



**Bangkok Patana School** The British International School in Thailand Established 1957

# Nurturing Curiosity in Foundation Stage





"Children are naturally curious and have a built-in desire to learn first-hand about the world around them."

John Holt, How Children Learn

At Bangkok Patana School we present our youngest learners with an environment that nurtures their natural curiosity and encourages the children to build upon it and grow into fully engaged learners throughout their lives.

To find out how our approach to learning and outstanding teaching staff can help your child nourish their sense of wonder and grow to their full potential, please contact us at admissions@patana.ac.th

www.patana.ac.th | +66 (0) 2785 2200 | 643 Lasalle Road, Bangna, Bangkok (BTS Bangna)

Bangkok Patana is an IB World School accredited by CIS and NEASC



#### Outpost

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OUTPOST is the monthly publication of THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK, the social sports and cultural centre for the English-speaking community in Bangkok. A full version of the magazine is also available online at www.britishclubbangkok.org/outpost Editor - Jeremy de Sausmarez jeremy@britishclubbangkok.org Opinions expressed need not necessarily represent those of the Club. All events, dates and times are correct at time of press. Outpost welcomes contributions from Members, email outpost@britishclubbangkok.org - No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the Publisher. 'The British Club Bangkok is a registered Association in accordance with the Thai Civil & Commercial Code'

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BCB FANTASY FOOTBALL Fantasy Moto GP!

B2 GOLF August's results



#### **FRONT COVER**

The Children's Halloween Party at the end of the month is a evening of fun and it's a great chance to dress up in amazing costumes and make-up, as the cover shows. Held on the last Friday of the month, parents can visit the wine-tasting while the Back Lawn gets spooky!

#### EDITOR'S GREETING

This month we're full of pages showing what's coming up, as the year reaches its festive season.

There's also a special report on the Cricket Section's weekend away, Fantasy Football goes to the Italian Moto GP, Squashy Bits has an introverted slant, and even As Things Were goes rural!

As the Club builds up towards Christmas, there's lots on, so read this issue with diaries to hand!

Ed



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

#### **Poolside Redevelopment:**

This month we were pleased to an-nounce Chapman Taylor as the winner of the poolside redevelopment Concept Design Competition with an 'exciting, bold, contem-porary design that dares to be different'. A technical evaluation. Member feedback and a staff survey all made Chapman Taylor's submission the clear winner but of course its very modernity juxtaposed with our classic Clubhouse was bound to be controversial. When the original Clubhouse was built over 100 years ago, it was designed for its audience using contemporary materials of its time. Chapman Taylor's vision for the Poolside for the 21st century can be considered to be honouring that heritage not simply mimicking it.

The design brief given to the architects celebrated the fact that the Club has many constituents in its membership and, to survive, needs to cater for all; not just function as a 'gentleman's' club from an age when

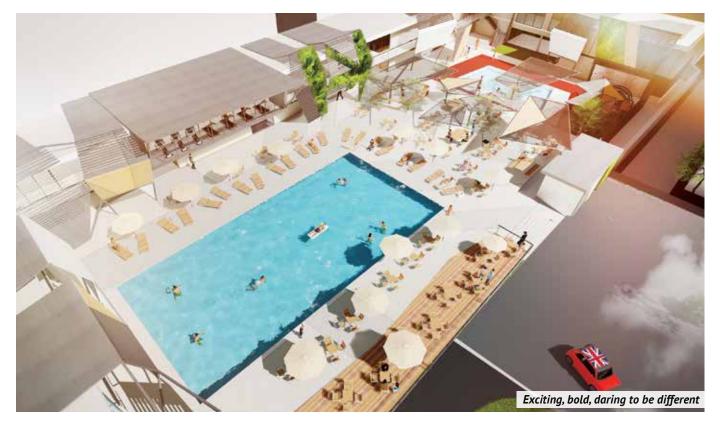
'Britannia Ruled the Waves'. This design caters for young families and sports enthusiasts allowing the Club to embrace today's new 'Cool Britannia' whilst distinguishing the Clubhouse heritage offering of 'Rule Britannia'. The 'new' can 'complement' the old, a debate perhaps most famously illustrated by the initial shock reaction to I. M. Pei's Pyramid at the Louvre. Not only is it now admired with nostalgia across the world, but it championed the architectural revolution/solution of introducing contemporary architecture into heritage settings.

We are confident that Chapman Taylor will do full justice to this new British Club icon. They have now been engaged to prepare a more detailed, phased and costed Schematic Design that can then be presented to the Members for consideration at an EGM. The design will be refined to be more engaging, adjusting the layout and materials to take into account feedback from



the Sub-committee, management and Members whilst maintaining the overall integrity of the scheme.

Before we can bring this plan to the Members for consideration we have to be confident that we can afford it. Whilst the Club is in good financial health, the Finance Sub-committee reminds us that other commitments such as staff retirement funds cannot be compromised. Phasing of the work will have to take into account likely cash-flow and this has to be worked out before we announce the date of the EGM. We currently still expect this to be mid-November. Realistically, work is likely to be phased over at least two years and even then full upgrades to furnishings and fittings may have to come later.



#### Membership/Marketing:

The challenge of course would be much easier if we could improve our finances either by increasing Membership or finding new sources of support through sponsorship etc.

Looking a little more closely at out Membership statistics we see that Membership has grown only a little over 3% in the last 10 years and this is partly attributable to the introduction of an Annual Membership category in 2009. We have not yet been able to get any meaningful historic demographic details but it comes as no surprise to find out that 50% of our current Members are in the 40-60 years bracket with just 15% under 40 and 35% over 60. Encouragingly though our 771 Family Members have 599 children under 21 years old, with 129 under 6 years, 178 7 to 12 years, 201 13 to 18, and 92 19-21 year olds. That means a total of almost 2,500 individuals with access to the Club as Members.

The need for and potential for marketing is therefore clear and the GC is committed to exploring possibilities. Again I would ask any Members with marketing skills who would be willing to help with ideas to please let me know.

#### Social Media:

Many Clubs and businesses of course successfully use the social media as a marketing tool and after some previous 'accidents' the Family and Communications Sub-Committee this month finally launched Facebook and Twitter accounts with more to soon follow. Everyone is of course invited to these sites and if anyone would like to get involved or make suggestions for using them better please let us know at gc@britishclubbangkok.org.

I did receive a handful of emails from Members who distrust these sites but of course use is optional and the Sub-committee will ensure that no personal information is published.

#### Sports Bar:

The Sports Bar was opened on 10th September. As a trial the only investment was two TV screens but the first night was a great success with around 50 Members turning up. The space worked well with many people watching sport on the outdoor 1910 Balcony or in the air-conditioned Wordsworth Lounge whilst others enjoyed chilling out for chat and drink on the terrace.

Opening hours, TV feeds, food and drink offerings can all be readily adjusted and our plan is to change the décor and furnishings in the Wordsworth Lounge to that of a sports bar. Members present enjoyed the casual dress code, and access via the staircases at the side and on the Back Lawn worked well. Saturday looks like being the most popular night initially but we hope to build up support on other nights. Come along and try it out, it is a spectacular location and we can make it better and better with your support.

#### **Churchill Bar:**

I have mentioned before that we are concerned at the low use of the Churchill Bar most nights from mid-evening. It was encouraging that the same night the Sports Bar opened, 'downstairs' was quite busy as well, but many 'oldies' still lament the demise of the old Churchill

Bar, which used to be where The Verandah is now. Somehow the layout of the current bar doesn't quite work. The curved bar is good for the small group of Members who sit around it but it is badly designed for the bar staff who have too little space to work and it tends to break up the rest of the space rather awkwardly. We have been pondering a future refurbishment, reluctant to commit funds until the Poolside work is underway, but now our hand is being forced. It turns out that there are serious problems with rot in the floor and rats attacking the poorly laid beer pipes under the bar. Whilst carrying out emergency repairs we will take the opportunity to do some remodelling including a new bar and lowering the floor back to its original level, eliminating the nasty steps at the entrance. The Churchill Bar will have to close for 3 or 4 weeks but, by the time you read this, work should have started. Alternative drinking and dining options will be offered.

#### Cats:

I am pleased to report that all of the responses received to the British Club Cats article last month were positive. A big thank you to about 10 Members who have offered to help manage the 'colony' and we will publish more information when we have worked out how this will work.



# FRI 28TH OCTOBER 2016

HE BRITISH CLUB

6PM - 9PM, BACK LAWN

KIDS 2-12 YRS OLD Bt 450 / ADULTS Bt 150

A SPECIAL FANCY DRESS PARTY WITH GAMES, ACTIVITIES, PIÑATAS, AND A MAGIC SHOW. HALLOWEEN SNACKS, REFRESHMENTS AND PRIZES FOR THE BEST COSTUMES!

SIGN UP IN RECEPTION OR BY EMAIL : EVENTS@BRITISHCLUBBANGKOK.ORG

## LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

The new Sports Bar on the 1910 Balcony, with 2 TVs and 24 channels of sports, opened on 10th September with over 50 people attending and a couple of performances by the Club's Pipe Band. The Sports Bar is open Wednesday to Saturday from 5pm to midnight, with special exclusive beer promotions, snacks and other than selected big matches, a choice of programming. We have replaced the connecting door so that Members can see the Balcony from the Wordsworth Lounge, which can also show TRUE sports for air-conditioned watching.



**General Manager** 

Our Membership girls were on our stand at BITEC for the Thai-UK exhibition, and also at the Living in BKK exhibition at the Bumrungrad Hospital to promote membership and greet visitors.

For maintenance this month, we have replaced the protective plastic sheets down the side of the Surawongse Sala, repaired the gutter over the 1910 Balcony, and installed a new net over and along the sides of the MultiPurpose Court.

In October we will promote German food and we will have a German buffet on 15th October in The Verandah. On the same day, there is the Trafalgar Dinner in Surawongse Room which we hope will be well-attended. On 28th October



there is the Halloween Party for Children on the Back Lawn at the same time as the Wine-Tasting in the Surawongse Room.

For sports, on 1st October we have 5-a-side Football Tournament and for a couple of weeks from 17th October we will have Sports Camps which have been very popular in last two months. More details and booking at the Fitness Centre.

From now on we will have more Club events and functions as it's the start of our busy period, you can check information on the website, posters, Outpost, the Club's Facebook and Twitter.

An important reminder for all Members bringing visitors to the Club: guests must be signed into the Visitors Book either at Reception or in the Surawongse Sala, and please do not forget there is a limit on how many guests you may bring and how many can play sports, unless management approval is given in advance for more. If you're not sure, please check first to avoid embarrassment.

I am looking forward to see you in our Club soon.

#### **OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES**

The Pavilion Café	9am - 6pm	Fitness Centre	6am - 10pm (Mon-Fri)	
Accounts Office	9am - 6pm (Mon-Fri), Closed (Sat-Sun)			
1910 Balcony	3pm - 11pm (Afternoon Tea 3pm - 5pm) (see also Sports Bar below)			
The Verandah	11am - 2pm, 5pm - 10pm (Mon-Thurs) 11am - 10pm (Fri-Sun and Public Holidays)			

**Sports Bar (at the 1910 Balcony)** 5pm - midnight (Wed - Sat incl)



## AN UNFORGETTABLE GASTRONOMICAL GETAWAY IN KOH KOOD WITH SIX MICHELIN-STARRED CHEFS

#### One weekend only | Soneva Kiri | October 28 - 29, 2016

Under the inky sky that blankets the unspoiled shores of Thailand's Koh Kood, the brightest stars have emerged exclusively for one weekend; to create a truly spectacular dining event.

Soneva Kiri invites culinary aficionados to indulge in an extraordinary two-night getaway that blends the beauty of nature with the luxury of world-class cuisine. Sit down to an intimate six-course dinner prepared by six Michelin starred European chefs with 10 stars between them, and explore the elaborate art of gastronomy paired with breath taking views of the Gulf of Siam.

Join us for this once-in-a-lifetime event, starting from only THB 105,000°, inclusive of a two-night stay at the luxurious Soneva Kiri, a six-course dinner, daily half board, spa treatments for two at the resort's Six Senses Spa, and return private plane transfers from Bangkok to Koh Kood.

#### Booking Code: SKBAMS16

\*Offer is valid for stays on 28 and 29 October, 2016. Terms and conditions apply.

For more information and reservation, T: +91 124 4511000 E: reservations@soneva.com soneva.com



# HAPPENINGS

The last couple of months have been quiet for events, as the tail end of the summer lull made them unrealistic, but it does not mean we have been idle! As October arrives, there are more dates for diaries and the festive season becomes ever more imminent and that's exciting to look forward to.

We open the month with 'Shakespeare for Dummies' on Sat 1st, a lighthearted look at the Bard's works in this the 400th anniversary of his demise with humorous anecdotes, a quiz, and audience participation too! A week later on the 8th we are cohosting the Family Fair with a Scottish Flair with



Jeremy de Sausmarez

Events & Marketing Manager

the St Andrews Society, an annual family day of fun on the Back Lawn with games, a tug-o'-war, caber tossing and haggis races, and of course excellent refreshments! A week after that on the **15th** is this year's **Trafalgar Dinner**, a distinguished annual event with the British Attaché as our guest speaker, and four courses of excellent food with fine wines accompanying each plus port at the end. It's formal but it's fun and a very pleasurable evening. Earlier that day from **11am** there is a **German Buffet** in The Verandah as a celebration of Oktoberfest so there's unusually fine fare on offer all that Saturday!

**Chokchai Farm** is a wonderful day out for families, up there in Khao Yai. Lunch just before arrival and then a tour of the farm with cow milking and ice-cream making too. The animals are cute, the tour has an English language handbook, and it's always been a huge success. So our outing will leave on **Sunday 16th at 9am**, not too early, and the cost is inclusive of lunch and activities. A couple of days later we have our monthly **Quiz Night** on **18th** which continues to fill The Verandah with eager teams of encyclopaedic trivia specialists. The day after that I have to leave the country to get a new visa, which just happens (not my choice, my stamp's!) to coincide with the long weekend for Chulalongkorn Day, yay!

Our **Halloween Party for Children** on **Fri 28th** has become a great evening since we moved it on to the Back Lawn, and this year we hope that the children coming will really go to town with their disguises, costumes and make-up, as there will be a couple of prizes for the best outfitted kids! There will also be a show, a piñata, and the usual games which Sam has perfected for this occasion plus, of course, food and drink too. By then the rains should have run their course, bearing in mind how much is falling at the moment, so it should be a great evening! It runs from **6pm to 9pm** at the same time as the **October Wine-Tasting** which is great for parents who can happily sample wine and canapés upstairs whilst the children are fully occupied on the Back Lawn!

**Guy Fawkes Night** this year falls on **5th November** itself, a Saturday, so we are expecting it to be an extra special night of fun with our dedicated fireworks show filling the whole sky overhead. It really is an afternoon/evening to remember, with lots of games and activities, and a barbecue as well as the fireworks and bonfire in the car park. So make sure you book early as it really does get very full!

The new format for the **Annual Ball Party** on **10th December** looks all set for making it a fabulous occasion. We are just finalising the promotions, but the price has been slashed to make it very affordable, it's still smart but in an easy and relaxed way, there's a fantastic buffet with both western and Indian foods for both vegetarian and non, and the same excellent Boss Band as last year! More details to follow!

**\*\*STOP PRESS\*\*** One of our top prizes for the **Annual Ball Raffle** this year has been sponsored by **Soneva Kiri**, an award-winning luxury resort located on Thailand's least populated island, Koh Kood. It offers an unrivalled combination of luxury, an integral environmental approach, authentic Thai experiences and mouth-watering organic food. The end of October sees their exclusive mouth-watering gourmet dinner during a legendary weekend of exotic comfort. **Details on the facing page!** 

So looking ahead there's a lot happening - join in, enjoy the Club and have a wonderful month!

# BUSINESS LUNCHEONS

#### **3rd October - 7th October**

Starters : 65 Baht

Carrots, Raisin and Apple Coleslaw or Chef's Soup of the Day

#### **Main Courses :160 Baht**

Chicken Maryland with pineapple, banana, sweet corn, bacon and home-fried potatoes or Pan-fried Dory fish in orange and butter sauce (Served with French beans, carrots and mashed potatoes) or Sausage Stew with Green Beans, Carrots, Peas and New Potatoes or Tom Kha Gai (A refreshing coconut milk soup with chicken and herbs) Phad Kraprao Moo Sab (Stir-fried minced pork with hot basil and chilli) Phad Tua Ngok Tao Hoo (Stir-fried bean sprouts with beancurd and oyster sauce)

#### 10th October - 14th October

#### Starters : 65 Baht

Chicken and Papaya Salad (Grilled chicken, lemongrass, spring onion and lime dressing) or Chef's Soup of the Day

#### Main Courses : 160 Baht

Mixed Sausages with Mashed Potatoes and Fried Oinons or Turkey and Mushroom Pie with Mixed Vegetables and Home-fried Potatoes or Grilled Sea Bass (Served with Spinach Risotto) or Tom Yam Kung (Spicy Lemon Grass Soup with Prawns and Mushrooms) Gai Phad Khing (Stir-fried Chicken with Ginger, Onion and Fungus Mushrooms) Tod Mun Pla (Deep-fried Fishcakes)

#### 17th October - 21st October

Starters : 65 Baht Chicken and Cranberry Salad with Balsamic Dressing or Chef's Soup of the Day

#### Main Courses : 160 Baht

Beef and Mushroom Stroganoff Served with Yellow Rice or B.B.Q Ham (Served with Sautéed Cabbage, Bacon, Potatoes Salad and Parsley Cream Sauce) or Baked Chicken Breast in Tomato and Cheese Sauce (Served with Roast Vegetables) or Gaeng Kiew Wan Look Chin Pla (Fish Balls in Green Curry Sauce) Kai Jiew Moo Sub (Thai Style Minced Pork Omelette) Phad Khanha Namman Hoy (Stir-fried Kale with Oyster Sauce)

#### 24th October - 28th October

Starters : 65 Baht Tuna Salad (Tuna, Tomatoes, Lemongrass, lime and spicy Dressing) or Chef's Soup of the Day

#### Main Courses : 160 Baht

Turkey Chilli Con Carne (Served with Rice) or Fillet of Pork in Mushroom Sauce (Served with Mixed Vegetables and Lyonnaise Potatoes) or Pan-fried Dory Fish in Spicy Herbs (Served with Mixed Salad and Boiled Potato) or Gaeng Som Goong Phak Ruam (Sour Soup with Mixed Vegetables and Prawns) Moo Tod Kratium Prik Thai (Stir-fried Pork Fillet with Garlic and Pepper) Tod Man Pla (Deep-fried Fishcakes)



# **F&B MORSELS**

In October we will be continuing our imported oyster promotion for one more month, and we will also continue the strawberry promotion although I am updating the list of dishes so you can try these delicious fruit in different ways. Also don't forget the promotion for **Paella every Wednesday**, you can choose chicken seafood or vegetarian, but when ordering please allow some time for its preparation.

Also this is the month of the annual **Trafalgar Dinner**, and we are putting together a different four course menu for the dinner on Saturday 15th. I hope you will come along as it has always been a popular and happy evening.

We will also be featuring German food in October, which is the month of Oktoberfest. I will be including some German special on the Khun Laak Recommends menus, these will include Pork Knuckle, Sauerkraut, and assorted German Sausages. The rest of the "Recommends" menu will be updated as well. There will also be a German Buffet on Saturday 15th October, so there is a lot to look forward to trying out!



**Executive Chef** 

Although the Sala and Pavilion sell cakes, they are not all featured on the desserts menu and last month I received an enquiry about chocolate desserts. This month I will be adding a number of **chocolate items** to the desserts and special menus, as there are quite a few which we produce from time to time which you may enjoy eating more regularly, so keep an eye out for those.

I've started working on a new set of Healthy Menus which should be finished and ready for launch after the festive season. As always, suggestions are welcome by emailing menu@britishclubbangkok.org

Happy Eating!





# We Address Men's Health Concerns

#### Men's specific health concerns

are unfortunately too often overlooked and ignored. With age, hormone levels change and can cause loss of energy, depression, enlarged prostate, decreased sex drive and erectile dysfunction.

#### BNH's M Centre provides advice,

diagnosis and treatment for men's general health, urology, prostate and sexual health issues.







#### Speak to our Men's Health Specialist

- if you experience any of the following:
- 1. Having to wake up to pass urine during the night?
- 2. Feeling lethargic or reduced libido?
- 3. Frequent urination, or feeling not being able to completely empty the bladder?
- 4. Decreased or weak erection?
- 5. Weight gain?

Return to a healthy love life, feel rejuvenated and in control.

For more information please contact M Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, in the Surgery Department



BNH HOSPITAL (Sathorn - Convent) 9/1 Convent Rd., Silom, Bangkok 10500 02-686-2700 Fax. 02-686-2778

- BNHhospital.com
- BNHHospitalfanpage info@BNHhospital.com



# **CHOKCHAH FARM** SUN 16 OCT 2016 Leaving the Club at 9am



THE BRITISH CLUB

A wonderful day out to Thailand's best-loved farm. Starting with a set menu lunch at Chokchai Steak House, then to the farm, Agro Tour with English handbook, milk some cows, make some ice-cream and take some back to Bangkok arriving about 6pm. So much fun!

> Adults Bt 1,900 Kids <140 cm high Bt 1,650 Prices include transport, choice of pork or salmon set lunch, tour and activities mentioned.

Book in Reception or by Email : events@britishclubbangkok.org



KIDS ACTIVITIES FROM 4PM BBQ FROM 4.30PM FIREWORKS AT 7.15PM GUY-BURNING AT 7.30PM

SAT 5TH NOVEMBER 2016 A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

UY FAWKES NIGHT

Adults - Bt 850 Guests/NM - Bt 1,100 Kids > 12 Yrs old - Bt 550 Kids > 3 Yrs old - Bt 50

BOOK IN RECEPTION OR BY EMAIL : EVENTS@BRITISHCLUBBANGKOK.ORG

The British Club Bangkok proudly invites you to

TRAFALGAR DIAAER 2016

# Saturday 15th October Surawongse Room, 7:30 pm

A black tie or dress uniform gourmet dinner celebrating the 211th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

Starting with cocktails on the 1910 Balcony, the dinner is comprised of four courses, each with a glass of fine wine, plus the after-dinner "Passing the Port".

Welcoming as guest speaker Colonel Chris Luckham OBE, currently UK Defence Attaché at the British Embassy in Bangkok.

Members, Guest	s Bt 2,250
Non-Members	Bt 2,500
No alcohol	Bt 500 less



THE BRITISH CLUB

Book at Reception or email events@britishclubbangkok.org



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## The Bangkok St Andrew's Society in association with The British Club Bangkok presents

# WITH A SCOTTISH FLAIR

Join us for a fun-filled day with a bouncy castle, face painting, Scottish Country dancing and exciting games, including the tug-of-war, caber tossing and haggis races. Enjoy scrumptious food and drinks against the backdrop of Scottish music performed by the British Club Pipe Band!

# Saturday, 8th October 2016 At The British Club Bangkok From II:00 am to 4:00 pm









http://www.bangkokscot.com

facebook.com/BangkokStAndrewsSociety















# **BC Calendar** October 2016







## Tuesday





Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		<b>LKids Cricket</b> Book first! 8am - 11am <b>Swim Coaching</b> 9am - 10:30am <b>5-A-Side Football</b> 2pm	2 Kids Cricket Book first! Bam - 11am Swim Coaching 9am - 10:30am Sunday Brunch 11:30 - 3pm Verandah Open Pairs Bridge 2pm Silom Room
6 Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 9:45pm	7 Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm Junior Tennis Coaching 4pm - 6pm	8 Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11am Swim Coaching 9am - 10:30am Family Fair 11am - 4pm	9 Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11am Swim Coaching 9am - 10:30am Sunday Brunch 11:30 - 3pm Verandah Open Pairs Bridge 2pm Silom Room
<b>Squash Mix-In</b> 5:15pm - 9:45pm	<b>144</b> <u>Fennis Mix-In</u> <i>βpm - 10pm</i> Junior Tennis Coaching <i>4pm - 6pm</i>	155Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11amSwim Coaching 9am - 10:30amGerman Food Buffet 11.30am - 3pm The VerandahTrafalgar Dinner 7.30pm Surawongse Room	Kids Cricket Book first! sam - 11amSwim Coaching 9am - 10:30amChokchai Farm Leaving the Club at 9amOpen Pairs Bridge 2pm Silom RoomSunday Brunch 11:30 - 3pm Verandah
220 Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 9:45pm Sports Camps	211 Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm Junior Tennis Coaching 4pm - 6pm Mini Sports Camps Sports Camps	222 Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11am Swim Coaching 9am - 10:30am	223 Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11am Swim Coaching 9am - 10:30am Open Pairs Bridge 2pm Silom Room Sunday Brunch 11:30 - 3pm Verandah
227 Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 9:45pm Sports Camps	238 Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm Junior Tennis Coaching 4pm - 6pm Mini Sports Camps Sports Camps Wine Tasting 6 - 9pm Surawongse Room Halloween Party 6 - 9pm, Back Lawn	229 Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11am Swim Coaching 9am - 10:30am	500 Kids Cricket Book first! 8am - 11am Swim Coaching 9am - 10:30am Sunday Brunch 11:30 - 3pm Verandah SUNDACH

# **AS THINGS WERE**

Something a bit different this month. During the 1980s I was working with the national church supporting rural development projects mainly throughout North and Northeast Thailand. We were working in very poor areas, many of the villages even without electricity. Life was simple but tough ... but also very picturesque and I took hundreds of slides. This month I share a few scenes fast disappearing in the age of mechanisation, of water buffalo ploughing rice fields and communities working together, planting, harvesting and threshing their crops.



**Jack Dunford** 















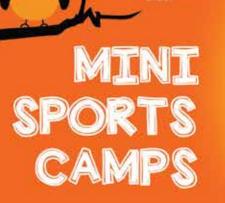




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BOOK IN FITNESS CENTRE OR BY EMAIL: SPORTS@BRITISHCLUBBANGKOK.ORG

Dafe	17,25 00%	18 00%	19, 26 OCt	20, 27 OCL	21, 28 OCt
Time	Bt 950	Bt 1200	Bt 950	Bt 1200	Bt 950
9:30 - 10:00	Admin	Admin	Admin	Admin	Admin
10:00 - 11:00	Tennis	7	Tennis		Tennis
11:00 - 11:15	snack	ICE skating	snack	ICE Skating	snack
11:15 - 12:15	FOOtball	~	FOOtball		FOOtball
12:15 - 1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00	squash		cooking		squash
2:30 - 3:30	swimming		swimming		swimming



Time	Activities
10:00 - 10:15	Admin
10:15 - 11:00	Games
11:00 - 11:15	Snack
11:15 - 12:15	Mini Tennis
12:15 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 1:45	PLay time
1:45 - 2:30	Water Fun
Rt 650	ner dav

17, 19, 21 OCTOBER 25,26,28 OCTOBER Bt 650 per day

Book at The Fitness Centre 02-234-0247 Ext. 26 or by email: sports@britishclubbangkok.org

## HARD BALLS Koh Chang Tour - Sun, Sea, Sand & SIX

After much anticipation and consequent planning, this August marked not only the second Koh Chang beach cricket tour, but a celebration as the chairman moved into the 70s. A party of 47 BC members & families were there to celebrate the occasion in between some light-hearted cricketing action, most of whom arrived early at the invitation of what was promised to be a wondrous boat trip across the ocean to a nearby island.





Seeing as half of the British Club had vacated the big smoke for the weekend, the sleeping arrangements had to be divided. One half shacked up in a semi-built squat on the baron side of the island described by one user on trip advisor as 'I'd rather sleep in the ferry toilet', whilst the others were practically living in paradise. The VIP guests decided to join the peasants for the opening BBQ kindly provided by Steve and his team - perhaps feeling guilty about the shocker they had prepared for the morning. There was absolutely no indication of a calm evening considering that this was the first of 4 days on the turps, the night only drawing to a close after Mossy rugby tackled Christina. In a post tour interview she heroically claimed that "He tackles like a girl, all I cared about was my beer".

Early morning, the converted fishing vessel awaited the arrival of an excited BC gang in varying states of hangover. After navigating the rickety plank successfully and loading up with enough beers for the day - the music was switched on, a few morning beverages were cracked open and the trip was well underway. Once the boat had parted the calm waters around the fringe of Koh Chang, the first hint of disaster came as waves came crashing over the side of the boat and the septuagenarian fell over before he'd even had a glass of champagne. Amongst the laughter at who was getting soaked the most, nobody quite noticed how the ocean was becoming increasingly rough and the little blue boat was bobbing around like a cork in the water. Inevitably, half the passengers ended up re-locating to the back end of the boat in convenient distance of the lavatory. Rahul, who ironically used to work on a cruise ship, was probably the worst victim reassuring everyone as he heaved his breakfast over the deck.

The destination was eventually reached slightly later than expected due to the conditions, and gave everyone time to recover before enjoying a spot of lunch. Jack cracked open the bubbly and wobbled on about life achievements and other stuff no-one really listened to, before most ventured round to the other side of the island to do a bit of snorkelling. On the eagerly anticipated return leg, conditions were even worse, demonstrated by the fact that the crew had now put on life vests and Steve was handing out sea sickness pills like they were going out of fashion. The party soldiered on regardless and fortunately the beers were the only





items to disappear before finally mooring up. On solid ground, H seemingly hadn't had enough time with the marine life as he was found in the hotel koi pond – claiming he got lost on the way to the swimming pool. The welcome BBQ took place that evening, seeing as a bucket load more drinks was all BC needed! Teams were selected for the following day and whatever else happened is going to 'stay on tour' because the reporter was having an early night in preparation for the cricket the next day and make sure he remembered everything.



Last year's success always promised to make a resurgence, but the real question was how the debut event could possibly be surpassed - especially if Steve was organising it. 10 teams had come over to take advantage of the glorious facility once again, including 3 hopeful sides from the British Club who were sporting their newest kits in patriotic red, white and blue colour schemes. Each team played 5 games over the weekend consisting of 6 overs bowled by 6 players, with each batsman facing one over each - some were even fortunate enough to play against special guest and ex-England paceman Alan Mulally. Renowned for their early morning functionality, BC were lucky enough to draw an inter-club match to kick off the tournament, just about managing to scrape together enough players as some were still navigating their way through the complex road network to the beach location which Jack had repeated on countless occasions. The friendly banter usually reserved for weekend nets was dished up alongside some funky reggae tunes from the bar as some personal head-to-heads were settled in the sand. The 'A' side just about managed to clinch it and managed to continue their streak throughout the day, supported by B and C who also did the club proud. As far as detailed results are concerned, it can be fair to say that everyone was winning all weekend.

In-between games most players could be found enjoying the venue pool, providing a haven of relaxation and therapy following the strenuous game time on the sand. This year featured the addition of the people's favourite 'flotation device', an ingenious inflatable which kept beers secure and made the perfect prop for a pool game which drew more crowds than the cricket itself. Although not all members were lucky enough to sample the crystal waters, amid fears that some of the longstanding pool dwellers had spent a suspiciously long time without a toilet break.

Saturday evening's entertainment came in the form of another feast and a wardrobe malfunction on behalf of 4 BC players who forgot to coordinate their outfits and ended up looking like they were in the middle of Gatwick airport on the way to a lad's holiday in Magaluf. Perhaps it was due to it being the 3rd night in a row or the crazy shirt, but the above-mentioned complex road system later lead to further complications amongst the group – one person taking a wrong turn to the hotel and ended up on a 3KM hike to Koh Chang's viewpoint at 4 in the morning to get some inspiration for the tour report from a new perspective.

As the weekend went on it wasn't entirely clear where Saturday ended and Sunday started but the second half of the tournament was much the same, except for the early departure of some players as a



Signature Dale

result of either poor performance, in trouble for not paying enough attention to WAGS or kid's school commitments. Needless to say they missed a tense final between Parrots and British Club A which involved excitement, tension, controversy and ultimately great sportsmanship that resulted in a draw.

Although the champagne corks got a bit more airtime than the cricket balls from BC's point of view, the 3 teams managed to swindle a joint first, third, and sixth place finish. It best also be mentioned that Dilip won the best bowler award otherwise I'll never hear the end of it. The successful tour has further ingrained the event on the Thailand cricketing calendar and boat trips aside, the only fault from the weekend was that we have to wait a whole year for the next one.



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# TENNIS

Harold Mollin's Everything You Should Know About Playing Tennis (Here in Thailand or anywhere else you may reside)





Harold and Khun Chalathip pose after winning the mixed doubles in the Thai Tennis Friendship tournament

This column will give you information to become **The Best You Can Be** at tennis in Thailand.

"IT AIN'T OVER 'TIL IT'S OVER" Quote of Yogi Berra

While the quote was famously said by a brilliant baseball manager/player, it applies "perfectly" to the game of tennis!

These two scenarios make me CRAZY!

- 1. Many tournament players think they have won the point, then relaxed, all the while their opponent keeps running down their shot, puts it back in play.....and then the player relaxing loses the point!
- 2. When at net a player thinks he "buried" a volley, lets his hands drop down, and the opponent reacts quickly and gets his racket on the ball and passes the player who thought it was OVER!

UNTIL THE BALL BOUNCES TWICE (or hits another object), THE POINT IS STILL "IN PLAY"! So, what Yogi Berra said is true! "IT AIN'T OVER 'TIL IT'S OVER"! SMARTPRACTICESMARTPRACTICESMARTPRACTICE Here are the things you must remember to get the most out of your practice sessions:

1. Always, and I mean always, think of where you want to hit your shots before you strike the ball. The reason for this is that if you "miss your target area" your mind will recognize you were 10 feet to the left, 5 feet too shallow, or 20 feet too long. Then, your mind will remind your body how hitting that ball "wrong" felt, and will try to "self-correct" on the next shots.

It is "most important" to be able to self correct since you cannot have a "pro" standing at your side for every shot during practice.

2. Remember, depth is more important than speed and power. So, when you and your friend are

practicing either "down the lines" or "cross-courts", try to put a "ball can" about three feet from the baseline and three feet from the sidelines, and try to hit it. 3. Keep the ball at least three

at least three (3) feet over the net when you are practicing. This is the key for depth. It is virtually impossible to clear the net by one (1) foot, and keep the ball deep in the court, no matter how hard you try!



Harold and Khun Phairoj pose after winning a tournament in July

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left, 5 feet too sh your mind will re ball "wrong" felt, next shots. It is "most import you cannot have every shot during 2. Remember, depth and power. So, w practicing either "down the lines"



# **SQUASHY BITS**

Our normal Bits scribe, Bruce, is off on his hols this month so I'm standing in for him. Honestly. I say honestly because it wouldn't be the first time Bruce has impersonated one of us in this column. In March 2015 I allegedly wrote a report on our recent squash







h so I'm standing in for him. ime Bruce has impersonated report on our recent squash trip to Chiang Mai whereby I confessed to being a rather dull 'engineering type' who

told him. Marc Sayer got the same treatment earlier this year when he explained how he had, supposedly, tried to bribe his opponent in the Rod Carter plate final by offering a 50% discount on a hotel room booking. Rather disappointingly for both of us, hardly anyone realised it was Bruce doing the writing.

always did what his wife

I thought Bruce's absence might be a good prompt to take a look back on some of the mind-bending absurdity he has produced over the years.

The Squash Section Committee has always been a favourite target and in 2012 we were replaced by Bagpuss and Emily, John Merrick, Joy (a Cambodian welder) and a small field mouse. Around the same time the committee allegedly decided to have Tom Kelly 'bumped off' because he had been winning the top squash league too many times. The TV show Only Fools and Horses has been a regular theme, with various Members being compared to the cast, and yours truly apparently resembling Rodney Trotter. The Club staff have been mentioned occasionally and in 2013 we got a rather graphic description of how the gentleman Sports and Recreation Manager at the time had tried to kiss Bruce whilst they sat in a bar in Patpong.

There have been times when we have seen squashrelated topics written in Bits. In March 2014 we got treated to tips on squash psychology which started with advice on getting a good look at your opponent's equipment in the changing room and went on to taking careful note of what he does with his balls during the knock-up as well as his length and width. Ladies have been encouraged to play more squash with the benefits being explained as improved peripheral vision to the



SICC Squash M



AGC Squash Match

point of being able to see through walls. Handy for spotting the kids pulling faces behind your back and avoiding motor cyclists crashing into your near side door as they undertake apparently.

Other extraordinary events that have occurred over the years include a staff member being eaten by a lion on a keyring, and the time an Airbus A380 crashed into Bruce's apartment resulting in him being forced to sleep rough under the nearby expressway with my kids bringing him left over pizza to eat. There was also the time Bob's head fell off whist sitting in the Churchill bar and the discovery that he was able to get on quite nicely without it, and the trip to Indonesia where we helped a sheep give birth. Finally, in 2014 we were forced to widen the door into squash court 1 so that Marc Sayer could gain access and participate in the Parra Handy competition plate final. I missed all of these.

Now back to reality and it's been a busy month for squash at the Club. Our Club number 1, Haroon, recently won the H.M. Queen's cup doubles completion with his partner Supaharn. This is 'the' national doubles competition so congratulations to them both in beating Chatuwin and Neuve in the final.

On the 9th September we hosted a team from the Singaporean Island Country Club (SICC). This is a regular annual fixture with the SICC bringing a team of 10 or more. This year we saw 10 very capable players take on our team consisting of Shiraz, Ricky Thompson, Colin Hastings, Steve Usher, Ranjan, Geoff Banks, Chris Childs, Paul Carnell, Sang Lee and me. Unfortunately, we weren't playing our best squash that night and we lost 2-8 in matches. We always receive a very enthusiastic invitation to visit Singapore for the return fixture and the hope is that we will take the SICC up on their offer early next year.

On the 16th September we hosted a team from the Adjutant General's Corps of the British Army who are on



a squash tour of Bangkok playing several local teams as well as a football match against the Thai Army. This being due to a lack of a Thai Army squash team to play. We turned out arguably our strongest team for the occasion with participation from Haroon, Marc Sayer, Ja, Mark Rayfield, Colin Hastings, Sang Lee and me. We prevailed 6-1 in matches managing only to concede 4 games. After the match we enjoyed some social time with a great bunch of guys.

Finally, congratulations to Marc Sayer, Mark Rayfield, and Ranjan for winning the Premier, Second and Third September Divisions respectively.

Bring us back some pizza Bruce!



The BCB Squash Section would like to acknowledge Boots Retail Thailand as its sponsor for 2015. Boots Retail Thailand kindly sponsored the 2014 Rod Carter Open, the BCB Squash Section's open squash competition, and has agreed to support the section throughout 2015. Boots Retail Thailand has numerous branches throughout the country supplying high quality cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. Many thanks to Boots Retail Thailand.











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# AND OTHER SPECIAL TIMES

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This month's report comes from Italy. Why? Well, the author is/was/went there to watch the San Marino Moto GP at the Misano World Circuit.

Bruce Madge

Located near Tavullia, it is the home of Valentino Rossi.



Rossi is an Internazionale (Inter Milan) fan, and, as a ninetime world champion, is considered one of the greatest motorcycle racers of all time.

This has nothing to do with Fantasy Football, but who cares? There'll be plenty of time for that in the coming months, and it's been a slow start to the season anyhow with several BCB managers being forced to play their wildcard already after selecting a team full of duds! More about that next month or even next year.

The Moto GP was an incredible experience of thrilling racing and deafening machines, of superb weather and an electric atmosphere all shrouded in a sea of yellow and chants of Rossi! Rossi! He is a legend here with seemingly every spectator sporting the yellow 46!

He didn't win this race - finished in 2nd place behind Spaniard Dani Pedrosa - yet that barely dampened the fervour of the tens of thousands of Rossi fans.

Travullia, a small town, high up in the spectacular hills of the stunning Adriatic coast, is dedicated to Italy's most-loved sports star. This is where his fan club, restaurant, souvenir shop, and even his own private race track, are located. The entire town seems dedicated to Valentino Rossi and his fans love to go there just so they can say they have!

And Italy? A beautiful country with its own brand of Fantasy Serie A. And tons of great pizza. Well worth a visit.

Next month's FF report must surely focus on our BCB FF League so if you ain't doing too well, now is the time to play your wildcard!



## BCGS GOLFING NEWS (AUGUST 2016)



During August the Golf Section held its standard ration of a stableford competition and the Worldwide Relocations Medal. The stableford was played at Chuan Chuen, which proved to be a popular choice as the event attracted a number of visitors who do not normally play with the British Club. The winner was Karen Carter, who scored an admirable 39 points, winning her not only the customary bottle of fine wine but also a handicap cut to 17 and therefore a return to Flight A for the medals. Bryan McKinnon was second with 37 points and Randall Coleman, a very frequent podium finisher, was third with 34 points. Just behind them, scoring solid rounds, were Graham Johnston off his new 7 handicap and Carole Ann Eastgate.

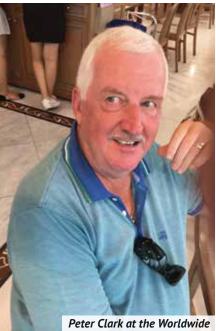




Carole Ann Eastgate after the Stableford



Karen Carter wins the Stableford prize



Peter Clark at the Worldwide Relocations Medal



The Worldwide Relocations Medal at Royal had a fuller field than had been the case in recent Summer holiday months. In Flight A Robert Elliot played a stunning round of 74 (net 62) to win by a wide margin. His handicap was promptly cut from 12 to 10. Peter Clark shot 77 (net 68), which would normally be a comfortable winning score, and earned a him handicap cut to 8. Gaew, who has played infrequently of late, matched her handicap to beat John Bell into fourth place by a single shot. Flight B was won by Varghese Rose, whose net 73 was 5 shots clear of runner-up Brian Brook, who in turn was a shot ahead of Captain Pete.

Over the course of the year, an eclectic competition is run from the monthly medal. As with the medal, it is divided into Flights A & B, and is scored off full handicap. With just four rounds remaining this year, Flight A is currently led by Karen Carter and John Bell, who both have net 56. Karen's score is helped by her having taken just 3 shots over the two tricky par 3s on the back nine. They are chased by Shane Torr with 57 and Frank Fawkes with 58. Robert Elliot has played only two medal events this year, but his August performance leaves him well in the hunt with a net 60. In Flight B, the sometimes erratic but often big-hitting Varghese leads a similar golfer, Captain Pete; they have net 54 and 56 respectively. Third placed Marc Brouillette is unlikely to improve as he has returned to Canada, which leaves Brian Brook as their nearest challenger with a net 61.

We always welcome new players in this group. If you would like to join, please send an email to bcgs2002@yahoo.co.uk



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