

## The Proms come to Thailand ...

A Glorious Celebration of Classical Music at Shrewsbury International School

Made in Britain Issue

Artists at the British Club

Big Book Party, Rhubarb delights, Commit to get fit with Reed, Membership Spotlight

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#### 16 & 17 **Big Book Party**

World Literacy Day, Roald Dahl's Birthday and the return of a quirky blue tuktuk called Sanook – it's all here in our report on a very special day.

# 20 & 21 ABC

# **Getting to Know the**

See what the British Club's art group has produced and learn all about the artists involved and what makes

them tick. And if that were not enough, their works are on display at the Club this month.

# 28

## Sports

The Club's sports section has never been so varied - take your pick from salsa dancing, boxing, fitball, circuit training...or do them all! Turn to page 28 for the beginning of the Club's sports pages.

#### OUTPOST MAGAZINE Editor in Chief: Michael Silcock by Veritas Enterprises

OUTPOST is produced on behalf of the British Club by Veritas Enterprises. For advertising inquiries contact Jim Fowler (081-844-7015 or Jim@VeritasEnterprises.com); and for editorial matters contact the Editor at OutpostEditor@VeritasGraphics.com

The British Club is a family, social and sporting club set in relaxing grounds, conveniently located between Silom and Surawongse Roads, with an ever-growing international membership.

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Cover pic-Last Night of the Proms at Shrewsbury School

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Issues Editor: Stuart Coghill The contents of this magazine are not necessarily the opinion of the editors, the General Committee or the Club's management. Criticisms and suggestions are welcomed by the Club's management or

The British Club 189 Surawongse Road, Bangkok, Thailand 10500 Entrance via Silom Soi 18

Tel: 02 234 0247 Fax: 02 235 1560



#### Dear Members,

I write this editorial having just returned from a short business trip to Singapore, during which I was able to take my family to one of the many reciprocal clubs that British Club Members can enjoy. Over our three days at the American Club Singapore, I was greatly impressed by the staff's all-round hospitality and professionalism. No place was this more evident than at the Club's F&B outlets, where waves of eager staff worked diligently to interact with and serve members and guests. The "high touch" factor in all guest-staff interactions set the tone for the entire Club experience and indeed the organisation as a whole - nothing was too much trouble and there was always someone around to serve and assist.

During the visit, and since returning to Bangkok, I have given considerable thought as to how we at the British Club Bangkok can learn from this organisation, which is now 60 years old and has some 3700 members and a community of over 11000 people. In such a well-developed club, there are a number of ideas we can "borrow," particular the tried and tested ones. One area where we could put our excellent staff to good use is at a "traditional" reception to the Club. I think it is absolutely imperative that all visitors to the Club are greeted, required to show their membership cards, and asked if staff may be of assistance. This provision of immediate on-site care and assistance is characteristic of any great service-minded organisation; the British Club is no different. Our membership services area should remain as it is because it serves a distinct function and has been a welcome addition to the Club.

I was also very impressed by the American Club's additional services for children and young adults of all ages. The Club's "Kidz Zone" and crèche facilities enable parents to leave their children in safe hands while allowing them to enjoy a variety of activities (including computers and video games), leaving parents free perhaps to frequent one of the adult-oriented areas at the Club. In addition, children from 12 to 18 can have their own membership cards and bring their friends to the Club, a facility that seems to be used effectively. Not only are these facilities and services functional, they add additional revenue streams, something that every members' club needs to consider carefully.

I am sure many of you will have had similar positive experiences from other clubs and I urge you to channel your input into the Club's management and committees in order to further a process of continual improvement that is critical to the Club's prosperous future.

#### Dear Members.

0

September has been an eventful month at the British Club. Unfortunately a generally upbeat month was tinged with sadness as we lost a long-term and very popular Club member, Bruce Gordon, who passed away on September 7th. Bruce was an extremely dedicated tennis section member and was still playing tennis until a few weeks before his illness was diagnosed; it goes without saying that all his friends, fellow members and everyone at the Club will miss him dearly. A tribute to Bruce can be found on pages 32-33.

Another poignant event was the Memorial Ceremony held in September for Fiona Pinnell who passed away in England earlier this

The Club sends its condolences to both families at this time of sadness

The development of the back lawn and the tennis courts is progressing . steadily and the Development Special Interest Group is confident that all projects being undertaken at present will improve the facilities for tennis, football and rugby sections and will also allow the Club to run more sporting events through our sport and recreation manager,

further information call NIST on For 02-651-2065, visit our website at www.nist.ac.th or send an email to admissions@nist.ac.th

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Letter from the Chair

This month I have the pleasure of chairing the Section Council meeting, a forum for all section officers to present their activities and exchange ideas for furthering activities within the Club. The British Club Bangkok is committed towards building a broad range of member activities through organised sections. While it is not necessary to be a section member to enjoy say tennis, squash or football, those interested in the various sports and pastimes on offer can further their enjoyment by taking part in the activities organised by respective sections. As our facilities and staff develop, it is most timely that a forum such as the Section Council has been created. The benefits of section participation, coupled with the emerging possibilities that enhanced on-site facilities and dedicated sports management staff will bring, need to be discussed. In some cases we may find that members will be able to enjoy just as wide a range of organised activities under the planning of the professional staff, leaving more time for members actually to take part. Indeed, in many clubs that enjoy dedicated facilities, some sections have been rendered obsolete, at least for internal activities. All the activities within the Club are organised by staff in consultation with a "section" captain.

Whatever the case, the quarterly Section Council and a dedicated General Committee (GC) member for "Member Activities" should streamline opportunities and facilitate timely input on key policies directly to the GC.

The Club's financial commitment to all compliant sections continues, granting funds to develop both internal activities and selective team play in the Bangkok community. The marquee redevelopment of the tennis courts and the provision of an all-purpose playing surface on the back lawn is further evidence of policies shaped to enhance member interaction and experiences.

As a Club, we continue to offer a unique proposition to members, an accessible activity-driven community with a wide range of facilities on site. The Club is all about having fun and I am sure that the imminent completion of all these magnificent new facilities will be the source of considerable enjoyment for years to come.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Andrew Roberts** Chairman BCB General Committee 2008/2009

The CEO's report

Reed. We hope to offer greater sporting opportunities within the Club and we hope our members show interest in new activities for all the family.

The British Club is expanding the circulation of Outpost to include a large number of expat institutions and businesses including a selection of international schools, hospitals, embassies and other associations. If you would like to help spread the word and help increase the membership of your Club you can obtain extra copies from Khun Weena, manager of the membership department. We lose a number of members each year as families leave Thailand and so we are always looking for new arrivals to keep our membership numbers at a healthy level.

As we move into our busiest time of the year we hope to see many of our members at the Club to enjoy the events, promotions and gatherings we have on offer.

**Michael Silcock** Chief Executive Officer



#### Rhubarb, rhubarb, rhubarb...

#### Dear Members,

It's been an action-packed few months at the Club – along with several fully-booked members' functions we've also catered a number of society events including the BWG Monthly Luncheon and the Saint George's Society President's Lunch. We held a joint event at the Neilson Hays Library to celebrate World Literacy Day and Roald Dahl's Birthday. These events were most successful and you can read write-ups in this issue. The next few months promise to be just as hectic with our regular events - and many new ones, too.

Our outside catering service will be all systems go on October 16th as we shall be the sole caterers at the third "Last Night of the Proms" concert at Shrewsbury School – come along and enjoy the performance; we'll see you there.

In October we'll have our wine tasting on Friday 17th at the usual time (6-9pm) which will coincide with a rather special art exhibition, put together by the talented ladies from the Club's Wednesday Art Group; please come along and enjoy the wine and paintings before moving through to the Verandah where you can savour Khun Laak's latest scrumptious buffet temptations.

Speaking of food, our "On the Menu" this month features a comeback by a rather underestimated vegetable (all right, all right, I know what you're thinking – but it's a veggie, not a fruit...I looked it up!), rhubarb. We've created a lip-smackingly diverse range of recipes, all of which will be available at the Club's outlets throughout October – be sure to try some.

On October 31st we are hosting a Halloween Murder Dinner at the Library – the format has undergone a total revamp (or should that be reVAMP!) so you're in for a pleasant – if spooky – surprise. As usual there'll be plenty of fine food, wine and fun, with prizes for the winners generously provided by Prestige Wines. On the same night there's a Halloween Children's Party in the Suriwongse Room from 6pm until 9pm: we'll have a magic show, Susie's arts and crafts and we're also going to take the kids to Siam Paragon to see the Disney Live stage show – we've booked a limited number of tickets for Friday's show which will start at 7pm.

Let's not forget Guy Fawkes: the explosive extravaganza will begin at 4pm on Sunday November 2nd. Please be reminded that parking will not be permitted at the Club from 10pm on Saturday November 1st until 10pm on Sunday November 2nd



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# Amanta by narai

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Bazza's Banter

due to safety reasons. The Club will close from 3:30pm on Sunday 2nd November and reopen at 4pm to Guy Fawkes ticket holders only.

There's another upcoming jaunt I should mention: we're going to see the latest Bond movie, "Quantum of Solace", at the SF Cinema on November 6th. The ticket price will



include vodka martinis - shaken, not stirred, of course.

Another date for your calendar: the British Club's Christmas Ball. Taking place on Saturday December 13th at 7pm, the Bt. 2,800 ticket price includes a one-hour cocktail reception, a traditional four-course Christmas dinner catered by the Shangri-La Hotel, half a bottle of wine per person, live music courtesy of the Royal Thai Army Band, Paul Jackson's funky disco, the lucky draw at 11pm and our traditional British Club breakfast at 2am. Please remember to bring your tickets with you because the lucky number might just be on yours this time! So, for a festive Christmas under the stars in Bangkok, contact Khun Mai or Kasem here at the Club or send a fax or email. I look forward to seeing you on the night.

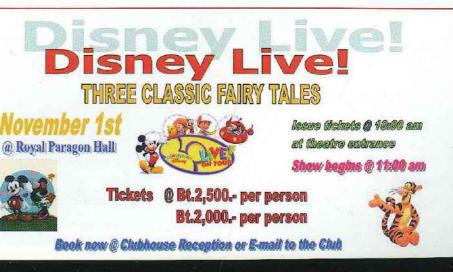
We have also booked a limited number of tickets for the Thai debut of Roger and Hammerstein's "Cinderella", starring Tony Award-winning actress Lea Salonga. The show will be held at the atmospheric Muang Thai Rachadalai Theatre; we've booked for December 20th – how about that for an early Christmas present? Seats are available at Bt. 4,500 and Bt. 3,500 and the price includes transportation to and from the Club. Please book early to avoid missing out on what will certainly be a superb show.

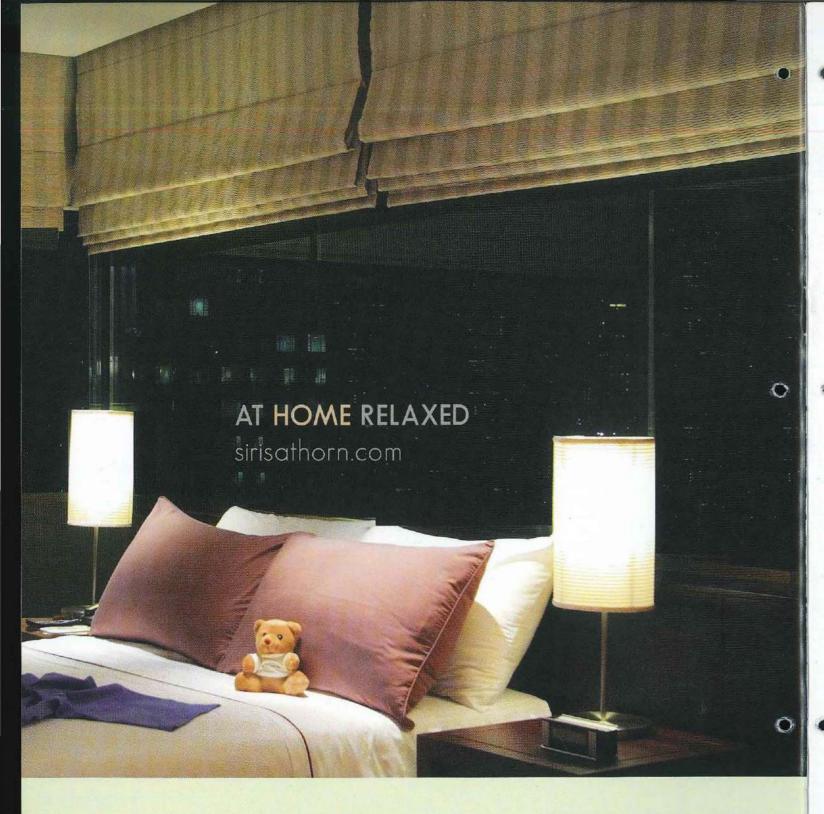
We're currently taking bookings for Christmas Day, Loy Krathong and many other events; please contact either myself or Khun Mai for more details. In your next edition of Outpost you will also find your Christmas order forms - please fill them in and send them to the Club as soon as possible to ensure your order. Don't forget that we also cater over 400 functions a year so if you've got an event or a party, no matter how big or small, we'd be happy to serve you.

I look forward to seeing you all at your Club in the near future.

Regards,

Baz





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# **REGULAR WEEKLY** EVENTS

#### **TUESDAYS** Churchill Bar

#### 8:30pm-late

Spoofing

#### WEDNESDAYS The Verandah

Noon-2pm & 6-10pm

(Bt.275) and salad (Bt.300)

**Churchill Bar** 7pm and 8pm

7:30pm

#### FRIDAYS The Verandah

Noon-2pm & 6-10pm

THE FRIDAY 'THEME' BUFFET - 3rd October: MEXICAN BUFFET - Enjoy a soup and a range of delicious salads and main courses - the best of Mexican food, freshly prepared by Khun Laak and her team of chefs; Bt. 325 per person + all buffet diners receive 10 baht off a glass of Tequila or a bottle of Corona beer.

team of chefs; Bt.300 per person. Bt.325 per head and cocktails start from Bt.130 per glass. a soup, curry dishes, samosas and naan; Bt.275 per person. food in The Verandah; Bt.325 per person.

**Silom Sala** 7pm and 9pm

#### SUNDAYS The Verandah

11:30-3pm only

6-8pm

A Beaufort Serviced Reside

THE SUNDAY CARVERY - Choose from soup, cold cuts, three roasts carvery, with potatoes and veggies, hot dishes, children's buffet, fresh salad bar and a range of desserts. Adults Bt.375; children Bt.200 including free Coke/Sprite. A LA CARTE PASTA PLATE - Enjoy a plate of freshly cooked pasta with your choice of ingredients and sauces. Cost Bt. 160 per plate, includes complimentary salad and garlic bread. Available every Sunday evening throughout October.

Silom Room I-3pm

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES. Games, videos, crafts, soft drinks and snacks with Khun Susie,

Suriwongse Room 2:30-6pm onwards

Bridge tournament (except last Sunday in the month)

## **Official Opening Times**

The Verandah	I Iam - 10pm	Fitness Centr
Churchill Bar	10am - 11pm	Fitness Centr
Poolside Bar	7am - 10pm (last food orders – 9.30pm)	Thai Massage

THE MIDWEEK CARVERY - Choose from soup, two roasts carvery with potatoes & vegetables

#### PRESTIGE WINES ACCUMULATOR

Any member could win from Bt.5,000 to Bt.25,000 - prize increases each week.

BOTTLE DRAW - somebody present in the Bar will win a bottle of whisky, tequila, vodka or gin.

10th October: MIDDLE EASTERN BUFFET - Enjoy a soup, a range of salads and main course dishes consisting of koftas, lamb shakareeya and many more dishes created by Khun Laak and our

17th October: CARIBBEAN BUFFET - Last month's Caribbean Buffet was so popular we are recreating it to coincide with the wine tasting. As usual Khun Laak has been hard at work creating a range of tasty foods and Khun Boom has also created a range of rum based cocktails. Buffet costs

24th October: T.G.I.F CURRY BUFFET - Finish off the week with this famous buffet consisting of

31st October: INDONESIAN BUFFET - Khun Laak has been busy studying the Indonesian and Balinese cook books that Baz recently brought back from Bali for her. Enjoy the best of Indonesian

Kids' VDO - It's free. Includes free Nestle ice creams for the kids.

re (Mon-Fri) 6am - 10pm re (weekends) 6am - 9pm e (Tues-Sun) 9am - 6pm

#### Take away your favourite food!:

All the Club's menu items are available to take away. Just order at the Club and specify "take away", or phone in your order and pick-up.

# WHAT'S GOING ON

## Special Events at the Club this month

#### **\*\* BALUT MONTHLY TOURNAMENT**

#### Wednesday, 1st October, 6pm, Wordsworth Lounge

Balut Section members meet each first Wednesday of the month to compete in the BCB Balut Shield. The BCB Balut Shield is awarded to the player with the highest aggregate score from their six best tournaments of the year, running from October to September. The Shield itself is on display in the Churchill Bar, Balut wall. The Tournament is held in the Wordsworth Lounge. Club members who are not Balut Section members are welcome to "try out" their Balut skills, and Section members will give training and guidance when requested. The fee for non-Section members is Bt.200 which will be charged to your account. Happy Dice!

#### **\*\* "SINGALONG - A- SOUND OF MUSIC!"**

#### Friday, 3rd & Saturday 4th October, 6.30pm, Surawongse Room

Yes Julie, the hills are STILL alive! And to prove it, on Friday, October 3rd and Saturday October 4th, Bangkok Community Theatre presents 'Sing-a-long-a-Sound-of-Music' where you, the audience, are the stars of the show. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to hiss the Baroness, boo the Nazis, and of course, cheer for our beloved Julie, in the company of assorted nuns, von Trapp family members, and other characters & memorabilia from the movie. It's innovative, interactive, inclusive, celebratory, uplifting and simply irresistible fun! First (although not obligatory) you will need to come dressed for the occasion (use your imagination, the possibilities are endless! A brown paper package, tied up with string? A white dress with a blue satin sash? Or just about any character from the movie!) Then you will be lead through a vocal warm-up and shown how to use the various 'props' in your goody bags. You will also be told some appropriate heckles. Then, you sit back and watch the original 1965 movie with the lyrics on the screen, and leap into action and song as required! While this event is suitable for all age groups, parents should note that the movie will not finish until approx. 10:45pm. Cost per person Bt.500 includes pre-show finger-buffet supper & 'goody bag'. Door and best costume prizes to be won! Pre-show supper from 6:30pm, movie commences at approx. 7:30pm. Please book at Reception, or send an email or fax to the Club. Places are limited so book now to avoid disappointment!

#### **\*\* DETECTIVE VIDEO NIGHT-"LEWIS"** Thursday, 9th October, 7pm, Suriwongse Room

We continue showing our latest detective series with Episode Three of Lewis. The programme begins at 7pm. Entrance is free and full Churchill Bar F&B service is available. We ask members to please book in advance as this assists us with our set-up arrangements.

#### **\*\* JAPANESE GRAND PRIX**

Sunday, 12th October, 11.30am, Churchill Bar & Verandah

Join us in the Churchill Bar and the Verandah for the latest race of the 2008 grand prix season coming live from Fuji Speedway @ 11.30am. Come early to reserve the best seats.

#### **\*\* BRITISH OLYMPICS VICTORY** PARADE BUFFET

#### Thursday, 16th October, Lunch & Dinner, The Verandah

To celebrate the success of the British athletes at this year's Olympics and the Paralympics in Beijing there is a victory parade through the streets of London. We will celebrate here with a British Buffet available at lunch and dinner in the Verandah Café. The menu consists of Jamie Oliver's Real Mushroom Soup, Prawn Cocktails, Roast Beef, Pork and Chicken, Eaton Mess, Rhubarb and Ginger Crumble and lots more. The Buffet costs Bt.350 for adults and Bt.200 for children. The cost also includes a half pint of John Smith's Yorkshire Bitter or a half pint of Hereford's finest Strongbow Cider or Coke and Sprite Zero.

#### **\*\* MONTHLY WINE TASTING**

#### Friday, 17th October, 6pm, Suriwongse Room

Join us for our regular monthly wine tasting completely free of charge and featuring wines from all over the world. Four companies will be here to let members try unlimited samples of their wines. Members can also purchase wines at specially discounted prices and the Club will create a range of canapés to complement the wines. What a great way to start your weekend - free wines in the comfort of your Club. And afterwards, why not pop down to the Verandah and treat yourself to Khun Laak's tasty Caribbean Buffet.

#### **\*\* CHINESE GRAND PRIX**

#### Sunday, 19th October, 2pm, Churchill Bar & Verandah

Join us in the Churchill Bar and the Verandah for the latest race of the 2008 grand prix season coming live from Shanghai @ 2pm race time. Come early to reserve the best seats.

#### **\*\* JOHN SMITH'S BAR QUIZ**

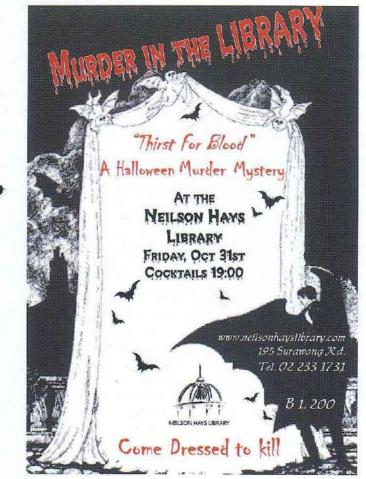
Tuesday, 21st October, 7.30pm, The Verandah

Join us for the latest round of the John Smith's Bar Quiz, with Bangkok's premier Quizmaster, Rodney Bain, asking four rounds of 19 questions (on a range of subjects from Asia to famous people) each ending in the dreaded "Common Denominator". Cash prizes go to the First, Second and Third teams with a drinks prize to the skilful Second-to-Last team. In addition there are also three "between round" questions where your team has the chance to win drinks sponsored by Crown Worldwide Relocations. So, get a team of friends (up to six) to come along and join in the fun - at least one Club member per team - or just pop along to see if we can fit you in. The cost to enter remains at Bt.150 per person.

#### **\*\* TRAFALGAR DAY BRITISH CLASSICS**

#### Tuesday, 21st October, Lunch & Dinner, all outlets

Order a dish from the British Classics Menu which will be placed on tables in the Club and receive a 20-baht discount on a pint of John Smith's British Bitter or Strongbow "Hereford's Finest" Cider or 10 baht off a half pint, or a 10-baht discount on Rum & Coke. This offer is available at lunch and dinner times in all the Club's outlets.



#### **\*\* "THIRST FOR BLOOD"**

Friday, 31st October, 7pm, The Neilson Hays Library

The Neilson Hays Library teams up with the British Club again for this 3-course dinner and Halloween murder mystery. Actors will sit at each table and interact with diners, as they attempt to figure out whodunit. Cocktails will be served from 7:00, and dinner will begin at 8:00. Cost: Bt. 1200/person; tables of 6 can be booked. Early booking is essential, and tickets must be purchased at the Library prior to the event. Come Dressed To Kill.



#### **\*\* DISNEY LIVE**

Friday, 31st October, Meet Siam Paragon Hall, 6pm Disney Live! - Three Classic Fairy Tales. We have managed to book 18 seats only to the Disney Live Show at the Siam Paragon Hall. The show features over 25 Disney characters. We will issue tickets at 6 pm at the entrance to the theatre and the show begins at 7pm, with English sound track. We will not be able to purchase any more tickets after this so it is definitely first come first served. The tickets cost Bt.2.000 each.



To book for an event send a fax or email to the Club, book online at the Club's website, or sign up at the Clubhouse reception. For further information please contact Khun Kasem or Barry.

At the British Club

Saturday 15th November 2008, 9.00am - 4.00pm

B2,300 (including lunch and refreshments)

Contact Reception to reserve a place

For more information email: louise@louisetruslow.com

# Susie's Kids Korner

HALLOWEEN CRAFTS FOR KIDS

#### **Rubbish Bag** Tarantula You will need:

- 18 large black rubbish bags
- Leaves or newspaper
- Black electrical tape
- Large red plastic party cups
- Clothesline optional

#### What you do:

1. To create the spider's body, stuff one rubbish bag full of dry leaves (you can also use crumpled newspaper). Tie the bag shut then flip it upside down. To make the head, stuff a second bag (not as full as the first), tie it shut, and tape it to the body.

2. To make one of the legs, roll up two rubbish bags together lengthwise. Wrap them with electrical tape at both ends and at two points along the leg to make joints. Roll up seven more legs then cut four small slits in each side of the spider's body and slip the legs in place.

3. Cut the white lip off two of the red plastic cups then tape them onto the spider's body to make his beady red eyes. For the fangs, cut two triangles out of the third plastic cup (or another piece of white plastic) and tape them onto the spider so that the white side faces up. 4. Perch the spider atop a big pile of relatively dry leaves. To create a web for her, simply weave and tie lengths of clothesline or twine across your porch. For an extra scary effect, tie a few unlucky stuffed animals to her web.

## **Ghostly** Luminaries

Greet this year's trick-or-treaters with a frightfully fun lighted path to your door. You can make these fun luminaries with very few supplies and plenty of imagination. Get started today!

• Join me in

the Silom Room

every Sunday! 9

#### You will need:

- Clean, empty jars
- White acrylic paint
- Black acrylic paint
- Black Sharpie marker
- Tea light candles or other illumination

 NOTE FOR PARENTS. If you prefer to stay away from candles and flames, check out department stores, craft stores and party supply shops for glow lights and other alternative illuminating devices.

#### What you do:

I. Paint jars with white acrylic paint. Let dry completely then add a second coat. Let dry, preferably overnight.

2. Use a black Sharpie marker to draw on eyes and mouths and then fill in with black acrylic paint. Let dry completely.

3. Add glow lights, tea light candles, votive candles or any other illumination and line them up along your pavement for a fun and spooky entrance.

#### **Tin Can** Frankenstein

Make this cute little Frankenstein out of felt, glue and a tin can. Fill him with follipops for Halloween or use as a pencil holder for your homework desk!

#### You will need:

- Empty aluminium can
- I sheet green felt
- 1/2 sheet black felt
- Scraps of white and light green felt
- I black skinny chenille stem
- White craft glue
- 2 small black pom-poms
- Scissors
- 4 round magnets

#### What you do:

NOTE TO PARENTS: Make sure the can does not have any sharp edges around the opening. If it does, use a piece of sandpaper to sand them down.

. Lay green felt on work surface. Lay the can down on to the felt. Roll the can up in the felt to see exactly how much you will need to go all the way around the can. Trim, leaving about 1.5cm overlap. Leave about 2.5cm overlap that will fold

over the bottom of the can as well as a 2.5cm overlap for the top (mouth) of the can. Glue the green felt around the can, glue the excess overlap to the bottom and inside the mouth of the can.

2. To create the hair, lay the black felt on the work surface and place the can on top like you did for the green. Roll can up in the black felt and measure about 5cm down from the top of the can. Trim excess. Before attaching black felt, cut one side in a grass-like scissor cut for the hair.

3. Glue the hair in place, lining up the straight edge with the top of the can.

4. Cut out the patterns for the eyebrows from black felt and the eyes from white felt. Glue in place (see photo).

5. Cut out the pattern for the nose from the light green feit and glue in place.

6. Cut chenille stem into a 10cm long piece. Bend into a squiggly mouth as shown in the photo. Glue in place.

7. Glue the black pom-poms to the centres of the white eyes. 8. Place 2 round magnets on each side of the head for the bolts, no glue required! The magnets should stick through the felt directly to the can. You can glue them in place if you prefer.

9. Let him dry before filling with candy, pencils or anything else you can think of.



truly



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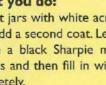


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## The World's Most **Popular Music Festival**

The Proms are regarded as a decidedly British institution; in fact, they originated in Paris where one could, for a franc, stroll (se promener, in French) amongst fountains, exotic gardens and fashionable promenaders, resplendent in the latest fashions, while listening to operatic arias. The craze quickly crossed the Channel and by the mid-19th century Londoners were themselves promming in their own inimitable style - the crowds were fairly raucous, however, and drunken riots were a frequent occurrence. One man who did not indulge in such licentious behaviour was Robert Newman, a young and ambitious concert agent; far from being put off by the crowd's rowdiness he began formulating a plan.

As the manager of the recently-constructed Queen's Hall in London, Newman decided to put on a totally new type of performance. His admirable, yet lofty aim was to encourage the ardent followers of the concert halls to appreciate the subtleties of classical music; he sought to create a more informal atmosphere in which eating, drinking,

(but please, gentlemen, refrain from striking matches during the vocal numbers) were permitted in addition to the promenading.

talking and smoking 🍎 I am going to run nightly concerts and train the public by easy stages. Popular at first, gradually raising the standard until I have created a public for classical and modern music. 99 (Robert Newman, the creator of the Proms)

Tickets would cost a shilling (5p) for a single concert, or a guinea (£1.05) for a season ticket. More than a hundred years later the ticket prices may have rocketed and the smoking certainly is no longer permitted (is it anywhere these days?) but the spirit - or mission - remains the same: to provide top-class music for everybody.

Newman then persuaded a talented young musician by the name of Henry Wood to accept the conductorship at Queen's Hall on a permanent basis. Along with Sir Malcolm Sargent (almost as famous for his immaculate appearance as for his conducting), who was chief conductor between 1948 and 1966, Henry Wood's name is the most closely associated with the Proms. Henry Joseph Wood was a prodigiously gifted musician: by the age of ten he was deputy organist at St Mary Aldermanbury and by the time he was fourteen he was playing the organ at the largest parish church in London, St Sepulchre-without-Newgate. Astonishingly for someone so gifted, it was not until Wood reached the age of sixteen and entered the Royal Academy of





Music that he received his first formal musical training. Training completed, he found employment as a singing teacher and conductor with several obscure operatic companies until he embarked on his fruitful partnership with Newman.

But what of the music? British music in the late Victorian era was in the doldrums; snobbery and prejudice against British composers abounded, both at home and abroad and the country was sneeringly

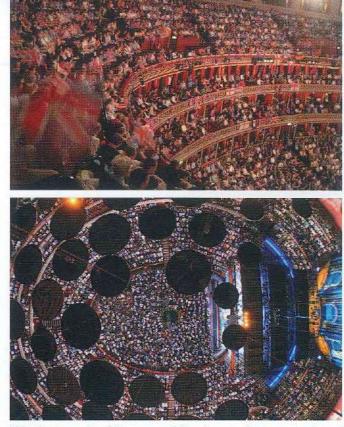
> referred to in Germany as "Das land ohne musik"(the land without music). The Wagner nights on Mondays and Beethoven on Fridays initially provoked scorn

and scepticism - it wasn't thought possible that a British composer would be capable of such a feat but Henry Wood was to prove the naysayers wrong, and not for the last time in his career.



An innovator, Wood fought tirelessly for women to be allowed into the orchestra and for improved pay for musicians - affectionately known as "Timber" (and there are no prizes for guessing why), he earned himself a knighthood in 1911. By the 1920s he had introduced his audience to contemporary composers such as Claude Debussy, Richard Strauss and Ralph Vaughan Williams. Indeed, it is Wood's name that has become synonymous with the Proms - he conducted them until shortly before his death in 1944; worn-out and ailing, it is said that towards the end of his life he was too poorly even to listen to his beloved Proms on the radio.

In the early days of the Proms, however, Newman and Wood found themselves faced with a dilemma: the wave of anti-German sentiment sweeping Britain at the outbreak of World



War I meant that Wagner and Beethoven, the two staples of the concert season, were now wildly unpopular and the crowds were increasingly vociferous in their objections. The conductor and the manager jointly insisted that 'the greatest examples of music and art are world possessions and unassailable even by the prejudices of the hour' and refused to alter the programme. The audience, however, wasn't convinced and the Proms began to lose money. The financial problems were not rectified until 1927, the year after Newman's death, when the BBC took over the running of the Proms.

The relationship with the BBC continued until 1939 when War forced the corporation to withdraw its support. In 1940 Luftwaffe air-raids limited the season to only four weeks and then, a year later, the Queen's Hall was pulverized by bombs and the Proms were switched to the Royal Albert Hall where they are held to this day.

After the War the number of guest orchestras giving concerts at the Proms began to increase, with the first major international conductors (Leopold Stokowski, Carlo Maria Giuliani and Georg Solti) performing in 1963; three years later the Moscow Radio Orchestra became the first foreign orchestra to perform there. Since that time, almost every major international orchestra, conductor and soloist has performed at the Proms.

Today, the highlight of the season is undoubtedly the Last Night of the Proms. A uniquely British event, the crowd is at its most boisterous for renditions of "Land of Hope and Glory", "Jerusalem" and, of course, the patriotic finale: "God Save the Queen". There is much frivolity and flag-waving, a definite softening of the stiff upper lip - and all the while the bust of Henry Wood casts its watchful eye over the proceedings.

And what would he make of it? He'd almost certainly approve. After all, the Proms are today the world's largest music festival.

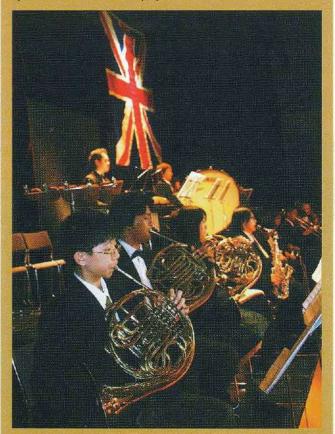


John Moore

Mazars' Last Night of the Proms Widely acclaimed and in its 3rd year in Bangkok Don't miss this glorious celebration of classical music conducted by Mr John Moore of the Midlands Symphony Orchestra.

Thursday 16th October at Shrewsbury International School, starting 6pm.

Programme includes a sumptuous buffet reception by the river, world-class musical performances, cocktails and a spectacular firework display.



Tickets Bt.1200 including pre-and post-concert musical entertainment, fine cuisine and free-flow of wine/beers, and all-evening shuttle boat from Sathorn Pier.

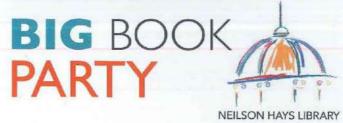
For more information, and tickets, contact the British Club

### LOOKING BACK









On Saturday September 13th we held a Big Book Party along with our friends at the Neilson Hays Library. The occasion? Well, take your pick! Not only was it World Literacy Day and Roald Dahl's Birthday, but Saturday also saw the release of Janice Santikarn's new children's book in which Sanook, the loveable and diminutive blue tuk-tuk, enjoys another adventure in "Little Blue Tuk-Tuk to the Rescue". It's a charming read and it would certainly make for an ideal stocking-filler in a couple of months – it's available poolside for a mere Bt.350.

As everyone was eager to hear about Sanook's latest escapades, Janice very kindly gave us a reading which was well-received. At the same time Susie and her team were getting their creative juices flowing, bringing to life various characters from the works of Dahl in vibrant detail while Khun Name and her team from the BNH Hospital got to work on some wonderful drawings based on "James and the Giant Peach". The volunteers from the Plant a Tree Organisation joined the proceedings and there was also extra entertainment for the kids – and some adults! – in the form of the ever-popular clay play activity. While we're not sure exactly how many people turned up on the day I can tell you that as early as 9:45am there was a steady stream of visitors; it was so busy, in fact, that the first puppet show needed relocating to accommodate everyone and Susie ended up doing an extra puppet performance!

Laak and Somboon did a magnificent job of organising the catering for the event. The chocolate banana fountain (I want one of those in my house!), chocolate popcorn, the blue tuk-tuk smoothies and the strawberry juice were all incredibly



popular as were the Cadbury Charlie Bars with the ten lucky vouchers randomly attached; I know some of you won some super prizes. Thanks to our sponsors Cadbury Adams Thailand and Janice Santikarn for generously providing those goodies.









The first person to purchase a Charlie Bar was our very own Angela Stafford from the Club's General Committee who was here to promote BNH Hospital and Lotus Calendars. Angela was kind enough to buy some chocolates for her staff and what do you think happened next?....yes, would you believe it, Khun Noon, one of the recipients of Angela's generosity, found a lucky voucher inside her Fruit and Nut wrapper! And no, it wasn't a fix (if it had been, I'd have won it!)! All in all eight prizes were claimed so maybe two vouchers have not been found and are lurking somewhere at poolside, just waiting to be snapped up ...

Unfortunately Charlie and his band of Oompaloompas were so busy that they forgot the name of the Lucky Gold Prize winner! Mind you, with so much going on it's hardly surprising – they were probably joining in the fun on the Club's bouncy castle or trying to make their getaway in the blue tuk-tuk we had parked at the library.

The day was an enormous success thanks to the stellar work of the crews at the British Club and the Neilson Hays Library and, of course, Sanook's creator, Janice Santikarn. A special thank you must also go to our major sponsor, Cadbury Adams Thailand, who also sell their exquisite chocolates here at the Club's Suriwongse Sala.

#### LOOKING BACK

# Wine Tasting

66 It is well to remember that there are five reasons for drinking: the arrival of a friend; one's present or future thirst; the excellence of the wine; or any other reason. Latin saying





We had a great turn out for the August wine tasting with over 70 members in attendance to sample the pleasing variety of wines supplied by Festive Wines, Asian Foods, South African Latitudes and Grand President Winery. Members eagerly snapped up the bargains on offer and enjoyed the canapés created by Khun Laak and her team, afterwards making their way down to the Verandah bar to enjoy Laak's delicious Balinese food.



**STOP PRESS** 

Due to the end of month Halloween activities, the next wine tasting will be held on October 17th. Not only will there be the usual bumper array of discounted wines, but members will also have the chance to take in some excellent art works exhibited throughout the Clubhouse by the ABC (Artists at the British Club) - see article on pp 20-21 of this issue. This is the first exhibition by the Group, and the artists will be present on their opening night to talk about art, the universe, and their work. Baz



**STOP PRESS** 

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An ideal Christmas gift - You can order Beaujolais Nouveau from the Club from now until 8th October 2008. Just fill out the order form below and return to the Club. Georges Duboeuf is France's best selling variety of Beaujolais Nouveau. The minimum order is one case and cases cannot be mixed:- Georges Duboeuf Beaujolais Bt.1,890 per bottle; Georges Duboeuf Beaujolais Nouveau Villages Bt.2090 per bottle. The Wine will be available for collection from the Club's stores after 20th November 2008.

**STOP PRESS** 

**STOP PRESS** 

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	FIRM YOUR ORDER, PLEASE FI RETURN TO THE CLUB, attentio									
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<ol> <li>Prices are quoted i</li> <li>Once received, ord with the supplier.</li> </ol>	n baht per bottle, VAT 7% excluded, lers cannot be cancelled as we have confirmed Becujolais Nouveau will not be released to the	TEL.								
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# **Getting to Know the ABC\***

#### \* Artists at the British Club.

Every Wednesday morning, in the light and airy Wordsworth Lounge, a small group of painters assembles. They come from a diverse range of backgrounds but are united in a common desire to create works of art. Some of the fruits of their labour are on show at the British Club this month.



We began painting together as a group at the British Club in April 2005 but for some of us, the relationship goes back further: Anita, Karin and Marion originally met in Ekkamai back in 2003 where they were being instructed in oil painting by Lynn and Nikki. Unfortunately we had to vacate our premises there but after some consultation with the British Club we found ourselves a new home and have been using the Wordsworth Lounge on a weekly basis since then, initially with our two teachers and three other ladies – a tight squeeze but somehow we managed! Since then our two teachers have left but we have continued; currently there are five of us who paint on Wednesdays but we would be delighted to welcome some new faces.

We work in a variety of styles and with different media; our group is informal and relaxed but we share a deep commitment to our work and we offer advice and encouragement to one another. We're a group of like-minded individuals who enjoy painting together.

We are planning to have our first exhibition at the British Club starting on October 17 and running until October 29. The opening day of the exhibition – October 17 - coincides with the wine tasting evening so why not come along, sample a glass (or two!) and peruse our work; we look forward to seeing you soon.

#### Anita Donald. UK.

Although I never had any formal training in art prior to arriving in Thailand I was fortunate enough to have spent four years living in Paris before coming here. The exposure to the arts in Paris – and, in particular, the works of the Impressionists at the Musee D'Orsay – inspired me to paint. Some friends of mine introduced me to Elsie Evans and it was she who provided me with the techniques I needed to get started; my enjoyment began to blossom at this point and I subsequently began to



#### with oils. I feel I am developing my

own style, based mainly on the use of the pallet knife. I love the texture this brings to the picture and the vibrant colours it produces.

#### Annie Wong. Hong Kong.



Gazing in admiration at the works of the Masters in various art galleries, I've dreamed of being able to paint. I began to learn more about oil painting nine years ago at the Alliance Francaise in Bangkok; I was aware, during the three-hour class, of how relaxed I felt.

Moving to the USA, I had the opportunity to enter George Washington University and it was at the world-renowned Corcoran Art Gallery that I learnt about art in a more serious way. I was already aware that painting helps me to relax but I also discovered that it aids my concentration, too. As an occasional Feng Shui consultant I believe that hanging appropriate works of art in a room is an integral part of interior decoration; the paintings can create a sense of harmony and a more auspicious environment.

After moving from Washington to Vietnam I had insufficient time for painting but now that I'm back in Bangkok I've been delighted to pick up the brushes once again; I sincerely hope that as I paint more the quality of my work will improve.

#### Eileen Mary Rutledge-Bontje. Canada.



Since my college years, art has been at the centre of my life. I've been fortunate to have studied under some terrific artists and I've had the privilege of having my work displayed at various exhibitions around the world

> It was a year or so ago that I joined the ABC group and I'm truly delighted to have found a group of artists as passionate about art as I am. Having such likeminded people to work with has given me motivation; we share ideas, learn from each other – and share a lot of laughs, too.



#### Karin Worthington, Kenya.

For as long as I can remember, I've been in love with art and have admired the works of many artists. A chance encounter with a self-taught artist was an epiphany for me because I learned through her that art, no matter how colourful, textured, intricate or unusual, is only beautiful in the eyes of a beholder. And that beholders are as unique in their tastes as artists.

Before 2002 my involvement in, and appreciation of art was purely as a beholder. But six years ago a friend of mine, who had taken the artistic plunge, persuaded me to pick up a pencil and paper and give a circle some depth and perspective. And not long after taking these initial, tentative steps, my family moved to Thailand and I decided that I was far enough away from familiar people to give art a serious chance. In the intervening years I've been fortunate to have met – and been taught by - several wonderful artists, all of whom have enabled me to develop, learn and grow as an artist. And now I always have a canvas on the go; as with my art, I too am definitely a work-in-progress.

Marion Causton. UK.



As a small child I loved to draw but it wasn't until I took 'A' level art that I realised how much I enjoyed painting and drawing. I trained to be a teacher in English and art: the art course covered many techniques including pottery, silk screening, drawing and painting but it was all aimed at teaching primary school children.

I didn't actually paint again until my late 40s when my children left home. I joined a painting group in Jakarta, Indonesia, where we used water colours. I enjoyed it immensely but found it very challenging.

Upon arrival in Bangkok I decided to join a group and do something different. I began with painting on silk and then moved into oils. I have found this to be the most liberating medium to work in and I have particularly enjoyed art as a group activity.



# ooking back





## British Women's Group August Lunch



August's lunch for the BritishWomen's Group a resounding success, with 54 ladies attending to sample the delights of the Verandah

estaurant in the British Club.

True to form, Barry, Khun Somboon and the team came up trumps, and produced a wonderful buffet spread. After a reception with coffee, drinks and appetisers, we meandered downstairs to the restaurant.



The room looked stunning! The table decorations were lovely, with each of the places set with a personal red rose corsage. Such a nice touch.

And then there was the food ... and the food ... and the food. It just seemed to keep on coming. There was a huge selection of starters to suit all tastes followed by a scrumptious carvery. Of course, there had to be room for the desserts. Rhubarb crumble definitely seemed to be the favourite of the day.

A big, big thanks to the staff who did an excellent job and sorry to the British Club ladies who Image: a stable in the restaurant to have a quiet lunch get together on that day.

#### Joyce Rosser



## **St George's Society President's Day**

Our St George's Society President, Gale Bailey organised and hosted a gettogether for existing and potential members of the Society in the lavish grounds of the British Club on Saturday 6th September.

After some torrential rain the day before there was some anxiety that this may turn out to be another 'Glastonbury' on the British Club front lawn! However, the sun was truly shining at midday and who better to enjoy this than us mad dogs and Englishmen (and women). OK so no dogs allowed but there was a great turnout of existing members and some new faces too! What better way to attract some new members other than to provide good food and alcoholic beverages for a small one-off fee. There was a bouncy castle and face painting for the little ones who seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

The red and white St George's theme was present, even on some of us who managed to dig out something appropriate from our wardrobes! I have to mention that, as always, the British Club employees were brilliant and they are far too good at spotting empty glasses and kindly refilling!



Gale gave a motivating speech which included the Raffle and infused a lot of enthusiasm in members to do more to keep the Society active and encourage new membership. I can tell you hot off the press that a lot of new members and especially the 'youngsters' are keen to get involved with the Society so watch this space as there are lots of fun activities already being worked up!

The day was a great opportunity to meet new faces and catch up with friends in a relaxed atmosphere after the 'summer break'. However, it wouldn't be an English/ British day without the rain and so an appearance was made late afternoon! The rain didn't scare many off though and lots of us continued to drink and chat under the tents until the sun really was disappearing.

Thank you Gale and the British Club for organising a lovely day and to others who helped out before and during the event.







**Gale Bailey** 









## Judith Aphaiwongse's 60th **Birthday Celebration**

A special lunch was arranged for friends of Judith Aphaiwongse, who is an honorary member of the British Women's Group, to celebrate her 60 birthday. Fourteen ladies gathered on September 1 st in the Wordsworth Room, which was suitably decked out in purple and pink, Judith's favourite colours. Everyone commented on the wonderful menu, the variety and quality of the food, in taste and presentation, plus the

service was simply superb. Judith was quite overwhelmed by it all as she did not know exactly who was coming and what to expect then was presented with a bouquet and a bottle of bubbly to round off the occasion. A memorable occasion for us all.



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Sat	4	9:00am-1:30pm Junior Swimming Classes 2:00pm Squash Handicap Mix-in	Suriwongse Room 6:30pm SINGALONG- A-SOUND OF MUSIC!	9:00am-2:00pm Junior Swimming Classes		18 9:00am-2:00pm Junior Swimming Classes		25	9:00am-2:00pm Junior Swimming Classes	in a row, w children o is required	we hop of the S d to ma	one's Christmas e to put on a Christmas uttisan School for the De	

# On the menu...

This month a rather underestimated vegetable makes a comeback - rhubarb. You may think it's a fruit because of all the delicious desserts it's in but, botanically speaking, it's a vegetable! Rhubarb originated in north Asia (China and Mongolia) thousands of years ago where its roots were used for medicinal purposes. After a rhubarb variant was planted in Europe as a food crop in the 17th century the humble herb never looked back. Even modern rhubarb stalks are great for the digestive system but mostly they taste absolutely scrumptious, and so we've created a delicious and diverse range of rhubarb recipes - have a look at our two samples below - all available at the Club's outlets throughout October. Be sure to try some.



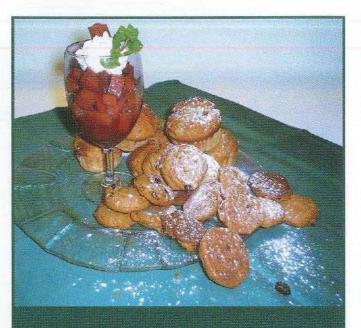
#### **Cinnamon-Topped Rhubarb Muffins**

#### Ingredients:

1/2 cup brown sugar, firmly packed 1/4 cup butter l (8oz) cup sour cream 2 eggs | 1/2 cups all-purpose flour 3/4 tsp baking soda 1 1/2 cups chopped rhubarb I tbsp sugar | tsp cinnamon

#### **Directions:**

Heat oven to 375F/190C or gas mark 5. In a large bowl combine the brown sugar and butter and beat at medium speed (1-2 min) until well mixed. Add sour cream and eggs; continue beating, scraping the bowl often, until the ingredients are mixed together (1-2 min). In a mediumsized bowl stir together the flour, baking soda and 1/2 tsp of cinnamon. By hand, stir the flour mixture into the sour cream mixture until moistened. Then, fold in the rhubarb. Spoon the mixture into greased muffin pans. In a small bowl stir together 1 tbsp of sugar and 1/2 tsp cinnamon; sprinkle onto each muffin. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until lightly browned. Leave to cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans.



#### **Rhubarb** Cookies

#### Ingredients: 1/4 lb butter I cup light brown sugar l egg I cup cooked rhubarb, drained \*\* 2 cups flour 1/4 tsp salt I tsp baking soda I tsp nutmeg, grated I tsp cinnamon 1/2 tsp ground cloves 3 tbsps crystallized ginger, finely chopped (optional) 1/2 cup walnuts; chopped l cup raisins

#### **Directions:**

\*\* To cook rhubarb: use a proportion of 4 cups sliced rhubarb cut in 1/2-inch pieces to 1 cup sugar. Toss the rhubarb and sugar together and let steep overnight (you will be amazed at how much juice the rhubarb gives off). Pour off 3/4 cup of the liquid and use for a drink. Cook the rhubarb slices in the remaining juice until just tender but still holding their shape; this will take less than five minutes. The rhubarb is ready to eat as it is, to use in other recipes or to freeze in containers.

Cream the butter and sugar together. Add the egg and beat until light, then stir in the rhubarb. Stir the flour, salt, baking soda and spices together and toss until thoroughly mixed. Stir the dry ingredients into the rhubarb mixture until the two are blended, then fold in the optional ginger, the walnuts and the raisins. Drop the batter by the tablespoonful onto greased baking sheets about 1 1/2 inches apart, and bake in a preheated 350 F/180C (gas mark 4) oven for 12 minutes, until lightly browned at the edges.



## SPA PACKAGE

#### Asian Blended (2 hrs 2,650 B)

Herbal green tea scrub White mud body wrap Aromatherapy oil body massage

#### Rest & Relex (2 hrs 2,680 B)

Body scrub & Floral milky with Aromatic oil Aromatherapy oil body massage

#### Refreshing (2 hrs 2,680 B)

Body scrub & Floral milky with Aromatic oil DECLEOR deep cleansing facial treatment

#### Pure Package (2 hrs 45 min 3,880 B)

DECLEOR deep cleaning facial treatment Body scrub Balm Body Massage Sauna mask & Skin Nourishing

#### Ultimate Full Package (3 hrs 45 min 4,800 B)

**DECLEOR Nourishing & Hydrating facial treatment** Body scrub & Floral milky bath with Aromatic oil Fresh vegetable salad with fresh juice Balm Body Massage Seaweed wrap & Skin Nourishing

#### Tropical Healing Full Package (4 hrs 30 min 5,800 B)

- Body scrub

Aloe vera and Cucumber Body Treatment Mineral Bath **DECLEOR Nourishing and Hydrating Facial** Fresh Fruit with fresh juice - Aromatherapy Body Massage Reflesology Foot Massage



## **Special Promotion**

#### Total Massage 1 hrs 30 min (regular 1,750 B) Now Only 1,280 B

- Aromatherapy Oil Body Massage 70 min - Anti-stress Relaxing Head Massage 20 min

#### Body Scrub & Massage 90 min (regular 2,220 B) Now Only 1,380 B

Body scrub of your choice 30 min - Aromatherapy Oil Body Massage 60 min

#### Total Relaxation 2 hrs (regular 2,920 B) Now Only 1,950 B

- Body scrub of your choice 30 min - Aromatherapy Oil Body Massage 60 min - Red Clay Body Wrap 30 min

#### DECLEOR Facial 1 hrs (regular 1,800 B) Now Only 1,400 B - Decleor Deep Cleansing Facial 60 min





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# SPORT & FITNESS



#### With Reed Passmore

#### Dear Members,

Welcome to the latest round-up of sports and activities at the British Club. After the long holiday period, September saw the resumption of many old activities and the beginning of some new ones, too.

Junior swimming lessons have begun with over 50 children signing up, which is fantastic. The circuit training in the fitness centre has also started, with many members eager to train hard, work up a sweat and get fit, all within the space of 45 minutes!

Junior rugby has kicked off with 15 children enrolled and ready to run around learning the basic rules of the great game. Which reminds me: this is an ideal opportunity for me to say a very big thank you to the Bangkok Rugby Lions for donating balls to the British Club juniors – cheers boys, much appreciated.

Fitball is back! The Monday class continues to grow by the week; this is the third time we've had to buy more balls and it won't be the last, I'm sure.

Junior tennis with Khun Kor at the helm takes place on Friday afternoons and we're also looking at the possibility of monthly junior tennis tournaments and games at the weekend – these will be for children and teenagers.

So as you can see, there's plenty going on around the Club at the moment and with the ongoing redevelopment on the back lawn there's bound to be a lot more happening soon, too: look out for mini-football, netball and cricket, amongst others.

If you are interested in any of these activities or any others you can think of please contact me.

We're going to have a Welcome Back (lawn) Day to celebrate the amazing new facilities with ten sports to be played on the all-weather court – it'll be lots of fun and we hope to see you there.

#### **Exercise Lets You Eat More!**

Pound for pound, muscle burns more calories at rest than body fat. So the more muscle you have, the higher your resting metabolic rate. And, of course, you also burn calories while you're actually exercising.

All this means that cheating with a cookie once in a while isn't going to take you back ten steps. Can you eat anything? No! But you can afford to enjoy some of the things you really like when you exercise regularly whereas when you're not working out you can't really get away with it ...

#### Tips

Do you like chocolate? Here's the damage: 160 Calories -2 small choc chip cookies 250 Calories - bag of M&M peanuts 410 Calories - I slice chocolate cake 600 Calories - I cup rocky road ice cream

#### It's back! Thursdays at 10:30pm and

Fitball

Saturdays at 2pm.

Junior Swimming Swimming lessons for children of all ages.



Salsa Dancing A Salsa dancing course is starting in October. Please sign up at reception or the Fitness Centre Wednesday evenings.



#### Boxing

Kickboxing is on every Tuesday and Thursday at 2pm. Must book in advance as numbers are limited.

Boxing is a great stress-buster and an excellent all-round workout.



Junior Rugby Junior Rugby ha started!!!

Sundays at 3pm. Bt. 125 per child. A great afternoon of skills, fun and rugby. For boys and girls, 3-7yrs old. Non-contact.



October Sports Camp at the Royal Varuna Yacht Club and junior football on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

# **Regular** Sports, Games & Activities

Aqua Aerobics Tuesday 9:30–10:30am

Balut Ist Wednesday of every month 7:05-9:00pm Wordsworth Lounge

Boxing Training Tuesday and Thursday 2:00pm

Bridge Sunday 2:30–6:00pm Tournament play in Suriwongse Room (except last Sunday of every month)

Circuit Training Thursday 6:00pm Sunday 2:00pm

Fitball Training Monday–Thursday 10:30am Saturday 2:00pm

Pipe Band Monday 7:00–10:30pm Practice - upstairs Clubrooms Wednesday 7:00–10:30pm Practice - upstairs Clubrooms

Rugby Juniors Sunday 3:00pm

Salsa Dancing Wednesday 6:30pm

# Sports/Activities Price List

Aqua Aerobics Boxing Training Circuit Training Fitball Training Massage Rugby Juniors Salsa Dancing Squash Coaching Squash Coaching Squash courts Swimming Tennis Juniors Tennis courts Tennis knockers

Yoga

Bt.2,500 for 5 sessions Boxing/kickboxing sessions – Bt.400 (must book in advance) Bt.125 per session Package deals or Bt.200 per session (drop-in) Thai massage/foot massage – Bt.250 per hourly session (except Mondays) Bt. 125 per session Bt.2,100 for 6 lessons With Khun Rit – Bt.300 per session Bt.50 per 45 min British Club swimming lessons – Bt.325 per lesson, Bt.3,250 for 10 lessons Bt.5,000 for 10 lessons Bt.30 per hour am/Bt.90 per hour pm Hourly knocking sessions with – Khun Jang (Bt.550), Khun Kaew (Bt.500), Khun Tom (Bt.400), Khun Choon (Bt.400), Khun Phon (Bt.300), Khun Champ (Bt.300) Bt.2,500/month for 10 sessions; drop-in Bt.300 per session

**Spoofing** Tuesday 8:30pm until late – Churchill Bar

#### Squash

Tuesday 5:15–8:15 Casual Mix-in Wednesday and Friday 4:30-6:00pm Junior squash coaching Thursday 5:15–9:00 Mix-in Ist Saturday of every month 2:00pm Handicap Mix-in Ist Sunday of every month 10:30am–2:15pm Mix-in

#### Swimming

Monday 6:00pm – adult swimming lessons (free) Friday 2:00–5:30pm junior classes Saturday 9:00am–2:00pm junior classes

Tennis Match Play: Mix-in All Standards:

Ladies Mix-in:

Team Practice:

Monday 6:00–10:00pm Wednesday 6:00–10:00pm Friday 6:00–10:00pm Tuesday 8:00–11:00am Thursday 8:00–11:00am Sunday 9:00–11:00am

Tennis Juniors Friday 4:00–6:00pm (Contact Reed in the Fitness Centre for more details)

Yoga Sunday 2:30–3:30pm

# GOLF

# **August Golf Report**

August was a fairly quiet month for golf with many people away on breaks to the UK and elsewhere but we still managed to hold events most weekends.

#### Hassell Stableford

Ten players drove to the lovely Subhapruek course for this event and the competition was quite fierce. Frank Fawkes and Jim Moroney both had 35 points and on count back Frank was second and Jim third but the winner with a magnificent 39 points was Peter Bond. Well done Peter.



Stableford Winner Peter Bond with Vice Captain Frank

#### Away weekend to Nichigo

Nine members went up to the Nichigo golf course for the weekend of 23rd and 24th August. The course is beautifully located in the hills beyond Kanchanaburi. The weather was cool and pleasant and there were few other players on the course. Consequently the golf was greatly enjoyed even if some people had to sit down on the tee box for a rest. Competitions were played in team formats with the best two out of three scores from each team being added together. The winners on the first day were husband and wife Gordon and Rosemarie Milne together with Peter Skinner and on the second day the honours were taken by John Carter, Gaew Khongyoo and Frank. John asserted his individual superiority by scooping four of the technical prizes on offer. Three of the ladies went off to visit the Erawan waterfalls and enjoyed a good swim while the men stayed behind to drink plenty of beer and put the politics of the world to rights.

#### Millward Brown Firefly Medal

The medal was played on the last Sunday of the month at the Royal course, with 26 players taking part. It was a very pleasant day despite the downpours of rain. In Flight B the winner was Belinda Skinner with Vaughan Litton in second

place and Peter Bond in third. Flight A was won by Gordon Milne, from David Lamb and Gareth Sampson. In a reverse of last month's presentation Rosemarie, on behalf of the sponsors, presented the medal to her husband Gordon and also made the presentation to Golfers Resting at Nichigo Belinda.



#### **Forthcoming Events**

In October we have an away weekend at Soi Dao and our match against Lighthouse in addition to our regular Stableford and medal events. Our club championship takes place mid



Husband and Wife Gordon and Rosemarie



Happy Flight B Winner Belinda with Rosemarie

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November and golf section members are reminded that they have to have played 5 games during the year to qualify. Because a number of fixtures still have to be finalised while writing this early in September, interested players are advised to check our fixture list on our website or email the BCGS for confirmation of fixture venues.

We generally tee off around 11.30 am on Sunday mornings. There is always some debate as to whether it is better to tee off in the early morning cool and then finish in the midday heat or, as we do, tee off in the heat then hopefully finish in the cooler afternoon. Whatever your view, we are one of the few societies to offer Sunday afternoon golf and we welcome guests to all our events.

Finally a little thought sent to me by email and which may or may not be true - there are two things you can learn by stopping your back-swing at the top and checking the position of your hands: how many hands you have, and which one is wearing the glove.

Happy Golfing **Jenny Harries** 

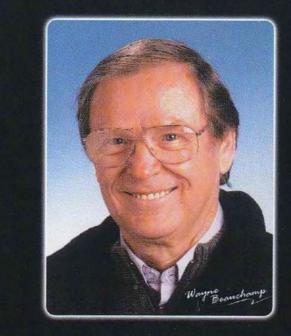
> British Club Golf Section contact details Website: www.geocities.com/bcgolfsociety Email: bcgs2002@yahoo.co.uk Phone: Captain, Maureen Gibson 089 017 2254

#### Midweekers<sup>9</sup> Golf

There is now a thriving mid week golfing group consisting mainly of British Club members. They play at the Bangkok Golf Club, north of the city, on Wednesday morning. On average 12 to 16 players come along each week and the aim is to make the game enjoyable for everyone. The Bangkok Golf Club is very welcoming and we now have regular tee times booked every week.

Teams are drawn on the day out of a hat and the scoring is usually based on taking the best two Stableford scores out of three or the best three out of four on each hole (if we are all playing in teams of four). These best scores are added together, or multiplied. Multiplied scores can make for some interesting results; for example, if two players play well and have scores of maybe 4 and 5 and the other two players do not score anything then a multiplier of 3 scores will result in zero. The emphasis is really on everyone having fun and being able to contribute something to their team even if they personally are having a poor game. There are no prizes or match fees - it is all just for fun.

George has also set up an eclectic competition which is running through to the end of September. (This does have prizes). If it is successful we may well run it again as it gives the players more incentive to improve their scores.



#### Tel. 08 0459 3841 08 0459 3842

Call for appointment E-mail: emerald-house@hotmail.com

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If anyone is interested in playing on Wednesday morning please contact any of the following.

> Ray Bloom George Okrasa Ray Harries **Bob Randle**

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# TENNIS

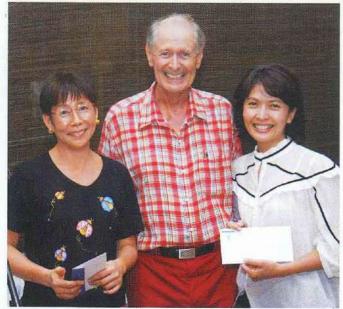
#### Bruce Gordon 1934 – 2008



On Thursday, 9 September, longtime Club member Bruce Gordon was laid to rest in a service at Christ Church, Soi Convent, with a cremation at Wat Khlong Toey Nai. Nearly 100 friends attended the service read by the Reverend Peter Cook, with Bruce's dear friend Steve Goode sharing his memories of Bruce and giving the eulogy.

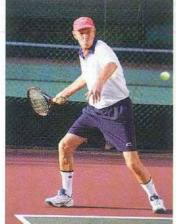
The following Sunday, 14 September, a wake was held at the British Club to celebrate Bruce's life, with 70 attending. Towards the end of the wake, a bright rainbow graced the skies, an unusual sight in Bangkok, and perhaps Bruce's farewell to us all.

Club member and fellow tennis player Laurence Lipman shares some memories of Bruce and recounts some of his final days, which saw his fellow British Club and tennis section members and friends rally round to raise funds for his operations and take daily care of him.



Bruce with the Ladies Singles Plate finalists at this year's Championships





Never too old ...

next Monday morning, with Bruce in some pain, his friends Vorathep and Henry insisted on taking him to hospital.

Not once during this meeting did he ever announce his pain or discomfort. The following day after waiting all day at Chulalongkorn Hospital, Dr. Pongsak drove him to St. Louis Hospital and with the help of Kumon getting the top surgeon to be present, he was operated on immediately. Originally diagnosed as acute appendicitis and peritonitis, it was discovered to be a stage four colon cancer. This was the start of the downhill path for Bruce who stayed in hospital until the Saturday before moving to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration General Hospital at the end.

The Morning Tennis Musketeers jumped in on Bruce's behalf instantly. This group of 12 wonderful people headed by Frank "the arrow" and Henry "the feather" began a tireless unceasing daily operation of fund raising, care-giving and frequent visits throughout the day. Jesada, Henry and Vorathep took over the helm after Frank had departed to foreign shores but with a huge amount of gratitude for his energy and enthusiasm. With the added assistance of Andrew, Yubharet and Marc in organizing donations from the regular tennis circle, an amazing amount was quickly collected for Bruce's care. Jesada in addition became Treasurer and looked after the monies received.

This really was a miracle of kindness and generosity with so many people giving from their hearts with love. Bruce was always reassured whilst in hospital there was never any need to worry, there would always be sufficient funds for all his

Another big thank you to Marie and Steve Goode for their love, prayers and for helping Bruce be at peace with himself. Thanks to James for his expertise in sorting out Bruce's paperwork, to Yubharet for her kindness and organisation as always, and to all the other wonderful kind and generous people who contributed to helping Bruce through the difficult time. Always to remember Dr. Pongsak and Dr. Donna Robinson for their medical care, attention and advice and for being there at a moment's notice to come to Bruce's aid. There were many others who worked behind the scenes serving in so many ways. We are so grateful to you all. Thank You.

**BRUCE GORDON: TENNIS GURU AND DEAR FRIEND** by Laurence Lipman (L140)

Monday May 26, whilst playing tennis I saw in the distance someone walking in obvious discomfort, a shadow of slowness and pain. This was Bruce Gordon arriving to head the tennis EGM that evening. Bruce must hold the attendance record for that committee, but it turned out to be his final meeting as the



Several family members visited from the UK: Bruce's children Jane, Nigel and Hamish and his wife Yvonne, and grandchildren Kyle and Jessica. Also Jean his lovely regal sister who at the young age of 76 is still going strong.

The only three times Bruce came out of hospital were to visit his house for the last time and for his 74th Birthday. On 20 July a party was held in the Sala with about 55 birthday well-wishers and a second party the following week at which Bruce presented the "Bruce Gordon Trophy" to the Tennis Section.

On Friday 5 September, Bruce took a turn for the worse requiring oxygen until the end. So many friends came immediately to visit and comfort Bruce that morning. Dr. Pongsak struggled through a torrential downpour to visit that evening and continued his care throughout the weekend. Ying was there from the beginning visiting Bruce. Not only his dear friend for 15 years, Ying was also his tennis partner and unknown to many his dancing partner! And we must not forget his last tennis partner, dear Phairoj, who we know will surely miss him for always.

On Sunday the nurses attended Bruce on an hourly basis with Kate, Ying and myself taking duty of the day. "Sabai, Sabai" was whispered into Bruce's ear so many, many times. I do believe he responded to this until the very last moment before passing away peacefully at 11:24pm, 7 September. Bruce endured just under 15 weeks from the start to the end of his illness.

For the hospital staff in the Special Ward at the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration General Hospital, it was their first experience of a "farang" patient admitted into the ward. They mentioned how good a patient he was, without grumbles or moans and how he was at peace with himself, unlike so many other patients. He certainly got an A+ for behaviour, manners & being a very proper English gentleman at all times. If ever there was a location that Bruce knew well it was here where his final peace arrived in Chinatown which he loved so much.

On Thursday 9th September, the service was held at Christ Church, Soi Convent by the Rev'd Peter Cook and the eulogy was read by Steve Goode his good friend. The cremation took place at Wat Khlong Toey Nai.

A very fitting end to such a wonderful true champion, leaving a legacy to us all of how to play tennis until we are 74 years old. Bruce is an inspiration to us all for always. As Bruce departed from this world, the last words were said by his longtime doubles partner and dear friend Khun Phairoj "for he's a jolly good fellow".

"And SO SAY ALL OF US" !!!

# TFNNIS











# BALUT

## **A WINNER BY TWO TENTHS OF A POINT!**





Section Chairman Phil Alexander awards Steve Eaton the Balut Shield for 2007-2008

What more can be said than that, after 15 rounds of the inaugural BCB Balut Shield, the winner for 2007-08 is none other than Steve Eaton with an amazing average score of 103.7 points in his best six games. Unlike in Formula 1 we do not deduct points for being a McLaren supporter nor for being the best, although we could not rise to a bottle of champagne either so Steve had to celebrate with a bottle of whisky.

Steve was not the only winner of the evening – two bottles of wine go to the top scorers in each tournament. The highest aggregate score of the evening went to Arun Gupta on an impressive 503, beating John Boisclair by just one point. Two players took top single score of the night with truly amazing throwing of 150 points, yet there can be only one winner so in a 'slow flop' (one turn of the cup) George Okrasa took the bottle prize from Bob Van Es after the latter failed to score having cocked the dice three times! Hard Luck Bob!

Twelve Section members attended the BCB Balut Shield Dinner (as many were overseas), and it was a good event with everyone proudly showing off their new Section shirts, sponsored by MARTELLO REALTY and DET5 BAR & RESTAURANT; a very enjoyable occasion but also some heartbreakingly poor dice throwing for those who had the best chances of stealing the

Rank	Player	BEST SIX POINTS			
1	Steve Eaton	3110	103.7		
2	Caroline Willbourn	3104	103.5		
3	Jeremy Watson	3069	102.3		
4	Paul Cheesman	3060	102.0		
5	John Boisclair	3010	100.3		
6	Phil Alexander	3004	100.1		
7	Roger Willbourn	2998	99.9		
8	Arun Gupta	2985	99.5		
9	Steve Mallon	2980	99.3		
10	George Okrasa	2972	99.1		
11	Tony Rodriguez	2887	96.2		
12	Christopher Poustie	2852	95.1		
13	Simon Davies	2760	92.0		

The Balut Section by face



lead at the last minute. As the league table shows, Caroline Willbourn, being unable to attend the Dinner, had to settle for second place whilst Jeremy Watson pipped Paul Cheesman for third by a mere three tenths of a point. Joint leaders of the highest single scores in any Tournament went to Phil Alexander and Arun Gupta on 151.

The first three Tournaments of the 2008-09 BCB Balut Shield will be held at 7.05pm in the Wordsworth Lounge on 1st October, 5th November and 3rd December 2008. All scores restart from zero and all Club members are welcome to attend.

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## www.taratheva.com

# RUGBY

# **Rugby Report for August**

The Rugby Section has had a very active month, not only with the normal friendly fixtures against Bangkok teams but also with an important tour to Malaysia.

The Kedah State provincial rugby team travelled to Bangkok last year to play the British Club Rugby Section – an event which was a great success both on and off the field. Kedah invited us to take part in the Kedah 7s which this year would feature in the Sultan's Royal Golden Jubilee Celebrations. It was a great honour to be included in such a prestigious event and we agreed to travel down and represent the British Club Bangkok.

This widely-known tournament is held annually and the prospect of winning large cash prizes draws many professional teams from the region. This year being the Royal Golden Jubilee there was a staggering USD 150,000 up for grabs – what a dream come true that would be! Unfortunately we had next to no chance of competing with the top teams at this event; they employed professional players from Fiji and Tonga, no doubt attracted by the large sums to be won.

The majority of our players are from the south of Thailand which borders Kedah State; many of them, therefore, have previously participated in this tournament and are thus well aware of the high standards there. This explains our decision to send our development team in the hope that they'd gain some much-needed experience and be able to rub shoulders with the superstars on display.

The tournament took place on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th August 2008. The squad met at the Southern Bus Terminal in Bangkok – everyone was looking forward to the rugby but not, perhaps, the all-night bus trip necessary to get them there. Twelve hours after boarding the



Thanks from BC to the organisers of the Kedah 7s



Team photo, Kedah



Club Captain and Team Liaison Lieutenant Ibrahim bus we arrived in Hat Yai – for those fortunate enough never to have taken the trip by coach, all we can say is that we really

don't recommend it!

And then, in true British Club Rugby style, we discovered that half the team had had turned out without their passports! Luckily for us the Sultan of Kedah State had prepared an entourage to pick the BC boys up at the border and so it was that we entered Malaysia in true VIP style with body guards, flagged black-window cars and a police escort leading the way...nice one!

For a change the boys were early and made it to the stadium before kick-off with the intention of seeing the other teams play. NS Wanderers had seven Fijian players, five of whom had represented Fiji in the Hong Kong 7s. The captain of Borneo Eagles was Uale "Vala" Mai, the Samoan 7s team's skipper, who just happens to be the leading scorer in IRB World Sevens Series history, with even more points that the legendary Serevi...our dreams of a stunning victory slipped even further away!

We began the day with no expectations – the aim was to enjoy the experience and play to the best of our abilities. In our group we were up against Cobra, one of the favourites, Kedah Blues and the Malaysian Royal Engineers Regiment.

Over-powered and out-muscled in every game, we ended the day without either winning a game or even scoring a try – we never gave up though, and played valiantly throughout the day. Restricting Cobra and Kedah Blues to less than 40 points was in itself quite an achievement.

None of the other Thai teams managed a win on the first day which meant that the Bowl Competition on Saturday was an all-Thai affair. First up was the Police against the BC in the quarter finals. Traditionally the strongest 7s team in Thailand, the Police were very confident of claiming the Bowl Prize of USD 30,000.



7s rugby, BC style

The three favourites for the Bowl were now the Royal Thai Police, the Thai Barbarians and the Royal Thai Army. On the day we counted 23 former British Club players lining up for the other teams so we too were confident of an upset.

The Royal Thai Police were not prepared for our physical game. We effectively shut down all the space, not giving the opposing players any time on the ball or space to run; every move they attempted, we managed to thwart. Unfortunately we didn't manage to get the ball ourselves. After seven solid minutes of tackling our lads began to tire and the Police began to find some space; the Police flyer managed to half chip the ball over the top of our boys charging down the Police line then collected the ball and from there it was an easy sprint in from 50 metres. So, at half-time the score was 7-0 to the Police.

After the resumption, the Police seemed to think we were beaten because they made many errors, giving possession away frequently. The game was played at a frantic pace, endto-end with no stoppages, with the Police trying to close out the game and the BC trying to catch them. With the clock ticking down and with only about 10 seconds to go, the BC boys, pinned back on our own try line, went for one last move. Our big experienced Airforce Captain Mor took a tap penalty and charged straight at the Police forwards, sucking in two or three players; Deer then moved the ball quickly and Baow received it on the wing - 80 metres to go, two players to beat; could he do it? Baow danced around the first rushing tackler and made it to the halfway where the Police sweeper was lying in wait; with the Police cover tacklers on the charge Baow had nowhere to go. He cleverly ducked the first tackle and waited for the rest of the BC players to catch up; the ball was swinging from touchline to touchline, our players gamely refusing to let the ball die, passing out of every tackle. Deer dummied a chip kick which completely flummoxed the Police line with half of them jumping to block and the other half turning to chase. Deer then took his chance and darted up the right of the pitch to within 30 metres of his target. Steaming forward, he was then tap tackled on the 22 metre line - Mor then cleared the ruck and Yung received the ball at fly half with only one player out wide and four chasing Police players. The only option was a cross field kick which Yung judged to perfection;

# <u>RUGBY</u>

it put all the Police players out of play and went straight into the waiting hands of the speeding Baow. A try in the corner, the conversion for extra time. We missed the conversion but our 100 metre sweeping move must surely rank as the try of the tournament.

The Police subsequently beat the Royal Thai Army in the final of the Bowl. Cobra won the big cheque, beating the NS Wanderers in the Cup Final and that was that, a fantastic two days of rugby was at an end – now we just had the long bus ride home to look forward to!

After that we took a week off – not so much because the rugby was hard but after that nightmare of a bus ride we were all in need of a break. With both University and TRU leagues approaching and four teams entered in all competitions, it was going to be quite a hectic time – we also arrange a game for every weekend up to the start of the league which includes mid-week games.

Our first game on Sunday 24th August was an interclub event. The goal was selection for the BC 1st XV with the remaining players turning out for Thonburi/BC Uni, ABAC/BC Uni and the BC 2nd XV teams. The game was incredibly physical with all players eager to be picked for the firsts – the exercise was a success and we had our basic squads sorted out.

On Thursday 29th August we won a hard-fought match 33-14 against the Commercial Navy.

And on Sunday 31st August we were up against some familiar foes: Phanakorn North University, who we know well from the five-game rout during last year's series. Victory was sweet, especially considering how many players we have lost this year. We won 12-3 and didn't concede a single try. Morcar is always amazed at how physical Phanakorn North are – they're easily the toughest, most physical team we play in Thailand.

Wednesday 3rd September saw us in action against Bangmood University – a fast, open game ended in a 43-23 victory for the BC.

Our final selection game took place on Sunday 7th September with squad places still available and it was a decidedly brutal encounter; no score was kept - the prize was a team place, if successful. After the game we all went off for the squad celebrations and to announce the teams – and, of course, some Moo Kra Ta and a few ales to ease the aches and pains!

While much of the upcoming month will be spent preparing our teams for the imminent National Leagues we'll also find the time to get ready for the largest social sports event in Bangkok - the Pink and Black Ball, which will take place at the Amari Watergate Hotel on Saturday 11th October. Please don't hesitate to contact our Club Secretary Morcar McConnell if you are interested in coming along to the event.

Yours in rugby, Magnus Andersson Club Captain

# Puzzles

## **Double Diabolical Sudoku**

With Outpost just a teeny bit late last month, we extended our receiving deadline to the 16th and a record 14 entries came flooding in - by fax, photocopy and original (page ripped out of Outpost - ouch!). Times ranged from an exceedingly speedy 10 minutes to a more sedate 90 minutes or "movie-length". Please remember to write your times in! We got four forgetniks this month. The average times were very close between the puzzles - 36 minutes for the first puzzle and 33 minutes for the second, which perhaps means that our sudokusans are getting faster overall?

Here are another two minimal Diabolical Sudokus. As usual, each Sudoku will have its own draw and for each a bottle of wine goes to the skilful - and lucky - winner.

Fax or deliver your completed sudoku/s to Barry Osborne as soon as possible after receiving Outpost. Entries must be received by the 10th of the month (but we will extend the deadline in the rare event that Outpost is late out). The author of the first correct entry (for each Sudoku) drawn out of a hat will win a bottle of wine.

# September SUDOKU WINNER

The winner of September's Sudoku No 1 is David Hento (H209). Congratulations David on this your first win.

The old hands are back again for Sudoku No 2 congratulations to Fiona Ramsay (R084), another bottle wine for you. This is Fiona's third sudoku win, and ever time on Puzzle No 2.

To all those not-so-lucky souls who missed out this tim don't give up! Keep sending in your sudokus, becaus one day, when you least expect it, your number migl

come up ... Pictured this month, winner of the July sudoku Meilan Henderson (with grateful husband) is presented with what looks like a particularly pleasant bottle of Italian red. Meilan is our top sudoku prize winner, bagging five bottles of wine in the past year!



And finally, to the current winners, just a reminder that we at Outpost are always available to help you drink your wine, should you need assistance ...

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Rating: 'Diabolically Difficult' Solution times: You tell us! Write down your time next to your completed puzzle(s) - be truthful now!

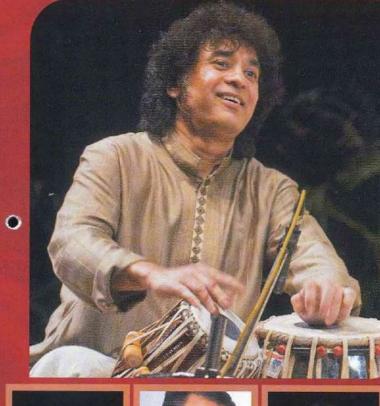
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Rating: 'Diabolically Difficult' Solution times: You tell us! Write down your time next to your completed puzzle(s) - no fibbing!

Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

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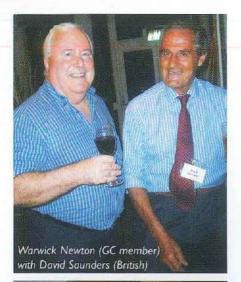
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Children below 6 are not permitted. The performance is for 150 minutes with a

#### LOOKING BACK





# **New Members' Night**

The British Club extended a warm welcome to our new members on September 9th in an event that was a huge success. On this occasion we were delighted to welcome members from countries including Austria, Australia Great Britain.

The atmosphere on the Verandah was suitably jovial as our twelve new members mingled with some familiar faces; many brought along family members and their proposers or seconders so the event was extremely well-attended. Our chairman, Dr Andrew Roberts, formally welcomed everyone to the Club and made the introductions. Michael Silcock, our CEO, was also present along with other members of the Club's senior management; representatives from the General Committee, Loyal Societies and Sports Sections also came along to pay their regards.

Entertainment was provided by a troupe of bagpipers whose musical repertoire included traditional Scottish Highland melodies and some more contemporary songs – our Aussie contingent was amused to hear "Waltzing Matilda" played in such an original manner!

The convivial atmosphere was further enhanced by the sumptuous canapés on offer, courtesy of Khun Laak. In fact, they were so irresistible it looked as though they were about to run out before the chairman made the introductions!

Our New Members' Nights are held once every three months. They offer our members a chance to meet and greet each other in a relaxed, informal setting. We look forward to seeing you again at our next New Members' Night which will take place in December.



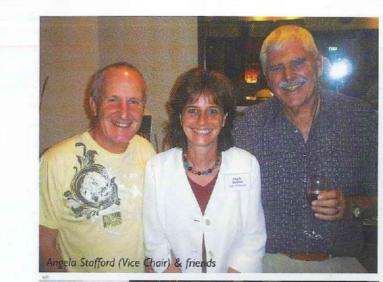




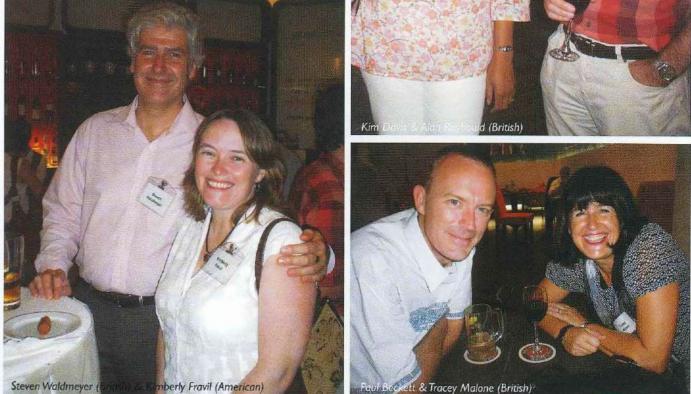












## LOOKING BACK







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# RECIPROCAL CLUBS

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

The Hawke's Bay Club was the first of its kind, built when the New Zealand town of Napier was in its infancy; established in 1863 with a membership of 79, the Club filled a void in the early Hawke's Bay community by providing a place for gentlemen to meet and socialise.

Although the Club's billiards room remains as it was built in 1888, the other original rooms were demolished in 1904 with the existing building opening a mere two years later; in 1906. The Club entered its second century in 1963 with a membership of 356, four bedrooms and a fine wine cellar.

The Hawke's Bay Club boasts world-class facilities. As a conference venue the Club can cater to several conferences at the same time and at competitive rates.

The Club has three dining rooms, one of which is large, the other two more intimate; all three are ideal for functions such as wedding parties or business conferences.

The Club's bar is unusual in that the historic atmosphere is almost tangible. Local legend has it that the wine enjoyed within the bar's confines has a bouquet and character far beyond that which is possible within the normal wine-making process.

The snooker room is an equally evocative location and a game on the Club's superb full-length tables is highly recommended.

Do you want wine from Australia? No problem! Port from Portugal? Absolutely! Brandy from South Africa? We even extend to that! The Club is proud of its extensive and carefully selected stocks of both red and white wines. Several types of spirits are also available as well as a range of sparkling wines, beers and lagers.

There are various options for the overnight or long-term visitors and many visitors speak of the Club's ideal location, it being situated less than two minutes' walk from both the beach and the city centre.

Guests can stay in one of the two guestrooms, both with gorgeous views of the Pacific Ocean and all the requisite modern facilities. For visitors looking for a little more splendour in their surroundings, the Club flat - 10 Downing Street - is also available, complete with fully-equipped kitchen. Unless of course Gordon Brown has come for a visit!

Website: http://www.hawkesbayclub.co.nz



For more information please contact the Membership Department at membership@britishclubbangkok.org If you regularly visit an overseas club that is not already reciprocal with the British Club, please do let the Club know and we will see if reciprocation can be arranged.









# Membership Spotlight

This year marked the 10th annual"Living in Bangkok" Exhibition at Bumrungrad, the biggest Living in Bangkok event ever, with over 70 exhibitors.

This was a great event for our membership team to reach out and promote the Club to new comers. Our booth, which was at a good location near the stage and next to the Neilson Hays Library, attracted a good number of people, many of whom expressed an interest in visiting the Club with their families to see our fabulous facilities.



We met many members there and also many people stopped by to tell us how much they liked our Union lack hats!

If you would like to receive an account credit by introducing a friend to join the Club, simply fill in the Member-Get-Member Form opposite and return to the Membership Department.

See you at the next spotlight.

Weena Weiner



## HUGH JOHNSON'S POCKET WINE **BOOK 2009**

**By Hugh Johnson** ISBN: 9781845334208 Paperback (Mitchell Beazley) B2S Price: Bt.425

The global bestseller pocket wine book is in its 32nd edition. It is widely acknowledged to be the most reliable micro encyclopaedia on wine for both novices and experts with over 10 million copies sold worldwide every year. It is also the UK's number one annual wine guide. Completely revised and updated for 2009, with fresh introductions and new feature boxes for every country, the new and updated content of the book will certainly appeal to both wine-lovers and professionals alike. It includes key references for wine-investors and collectors, with four levels of vintage information detailing which wines to drink now and which to cellar. The pocket size of the book also makes it a perfect companion for the travelling wine enthusiast.

Hugh Johnson is one of the finest wine writers in the world. He is a member of Cambridge University's Wine and Food Society and has been writing about wine since 1960. His most famous work, "The World Atlas of Wine", was written in 1971 and has become the Holy Grail for wine lovers and wine makers.



P

O

#### WHEN YOU ARE ENGULFED IN FLAMES

David Sedaris ISBN: 9780316026680 Paperback (Hachette US) B2S Price: Bt.575

The latest book from the author who brought you "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim" is quite possibly his funniest and most heartfelt yet.

Trying to make coffee when the water is shut off, David considers writer worth treasuring" (Seattle Times). using the water in a vase of flowers and his chain of associations takes him from the French countryside to a hilariously The book has been reviewed by some media as older, wiser, uncomfortable memory of buying drugs in a mobile home in smarter and meaner. Perfect for a rainy day's reading.

Editor's Note: This month's book reviews are generously provided by B2S bookstores

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# **Book Reviews**

KO SAMU

LONELY PLANET ENCOUNTER: KO SAMUL

**By Lonely Planet** Paperback (Lonely Planet) ISBN: 9781741794274 B2S Price: Bt.450

Trends in 2007 indicated a massive 31% increase in Australian visitors to Thailand many of whom would have made their way to Ko Samui, one of the most well-known Thai islands, renowned for its spectacular beaches and azure waters. This book is designed for travelers who go beyond the popular to seek out unique experiences. The chapter dedicated to interviews with locals provides a tantalizing taste of daily life on the island. The book also highlights the environmentally responsible operators and community-owned organizations.

Lonely Planet first released its Encounter City Guides in 2007. These little pocket rockets have been flying off shelves around the globe ever since.

rural North Carolina. In essay after essay, he meanders through a series of bizarre conundrums of daily life such as having a lozenge fall from your mouth into the lap of a fellow passenger on a plane or armouring the windows with LP covers to protect the house from neurotic songbirds to the most deeply resonant human truths. Culminating in a brilliant account of his venture to Tokyo in order to quit smoking, David's sixth essay collection is a new masterpiece of comic writing from "a

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Angela Stafford	Vice Chairman	gc@britishclubbangkok.org				
Chris Stanford	Honorary Secretary	gc@britishclubbangkok.org				
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Ali Adam	Committee Member	gc@britishclubbangkok.org				
Sarah Allen	Committee Member	gc@britishclubbangkok.org				
Warwick Newton	Committee Member	gc@britishclubbangkok.org				
Helen Smith	Committee Member	gc@britishclubbangkok.org				
Office			1			
Michael Silcock	Chief Executive Officer	ceo@britishclubbangkok.org				
Barry Osborne	General Manager	gm@britishclubbangkok.org				
Premrudee Tanyaluck	DGM Finance	premrudee@britishclubbangkok.org	-			
Weena Weiner	Membership Department	membership@britishclubbangkok.org	-			
Reed Passmore	Sports and Recreation Manager	Reed.Passmore@britishclubbangkok.org				
Ruengrit Turiwongse Amnat Saklebpradu	Manager Poolside & Sports Manager Fitness Centre	sports@britishclubbangkok.org				
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Sport Sections						
Badminton - Anand Leighrahath	orn	Golf - Maureen Gibson (gibmaureen@gmail.com)	-			
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# MEET THE MEMBERS

How long have you been a member of the British Club?

We first joined in 1987 and rejoined in 1993.

## Could you please tell us a little about your work experience and background?

It has been hotels all my working life, starting at Birmingham College of Hotel Management. Then working in Zurich, London, Perth, Doha, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Bangkok, Sydney, Seoul and Bangkok again! A typical itinerant hotelier's lifestyle, but we have loved every minute of it.

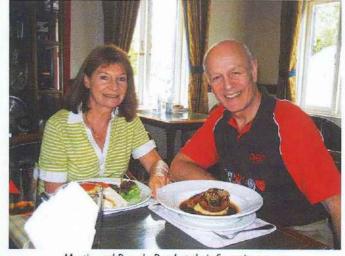
#### What are your interests and hobbies?

I really enjoy most types of music and find it very relaxing. I like reading but never seem to have time to do as much as I'd like to. I played squash regularly for 35 years until my knees really started complaining and now I enjoy my cycling very much and going to the gym.

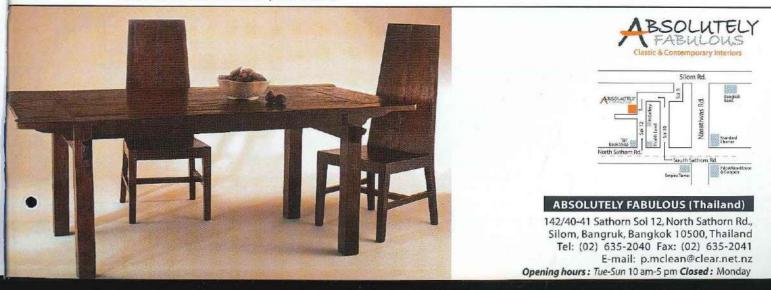
My favourite sports to watch are squash, cycling, rugby and cricket, especially the Ashes as Pam my wife is an Aussie so it adds another dimension to the game! I also enjoy football and follow my team Birmingham City avidly.

#### How did you find out about the British Club?

Everyone knows the BC, don't they! Actually we found out about it when we were in Jakarta as we used to play squash matches against the BC.



Martin and Pamela Reed at their favourite corner





#### A Chat with Martin

Name: Mr. Martin Reed Member Since: 1987

Occupation: General Manager, Sofitel Centara Grand Bangkok

Member, Skal Club; a Travel Industry and Hotel Association (1990) Counselor, Chaine des Rotisseurs (1990)

## Is there any special experience that you and your family have had at the British Club?

Well, so many happy times, it's hard to know where to begin! When my children were small we used to spend many happy hours at the swimming pool. It is ideal for young children.

What is the most enjoyable event in the Club? We really enjoy Loy Krathong and the squash section events.

#### Where is your favourite corner in the Club?

A quiet table in the Churchill Bar on Sundays for a peaceful brunch away from the hotel; this is where I go for some solitude. I am not very sporty at the Club these days, but I do enjoy relaxing there as it is a nice escape.

## What is your favourite British traditional meal or dessert?

I am a lost cause really! It is a cooked English breakfast with all the trimmings once a week; I treat myself!

## What other facilities would you would like to see in the future?

I think it is good that the improvements are going ahead, but I must admit I am happy with what is currently available and I really don't think too much needs to change. It will be good to retain the traditional feel of the Club as it has a long history attached to it and it would be a shame not to recognise that.

## **Member Get Member**

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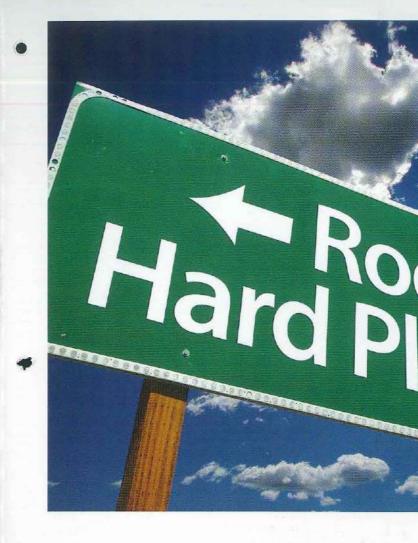
Member Benefit: A member who introduces another member will receive 5% of the value of the entrance fee as a credit to your account. This credit is an F&B Credit only and the value of the membership is based on the published entrance fee. (Applies to Ordinary, Associate and Country Memberships Only)

Procedure: Members should complete a lead form which will be passed to the Membership Department to follow up. As soon as the General Committee has approved the applicant as a member, the Member benefit will be credited to your account.

For more info, please contact Khun Weena at the Membership Department Tel. 0 2234 0247 E-mail: membership@britishclubbangkok.org

Simply fill out the form and fax to 0 2235 1560 or 0 2233 5838

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# **Feeling Stuck** when it comes to your finances?

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\*Perfect Weight Forever Programme" offers advice on Nutrition, Weight Control, Health Issues and Beauty.

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Date & Time : Every Monday, 10 - 11 a.m. Where : Samitivej Hospital Soi 49 Venue : Samitivej Suites, 1st Flr. Bldg.1

for Weekly Weigh-in and Advice

#### Special Topic Agenda 2008

- Sep 15 Introduction by Dr.Narinthorn & Nutritionists
- Sep 22 Personal Trainer

Come and join us

- Oct 6 Beauty secrets by SEI
- Oct 20 Smart Shopping & Smart Cooking
- Oct 27 Fashion Designer
- Nov 3 Smoochie Smoochie Lingerie
- Nov 17 Wrap-up By Dr.Narinthorn & Nutritionists

#### COMPLIMENTARY



For more information, please contact International Affairs Office at 0-2711-8149, 8178 Email : expat@samitivej.co.th

