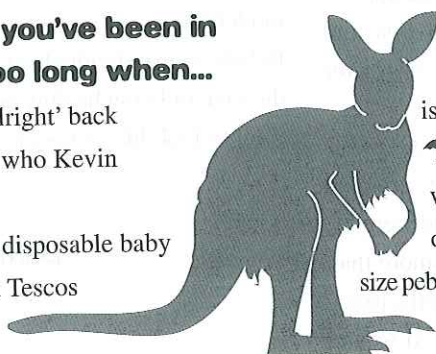
Kevin and Lisa

central heating bills and endless conversations about the weather. For Lisa and fiancé, Kevin, the 'bliss' bit starts in March next year with a wedding in Lisa's home town of Perth, but meanwhile Lisa is trying to adjust to her new life on England's south coast.

So far, so good - she actually likes it! In fact she's settled so well that certain British idiosyncrasies have become second nature to her, like not thinking twice about tipping her hairdresser and disliking the French for their silly accents and not their nuclear policies. Here's a recent bit of silliness she sent from England, which I know she won't mind if I share. It came under the heading "Australians in England".

You know you've been in England too long when...

- ☛ You say 'alright' back
- ☛ You know who Kevin Keegan is
- ☛ You buy a disposable baby BBQ from Tesco's



- ☛ You don't remember any captain of the Australian Cricket Team after Alan Border
- ☛ After a big night out you find yourself looking for a Curry house, and not a 24-hour McDonalds
- ☛ More than three hours sunlight on any day seems excessive
- ☛ You finish every sentence with a rhetorical 'Yeah'
- ☛ You only just realise you've lost your sunnies; you left them in Greece last summer
- ☛ You start thinking English cuisine isn't all that bad, afterall, I mean, it's hard to beat a full English, innit?
- ☛ You are on to your 6th umbrella and 2nd overcoat

- ☛ You don't mind paying the £100 TV licence - after all it is TV without ads
- ☛ A day at the beach means wearing the warmest clothes you own while standing on golf ball-size pebbles and the thought of swimming doesn't even enter your head

- ☛ You always call soccer football
- ☛ ... and you have a team
- ☛ ... and it's not Manchester United
- ☛ You don't think twice about buying a packaged sandwich
- ☛ A sunny lunchtime means searching for a patch of grass and stripping off to your underwear
- ☛ You start thinking that cricket's only for toffs
- ☛ You don't get really excited when popstars come to town. You know they'll be back next month/year
- ☛ You start to identify with characters in East Enders
- ☛ Queuing doesn't seem to be such a big deal

Sherry Conisbee

Believe it or not!

Long ago in England, lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock people out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around to eat and drink and wait to see if their loved one would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake".

Love Your Body!

Today we will talk about Genetics.

God made some of us big, some of us small, some of us short, and some tall.

This we can understand.

However, he also made each of us with our own particular fat storage spot. What's that you say, fat storage spot? Well it goes this way. Everyone has locations in their body, some obvious and some not, where they store fat. Now we all know that when you gain weight you are storing fat, but have you ever noticed that you seem to gain all of it on your butt or belly or the back of your arms? This is because that is your 'spot' and a higher percentage of your fat gain will be in that location.

Generally, males tend to store their fat around their mid-section and women tend to store theirs in the buttocks and thigh region. Now this is just a generalization and I know plenty of exceptions to both gender specific stereotypes.

Accept it

Now one may wonder why I am telling you this good news. Well, it's simple. You cannot change genetics no matter what you do. That means that until we can clone a new arm, leg or bottom for you, then you will have to make do with what you were given by genetics.

With this information, I am hoping to divert the dreaded question, 'what can I do about my hips?' or 'I need to get rid of this fat on the back of my arms' or 'will doing lots of sit-ups help get rid of my beer belly?' These questions are dreaded by fitness consultants and personal trainers

everywhere. There is no simple straightforward answer, and the truth can turn people off exercise completely.

The correct answer to the above (generalized for all circumstances) is, 'To reduce the fat

stored in your (*insert your personal fat storage spot*) you need to do the following:

- Revamp your lifestyle so that you get some form of exercise every day (at least every other day) including a variety of weights and cardiovascular work.
- Watch your diet and reduce the total amount of food, especially saturated fats.
- Look for results over a period of time - at least 3 months - and better to set small goals over the course of a year.
- For some 'spots', focusing on the muscle group around the area will help to firm it up but will not reduce the amount of fat stored there.
- Learn to accept yourself and work on generally improving your overall health - not specific spots that you would like to fix.

Be patient

Just in case I have not gotten you convinced on this issue let me give you a few examples. For the sake of simplicity, we will start with a stereotype.

Let us take Jo for example, who has a bit of a belly but overall his legs and upper body show little fat storage. Jo comes to the fitness centre and says I want to lose my belly in 3 weeks for the upcoming holiday so I can wear my bikini bottoms. How do I do this?

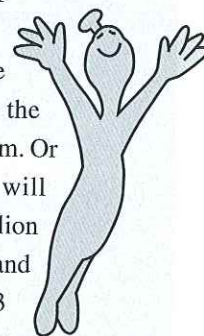
Dilemma! The instructor could lie and say lots of sit-ups will do the trick and hope Jo never keeps up with the sit-ups and therefore thinks he failed, or the instructor could say...

'To lose your belly you need to reduce your food and especially fat intake, coupled with cardiovascular exercise and weights. You also need to give yourself more than 3 weeks, and more like 4-6 months to see any improvement. You will need to add

sit-ups to help firm up the stomach but be warned that you will lose weight all over your body and the last place it will disappear from will be your gut, because this is your personal fat storage spot.'

To this Jo will say one of 3 things:

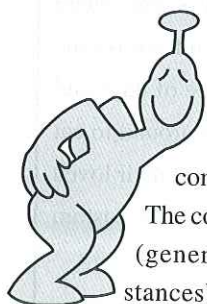
Okay! Lets do it! because he accepts himself and the genetics God has dealt him. Or he will say no way, I will starve/diet, and do a million sit-ups which will work and I can wear my bikini in 3 weeks - you don't know what you are talking about. Or he will get depressed and never even try to do what the fitness instructor suggested because it sounds like too much work. Can you see the dilemma?



Be yourself

I think you get the point. The next time you look in the mirror and think I sure wish I could lose that flabby butt, or big tummy, remember that all it takes is time, effort and a willingness to understand that you are who you are. You will never be that other person you may want to be (Pierce Brosnan or Claudia Schiffer for example), close maybe but never the same, unless we start talking about plastic surgery. Then we can change a young black male into a white male who looks very like his sister, only whiter. Michael Jackson - a great performer maybe, but not a great role model for accepting who you are. Relish your individualism and get fit for the sake of being healthy not because you want to look like someone else!

**Damon Nemish
SRC**



Time flies past, seemingly quicker in Bangkok than anywhere else! However we are now half way through the Committee year and I will mark the occasion by summarising activity so far and commenting on some of the issues we are currently addressing.

Finance

Due to the current level of membership, an all-time high of 964 at the time of writing, sufficient funds have been created to undertake some refurbishment projects without dipping into cash reserves. The Treasurer's objective of balancing income and expenditure is not progressing as speedily as we would have wished. This is largely due to the large number of members leaving (surprisingly the rate has not fallen over the last two years) and this has had a significant effect on our income. Presently the sub-committee is preparing a budget for 1999/2000.

Personnel

This is possibly one of the busiest Committees. A major awareness and motivation programme for the staff is presently underway. This is being provided by The Winning Edge, a specialist hospitality industry training company, managed by Club members, Bert and Gisi Van Walbeek. I'm sure you will have noticed the badges being worn by many of the staff. If you feel that a member of staff has offered exceptional service please take the time to tell them. It does help to reinforce the message and provide the confidence to use initiative.

After the recent years where austerity measures have been necessary to ensure the viability of the BC, our versatile staff have often been covering requirements for which they are not ideally suited. We have embarked on a policy of employing appropriately skilled personnel, particularly in the senior management positions. An example of this would be the House & Grounds Manager, Khun Sutin who joined the Club 3 months ago. He has an engineering degree and has already identified several problems and remedies to problems, which have almost come to be accepted as 'par for the course'. This policy has been adopted across the entire staff but can take time for the effect to become apparent. An exception to this is the Head Gardener whose efforts are visible for all to see.

Membership

This Committee has been looking at the future and drafting policies addressing issues that we feel may be pertinent. The prime concern at present is the issue of non-member usage of the Club. This is a particularly thorny issue where we need to meet the needs of members who must be able to bring guests to their Club. On

the other hand we should not be providing access to individuals who use our facilities and have no intention of joining our Club. The General Committee feels that as we are elected by the members to represent members' interests, we cannot encourage use of facilities by individuals who do not pay joining fees and monthly subscriptions.

The continued success of the membership marketing campaign remains an essential element in our overall strategy of recovery. Changes in personnel through the first half of the year have undoubtedly affected their results but we are confident that the last quarter should provide a significant boost.

Maintenance and Development

The monies generated from the Membership campaign and expense control have enabled some of the necessary refurbishment to be undertaken. Some of these, such as the painting of the Clubhouse, are regular items and others such as the Surawongse sala are only addressed when funds are available. The latter item represents a sea change in the way that renovation is being addressed. It is imperative that these projects are medium to long term solutions. If not we are merely passing the responsibility to future General Committees where the decisions may become more onerous and more costly. To illustrate this point, the renovation of the Sala involved the work of a professional designer and architect, project management and a quality prime contractor. These factors will permit a completed project that should stand the test of time. Certainly this could have been achieved short term at a lower short-term cost but with less efficiency, a greater negative impact on the members and an inferior result by far. This particular project was undertaken as this sala is continually used to capacity at peak times and it was felt the poolside is a major attraction to existing and potential members. The rest of the pool area together with Lords restaurant is slated for similar treatment as soon as funds permit.

Shortly we will instigate an architectural competition to generate an overall plan for the continued redevelopment of the BC as a whole. The results of the competition will be presented to the members for comment. The concept is that the winning architect will be engaged to prepare an overall plan for phased redevelopment. It would be entirely appropriate for any suggestions or requirements to be put forward at this time. There also several reasonably expensive projects to do with utilities and supply that have had to be addressed. While these are of no immediate obvious benefit, they do continue to make the BC a safer environment for us all.

The poolside changing room showers and children's playground equipment are

approved projects that will hopefully be completed within the year.

Sport and Events

Tom, Barry and Damon continue to expand the variety of events and activities offered to members. I think you will agree that this is a very positive move - although it's impossible to please all the people all the time!

The major issue within this sector is that of a playing field for the field sports sections. The Club has contacted seven Land Agents with a view to getting information on available land for this purpose. Their initial report proves once again that a land purchase is out of the question. I would again ask for everyone's co-operation, particularly that of the rugby and soccer sections, in identifying pitches that may be available on a lease or ground share arrangement.

Food and Beverage

As everyone must be aware by now we are looking to improve our F&B service. There are a number of elements being addressed namely, the capacity of the popular Surawongse Sala, the menu in Lords Restaurant and trying to provide each outlet with its own identity. I feel these will have a positive impact on the Club's monthly income, thus making a significant contribution to our financial objectives.

Millennium and Centenary

It will be difficult to compete with the major hotels in Bangkok when it comes to 31st December. We feel the BC has a long, successful and popular tradition of celebrating the New Year with our boat trips on the Chao Phraya. This year, in addition to the boat trips, the Club will be hosting a party for all those who have 'left it too late', returning from the boat trip, have a young family or simply think the whole turn of the millennium is being overdone.

The British Club Centenary is another very important and historic date in the calendar. Planning for the event is in the capable hands of ex-Chairman Dugal Forrest. The Club has commissioned a centenary book, which will require significant input from many sources and requires above all, time. In summary, there is a great deal of activity and planning taking place at present. If any member would like any further information on any aspect of General Committee activities, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me directly or Tom Bain at the Club.

**James Young
Chairman**

Calendar

British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - October 1999

Sundays



11 am - 1 pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12 noon - 2 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3 - 6 pm Tennis Mix-in
5.30 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour

Monday



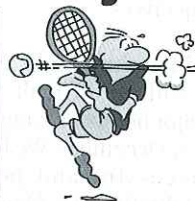
8.00 am BWG Mahjong
9.30 am Aerobics
6 - 7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
Happy Hour
6 - 8 pm Tennis Team Training
7 - 9 pm

Tuesday



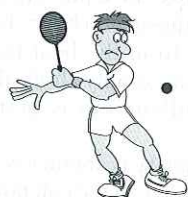
7 am Ladies Golf
8 - 10 am Ladies Tennis
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour
7 - 9 pm Football Training
7.30 pm Darts
8 - 11 pm Friendly Bridge
9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof

Wednesday



9.30 am Body Shaping
4.30 - 9 pm Squash Coaching
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour
6 - 9 pm Tennis Mix-in
6.30 pm Cricket Nets

Thursday



8 - 10 am Ladies Tennis
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
6 - 7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
Happy Hour
6 - 8 pm Squash Mix-in
7 - 9 pm Rugby Training
9 - 10 pm Hockey

Friday



9.30 am Step Aerobics
3.30 - 9 pm BC Tennis Coaching (Tots - Adults)
5.30 pm Swimming - Junior
6 - 8 pm Squad Training
7 pm Happy Hour
Snooker Night

Saturday



9 am - 12 noon Squash Coaching
9 am - 1 pm BC Swimming Coaching
4.00 pm Casuals Football
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour

MAKE A NOTE!

- The finest food from Italy is being served buffet-style in Lords from 22-24 October.
- The 31st is Halloween! Bring the kids and enjoy a spooky night at the Club.
- Get ready for the St. Andrew's Ball by joining us on the front lawn for dancing practice starting 1 November.
- Don't forget the Carlsberg Beer Buffet every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month
- Remember, Remember, the Fifth of November! But here at the Club, you'll get more Bang for your Baht on Sunday, the 7th. Book now!
- Get your tickets from the BC for the comedy "Beyond Therapy" performed by the Bangkok Community Theatre.

For more special events, check out Management News on page 10.

Sports - Contact

Aquatics	Liz Beal	262 9351
Badminton	Anant	654 0002-29
	Leighrahathorn	
Cricket	Nick White	246 0832
Football	Martin Conisbee	366 0432
Golf	Bernie Adams	675 6123
Rugby	Jon Prichard	662 6376
Scuba Diving	Peter Gary	634 7792
Squash	Peter Corney	381 7240
Tennis	David Blowers	285 4721-2

Venues

Badminton	Soi Nares, behind Bangrak Police Station
Aerobics	Surawongse Room, the BC
Casuals Football	Colgate Ground, Rama III
Massage	Near the BC Squash Courts

Opening Times

10 am - 11 pm	Churchill Bar
11.30 am - 2 pm	Lords Restaurant (Lunch)
6 pm - 10 pm	Lords Restaurant (Dinner)
7.30 am - 10 pm	Poolside Bar
6 am - 9 pm	Fitness Centre
9 am - 9 pm	Fitness Centre
	(Sundays/Holidays)
9 am - 6 pm	Thai Massage (Tues-Sun)

Yes... We Can!

The British Club General Committee 1999/2000

Name	Position	Tel.	Fax.
James Young	Chairman	712 5407-9	712 5410
Nick Bellamy	Vice Chairman	286 9999	236 5226
Bernie Adams		675 6123	675 6120
Alex Blackwood		682 5745	682 5745
Peter Corney		714 2426	714 2430
David Eastgate		672 0123-5	672 0127
Dugal Forrest		398 3807	399 1564
Chris Moore		747 9633	747 9677
David Turner		618 6516	279 1234
James Woodford		326 0660	326 1123

Club Staff

Tom Bain
General Manager

Barry Osborne
Operations Manager

Yes...We Can!

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

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- ◆ Misunderstanding the new Self-Assessment system.
- ◆ Failing to plan for a return to the UK.



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Londoner "Pulls it off"

The Rugby Section staged its inaugural Tug of War Competition on the back lawn of the British Club in August.



The Londoner team making it look easy

While cynics may say that this was a desperate attempt by the Rugby Section to actually win a trophy, we prefer to look at it as a philanthropic gesture to those "armchair athletes" who frequent the Barbican or the Londoner pubs.

The competition was won by the Londoner Pub who defeated the British Club Rugby Section in the final. Most of us thought that the BC boys were a bit wide in the girth, but the Londoner eight made the BC look reasonably fit. The Barbican gentlemen put up a good show, but they are obviously not drinking enough. The British Embassy male contingent drink more than enough, but it seems their years of form filling and cocktail parties have destroyed the muscle mass. The ladies team from the British Embassy, however, made up for their male colleagues by defeating the Nightingales from the Bangkok General Hospital.

The Geisha Boys (aka Bangkok Japanese Rugby Club), coached by the unforgettable

Yoshi Okuni, were the noisiest and most colourful team in the competition. Despite having an early success, the long beer break seemed to have had a detrimental influence as our Japanese friends were more apt to fall down than pull on a rope. The afternoon was not just a neanderthaloid exercise for those who drink too much. It was also a family occasion with pony rides, face painting and motorbike rides for the kids. The Bangkok General Hospital also kindly provided free blood pressure tests.

Special thanks should go to Jon Prichard for his excellent organisation, our ambassador Sir James Hodge for gracing this athletic feast, the **Bangkok General Hospital**, **Carlsberg**, the BC staff, **Two Dogs**, the **Londoner**, the **Barbican**, the **Bull's Head** and Patrick Cotter.

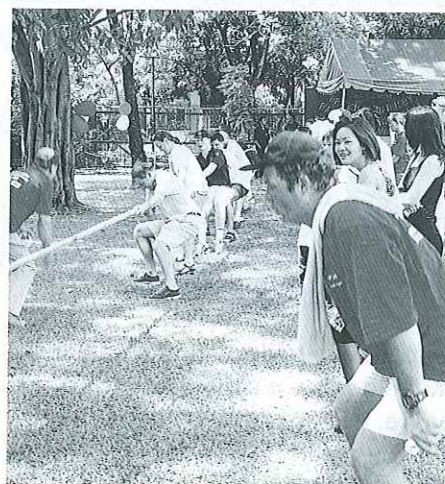
Andy Davies

BC roped in to do the Catering

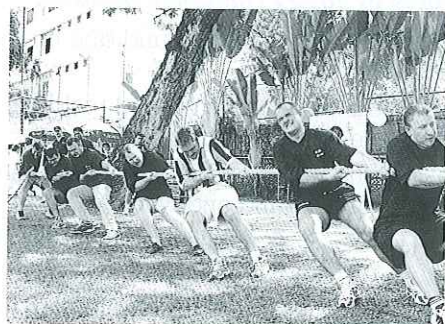
Organised by the British Club Rugby Section and catered for by The British Club, it's plain from these pictures that everyone had a great time at the Bangkok International Tug of War in August.

The British Club can cater for large or small parties, formal or informal, either at the Club or in your own home or office. Next time you're planning a special event, why don't you contact us for some advice and a quote. Our team of catering experts will be happy to take over and leave you free to enjoy yourself.

Tom Bain



What's that you're doing, Doug?



Demonstrating it's not just the birds they can pull!



The BC staff team



Nice outfits guys! (The BKK Japanese rugby team)



Ian Webb and the half pints



The fate of the last anchor man



Special fun for the kids



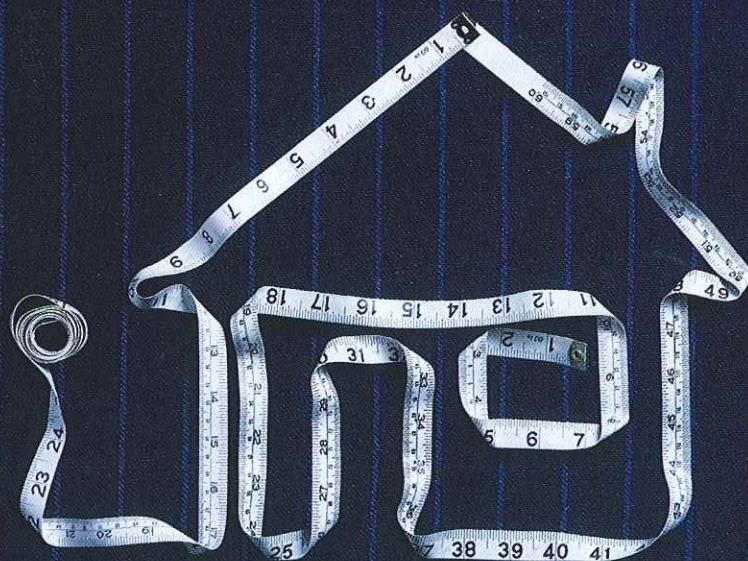
Khun Matha, BC Maintenance, with his handiwork



Going flat out for victory !



Tom cooling down with the girls from 'Two Dogs'



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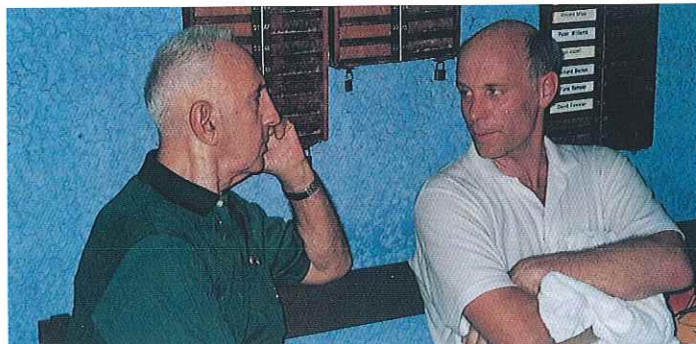


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See Squash article on page 23.



I've heard that one before



Two of the youngsters



I'm sure I scored more points than that



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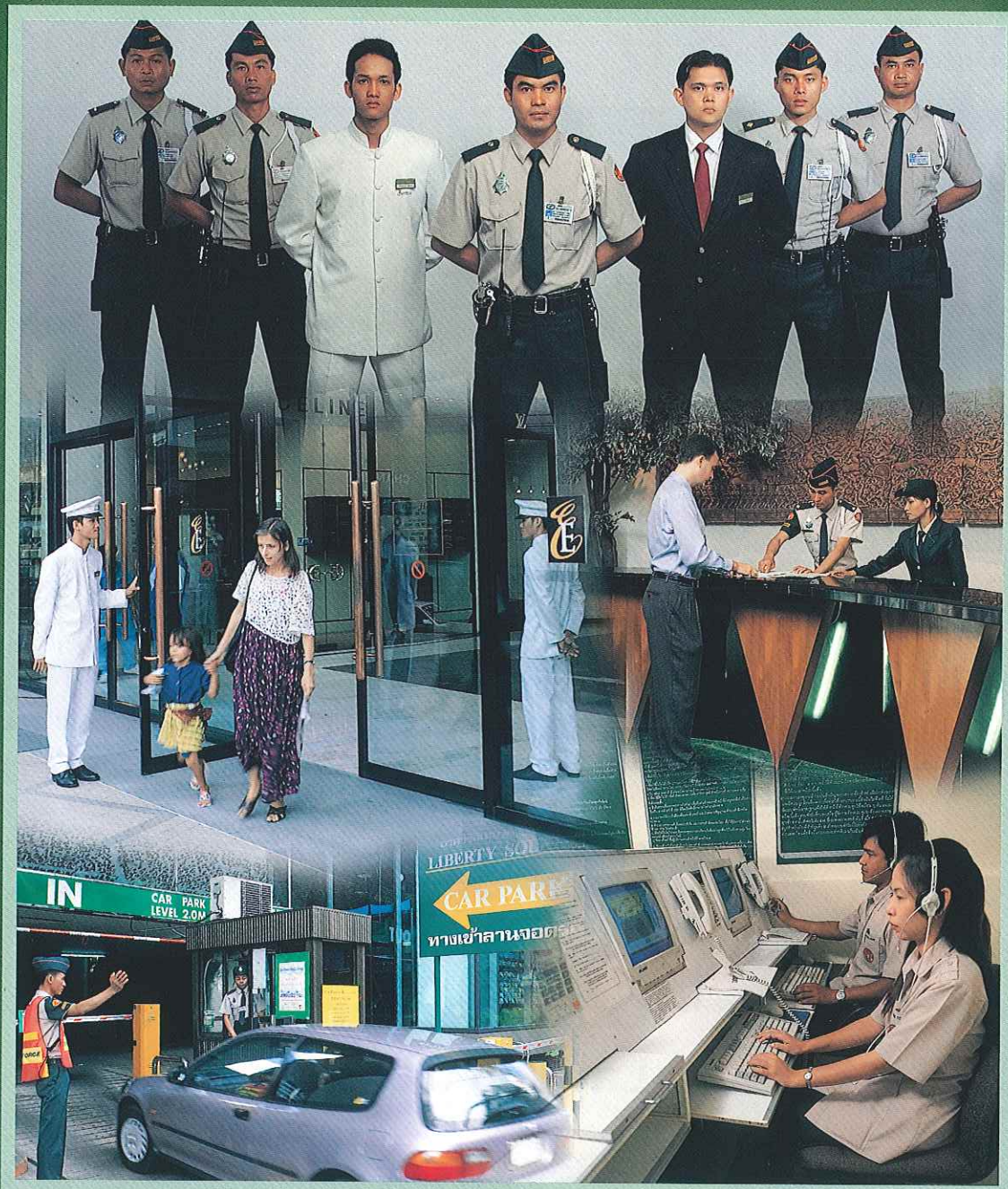
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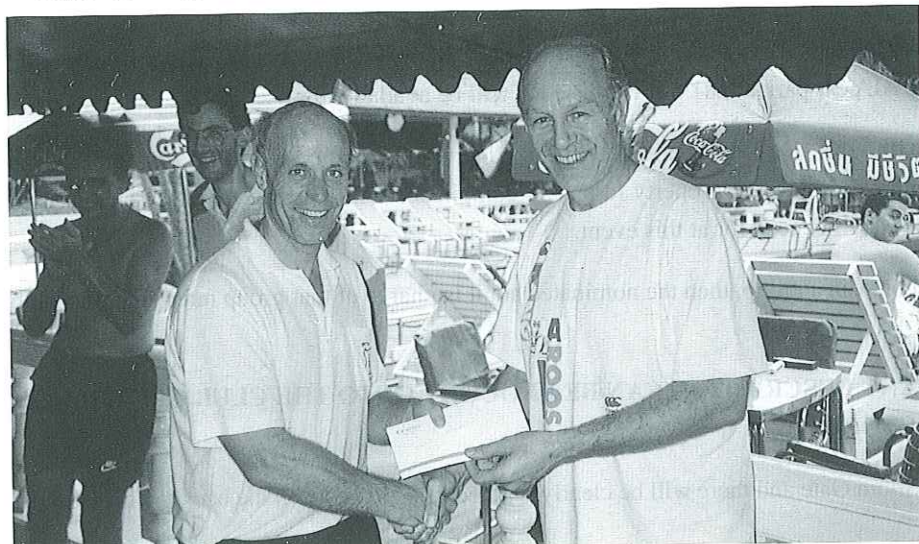
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Committee Drain Plugged

The Squash Committee is up to full complement again, but I'll start first with some coverage of recent events.



Martin presenting David with his 'dinner for two'

Central Grand Plaza Hotel Sunday Mix-in: There were 6 players for the afternoon of squash on 5 September. It was good to see Dave Eastgate back from his long holidays except that he was in good form and once again won the 'dinner for two' donated by the **Central Grand Plaza Hotel**. Martin Reed, the hotel's General Manager, was on hand to make the presentation. The results were:

Dave Eastgate	(-35)	75
Bill Randall	(-18)	64
Mark Bowers	(-17)	54
Peter Norris	(-14)	57
Jack Dunford	(-12)	64
Wayne Needoba	(-7)	51

League 137: League 137 was completed on 22 August and the winners were:

1. Tony Perkovic
2. Dick Anwar
3. John Vivian
4. Simon Davies
5. Jack Dunford
6. Dave Parks

There were many injuries and bugs going around which prevented many of the games from being played. Unluckily for André this could have affected the outcome of one of the leagues. John Vivian owes André a couple of beers.

Future Events

Handicap and Plate Squash

Championships: The above event will have been completed by the time this is published and the write up will be in the next issue of *Outpost*.

BCB vs Ambassador Jomtien: This match was scheduled for Saturday 18 September and the results will be in the next *Outpost*.

Rod Carter Open Squash

Championships: This will be played during October and is open to all residents in Thailand.

Tony Austin Cup: This Cup for players aged 45 and over will be played in November.

Annual Triangular Squash Series: It is planned to have an annual triangular squash series between BCB (2 teams), Ambassador Jomtien and Gymkhana Club (Chiang Mai) at Jomtien on the weekend of 23-25 October.

Squash Committee

Bill Randall and Phil Hall have kindly joined the squash committee to take the place of Dave Turner and Melissa Perkovic.

Sponsorship

Colin Hastings has kindly offered to sponsor the leagues for the next 12 months with subscriptions to "Journeys In Asia" as league draw prizes. However, we continue to look for sponsors for competitions throughout the year and any interested parties should contact me on <acapath@samart.co.th> or 714 2426.

Web Page

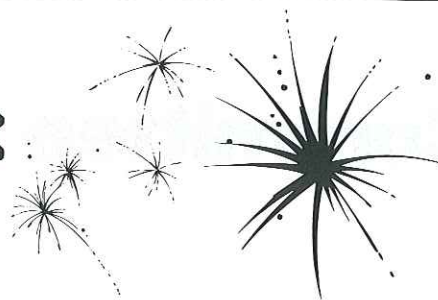
The squash section web page is <www.britclub.com> If you wish to keep updated on world squash, contact <glsqiling@inforamp.net>

Contributions to Outpost

All members are encouraged to submit any comments or gossip etc. for inclusion in *Outpost*. If you have anything, fax it to me on 714 2430.

Peter Corney

Guy Fawkes Night



MEMBERS - Please Read these Important Safety Regulations for Guy Fawkes Night on Sunday 7 November:

1. For safety reasons, the Club will be closed to all cars from 4.00pm on 7th November. Members already parked in the car park at that time will be asked to move their cars. The AIA car park at 181 Surawongse Rd will be available for use.
2. The Club will be **closed to all members without a 'Guy Fawkes' ticket** from 4.00pm to 9.00pm on Sunday 7 November. Club staff will support the security guards at all entrances onto the property to ensure compliance with this rule. This restriction is to guarantee that we do not extend the numbers we are licenced for at this event.
3. Children must be accompanied by an adult or, if in a group, then the nominated adult in charge of that group must enter the Club and stay with the group at all times.
4. **ABSOLUTELY NO FIREWORKS OF ANY DESCRIPTION CAN BE BROUGHT ONTO THE CLUB GROUNDS BY ANYONE OTHER THAN THE CONTRACTORS.**
5. There will be an ambulance on site by the Silom Gate and there will be clearly marked first aid posts on the back lawn and in the front car park.
6. There will be a fire engine on site by the car park with hoses deployed ready for use.

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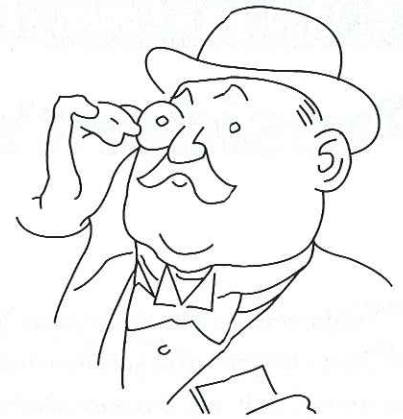


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Goodface on Politics



Maj. Henry Goodface (retired) is a pedantic, misogynistic, chauvinistic old fool and the views expressed in his column are his and his alone and do not represent the views of the editor or any other reasonable thinking individual.

Having been privileged to share in my wisdom on a multitude of subjects over the last few months, it will be no surprise for you to learn that a glittering career in politics was there for the taking should I have desired it. Oh yes, there was no shortage of sponsors urging me to take to the hustings and exercise my fiery oratory on behalf of their cause. "Come on Goodface, be our man!" cried the Tories. "old on mite, it's the bleedin' workers what needs you," appealed the Labour chappies. "Well we might need you if we knew what we wanted but we aren't sure, so maybe, let's see, if well, I mean, if you don't mind, let's see, hmmm yes, well what do you think?" said the liberals. And as for the communists, they really impressed me with this impassioned plea: "As an icon of the imperialist state and anti-worker fascist military industrial complex, you are the perpetuator of the capitalist dictatorship and the dialectical materialist narco-consumerism of the ruling classes and a cog in the machine dedicated to the enslavement of the proletariat and corruption of the true ideology of the revolutionary committed to the downfall of the oppression of the landless serfs and the resurgence of the true socialist spirit." I had no idea what they were talking about but I was flattered as you can imagine.

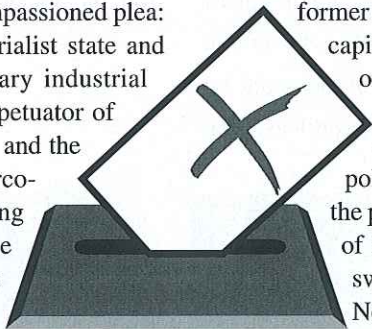
But finally, I had to say no. You see the fact is, I would not have been able to keep a straight face. I mean imagine having to stand up in front of an assembly of people and say in a sincere tone, "If you vote for me I promise to cut taxes, initiate a massive public spending campaign to improve education and health care, and dedicate my life to the service of you, my constituents," when it should be bloody obvious what you are really saying is "When I've achieved my life long ambition of reaching a position of power thanks to you gullible idiots I'm going to screw you for every

penny you've got, drain the public coffers to finance my luxury lifestyle, send my kids to the most expensive private schools, and spend my whole time going on luxury taxpayer-funded junkets to Bali and Hawaii to discuss such important topics as "The effect of global warming on llama mating habits in the Upper Andes."

Find me one ardent socialist who was out there proselytizing on behalf of the common man in his youth who is not now a lord with an estate and a fat pension to boot! I don't see your Scargills, Benns and Livingstones slouched unshaven in front of the telly in a council house waiting for the next dole cheque, oh deary me no, they're out there lording it up with the

gentry basking in the fame of their former notoriety. Mind you the capitalists are no better. The only difference is instead of starting off poor they start off rich and venture into politics to get even richer on the pretext of bettering the lot of the plebs toiling in their sweatshouses.

No matter the colour of their cause, red or blue, in order to do the job they do politicians are necessarily lying, hypocritical, swindling, devious scoundrels who'd sell their mothers into prostitution if they even suspected this might win them another vote. Indeed there has only ever been one honest politician in history and that was Hitler. The one time a politician told everyone exactly what he was going to do and people strung him along to humour him ("...yes, yes Adolf you're going to conquer the world...", "there, there Adolf, Germany was stabbed in the back by the Bolsheviks") the bugger actually turns round and does everything he promised. Luckily for us all, despite his admirable honesty, his platform of world domination and Aryan supremacy didn't quite succeed in achieving broad popular appeal, particularly amongst the people he promised to exterminate.



But once again, and it never fails to amaze me how this seems to be true no matter what the subject of my commentary is, the British are the one nation that have managed to keep things in perspective. I mean look around you. You've got the French and Italians swapping governments around like football managers, the Germans always trying to take over the world, the Russians exploring new variations of chaos theory, the Balkan nations and Arabs killing each other with reckless abandon, and a general hotch-potch of corruption, nepotism, scandal and intrigue everywhere else. In America politicians are elevated to the status of movie stars (or more recently movie stars are elevated to the status of politicians), billions of dollars are spent to excite massive cheering crowds and what do you end up with? A feckless ne'er-do-well who spends most of his time cavorting around the White House in pursuit of the female staff. "Boris is on the phone asking about the 100 ICBMs we just accidentally fired at Moscow?" "Well, hell you all, cain't you see I'm busy with Sherry here, tell him ah'll call back later."

No, no, no! Allow the impeccable Goodface name to be besmirched by entering into the nefarious world of politics? Never I tell you! Never! However, I am up for chairmanship of the British is Best committee so if you'll vote for me there's a beer in it for you, I mean... or are you pressed for cash, well here's a fiver for the kids, now if you'll just sign here, and what about your mother...

Maj. Henry Goodface (Rtd)

*Written and contributed by
Damian Jaume (J79)*



My organisation helps poor children in Bangkok, pure and simple. We take care of kids of all races and religions; we send them to school, buy them books and shoes and try to keep them from going hungry.

SCHOOL... it's the one chance these kids get. Right now, the slums are growing faster than our schools can accommodate. The worst hit has been our school in Bangkok's major slum community - Klong Toey, Lock 6. Old and near collapse, we recently had to tear it down and build a larger one for more kids. Over 350 kids are learning to read and write in this school.



Fr. Joe Maier

Why not help the kids in the HDC School Lock 6 by making a donation

☒ **I want to help poor Thai children discover a love of learning.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Fax your pledge to: (662) 391-4968

Or simply give by credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX

Credit Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____ Email: _____

The amount I pledge:

☐ Baht 500

☐ Baht 1,000

☐ Baht 2,500

☐ Baht 5,000

☐ Baht 7,500

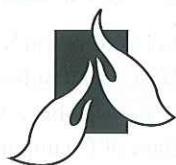
☐ Baht 10,000

☐ Baht 20,000

☐ Other _____

Or write a crossed cheque to Human Development Centre and send to: HDC, Lock 6 School Fund, 3757/15 Sukhumvit Rd, Soi 40, Bangkok 10110 or bank transfer to Human Development Centre, A/c # 042-2-42893-1 Siam Commercial Bank pcl, Soi Thong Lor Branch, 10 Sukhumvit 55, Prakanong, Klong Toey, Bangkok 10110

Note: 100% of your gift will be funding HDC School Lock 6. If this fund drive should exceed the school's needs, all additional funds will go directly to providing books and school materials for children throughout the HDC programme.



ThaiCraft Sale

Saturday, 30 October 1999
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

At the Plaza of The Landmark Bangkok
138 Sukhumvit Road (between Sukhumvit Soi 4 & 6)

Shoppers will find a wide selection of
handicrafts at reasonable prices.
Proceeds directly support the crafts people
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For more information call:
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Touch Wood

by Gaston & Kedi Besson

at the

Neilson Hays Library Rotunda Gallery

22 October - 14 November 1999

An exhibition of unique, antique furniture from Burma,
made by skilled craftsmen during the colonial era in a
mixture of European styles with Asian influence.

The Rotunda Gallery is open Tuesday to
Saturday, 0930-1600 and Sundays from 0930 to 1400.

M.S. Black Prince to the B.C.

It was more by accident than design that Khun Kasem Modphai started in the F&B business. Wishing to earn just enough to continue his studies, he accepted a job in a small coffee shop recommended to him by a friend.



Khun Kasem Modphai

He obviously liked the work as in the early 1980s he decided to make it a career and moved to the Royal Cliff Beach Resort to start his training. This was followed by a move to the Mandarin Hotel as a Bar Boy,

then a further 4 years as a Bartender at the Rama Gardens Hotel, and 5 years at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel.

With this impressive experience behind him, Kasem was then able to get a job as a waiter on the M.S. Black Prince, a Norwegian vessel, sailing around Europe. He visited France, Portugal, Russia, Italy, Belgium, Poland, Holland and Greece where he says he really enjoyed the shopping, museums and historic sites. He learnt a great deal about international cuisine and wine, how to shake a great

cocktail and of course his English improved tremendously.

All in all a fantastic time and a great education, but his family missed him so Khun Kasem returned to Thailand and in 1995 joined The British Club where he now works as Lords Restaurant Supervisor. Khun Kasem and his wife Khun Jintana have a son of 16 and a daughter of 6 - and two rabbits, Pong Pong (Fat) and Kaow (white)!

Interviewed by:

Ratchanida Tippayalert
Administration Officer

Dear Ladies Bazaar

*Supporting Education
in Thailand*

**Thursday,
4th November, 1999
10:00 am to 2:30 pm**

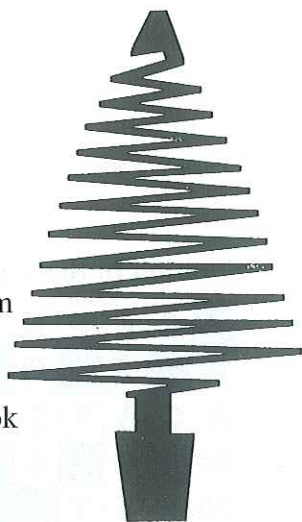
Mezzanine Common Room
The Imperial
Queen's Park Hotel
Sukhumvit Soi 22, Bangkok

Donation: 50 Baht

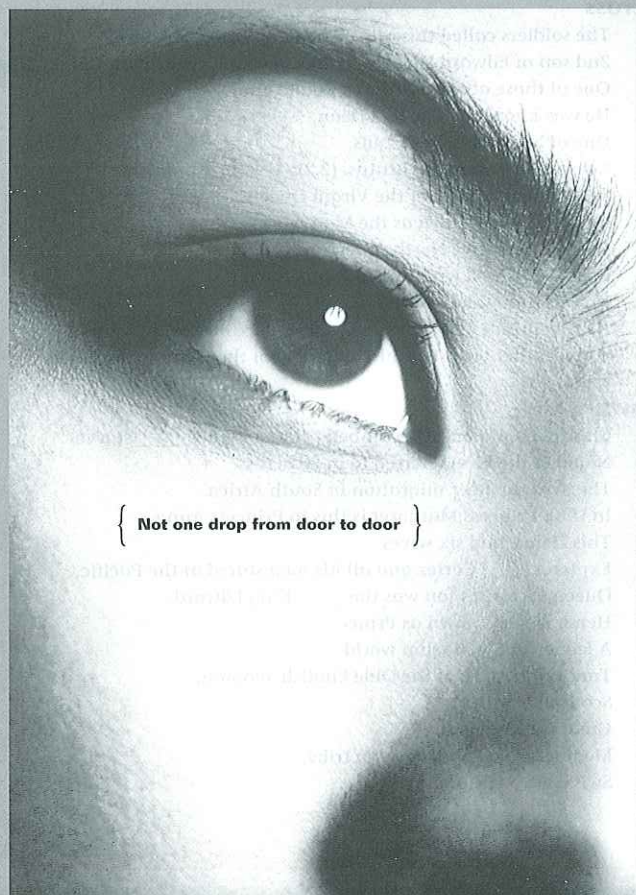
- silk • linen • ceramics • clothing • cards • toys
- candles • jewellery • silver • baskets • chocolate
- Christmas crafts • home baking • refreshments

Contact:

**Shona Preston Tel. 258 4914
Kathy Clegg Tel. 258 8228**



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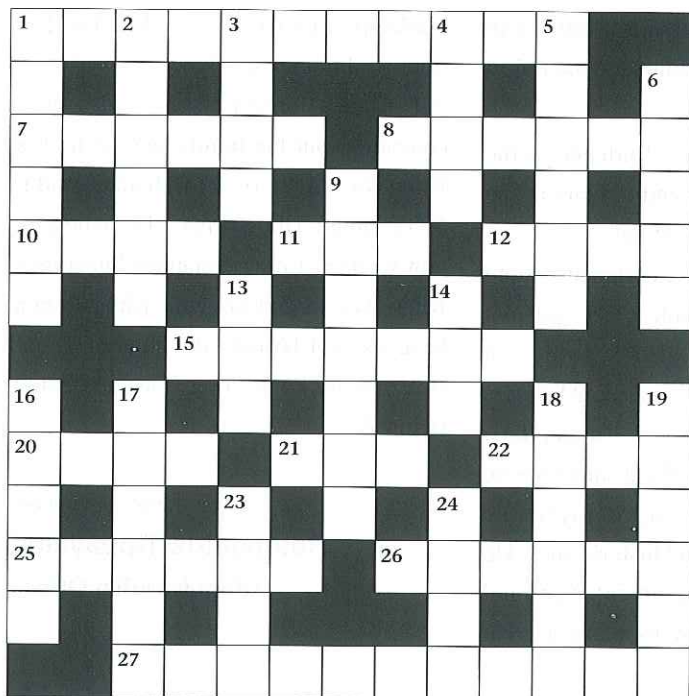


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**Global
Silverhawk**

History shouldn't be a Puzzle



Well, not to anyone who paid attention in class! Take a trip back in time and put to good use all that stuff you learnt in school with this history crossword, knowledgeably compiled by Margaret Miller.

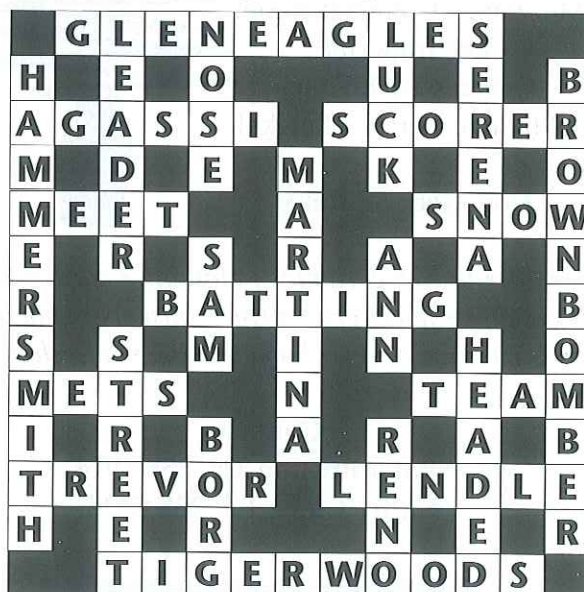
Across

- 1 The soldiers called this Miss "The Lady with the Lamp."
- 7 2nd son of Edward III, _____, Duke of Clarence, grandfather of Edward IV.
- 8 One of those at King Arthur's Round Table.
- 10 He was known as The Red Dean.
- 11 One of Napoleon's Marshals.
- 12 Caesar's last words to Brutus. (2,2)
- 15 Seafaring favourite of the Virgin Queen.
- 20 Rasputin was known as the Mad _____.
- 21 One of the native North American Indians.
- 22 Lady associated with an old King of Siam.
- 25 He was a President of the U.S.A.
- 26 He was Prince _____ for nine years before becoming King in 1820.
- 27 Wet-weather wear bearing the name of the victor of Waterloo.

Down

- 1 Charles II said on his deathbed - "Let not poor _____ starve."
- 2 Name of the king referred to in 26 across.
- 3 This was the Boer migration in South Africa.
- 4 In U.K., Princess Margaret is this to Princess Anne.
- 5 This Henry had six wives.
- 6 Explorer _____ Cortez and all his men stared at the Pacific.
- 9 Queen Victoria's son was the _____ King Edward.
- 13 Henry V was known as Prince _____.
- 14 A leader in the Muslim world.
- 16 Traditional garb of the Olde English Yeoman.
- 17 Scotland's Saint.
- 18 Great Italian artist.
- 19 Members of a South African tribe.
- 23 Swiss hero William.

Solution to the September puzzle





How Many Points???

My playing partner Joom and I were in perfect harmony on the day of the Rysome Bowl. We won the pairs better ball stableford with 56 points, 11 points ahead of our nearest rivals, Peter Brongers and partner.



Flight A winner David Lamb

Our card was carefully scrutinised but they couldn't find anything wrong... 16 net pars and 2 net birdies. Poor Nick didn't hear the last of it.

Jet Lagged

There was a good turnout for the Medal competition at Lad Krabang. However, only David Lamb managed to come in under handicap. Most claimed jet lag having staggered off the plane the day before following the end of their hols. All talk though was about playing every day under the hot sun in good old blighty. So those rotten scores weren't for lack of practice. My excuse was high humidity. Congratulations to the eventual winners:

Flight A David Lamb with 69 points

Flight B Jamie Woodford with 77 points

Flight C Carole Ann Eastgate with 79 points

New Member

Congratulations to Gareth and Wendy on the birth of their second son, James. We look forward to seeing all the boys on the golf course soon.

Sandy Tips

- Having a tough time with your sand play? Try making a few footsteps in the sand, then simply erase them with each swing. When you're comfortable with this exercise, place a ball in a footstep and maintain the same shallow cut.
- Here's a helpful image for getting out of sand. Think of the sand as a slab of cheese under the ball. Take a thick slice for a short, high shot. For longer shots, cut a thinner slice by moving the club face closer to square.
- Downhill lie in a bunker? With the ball placed in the back of your stance, sweep

the sand wedge under the ball. Hit behind the ball and keep the club face open.

- When the ball is buried in the sand, make an upright swing and hit down sharply about one inch behind the ball. And be sure to close the club face. If the ball is deeply buried consider using a pitching wedge.

Next Outings

Saturday, 9 October at 12.00 - Match vs Scandinavians at Subhprueck

Saturday, 16 October at 7.30 - Match vs Golfers Cocktail Lounge at Bangpoo

Sat-Mon, 23-25 October - Probably at Sawang near Hua Hin but please check the board.

Sunday, 31 October - Match vs British Embassy at Bangkok Golf Club

Sunday, 14 November at 11.42 - Medal at Royal Lad Krabang

Karen Carter



The Rysome Bowl winners



See over for more photographs



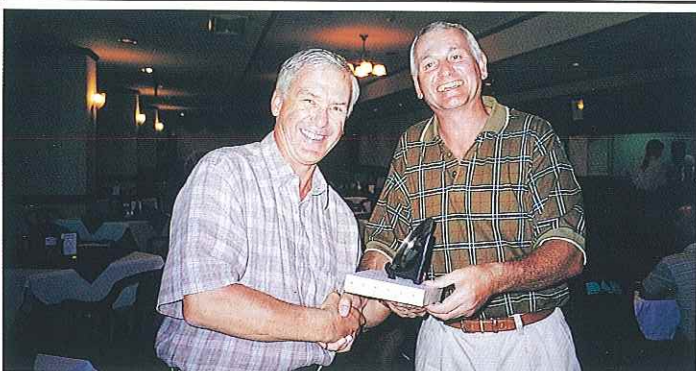
Continued from page 31.



It's tough being married to a golfing superstar



The Rysome Bowl runners-up



Flight B winner Jamie Woodford



Flight C winner Carole Ann Eastgate

Tennis

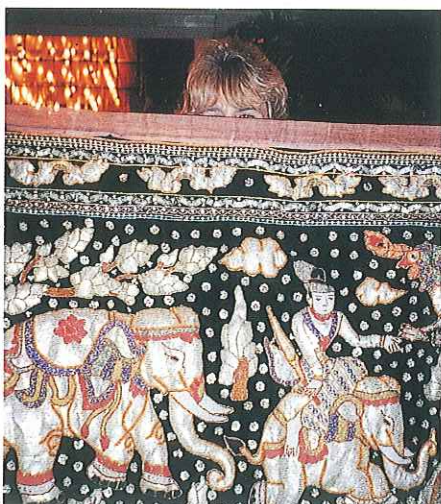


Zandra Blows It

Another year, another 21st birthday as committee member Zandra celebrated in style at the JW Marriott with a group from the tennis section (and a couple of extras!) Seen here is Zandra, giving those candles what for. Happy Birthday!

As for tennis section news, well I have heard that there are matches and all sorts going on, and that despite not having a sala courtside to loll about in between games. However, being "out of the loop" these days, so to speak, I'll have to do some conferring with the man of the moment, Cap'n Bruce on what he's been organising in order to update you all next month. Voluntary match/event report contributions are always welcome...

Lotsaluv
Me



Zandra tries her present for size



Zandra does a blowjob



Lip and Bruce up the ante in the high stakes of fashiondom

14 September 1999

Dear Mr. Bain,

I can't believe I nearly missed my opportunity to offer "a few" suggestions on improving Lords Restaurant. I didn't notice your request in the August issue but was delighted to seize the opportunity after reading the editor's encouragement in the September newsletter.

After 10 years of membership, I too have been rather benign about the management of the Club, particularly as I am not a very active member. However I do enjoy dinner at Lords Restaurant occasionally and never fail to lament over the decor. How did it ever go so wrong?

To make the most of what we have at reasonable cost, here are my suggestions:

- 1) Most importantly: MAINTAIN THE TROPICAL ATMOSPHERE, which means:
- 2) Pale, pale walls (the pink is a little too pink!). White trims (around architraves, window frames, etc.) are good.
- 3) Insert full size mirrors in all the architraves (The Cricketer can stay but the Thai murals have to go...!)
- 4) Lighten all the woodwork including wine racks, etc. Get rid of the shelves with the potted plants.
- 5) White ceiling. Wall colour in the recess. (The bird cage thing on the ceiling must go or I swear I'll hang something off it...!)
- 6) Out with the curtains. Fine regency stripe on cream with matching cushions.
- 7) Comfortable classy rattan dining chairs with cushions.
- 8) Carpet should be lighter (hard-wearing is OK but should be a light dull green).
- 9) Big potted palms only.
- 10) And last but not least, get rid of the bistro boards!

P.S. The light fittings and framed old photographs could even stay.

Yours sincerely
Susan Race (R47)

September 13, 1999
The Editor

Dear Sherry,

Thank you for the editorial invitation for all club members to write to you about *Outpost*. I should explain that my wife, Marion, and I are honorary members of the Club and are grateful for the opportunity this gives us to take advantage of its facilities. As and when we can, we like to think that we are able to show our appreciation of this gesture to us in particular and Christ Church in general by the Club Committee. Let me make some comments on one item in the September issue of *Outpost*. Neither of us are English, so we have always been a bit bemused by the way the English seem to take a peculiar delight in ridiculing the religious sensibilities of their own people while maintaining an oddly sanitized view of what others believe. Major Goodface has not reduced our puzzlement with his latest contribution. This offering setting out his views on God and the English national church was, even for him, a particularly insensitive, almost bovine, collection of rambling inaccuracies. Let me hasten to say that we always like to listen to what other people have to say about God. It's true that one rarely learns anything of consequence about the subject of their observations. There really isn't much to add to what is already on offer. What one does learn is a good deal about those making the observations. Being something of a professional in the field, I would therefore like to offer Goodface the opportunity to brush up on

his English history and theology. Who knows, I might even be able to civilize him a little. In the meantime, one wonders what other insights Goodface will be offering his readers in the months to come - and what on earth we will make of them!

Sherry, you told us that one club member commented that *Outpost* was 'flat, lifeless, too serious' - an assessment you felt a touch harsh. Contributions from the good Major might correct her view but not if his 'humour' turns out to be no more than thinly veiled contempt for the beliefs of others. Goodface is probably right when he suggests that the English do not take God too seriously. He would know I suppose. However, he may have miscalculated God's response to such carelessness and one could conjure with possible diagnoses on the state of affairs in that once green and pleasant land as a result. I wonder if it has every occurred to Goodface that God might, in the end, turn out to be someone who returns the compliment by not taking him seriously either. What might be the consequences of that for the Major - after the last whimper?

Believe me, I am
Yours sincerely

Stephen Gabbott
Vicar of Christ Church Bangkok

September 1999

The Editor,
Please may I respond to 'Goodface on God'.

God on Goodface

Thanks for the write-up. Yes, I do make the sun shine on everyone and I let the weeds and wheat grow together till harvest.

Have you ever wired something up wrong and blown a fuse? Just blamed the manufacturer! You did read the directions? They were in the wrong language, maybe.

But I'm joking.

Sorry you think I'm unpredictable, I'm not. Take comfort, your weather gurus are improving. You know the Brits are not only pragmatic, but polite to boot! Don't offend anyone. Sorry, I'm not a Brit. I do take offense at my name being misused.

My friend, it is the fool says in his heart "There is no God".

See you - sooner or later.

Thanks, Sherry, for all you do for the Club and members by being Editor of *Outpost*. As a long time member, I'd say the magazine is better than it used to be. Do you want a CCC (Christ Church Correspondent)?

Sincerely,
Mary Vongsuly (V17)

Editor's Reply:

Great to hear from you, Mary, with this well-tempered letter on a subject that is obviously dear to your heart - and thanks for your encouraging words to me. As for a 'CCC', well, I try hard to encourage all members to contribute to *Outpost*, especially on matters related to the Club, its magazine, its members, its management, etc. Maybe I'll hear from you again...? ☺

Kenneth and Leisa Griggs



Ken and Leisa

Ken, a technician with the British Embassy, and Leisa have 3 daughters - Katie, Laura and Alice (all at Patana), and a 2 year old son, Philip. Fairly new to Bangkok, they have had some pretty neat postings before - Washington, Athens and Hong Kong. They're expecting to be here 3 years so plenty of time to enjoy their hobbies of squash, football and tennis for Ken, and swimming and ten-pin bowling for Leisa. Both are enthusiasts of Thai cuisine.

David and Ruth Sinclair-Jones



David and Ruth

New member, Ruth, is Deputy Director at The British Council and David is self-employed, mainly as a father! They have 2 children - Catherine who is at school in the UK and Philip who attends Bangkok Patana. They have lived in Thailand before, from 1987-1990, and were in Poland for 4 years before returning to Thailand this year. Both David and Ruth enjoy badminton, bridge and Scottish dancing, and David adds cricket and football to his sporting interests. A course in orienteering wouldn't go amiss for this couple - they spent a night in the open, lost somewhere in Khao Yai with Ruth 7 months pregnant at the time. Looking back, they say it probably wasn't really a tiger they heard...!

Graham and Ramphai Braddick



Graham and Ramphai

Brit Graham is Director of Operations at The Bell Educational Trust and Ramphai is a teacher. They have lived previously in Italy, China and Indonesia, and both profess to being 'mountain people', heading there at every opportunity, presumably to escape the heat and noise of Bangkok. They both enjoy swimming and playing tennis.

René and Louise Lammers



René and Louise

Dutch René, Development Manager with Unilever Thai Holdings, and his South African-British wife Louise have a son, Ryan, born in March this year. René enjoys tennis, squash and football - in fact he's hit the pages of *Outpost* already with his goal scoring for the BC Casuals team. Louise also enjoys tennis and squash, but adds swimming, horse riding and sailing to her list of sporting interests. Both enjoy playing bridge and René adds that he likes to cook (Italian) and drink whisky (single malts).

Neil Hutchinson



Neil

Having tried his hand at sky diving, para gliding, hang gliding, adventure trekking and hot air ballooning, Neil, who is Business Development Manager at Christiani & Nielsen, says he now wants to grow old more gracefully. Various countries in Africa and the Middle East were his home for 18 years - so he thinks we'll understand his keenness to remain here in Thailand for the rest of his working life! Current sporting hobbies are golf, scuba diving, fishing, trekking and running with the Hash House Harriers and he enjoys photography. His son Paul lives in Bangkok and his daughter Emma is married with one son and living in the UK.

Stephen Darley



Stephen

Stephen is with KPMG, keeping very busy these days restructuring debts. According to him, when he's not working he's drinking to try and forget about work. He also says he's got no hobbies - but I expect things will change with the eagerly awaited arrival of his girlfriend from Taiwan!

Foong Weng Chuen



Foong Weng

Here in Thailand for over 10 years and planning to remain here, Malaysian-born Foong Weng is an environmental technologist with his own business, KFJ Holding Co. In his free time he enjoys playing tennis and swimming.

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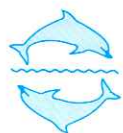
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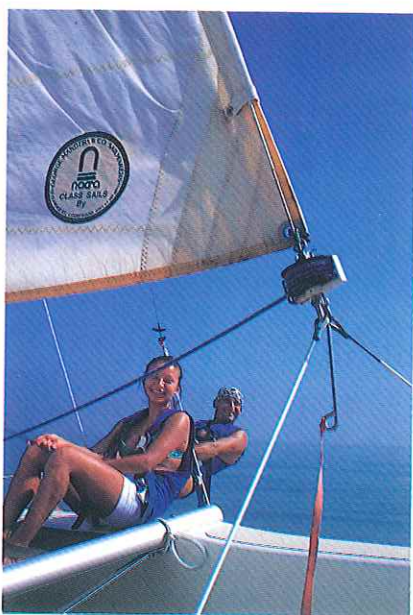
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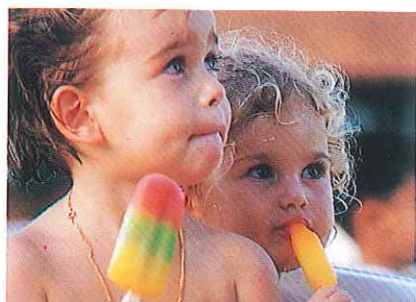
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Yes... We Can!

New tennis coaches

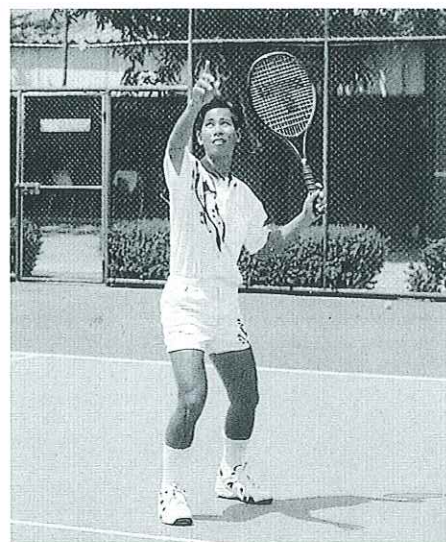
By now you will all have heard about our new farang tennis coach (Paul Ho) but we also have a new Thai tennis coach, Khun Bee.

He is currently the Head Coach of the Assumption Business College Team.

He will be available on weekday mornings, and on Saturday. This should hopefully help out those who need some instruction but find it hard to book Tom and Kaew.

Cricket is in trouble!

The BC cricket section is in dire need of new members. If anyone is interested in keeping this tradition alive at the British Club, then please contact me. It's serious, the section may have to fold unless we can find new blood to feed it. As a Canadian I know little about the game, but I do know it is a British sporting tradition that it would be a shame to lose. Please call me.



Khun Bee, the new coach/knocker

Sailing camp

The second rendition of the British Club Sailing Camp held on 23-26 August was again hugely successful and enjoyed by all the kids who took part. Actually many of them were repeat customers. They had fun and, by the end, all had learned to sail despite some hesitation caused by the 3 foot swells we experienced on our second day (see photos on page 38). Khun Somkiat the sailing instructor - though struggling a bit with his English (helped

considerably by K. Rit from our fitness centre) - successfully taught all, including me, to sail. The Varuna Yacht Club was very good in the housing and feeding of our crew, though next time we must remember that children don't like their eggs Thai-style (runny)!

The races: The Rodwells, all a little anxious at the beginning, sailed the final race and completed three laps (except Angus the youngest who braved one) for the first time. Young William the conqueror came and kicked butt with his first completion of the three laps, also giving him overall victory in the final day race. Thomas and Oliver snuck into battle with the more experienced sailor Chris (he did it last year). The end of the last day certainly saw smiles on everyone's faces. I apologise that the group photos I took were 'pre-exposed'. My son found the quarter inch of film that the BC camera leaves exposed once rewound, and pulled. SORRY!! All in all a great time was had by all the kids. Next year I think we may want to have two groups, one for advanced and one for beginners.

A sad ending: There are a few things in regard to this camp which I feel deserve a mention. Near the end of the camp we had a bonfire accident in which Khun Rit suffered burns to his face, arms and legs. He is recovering and will be okay, and he should return to work in early October (i.e. by the time you read this). What I particularly wanted to mention was the fast and professional response by Khun Bouy, the resident Varuna weekday manager. She was just down the street when the accident happened and reacted promptly to the emergency in helping Khun Rit to the hospital. She stayed with him all night, while I stayed with the kids. Without her, it would have been a much more difficult time. Thank you Khun Bouy, and Varuna Yacht Club.



Leaders during the race

Be prepared: The accident brought to light two things that, although seemingly obvious, are not always taken into account. The first is the need for all those involved with children to constantly think of safety. Always keep an eye on your kids; accidents do happen, but many can be prevented. The second thing is to be prepared. I had recently finished a first aid course with Mr. Peter Gary and although it did not all come rushing back at the moment of crisis, it was very helpful as I identified the severity of the burns and noted that Khun Rit was going into mild shock. First aid is a good start to being prepared but you must also plan for emergencies in advance. Who do you call in case of an accident? Where is the nearest phone, the hospital, the police station. etc?

Anyhow, please take note and remember to be well prepared on all your future outings, as I will be on mine.

Sports camp

Held on 16-20 August, the BC sports camp focused on tennis, squash, and swimming, the last of which became more of a relaxation/fun time. The tennis and squash proved a good, albeit hot, combination (see photos - red faces abound). Khun Rit, our Saturday and Wednesday squash coach, was excellent as he had games planned, taught tactics, hand-eye coordination and a little bit of physics. All the kids enjoyed

Yes... We Can!

it as he let at least one of them beat him in the final day so they could have ice cream. The tennis coach, Mr. Paul Ho, was also excellent and had the hottest seat in the house (the 10-12 sun was a killer). The tennis was again full of fun and learning and the kids had a blast. Our skating session at the World Trade Center was great with many first timers, all of whom had fun. I must admit that as a former ice hockey player the lack of any 'edge' on the blades made it difficult to get any push or stop. I almost ended up on my arse more than once.

The highlight of the camp was the movie 'Star Wars, The Return of the Jedi' It was the only time the kids were quiet for more than 2 minutes! Thanks to all the BC staff, Khun Rit, Mr. Paul and my fitness staff, without whom this would not have been such a success. See you next summer!!!

Damon Nemish



Squash players are quite mad!



All the kids and K. Somkiat at the Sailing Camp



Thomas strikes the 'tacking' pose



Sailing waves these were not!



'Big Kids', K. Kiat and Mr. Paul



The grand nosh-up



Full concentration is needed for ping pong



Most of the crew



Tom says 'no fun allowed!'



'Little Kids' and the two Khun Rits



'Omigosh' - we're going swimming again



You need to get both hands on it

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