



Outpost



M A G A Z I N E



NOVEMBER • 1997

- The Bangkok Ryder Cup • Ploenchit People Appeal •
- A Real British A-Fayre • Aloha! Hawaiian Disco Scene •



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If you would like to contribute to Outpost
please contact Gaynor on Tel/Fax: 237-4031



The British Club

is a family, sporting and social club with an
international membership
For details about the Club contact the General
Manager on 234-0247 or 234-2592; fax: 235-1560



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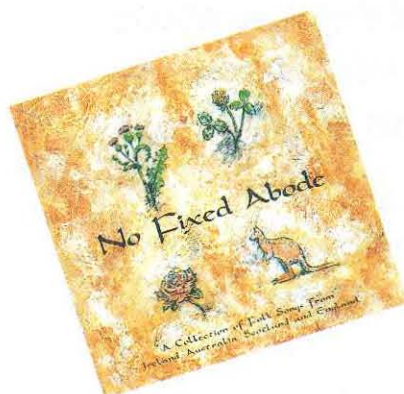
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THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER AT 9:00 PM

From the Editor

The proverbial goose isn't the only one getting fatter around here as diaries get booked up with dinners and balls. So what better time to accustom your stomach to the gluttony marathon coming up by getting into training, and here your Club comes into its own. Be sure to tuck into the fine carvery in Lords every Sunday night, and take full opportunity of any help-yourself buffets, such as the South American Food and Wine Bonanza on the 1st and the Loy Krathong evening on the 15th, or the full BC spread laid on in Surin, if you're elephanting it up there that weekend. If it's any consolation, I'll try and find a dieting article for early in the new year.

This year's Ploenchit Fair is trying harder than ever to garner support from the corporate side of Bangkok and to attract as many visitors as possible, as charities are frequently the first to suffer in an economic downturn. A long-time devotee and previous stall-runner, I cannot emphasise enough what a great event this is for those who enjoy all the fun of the fair, and the letter from the British Ambassador, Sir James Hodge, in whose front garden the Fair takes place each year, and the article by Ploenchit Supremo Carolyn Tarrant say it all.

Also in this month's issue is a response to Bruce's letter from a member in this month's issue from Leonie. There's also photo-reports of the recent British Food Fayre and the ice cream promotion as well as of the successful BWG luncheon held in Lords a couple of months ago. After the tremendous success of the Black Friday kids disco, the Hawaiian disco at the end of September had a slightly disappointing attendance but those that did make it had a lot of fun, as the photos in this issue show. This evening highlighted the strong case for keeping the Surawong Sala open for business

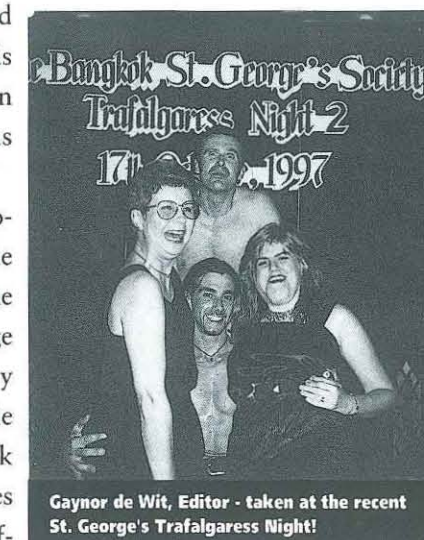
after the normal closing hour of 10pm on special occasions, as several of the parents of disco-goers were enjoying a balmy evening there; however, once the bar facility closed down the parents wanted to leave and thus the kids had to go too, up to an hour before the disco was due to finish.

Don't forget: if you're going on home leave in the near future and have some space in your hand luggage on the return flight, Barry is always grateful to people prepared to bring back some of those tasty goodies or ingredients that are often impossible to get here or which are now hideously expensive, so please contact him to see what he needs on the food front. Don't forget the best (printable) captions for the competition; details on p31!

**Gaynor de Wit
Editor**

An Irish Tale

No Fixed Abode, Thailand's only resident Irish band, will launch their debut CD at Delaney's Pub, Convent Road on Thursday 13th November at 9pm. With no fewer than three members of the British Club singing and playing along, this promises to be a great night of traditional Celtic music (with the odd Aussie song thrown in for good measure). Come along for a good time, "craic" or sanuk to celebrate this milestone event!



From the Manager

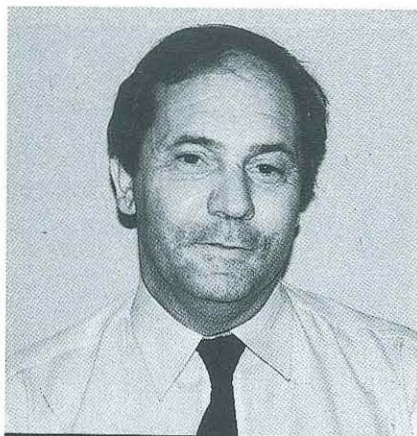
The last two months of the year are with us and as usual they bring a flurry of activity to the Club. During November and December there are numerous events and these are mentioned in the Management News and elsewhere in the magazine.

The proceedings start with the Guy Fawkes night party on 9th November. As usual, the Club will be closed on that day to members who do not have tickets. If you are coming to

the event please comply with the safety regulations and above all have a great time. Also, don't forget that there is a competition for the best Guy!

At the time of writing the Surin elephant round-up is scheduled for the 14th November and is fully subscribed. Last year we had to cancel the trip due to the calling of a snap general election. Hopefully we shall remain free of such eventualities this year!

December is full of functions so please study the advertising for all events and support as many of them as you can.



Tom Bain - General Manager

Most members will have noticed that the Club has a new sports section: the Scuba Section. The section is planning a number of dives at various locations around Thailand. If you are a diver why not come on one of these trips and help support the section.

I would like to remind members that it is a requirement of the Club that all drivers remain in their vehicles or use the drivers room near the Silom gate while on the Club premises. The drivers room is air-conditioned and has a TV. Would members please ensure their drivers are aware of this requirement and ensure they comply with it.

I've noticed recently that the fitness centre is becoming more and more popular. The centre has been brightened up and, with the removal of the lattice work and the hut adjacent to the pool, has pleasant views across the pool to the Clubhouse.

So don't wait until New Year's resolution time to get fit, join the fitness centre and get fit now so you can really enjoy the coming festive season!

Tom Bain
General Manager

Management News

Seasonal Events

As we are entering the Club's busy period, members may wish to note the following events in their diaries and, where applicable, book at Reception.

Guy Fawkes Night

On Sunday 9th November, Guy Fawkes is one of the Club's biggest and brightest events each year. Full details of the programme appear elsewhere in the magazine. We are planning a great day for all, but due to the pyrotechnic nature of the event safety precautions have to be taken. The Club will be closed on that day to anyone not holding a ticket to the Guy Fawkes evening.

Remembrance Day Service

This service will take place on Sunday 9th November at the British Embassy at 12 noon; all are welcome.

Scottish Dance Practices

These are held on the front lawn of the Club every Monday evening in November in the run-up to the St Andrews Ball at the end of the month. Come along and see how the Scots enjoy themselves.

Surin Elephant Round-Up

This year's trip will head off to the Surin elephant extravaganza on Friday 14th November. The trip is full so if you want to go you should book early for next year!

Loy Krathong

Taking place on Friday 14th November at the Club with a Thai food buffet and krathong floating on the pool, this traditional Thai festival celebrates the end of the rainy season!

Ploenchit Fair

This colourful charity event takes place in the British Embassy grounds on Saturday 22nd November - all the fun of the fair!

Children's Christmas Party

To be held at the Club on Tuesday 16th December. Please bring a present for Father Christmas to give to your child(ren).

Carols by Candlelight

This event will be held on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th December on the back lawn. This year it will be hosted for us by the BCT - a magical night!

Christmas Ball

Saturday 20th December on the Club's back lawn; this is BC's event of the year. Tickets will be available from 10th November

New Year's Eve Cruise

Cruise up the lazy river on Tubtim 1 or Tubtim 2 and enjoy the spectacular fireworks display at midnight. This event is NOT to be missed.

BC Shirts

On sale in the Fitness Centre SOON! Comfortable and smart designs suitable for sportswear and casual dress; come and select your style/size and don the BC colours and logo with pride!

Baskin Robbins Ice Cream

Famous Baskin Robbins ice cream is now available for purchase at the Club. We stock small individual portions and larger tubs which are perfect to take home for dessert!

Wine Prices

Unfortunately, wine prices at the Club have taken a hike. This is because suppliers are charging us more due to the Baht devaluation and increased VAT charges.

Swimming Gala

The final Gala of the year will be held on Sunday 23rd November from 10.30 am - 1 pm. The pool will be fully utilised at this time. Hope to see many more children and adults participating.

Yoga Class Cancelled

Due to low attendance this class has been cancelled as of the end of October. Apologies to those who supported this class.

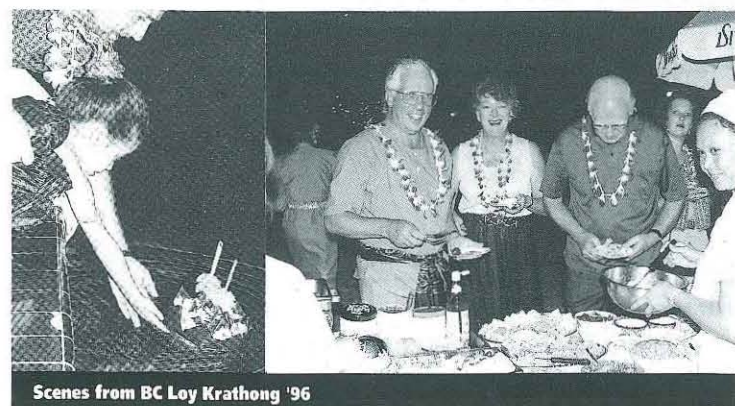
Club Functions

Generally Club functions are well supported. However, every now and then an event falls flat. Over the past few months a mid-year river cruise attracted only enough participants to break even, a bar quiz had to be postponed due to lack of teams and the British Food Promotion was a mixed success, with a good turnout on the Friday, a full house on the Sunday and no one on the Saturday!

Please remember that these events are put on for the enjoyment of members so support them when you can. Also, if you have any ideas for functions let us know so that we can try them.

Loy, Loy, Loy Krathong

It's that quintessentially Thai festival, Loy Krathong, where you float ('loy') a small tray made of banana leaves and other materials ('krathong') on water as an offering to the spirits to mark the end of the rainy season.



Scenes from BC Loy Krathong '96

The British Club holds its very own Loy Krathong festival on Friday 14th November around the pool with an unusual and delicious Thai buffet, with several items not seen on the normal menu, and khanom to round off the tastes. Mekhong and Coke is the order of the day, with the staff dressed up in traditional outfits, and the whole evening is rounded off by the floating of krathongs on the Club pool - bring your own or buy one at the Club for only Bt 45.

Reserve your place for Bt 195 for adults and Bt 120 for children. Come along for a wonderful and traditional evening.

New Members

Erik Brandstadmoen



Erik

Norwegian Erik is well travelled, having worked in Egypt, England, the Ivory Coast, the Philippines and Costa Rica before coming here as Director of Selmer AS over two years, with a view to staying for at least another decade or so. No hobbies or sports to speak of, but his son Erik (Jnr), who is 20, is studying here.

Amnuay Choed-amphai



Amnuay

Working just up the road on Silom, Amnuay is the Asst. M.D. at Karat Sanitaryware and enjoys tennis and swimming. His wife Chinda works at Saladang House and is also a swimmer, and they have one son, Chane 8, who is at school in Bangkok.

Catherine Stretch

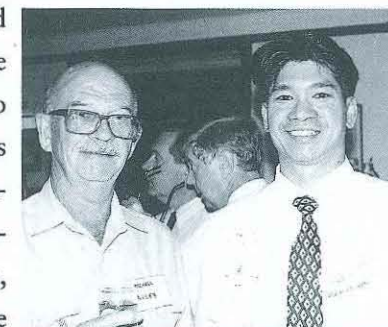


Catherine

Catherine is the Executive Director at the Thai-Canadian Chamber of Commerce and expects to be here for another couple of years. Single and 20, Catherine is into hiking and biking to keep fit but is also the secretary of the Southerners Rugby Football Club and reads extensively. She recently backpacked throughout Asia and Europe and landed here 18 months ago.

Akavit Prayurasiddhi

Brother of Nat and also single, 32-year-old Akavit is a planning analyst with Caltex. He returned from studying and working in Australia at the end of last year and hopes to stick around for a few years playing tennis, soccer, swimming and scuba diving. Hobbies include reading, music, camping and travelling and he has helped with UNICEF activities.



Akavit with Michael Alley

Bernard and Marjolaine Giroux

The new Canadian Ambassador to Thailand and recent visitor to the Aussie Food & Wine promo at the Club, previous postings have included Manila, Minneapolis, Brussels, Seoul and Boston (USA). Both Bernard and wife Marjolaine enjoy golf and cross-country skiing; Bernard also plays tennis and swims while Marjolaine likes hiking, some bridge, lace-making, cooking and computers. They have now walked 500 km of the 1,500 Pilgrim's Trail from Le Puy (France) to Santiago de Compostela (Spain), reaching Lectoure in May this year!



Bernard and Marjolaine

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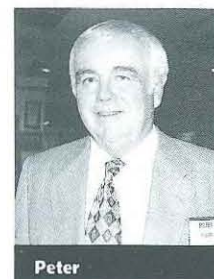
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Peter Ford

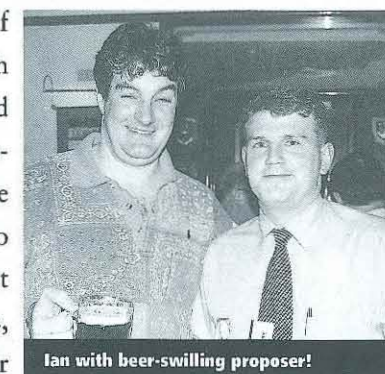


Peter

An ex-member of the Club from the mid/late '70s, Peter has just moved back here for a couple of years from Hong Kong as Executive Director of Merc. His wife Margaret used to help with the AWG during their first stay and helped Father Jo Meyer with his Rehabilitation Programme in Klong Toey. Both of their sons are at college in Nebraska; Christopher learnt to swim at the Club in '75 and went on to win national backstroke swimming titles in both Australia and the US before retiring from swimming this year! Peter plays golf and Margaret swims, and both enjoy walking and are recent bridge-learners.

Ian Halliday

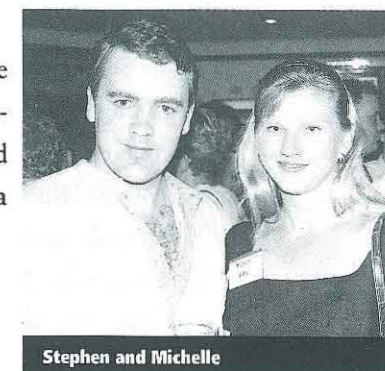
Trendy Ian, Field Manager with Nokia Telecommunications, was drinking Corona that night while his better half Louise was at home with their 3 and a half year old son Fergus! Ian plays soccer, golf and swims while Louise swims and is into fitness training when not preoccupied with Fergus, who was born during their previous posting in Australia.



Ian with beer-swilling proposer!

Michelle and Stephen Law

Recently arrived here from Australia, Stephen is the Business Manager at the Document Storage Co while Michelle is self-employed as a caterer. Sports-wise Michelle is into netball and volleyball while Stephen plays rugby and cricket and both play tennis. They have two children, Nicholas 4 and Annika 2, who also keep them busy.

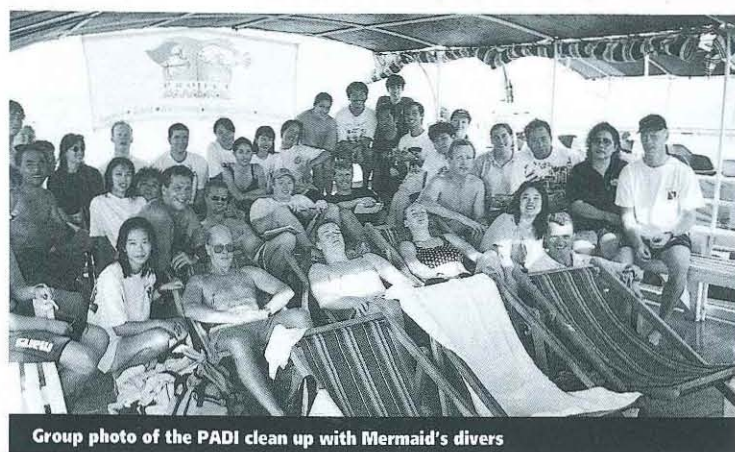


Stephen and Michelle



BBQ'd Snorkels

The first Scuba Section get-together at the end of September was a great success, with several interested people tucking into the deli-



Group photo of the PADI clean up with Mermaid's divers

cious buffet and hearing all about this great new section, its set-up and our aim of getting everyone diving. Scenes from our soirée can be seen opposite.

Congratulations

I would like to welcome our most recent PADI Open Water Divers - Peter Sergeant, Rosie Sergeant and Charlotte Weston.

Karl Eagle and Robert Scott have already completed their PADI Advanced Open Water courses. Karl has been actively diving and has already seen his first shark! Bob Scott will be diving in the Maldives islands in late October. We will be looking forward to his report of the diving there.

Lisa Fitzpatrick, Karen Hamilton, Irene Brunt and Rosemary Imlah have completed the PADI Medic First Aid course.

Phil Hall completed the PADI Rescue Diver course and shortly afterwards made his first hole-in-one during the local Ryder Cup golf tournament. Double congratulations!!

Pete and Ming Gary participated in the annual PADI Clean Up Day by joining Mermaid's Dive Centre to remove a large fishing net that was caught on the coral at North Point at Koh Rin Island, off Pattaya. My PADI diving course schedule for November includes another Advanced Open Water course and several other speciality courses - ask Lisa or myself for details. This is a great time to get ready for the diving season starting this December.

We would love to hear from our new and experienced divers of their recent diving adventures to new or distant places so that we can consider different dive sites for future group dive trips.

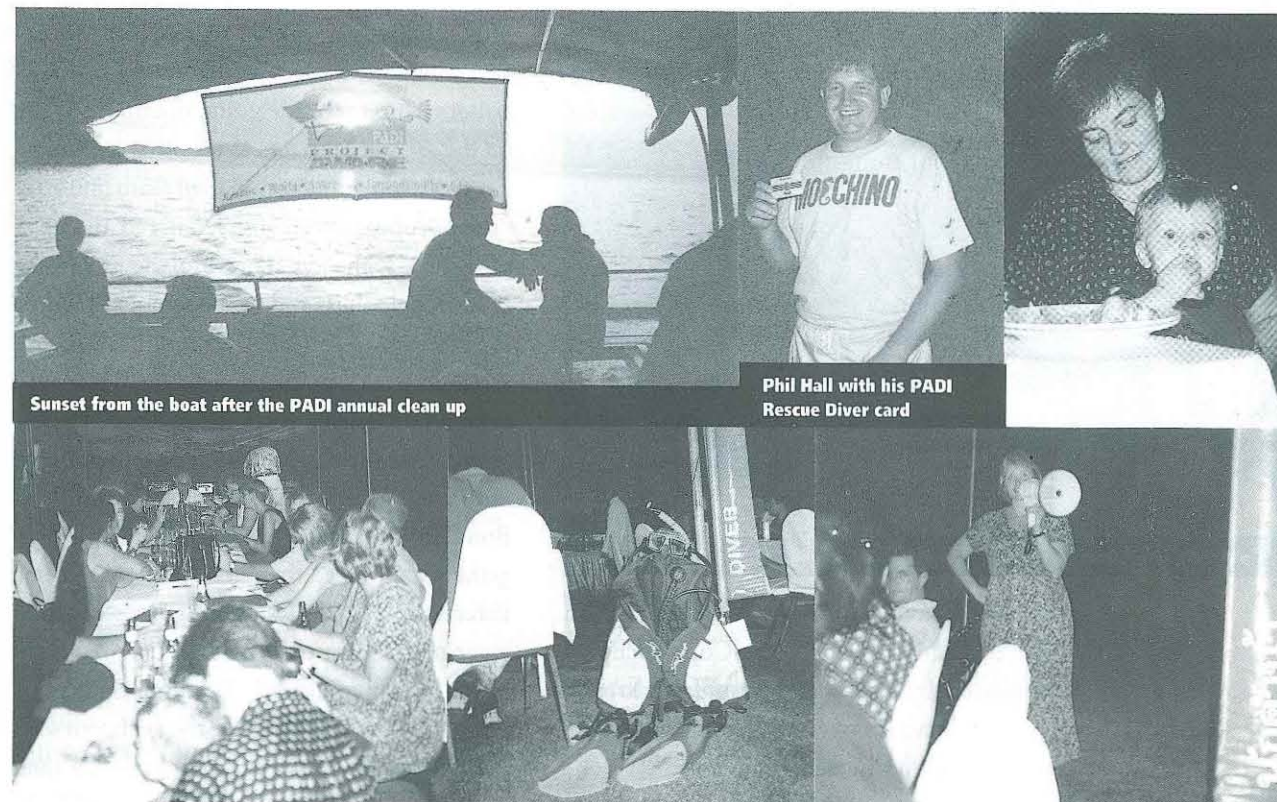
Peter Gary



Lisa Fitzpatrick and Karen Hamilton upon completion of the PADI Medic First Aid course



Ming Gary cutting away fishing net during the PADI clean up day



Sunset from the boat after the PADI annual clean up

Phil Hall with his PADI Rescue Diver card

An Appeal for Food!

Any Room in Your Hand Luggage?

For anyone going on holiday to Europe or Australia in the near future, who will have space in their hand luggage on the return flight, could they please get contact Barry Osborne at the Club, as there are some food items which are difficult if not impossible to buy in this country and have to be hand-carried in.

Whether you have room for a couple of packets or for several jars of ingredients, every little bit helps. Please contact Barry on 234 0247.

Your Club Needs You!



Ryding High



We are nearing the end of another year of great golfing with more to come. September had only one BCGS event and that was against



A packed house watching the 'real' Ryder Cup final round

the Scandinavians. We played at Vintage on 14th September for the Volvo Cup which was sponsored by **Volvo** and **Swedish Motors**. The format was better ball matchplay and the match was won by Scandinavians.

Bangkok Ryder Cup

They may not have won the cup in Spain but they did in Bangkok. Congratulations to the Americans. While fanatic golfers and others were glued to their TV screens watching the final day of the Ryder Cup at Vel Derama in Spain, Bangkok golfers were playing their own Ryder Cup at the Bangkok Golf Club on Sunday 28th September.

It started from an idea of **Geoffrey Lamb**, who generously donated the **Bangkok Ryder Cup**, and developed from there with the BCGS contacting all golfing groups to form the Europeans and the Americans. Everyone was eligible to play and were asked to submit 8 cards to Bernie for their handicap of the day. The format followed the Ryder Cup competition, i.e. 8 foursomes, 8 four balls and 12 singles, but these were played in one day, which meant a total of 44 players on each side

plus others that wanted to play on the day and join in the fun. We ended up with 52 golfers from each side going out at 10.45 am on the 1st and 10th tees to tee off at intervals. Everyone looked snazzy in their team uniforms - the Europeans were dressed in red and navy polo shirts with navy shorts and the Americans in white polo shirts and various coloured shorts. What a professional lot we looked! Time to kill before tee off saw some of them having a beer while others stuck to soft drinks and water. One little episode will be remembered with a toast between David Lamb and Peter Bond for great pairing (they didn't play together), they lifted their glasses to toast when Peter's bottom fell out and he ended up wearing his beer over his lap. David's comment 'We have started off on the right note' Excitement was all around the golf course as golfers were doing battle against one another. The paparazzi were there in full force (in the form of Judy Fitzgerald) going from hole to hole in her paparazzi machine, hiding behind bushes and being non-intrusive at the same time, snapping happily away behind her rather large lens. Once the games were over everyone rushed over to the British Club to find a great BBQ waiting (thanks to Barry and his team) plus drinks and then watched the final few hours of the Ryder Cup on the big screen. The presentation of the Bangkok Ryder Cup was



Duke, Chris and Sir James with the Bangkok Ryder Cup

presented by H.E. Sir James Hodge, British Ambassador to Thailand, to Duke Kaiser, captain of the Americans.

We had TWO unprecedented **holes-in-one** from Pat Dean and Phil Hall - we are still waiting for the big shout, boys!

The event was a great success and will be played again. Special thanks go to Chris Gething and Bernie Adams who spent every waking hour organising everything to make this event the success that it was.

We welcome to the Golf Section 'The Burglar'. This will be a monthly tip for weekend golfers.

Golf Tips for Weekend Golfers

by The Burglar

This column is not for good golfers.

If you're still reading this, take heart. You will find here some time tested tips learnt over years of bitter experience hacking around in the rough. You just might find a tip here that helps so much that you won't have to read this column any more.

For most of us mere mortals, we rarely can attain consistency of distance. To minimise this problem and lower your score, take one more club than your instinct (or caddie) tells you. Say you are 120 metres from the green and you can reach with an 8 iron with a well struck shot. There are at least 3 good reasons to take a 7 iron.

1. It is most likely that you won't hit your best shot and it will fall short.
2. Most trouble lies in front of the green rather than a bit behind.
3. You can swing a little easier with the longer club and probably get more accuracy. Next time you are out on the course notice how many shots finish short of the green. Take a tip from the Burglar: use a longer club,



All players cheer the eventual winners during the presentation

grip down the shaft, swing easy and watch your scores tumble.

Upcoming Events

The events for November, for which you can sign up at the Club on the Golf Section notice board, are as follows:

November 9th - BCGS vs The Embassy, at President, tee off 12 noon

November 23rd - Quarterly Medal, round 4, at Royal Lad Krabang, tee off 11.42 am

Thought of the month: Middle age is when what makes you tick needs rewinding.

That's all for now

Happy golfing

Lauren Lambert



Pat Dean and Phil Hall with 'Hole in One' trophies

Who is this man taking relief?



A Whole New Racquet

News this month is that we have a new Chairman - step forward David Blowers, who took over the reins from Bernie at the beginning of October. No doubt my own workload will increase proportionally with this management shift, but then's the breaks. Anyway, at least we now have some Committee Witterings for the first time in ages. Unfortunately still no match reports in the offing as yet another club shied away from the challenge from the mighty BC (Is this right? - G) as the Capitol Club cancelled their end-September match, adding to a growing list of clubs too frightened to play us these days... (hmmm). In the meantime, we're hoping to play a one-day tournament this month as the annual Graded Championships which used to take place about now; for more details on how, when, where and with what implements please see the notice board in the sala.

The 'team' (as is) are due to play an away match against the Polo Club on the Sunday 30th November, no doubt starting early in the morning. Further details available from whoever happens to be standing around when the captaincy lands on them at the time; otherwise, if you'd like to play, please contact any member of your devoted committee who looks like they may know something. Your Team Needs You!

Lotsaluv, Me

Junior Tournament 5th October

It felt as though it was a small group taking part today - there were only 17 participants. Not long ago that was a good number, but now we hope for over 20 every time. It was quality not quantity today, though, and as the morning progressed the matches improved. We started as usual with the Junior Juniors 'warming up' any of the older ones who made it at 0800. We were pleased to welcome Lauren Jensen, who had her first proper 'go' at joining in, and she and Tim Weekes got the older ones running around for the first hour! The main competition this time was a team event. Three teams of 5, made up of a balance of older and younger, more and less experienced players, played against each other. A few had handicaps, and there were many calls for those to be removed as the morning went on! Leigh, George and David played well up and it is

doubtful they will carry handicaps again! Everyone had at least 4 games in the course of the morning, despite a brief stop for rain. It did not last long and did not slow play down much, but it may account for a few bruises, particularly for Leigh, who showed us his sliding techniques to accompany his ground strokes! Games were mostly well balanced and good humoured.

The final scores for the teams showed a good sprinkling of wins across all the teams, but worth a special mention are Don Wijeratne and David Weekes, who won all 4 of their matches, and Matthew Jensen who was just one point under maximum.. The team to come out on top was that of Graeme Jewell, James Lanham, David Weekes, George Henton and Leigh Gammons, who deserved their **AsiaPac** winners' shirts.

Shelagh Weekes

Diary Notes

Next **Junior Tournament** will be on Sunday 2nd November at 0800. Any queries please call Shelagh on 398 2717 or Kate on 254 1582. The **Intersection Sports Day** is scheduled for the same day so we need six, only six, courageous volunteers (minimum 2 women) to defend the Section's honour again. Come on, we've done such a good job this last couple of years we can't let one of those other weedy sports sides outdo us!

Any volunteers wanting to play in the **Away Match** against the Polo Club on Sunday 30th November please make yourself known to any committee member who hangs around the courts.

Graded In A Day!

The annual **Graded Championships** will be held this year with a different, faster format to be completed in one day in order to avoid the annual court booking difficulties. So mark your diaries and sign up on the notice board in the Surawong Sala for:

Sunday 16th November, 8am start

Great prizes to be won, courtesy of **The Creative Partnership**, and prestige to be gained by getting your picture published in this esteemed organ! What else is worth going for in life?!



Captain, Oh My Captain

The 1996-97 football season is over and while Terry Grogan had captained the First XI to a laudable second place in the Coca-Cola Bangkok International League, work and personal conflicts have caused Terry to stand down as captain for the 1997-98 season. We thank him for his efforts and hope that he may continue to lend his experience to the Section in other ways. Anyone who has tried to captain any side with aspirations of glory will know that this is a task which is not to be taken lightly. So who will fill this veritable power vacuum? Who amongst us is willing to stand up and be counted? Who has the intestinal fortitude to say 'it's my turn to bat; I will lead if you will follow!?' There is such a man (just as well, really), and he is none other than our very own vice captain of years past, Chris Davin. So what kind of man would be willing to take on such a challenge (sober, at least)? Here is a little information to help you build an image of our latest peerless and presumably fearless leader. Chris was born in the very late 1950s in Washington D.C. He is married to Juliette and has two toddlers. He has also found time to earn a couple of degrees in Geophysics. Perhaps of more interest to the Football Section is his playing 'sum': in addition to starring for his college teams, Chris has played in the North American Soccer League for the Atlanta Chiefs as well as the Major Indoor Soccer League for the Denver Avalanche. A reliable source (himself) tells us that he also used to play on the same team as Rod Stewart in Los Angeles. Chris was particularly pleased to note that he is in fact taller than Rod (who isn't? Oh, sorry, Alan Morton!). Chris came to Thailand with Unocal in January 1993 and began lending his considerable skill to the team shortly after.

So you can see that while Chris may be diminutive in stature he is gargantuan in the experience and skill that he brings to the side. His playing still is epitomised by overall fitness, great break-away speed and a delightful touch. Chris has pledged to foster a more

positive culture of team spirit. In addition, he hopes to see more shared responsibility with the team selection process. To that end, Alex Forbes has agreed to become the team's manager (as well as Section President, so it's a good job he doesn't actually work for a living). He plans to work closely with the Casual's Captain, Matt Duke, to make sure that the full breadth and depth of the entire section is being utilised. He believes that if there is a high level of camaraderie and enjoyment the good football will take care of itself. Let's hope so. Good luck Chris and congratulations on your election to First XI Captain.

Konnichi Wa

Four times in the last few months the Casuals have pitted their multi-faceted ensemble against the might of three teams that have either been partly or entirely influenced by Japan. The first experience came in early July when the Casuals played against a team predominantly comprised of Japanese from the Japanese School on Rama IX. Initial expectations of a walk-over were slowly dampened despite an early lead for the Casuals, as more and more quality players began to arrive for the teachers. By the second half it became apparent that despite the size and weight advantage that the Casuals clearly possessed, this was not opposition of picnicers. Indeed, Colin Harlow's two black eyes surely attest to the fact that certain players viewed this match as a full contact karate exhibition. Despite the somewhat physical nature of the game, both sides were able to put together some skilled and fast paced football. The net result of which was a firm commitment by the Casuals to continue to enjoy the rivalry and challenge of playing this team in the future. Move next to Ayutthaya as the Casuals went on the road to play a team from Katsuyama Finetech. We loaded up the coach on a rainy Saturday afternoon for the couple of hours trip to the industrial estate on the outskirts of the former capital. To add to the ambience



(ice chest of Heineken notwithstanding) was the Only Fools and Horses 'Jolly Boys Outing' video on display on the TV. Imagine how intrigued we were about what we might find. All we had heard was that Katsuyama-san was a somewhat (?) eccentric, self-made Japanese factory owner who had set up a light industry operation which included a brand new floodlit football pitch as part of the fixtures and fittings of the factory. Oh yes, and he was purportedly 'soccer mad'. Anyway, to cut a long story short (thank goodness), it was everything that we imagined. Picture an almost immaculate field next a very modern factory.

Picture a jolly, corpulent Japanese factory owner with a pony tail and a love of the greatest game on earth. Picture a young, fit, dedicated, almost exclusively Thai opposition. Now picture us getting beaten. Oh well, but it was a lot of fun and played in very good spirit and the reception buffet afterwards at a

hotel on the river would prove to be equally entertaining and enjoyable. The highlight for all was to see Katsuyama-san and Alan May in a Sumo wrestling contest. Only kidding, but the mental imagesprang to most of our minds as they both grabbed a microphone and sang (butchered?) that famous Beatles karaoke favourite, 'Ret it be'.

Some months later we ventured up there again for a three-way tournament. Accompanying us were our arch-rivals and occasional team mates, the German Allstars. The anticipation reached fever pitch as we loaded up the coach (again in the rain), if for no other reason than we were finally going to play again. The recent rains had caused the cancellation of several mid-week and weekend fixtures so we were suffering severe "footie"

withdrawal symptoms. In reasonable time we made the journey to Ayutthaya and after a short break took to the field for our first game against the Allstars. We are always evenly matched against them, regardless of who shows up, probably because of our very similar style. However, as time went on it became clear that our lack of substitutes was going to hurt us in this fast paced game. Finally, in desperation to repel a concerted attack in the box, an over-zealous Casual made more than incidental contact with a feather-light attacker who decided to take advantage of his location and make a sus-

Picture a jolly, corpulent Japanese factory owner with a pony tail and a love of the greatest game on earth.

tained crumple just outside the 6 yard box (with accompanying audio histrionics). While the referee clearly did not witness this act of malfeasance, the results were too glaringly obvious to go unpunished and the penalty was awarded. We a British team to be denied victory by a sure-footed German

striker yet again? Yes. Well, actually, only just, because the shot bounced off the bar back to the taker who then slotted it past our keeper and the goal was given. "Wait! Someone else has to touch it before the taker can score from a rebound!" you cry indignantly. Well, you'd be right and all twelve of us (including our sub) proceeded to point this out, but seeing as the goal had already been awarded, and it would be a terrible loss of face to reverse an incorrect decision, the quick thinking (and perhaps historically minded) referee went on to explain that the ball, in fact, bounced over the line first from the crossbar (even though we all saw it come more or less straight back out to the taker's feet) and the goal stood.

The Allstars just payment in their second

game as not only did the heavens open for almost an hour of solid rain but the young Finetech team proceeded to give them a lesson. The last game between the now cramping Casuals and flagging Finetech was played toward the end of the deluge on a rapidly draining field. This water-logged and unpleasant environment actually suited the BC style more (probably something to do with the conditions we grew up playing in). We played a much closer and controlled game and even looked like maybe stealing the game (hope springs eternal!). The slippery conditions allowed us to put part of the British game, the slide tackle, to good use. Only one person made an heroic lunging slide that actually took him to the sidelines. Sadly the attacker he was going for had breezed past half a second earlier. My lips are sealed as to who it was, but open to bribes! 'Nuff said. While we lost this game too we gave a very good accounting of ourselves and with a little more strength to draw from on the bench things might have come out differently. As before, we all adjourned to the waterfront hotel for awards, speeches and (mercifully) considerably less karaoke. We'll be going back for an all-day, six team tournament at the end of November. Join us.

Konnichi Wa Continued...

Our final encounter came when we played on the 11th Infantry field on Phaholyothin near

Laksi. This time the Japanese team were a touring side called Shinjukara FC. The field did bear a striking resemblance to partially cropped cattle pasture and one half was longer than the other, but we had nets, corner flags, white lines and an unquenchable thirst to play. One noticeable difference between the two teams was the age - although we had tried to field a veterans side, some of our more seasoned players were unavailable we ended up with a spread of mid-twenties to mid-fifties (thanks Mr Howard). This was quite a contrast to their mid-forties to mid-sixties spread. However, despite that seeming advantage to us, the older Japanese players showed us that short burst of speed and well placed passes can cause problems for even the younger and fitter players on our side. Eventually we prevailed but I think the Japanese side can be proud of the level at which they were able to play. I'm sure they enjoyed the buffet reception afterwards at the British Club. The prize for most dazzling individual effort goes to Nigel Oakins. Nigel decided to emulate Renaldo by dribbling around four players before finally beating the keeper and slotting the ball home. When it was suggested that his forward momentum was so much that only the post could have beaten him he responded that he would have gone around that too if necessary.

Il Duce

Farewells

Another crop of fond farewells this month:

Simon and Elizabeth Baker, Eran and Jacqueline Banon, Antony Barley, Bill and Mae Barr, Mali and Bantoon Boon-Itt, Paul and Allyson Carty, Graham and Sara Dryden, Sumita and Richard Han, Ross Horwood, Gillian Hund, Des and Jo Keane, Robert and Lorraine Mann, Ian and Charlotte McGovern, Kathleen and Wirach Nimanwathana, Eric and Pamela Phillips, Geoffrey Redenbach, Duncan and Jane Reed, Rudiger Reinecke, Prachalee Soontornwinat and Klaus Stenzhorn.



Calendar

British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - November

Sunday



30

8am Junior Tennis Tournament
10.30am Adult Swimming Coaching
11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
3-6pm Tennis Mix-In
4-6pm Children's Video
5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

Monday



Sports - Contact the following:

Badminton Gaynor de Wit 237-4031
Cricket Peter Young 679-7644
Football Alex Forbes 260-1950
Golf Chris Gething 261-1963
Rugby Joe Grunwell 262-0220
Scuba Cheryl Lamb 258-1382
Squash David Turner 279-1234
Tennis David Blowers 285-4721-2

Non-BC Sports

Ladies Golf
BCLG Will Agerbeek 259-7019
LIGIT Eileen Cook 295-4596
Hockey Lois Carson 258-5295

Tuesday



Wednesday



Venues

Soi 15 NIST grounds
Soi Nares Behind Bangrak Police Station
Aerobics Surawong Room
Golf - As advertised

Thursday



Opening Times

10am-11pm Churchill Bar
11.30am-2pm Lords Restaurant - Lunch
6-10pm Lords Restaurant - Dinner
7.30am-10pm Poolside Bar
6am-9pm Fitness Centre - Mon-Sat
9am-9pm Fitness Centre - Sun/Hols
9am-5pm Thai Massage - Tue/Sun

Friday



Saturday



1

8am Junior Tennis
9am-1pm BC Swimming Coaching
9.30am Aqua Aerobics
8-11am Tennis Coaching
3-6pm Social Snooker
4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15
South American Food & Wine

2

8am Junior Tennis Tournament
10.30am Adult Swimming Coaching
11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
4-6pm Children's Video
5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
Children's Halloween Party
InterSection Sports Day

3

8am BWG Mahjong
9.30pm Aerobics
10am Parents + Babies Swimming
6-8pm Squash Coaching
7-9pm Tennis Team Training
7pm Scottish Dancing

4

7am Ladies Golf
9-11am Ladies Tennis
10.30am Aqua Aerobics
7-9pm Soccer Training
8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22
8-11pm Friendly Bridge
9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

5

9.30am Aerobics
5-8pm Squash Coaching
6-9pm Tennis Mix-In

6

6-9pm Squash Mix-In
7pm Aerobics
7-9pm Rugby Training
8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22

7

9.30am Aerobics
3-9pm BC Tennis Coaching
7pm Social Darts

8

8am Junior Tennis
9am-1pm BC Swimming Coaching
9.30am Aqua Aerobics
8-11am Tennis Coaching
3-6pm Social Snooker
4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15

Don't Forget !!

- Thai tradition at its most serene at the Loy Krathong festival on the 14th
- Warm up for the St Andrew's Ball or just for the fun of it at the Scottish dance practices on the front lawn every Monday night
- The last Swimming Gala of the year is on the 23rd - don't miss your opportunity to shine!

9

10.30am Adult Swimming Coaching
11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12noon Golf - President
3-6pm Tennis Mix-In
4-6pm Children's Video
5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
Guy Fawkes Night

10

8am BWG Mahjong
9.30pm Aerobics
10am Parents + Babies Swimming
6-8pm Squash Coaching
7-9pm Tennis Team Training
7pm Scottish Dancing

11

7am Ladies Golf
9-11am Ladies Tennis
10.30am Aqua Aerobics
7-9pm Soccer Training
8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22
8-11pm Friendly Bridge
9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

12

9.30am Aerobics
5-8pm Squash Coaching
6-9pm Tennis Mix-In

13

6-9pm Squash Mix-In
7pm Aerobics
7-9pm Rugby Training
8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22

14

9.30am Aerobics
3-9pm BC Tennis Coaching
7pm Social Darts

Loy Krathong by the pool

Surin Elephant Round Up

15

8am Junior Tennis
9am-1pm BC Swimming Coaching
9.30am Aqua Aerobics
8-11am Tennis Coaching
3-6pm Social Snooker
4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15
Surin Elephant Round Up

16

10.30am Adult Swimming Coaching
11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
4-6pm Children's Video
5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
Tennis Graded Champs

17

8am BWG Mahjong
9.30am Aerobics
10am Parents + Babies Swimming
6-8pm Squash Coaching
7-9pm Tennis Team Training
7pm Scottish Dancing

18

7am Ladies Golf
9-11am Ladies Tennis
10.30am Aqua Aerobics
7-9pm Soccer Training
8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22
8-11pm Friendly Bridge
9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

19

9.30am Aerobics
5-8pm Squash Coaching
6-9pm Tennis Mix-In
6-9pm Squash Teams competition

20

6-9pm Squash Mix-In
7pm Aerobics
7-9pm Rugby Training
8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22

21

9.30am Aerobics
3-9pm BC Tennis Coaching
7pm Social Darts

Pleenchit Fair

23

10.30am Adult Swimming Coaching
11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
11.42am Golf - Lad Krabang
3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
4-6pm Children's Video
5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
10.30am Swimming Gala

24

8am BWG Mahjong
9.30am Aerobics
10am Parents + Babies Swimming
6-8pm Squash Coaching
7-9pm Tennis Team Training
7pm Scottish Dancing

25

7am Ladies Golf
9-11am Ladies Tennis
10.30am Aqua Aerobics
7-9pm Soccer Training
8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22
8-11pm Friendly Bridge
9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

26

9.30am Aerobics
5-8pm Squash Coaching
6-9pm Tennis Mix-In
6-9pm Squash Teams competition

27

6-9pm Squash Mix-In
7pm Aerobics
7-9pm Rugby Training
8-10pm Badminton - Soi 22

28

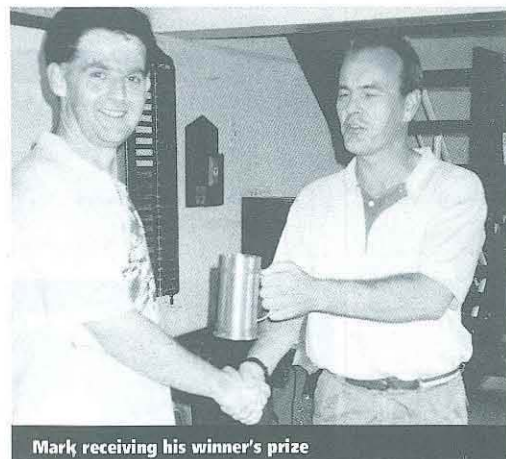
9.30am Aerobics
3-9pm BC Tennis Coaching
7pm Social Darts

29

8am Junior Tennis
9am-1pm BC Swimming Coaching
9.30am Aqua Aerobics
3-6pm Social Snooker
4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15

Club Handicap Championship

Congratulations to Lek and David Bryant on the birth of their son. At the time of printing young Alex hadn't yet played his first game of squash but apparently was impressed at the sight of a 747!!



Mark receiving his winner's prize

Handicap Tournament

The stage was set for an excellent final between Dave Bryant and Mark Reading, both players being on the same handicap. Dave had defeated Dave Overington 3-1 to reach the finals and Mark had an easy entry with a walkover.

Dave bounced onto the court after being at the birth of his son that morning and perhaps his mind was initially not on the game. Mark won the first game 15-6 with many unforced errors from Dave as he sweated out the remnants of the morning's champagne. Dave began the second game well but Mark forged ahead and won 15-13. In the third game Dave got an early lead and slowly made ground to win 15-7. Now down 2-1, Dave went to an early lead in fourth game, but Mark pulled back with some good winners to go ahead but then lost six of the next seven points and Dave took the game 15-11.

The deciding game was point for point with some very good rallies and at 13-13 Dave hit a ball out and Mark finished the final with a winning drive to win 15-13.

Mark Reading won the 1997 Handicap Tournament 3-2. It was an exciting and entertaining game which could have gone either way.

Perhaps if Lek had been around to fan him down and bring him drinks Dave may have gained those few extra points he needed.

In the Plate event John Vivian defeated Dick Anwar to reach the finals and Paul Jensen defeated Rene Frei. Paul had a 3 point handicap advantage over John in each game. It was a hard fought match with many let calls. Unfortunately John was not consistent enough and although he never gave up, Paul was able to dig his heels in and keep on top.

Paul took the first 2 games 15-4 and 15-10. In the third game Paul was always ahead until 11-9 when John won 6 points in a row to win 15-11. The fourth game saw John 8-6 up but Paul reeled off 4 points to go ahead 10-8. John fought to 10-10 before Paul eventually won 15-12.

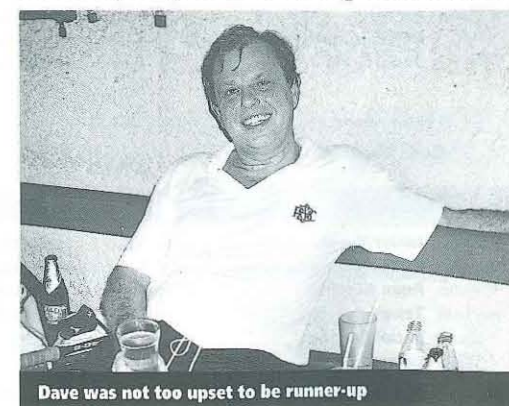
Paul proved to be too tough on the day and won the handicap Plate 3-1.

Not enough of the lower ranked players went in for the tournament this year but those that did acquitted themselves well and next year the handicapping will make it even more difficult for the better players with the handicapping on a more subjective basis rather than strictly on ladder positions.

Peter Corney

SNIPPETS

The **Ladder** has become rather topsy-turvy lately with a lot of new names defeating some of the more "established" players to reach the heady heights near the top of the ladder.



Dave was not too upset to be runner-up

Great to see, and good for everyone that these players are raising their games to topple the fellows at the top. Also the Leagues are seeing a similar turmoil that can only benefit the overall strength of the Club.

The turnout at the **Sunday mix-in** at the beginning of October was a bit smaller than usual but we were still able to welcome a couple of newcomers, Colin Walker and Tony Perkovic. Neither of them managed to win on the day - Tony's fame had preceded him so he was lumbered with an appropriate handicap. Even so, he only succumbed in the semi-final - maybe the 4 games with Mark Reading earlier in the day was the clincher, as Mark was the eventual winner!! Bottles of wine went to Mark, Martin Reed and David Turner.

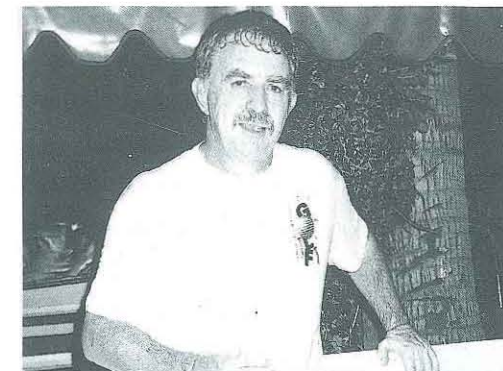


Plate winner Paul Jensen

A few beers were enjoyed by all after an enjoyable afternoon.

That's all for this month - keep on squashing

Dave J

The Women's Touch

Touch Rugby - the sport that's catching on in Thailand! The Mixed Touch Tournament held in the middle of this year by the Southerners RFC was a huge success, a day of exercise, laughs and good, good sport by all... and did not involve lots of beastly scrums!

The British Club is looking to get a ladies touch rugby team together to play locally and against visiting overseas teams. No experience necessary. Training will take place at the BC.

If you are interested please fax back to the Club the following fax back:

Attn: Lisa Fitzpatrick, The British Club - Touch Rugby

Fax: 235 1560

I/we are interested in playing touch rugby for the British Club. Suitable training days and times are as follows:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Name(s)	Phone No.
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Sport & Recreation News

Each month appears to be getting shorter... it doesn't seem that long ago that I was writing last month's article! Admittedly daylight



Elizabeth and Stuart

hours are definitely getting shorter as we head into the winter months. I was reminded of this (along with some other BC members) at a recent Hash run - following a trail in the dark dense bush was an interesting experience. Please give me a call if you're interested in the **Hash** or other

runs (there are some 10 km road races and triathlons coming up in and around Bangkok over the next couple of months).

By the time you receive this edition, we would have seen the results from the annual **Inter-Section Sports Day**. Well done to all teams who participated.

The response from members re the new **BC shirts** has been very positive and constructive. I would hope that by this publication date the shirts and hats will be on sale at the Fitness Centre. I am also looking into additional merchandise with the BC logo/colours, such as skirts, shorts, wrist and head bands, etc. I have recently acquired a **computer** in the

Fitness Centre which will provide a variety of new and more up-to-date functions, including my regular newsletter, results sheets, stock (merchandise) control and general fitness administration, membership and programming. The yoga class is no longer being offered at the Club due to poor attendance. It is not possible (financially) to keep it going. Apologies to those who supported this class.

Now the weather is cooling off, a few more of you may be interested in joining the Ladies **Tennis mornings** from 9 am on Tuesdays. If you've still got some energy left, you may wish to partake in the **Aqua Aerobics** at 10.30 am with Marnie.

The next **Swimming Gala** will be on Sunday 23rd November from 10.30 am - 1 pm. This will be the last for the year, so please come along and join in the fun and excitement.

Elsewhere in this edition you can find a report and pictures from the **Junior Disco** held on Friday 26th September. The theme for the night was 'Hawaiian Beach Party'; it was great to see many dressed up in colourful costumes. Aloha!

Lisa Fitzpatrick
Sport & Recreation Coordinator

The Benefits of Swimming

Physiologically, swimming contributes to the development and maintenance of most body processes by using many large muscle groups, improving lung volume and respiratory efficiency, increasing the ability to use oxygen and increasing total blood and haemoglobin volume. It is also a life-time activity. Female competitive swimmers have been found to be fitter, advanced in growth, superior in intelligence, extroverted, energetic, having no menstrual disturbances and with normal healthy psychological attitudes when compared to girls of a similar age who are not involved in swimming training.

The supportive nature of water minimises the risk of joint and muscle injury. Those who are obese or who have tendencies towards arthritis or rheumatics may further aggravate their problems with weight-bearing activities such as jogging, but swimming provides all the benefits with less of the dangers because the body weight is supported.

Water is also an equaliser for many handicapped people. Hydrotherapy plays a definite therapeutic role to relieve pain, improve circulation, induce relaxation, build confidence and mobilise joints with less effort than on land. When a patient is very weak, the buoyancy of water can be used to assist muscle reeducation but, as strength returns, the same medium can be used to create a resistance. Swimming is also of benefit in delaying the aging process by maintaining greater functional mobility and psychological stimulus. Swimming has been described as excellent therapy for those with arthritis (degenerative

and rheumatoid), blindness, cerebral palsy, diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, mental retardation, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis. It is also recommended for maintaining fitness in those with pulmonary disease, ischemic heart disease, obesity, poliomyelitis, low back pain and a plethora of sports injuries.

Swimming has also been found to be the best for of exercise for asthmatics and every asthmatic child should learn to swim. Great gains have been made by asthmatic children and adults after a training programme of several months. The success of swimming in this area can be seen in the fact that eight Australian swimmers in the Montreal Olympics were asthmatics. The great Olympic swimmers, Dawn Fraser and Neil Brookes, initially used swimming to overcome their asthma.

Despite many potential benefits from swimming, one should not enter the water with a fever, unhealed wounds, infections, skin disease or discharge from the ears or nose.

"There is an exhilaration in submerging oneself in water to cool off on a hot day, to admire the ocean floor or to simply enjoy the weightlessness brought about by the supportive action of water, which is akin to the feelings of an astronaut outside earth's gravitational forces. Swimming is an uniquely soothing sport. There is no sensation quite like moving over a cushion of water: feeling lighter in body as you glide over the surface, feeling calmer in mind as you move with the softly slapping surface... a time for mental house-cleaning." (Frey, 1975)



Aloha!

Some of the juniors attending the Hawaiian disco in the Silom Sala on Friday 26th September really looked the part in their sarongs, garlands and loud shirts, full marks to the winners of the fancy dress competition. Well done also to the disco dancing kings and queens, seen here with their medals for their outstanding performances on the dancefloor. Many thanks to **Professional Leisure Services** for another great evening, running

games and keeping that music coming loud and clear. At one point there was enough dry ice around to make you wonder if the Suharto smog hadn't arrived in Bangkok, but those kids just boogied on for hours, and the photos show the good time which was had by all.

Gaynor de Wit



BWG Lunch

Before you read on, I must tell you that this report is from our August 21st lunch. I foolishly promised to do a write up for

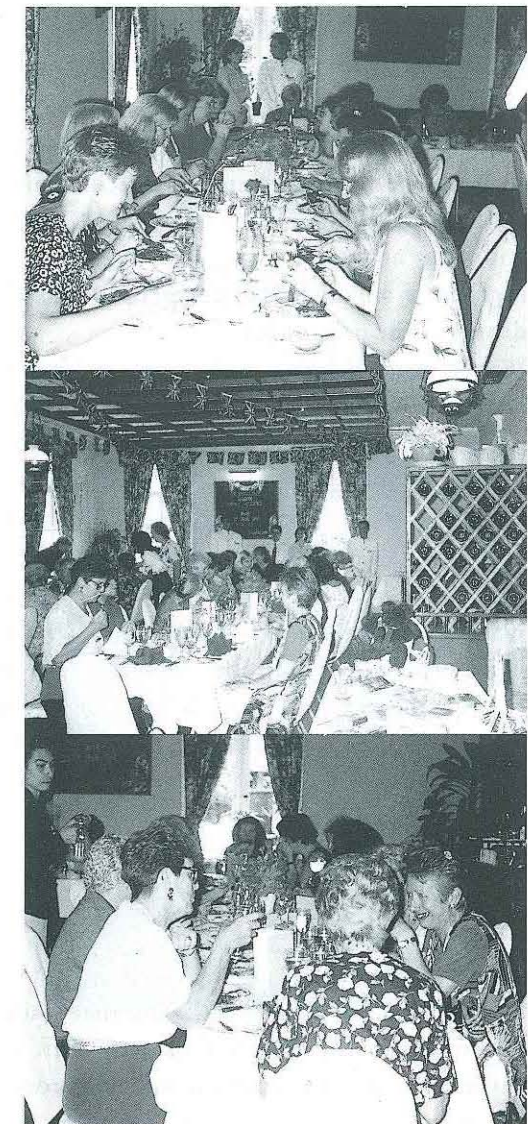


Outpost but got bogged down in a hectic series of events culminating in a move of house, hence the two month delay. Still! Better late than never, so on with the story. The venue was Lords Restaurant. I arrived early to set out my pickles, chutneys and jams for the Ploenchit table. The decor for the room was truly magnificent. The dining tables were laid with crisp white linen cloths, red, white and blue napkins and red roses on each table. British flag bunting hung from the ceiling. With the meal prepared by Barry and his staff of an equally high standard as the decor it set the scene for one of the most enjoyable BWG lunches that I have had the pleasure to attend. (Many other ladies made the same comment.)

To top the day for me, Barry had organised a surprise birthday cake - duly wheeled in - plus I was presented with champagne. Everyone sung "Happy Birthday", so by the end of the lunch I was walking on air. Thank you once again Barry and your staff, and thank you Ladies for making it the happiest of Birthdays.

A special mention for Judy Fitzgerald whose card just cracked me up. Her designs and verses are truly unique and extremely funny (but unfit for publication in the magazine). Blatant Advert: You can order your Xmas cakes and puddings from me on tel: 682 7865; all proceeds go to UKCTC, the British foundation for Thai charities.

Pina Davies



Letters Page

Dear Gaynor,

Regarding Mr Gordon's letter in the September issue about theft at the Club, I have recently spoken with Tom Bain with some suggestions and would like to share them with other members. No mention has been made of the possibility that the thieves could be members, their children or their drivers. About 3 months ago a man walked into the ladies' changing room while I was there. He apologised, said he was looking for the men's room, and left. Later I saw him in the Surawongse side parking lot with the drivers. I asked the guard who he was and he confirmed that the man was a driver. As the Club membership is comprised of people of various races it would be easy for a driver to enter the changing rooms and open lockers in the presence of others as he would be taken for a member. It would be interesting to know where the majority of thefts take place; are they mainly from the men's changing room? How many thefts take place from the women's changing room? Are there other places in the Club from where things are often stolen?

As there is a drivers' room with TV and toilet on the Silom side, I suggest that another be built without delay on the Surawongse side, and that members instruct their drivers to stay in the parking lots and not to wander around the Club under the pretext of looking for a toilet. Tom Bain told me that some members had complained about the Silom side drivers' room saying that it is more important to spend such money on amenities for members. To me this is a short-sided and stingy attitude. A driver's life includes many hours of waiting; it is kind to provide a place for them to sit, other than the car, and watch TV - especially in the rain, and it helps keep the drivers in the parking lot.

We should not delude ourselves into thinking that members and their children do not steal. They can and from personal experience I can say that they do. My granddaughter's Doc Marten shoes were stolen from the changing room last year by the teenage daughter of a member. Fortunately, another person in the changing room saw what happened and we retrieved the shoes which had our child's name inside them. They had already been hidden in the boot of a car. The parents of the thief would not acknowledge that their daughter would steal; they were outraged when I told them and said that she had made a natural mistake.

Having been a member of the Club for many years I have come across a number of occasions when members and members' children have stolen things.

Locking the changing room doors at night might or might not alleviate the problem. I never leave anything in the changing rooms when I am swimming; I take my things with me.

Yours sincerely,
Leonie Vejjavija (V20)

Editor's Note

I would certainly agree with Leonie that while mistakes *are* made, I would guesstimate that a not insignificant proportion of petty theft at the Club is committed by members or their dependents. And then there is valuable property found and taken home by members as they

don't wish to entrust it to the Club's Lost & Found; hopefully this will change with the publicising of the reporting system at Reception.

The issue of drivers is pertinent; I have heard of several incidents of men entering the ladies' changing rooms and indeed it is not always possible to identify these people as drivers. Then there was the one case where a driver was sent up to the men's changing rooms by his employer, a member, to retrieve his belongings, which meant the driver searching through the pockets of several items of clothing hanging up for a form of identification.

While I concur with the idea of the Drivers' Room, there could be more enforcement of the rule that drivers actually use the room or stay in their car instead of standing around chatting in the parking areas, from where it is all too easy to wander further onto Club property.

However, the locker thefts in July referred to were unusual in that several were relocked (especially those from which valuables had been stolen), suggesting the possession of keys. Also, on one locker an extra security padlock had been picked and relocked.

Sadly, and as always, it's not the majority of members, members' dependents, drivers or staff we're talking about here but the usual proverbial few bad apples. Valuables should not be left unattended on Club property at any time.

Caption Competition Time!

Warming up to the spirit of generosity, we're going to award prizes for the best captions for the following two pictures: the one of Sara Fielding gently feeding her loved one at the recent Aussie Rules final day, taken by Judy Turner, and that of one of the Club's rat-catcher squad relaxing on the job, courtesy of Dave Jewell.

The funniest (printable) captions to both photographs will hopefully be printed in January's edition; with myself and a select number of Creative Partnership employees on the judging panel, all of whom are quite bribeable...



The Magic of Ploenchit Fair

The magic words "Ploenchit Fair" conjure up nostalgic smiles at the thought of the British community's annual moment of glory.



All you really need to know is: British Embassy, Saturday 22nd November 1997, 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. Entry fee is 50 baht for adults and 20 baht for children. Attendance is obligatory; bring lots of money - and spend it.

If there is anyone in Bangkok who don't know what Ploenchit Fair is, then read on. The Fair is the British community's annual fun event to raise funds for Thai charities, held in the gardens and lawns of the British Embassy on the corner of Ploenchit and Wireless Roads. It is organised and run by hundreds of volunteers who devote an enormous amount of time to ensure the Fair's success. Its theme is a British fairground with lots of games of chance, stalls selling produce and inexpensive goods, a Ferris Wheel for children, Shooting Gallery, Coconut Shy, Treasure Island, Bingo, raffles galore and the early visit of Father Christmas. This year Marks & Spencer, Boots and the Body Shop will be with us with special Christmas buys. The afternoon is usually spent relaxing on the

back lawn, where the Crown & Anchor pub, Wine & Cheese, Bobby's Arms fish & chips, Cream Teas, Hot Dogs, Pasta, Mexican and curry are all available to feed and refresh thousands, whilst enjoying an afternoon entertainment programme which will again be highlighted at the close of the day by Thailand's top saxophonist Khun Tewon and his band.

The British Ambassador, Sir James Hodge, and Lady Hodge will open the gates accompanied by the 1st Battalion Scots Guards and their celebrated pipers at 10:00 am, with live coverage by TV Channel 3, while top DJs from 95.5 Gold FMX will broadcast live from the Fair throughout the day.

All proceeds from this family fun day, over five million baht last year, are allocated to many Thai charity projects throughout the year under the guidance of the UKCTC.



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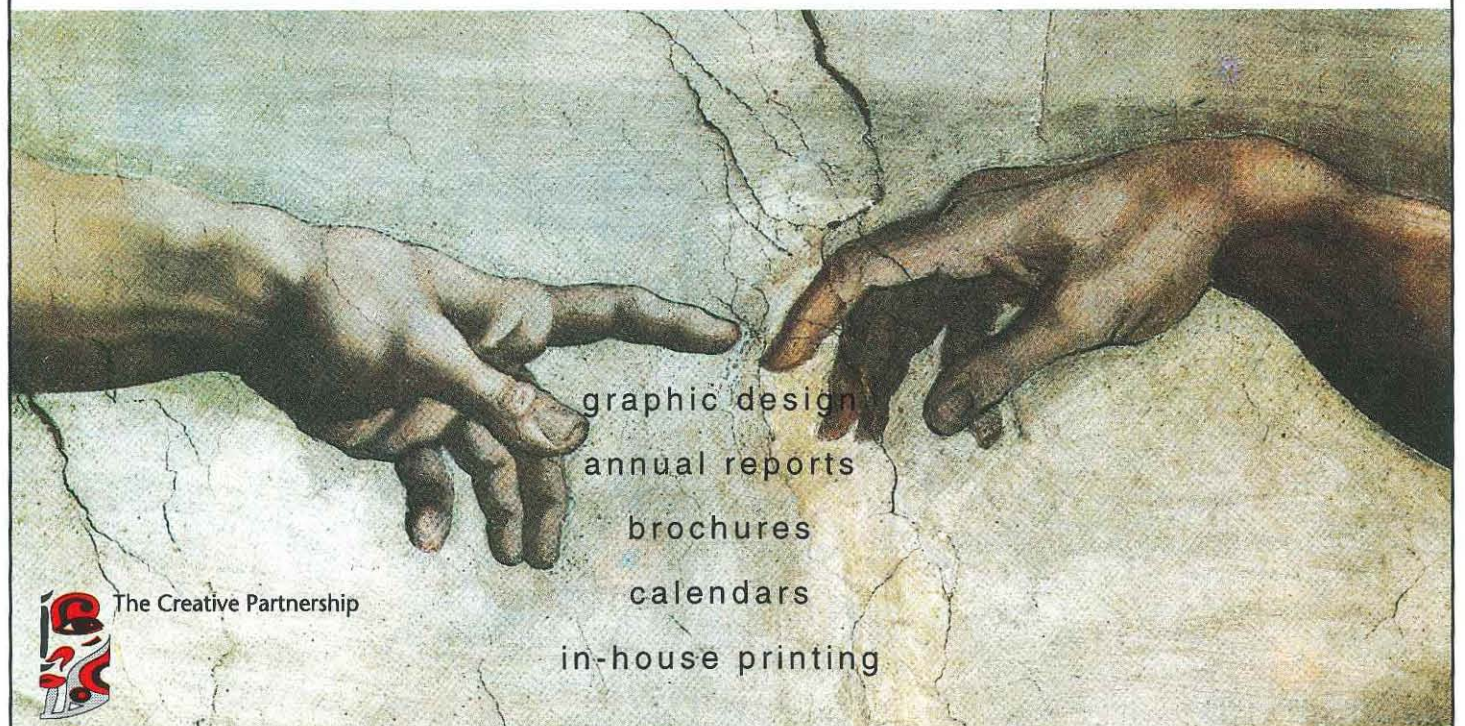
- Silom
- Rama IV
- Asoke
- Changwattana
- Others
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Details of all these projects are printed in the Souvenir Programme which will be given on entrance.

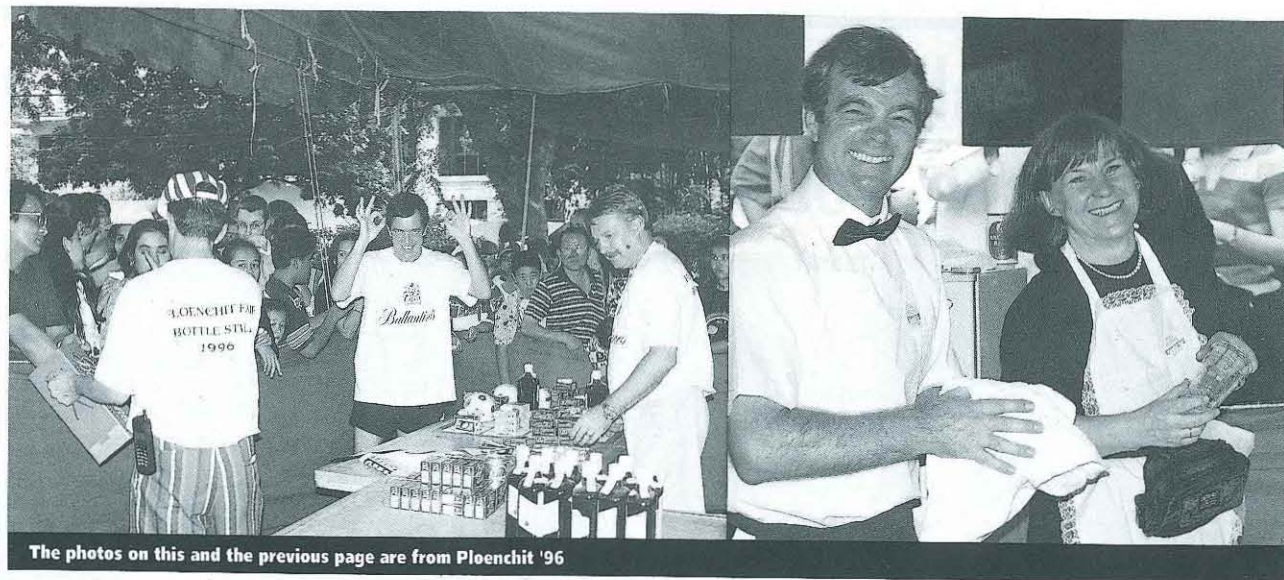
The Ploenchit Fair in its present form dates back to 1957 in the British Embassy compound, though the British community's direct involvement in raising funds for Thai charities started in 1941, when the British Club used to arrange various functions.

Nearly all British companies operating in Thailand help to sponsor this event, many running one of the 60 or so stalls you will find at the Fair, or donating goods and promotional materials for the thousands of prizes to

be won. So please do come along and support us all - it's a wonderful day for the whole family - and you will leave knowing that **all** you have spent will be used to help alleviate distress and suffering throughout Thailand.

Mrs Carolyn Tarrant MBE
Chairman - UKCTC

The British community's annual blockbuster fund-raising event will be held on Saturday 22nd November 1997, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, in the British Embassy grounds.



The photos on this and the previous page are from Ploenchit '96



**British Embassy
Bangkok**

Message from the British Ambassador

As this year's Ploenchit Fair approaches, I thought it might be helpful to remind readers about the origin of the Fair and the concept behind it.

The British community in Bangkok first organised Ploenchit Fair in the grounds of the British Embassy in 1957. Since then it has been held annually in the gardens, with the ready agreement of my predecessors, a tradition I am delighted to continue.

The Fair was conceived as a means to allow the British community to join together to raise funds for Thai charities. This once a year, all-out effort by the Embassy, companies and individuals was intended to provide maximum support for charities, with all funds and projects being carefully monitored to ensure that assistance was properly directed to meet worthwhile needs.

At a time when companies were inundated with requests for help, it was thought that these could best be dealt with by a committee which would have available to it funds and experienced voluntary British advisers. The companies could thus be assured that they were helping to promote worthwhile assistance to the needy throughout Thailand. The companies also had a committee to which they could refer all requests for charitable donations, in the knowledge that the chari-

ties would be given all possible support and advice on an on-going basis.

Ploenchit Fair is an acknowledged success. It has become a recognised and admired British institution in Thailand. The UK Committee for Thai Charities (UKCTC), which administers the funds, has been able to alleviate distress in many areas and organise a large number of self-help projects which give to communities both dignity and much needed resources.

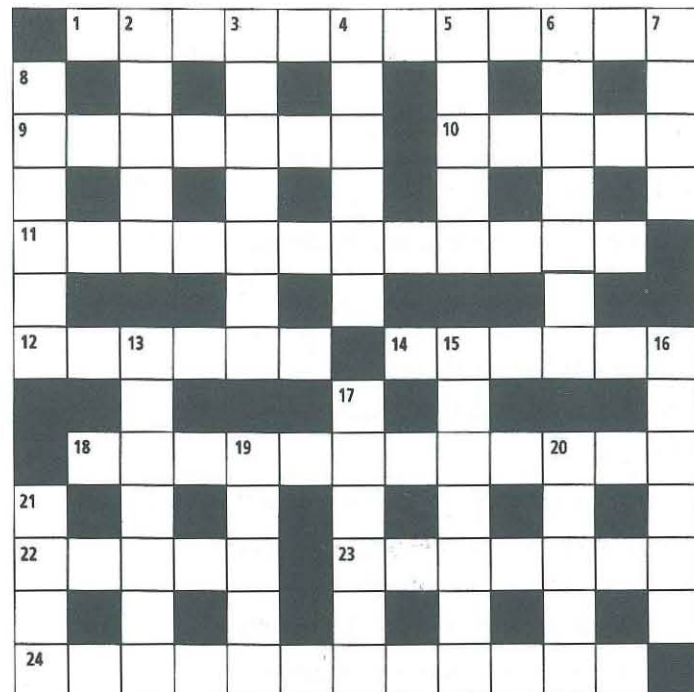
In today's economic climate charities still need help but at a time when companies, who are again receiving many requests for donations, are themselves having to look carefully at resources - and when the purchasing power of the funds available to the UKCTC has been reduced.

Ploenchit Fair is only a few weeks away. I know that individuals and companies will again try this year to help UKCTC to maintain this unique British tradition.

H.E. Sir James Hodge KCVO CMG
British Ambassador to Thailand

Crossword

November, November



Clues

Across

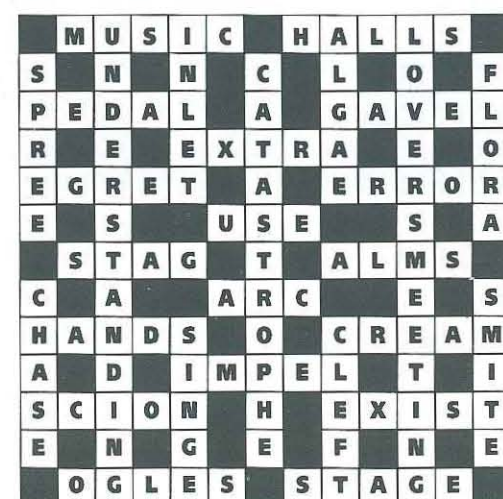
1. Day of tribute in the U.S.A.
9. Came back
10. It is next to the bull's eye
11. The Ball of the month (5,7)
12. A red one flies in the Merchant Navy
14. "A _____ has no business with the justice of the cause." (Dr. Johnson)
18. Hot party this month at the British Club ... (7,5)
22. ... and a big gathering here
23. Sweet, but never been kissed
24. Who lives and breathes? (8,4)

Down

2. A nymph in paradise
3. Popular gift for Dad
4. Where they shunt locomotives
5. Much colder
6. Not at all (2,2,3)
7. It's only blood
8. The naval rating made use of - treated badly
13. Regarded as an instrument of divine wrath
15. Took possession of
16. Colour again
17. "This lime-tree bower, my _____" (Samuel Coleridge)
19. A bone - but it isn't if you hit it!
20. Old areas of land
21. Caliban said that Prospero's was full of noises (Shakespeare - The Tempest)

Margaret Miller, crossword compiler supreme, has compiled this puzzle with special reference to several of the month's events and, as it's reasonable easy and because I'm feeling particularly generous (with the Club's wine), I'll make this the prize crossword. The first correct solution faxed in pronto to 285 4723 will be eligible for the pre-Christmas bottle of plonk - hold them pens at the ready!

Last month's solution



Poolside Baskin Robbins Promotion

At 3.30 pm on Friday 10th October the kids at the poolside (young and not so) were treated to free samples of Baskin Robbins ice cream. The three gallon container originally scheduled to last for three days was polished off within two hours.

Baskin Robbins ice cream is also available for take away from the Silom Sala. A pint sells for

90 baht and a quart for 160 baht. It also goes into making those milk shakes and banana splits taste even better.

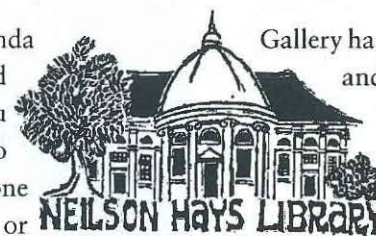
Thanks to Khun Jerry and Kasee for supplying us with the free ice cream and the bright new poolside parasols.

Barry Osborne



Attention Art Lovers

The Neilson Hays Rotunda Gallery has approximately 12 artist's exhibitions per year of talented and further abroad. If you would like to be on the personal mailing list for invitations to openings of these very affordable exhibitions please phone or fax your name and address details to either the Curator or Assistant Curator.



Curator - Margaret Richards Tel/Fax: 860 3062

Assistant Curator - Sally MacGeorge Tel/Fax: 260 3830

Neilson Hays Library - an historical landmark of Bangkok, serving the community for over 120 years

British Food Fayre

The British Food Promotion was held over three nights from 10th October to the 12th. The event attracted over eighty members,



with Friday and Sunday being the popular nights and Saturday a total disaster, attracting nobody!! Unfortunately, Saturday 11th October saw many events taking place, including the Rugby Ball, the Canadian Thanksgiving event and several others. However, we also had a party over at the ISB at Nichada Thani, where we catered a cocktail party for around 300 people, so at least we were busy that night! Members attending the promotion were treated to a complimentary glass of sherry on arrival, for which thanks to Chris and Andrea at Allied Domecq. The buffet/carvery consisted of broccoli & stilton soup, Irish stew, smoked salmon, black pudding, roast beef and turkey, followed by banoffi pie, steamed sponge pud and many more favourites. Khun Prapaphan and Saguntara made perfect Beefeaters, and decoration for the evening was provided by Allied Domecq and the British Tourism Authority with music from the British Embassy.

Thanks to all the staff who once again worked hard to ensure the success of the event.

Barry Osborne

In conjunction with the recent British Food Fayre, an art exhibition was mounted in Lords Restaurant. The drawings and watercolours by Louise Truslow, created during a trip home this July, were presented as an exhibition entitled "An English Summer". The works depicted two very different parts of the country - the rolling countryside of Staffordshire and the coastal landscape of Essex.

To make the exhibition accessible to the younger members of the Club, a children's 'fun sheet' was available. This encouraged children to observe the pictures and give their thoughts and insights. One observer like a painting with boats because they were 'cool', another wished to step into a drawing of a castle to explore it. The exhibition, from October 10th-26th, complimented the British food and brought a touch of English summer into Lords Restaurant.



Security



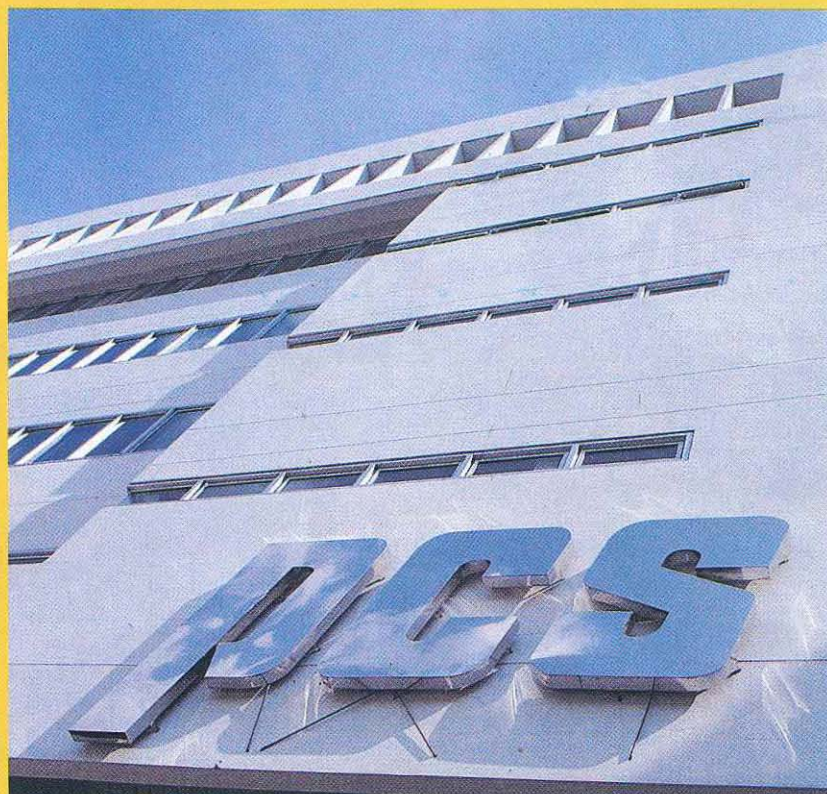
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From the Chairman

The Festive Season rapidly approaches and we are entering the most busy and for many I am sure, the most enjoyable period in the Club calendar.

I always feel that the Season has started once the St Andrew's Society dance practices get underway and by the time many of you will have received this issue, this year's practices will, indeed, have started.

At the beginning of last month we held the second of our new quarterly New Members Nights. For those of you who may be unaware of the change we have made to this part of the induction process for new members, these new Nights are intended simply to welcome all the new members who have joined us over the previous three months and, together with their proposers and seconders, to invite them to an evening at the Club to meet with each other and with members of the General Committee and representatives of the various sections and interest groups who may be there also. The evening was a great success and the bar was the busiest we have seen for a long while. Make a note that the next Night will be on the first Monday in January and come along and join us.

Speaking of new members, I should like, yet again, to encourage all of you to keep a look-out for anyone who may be interested in joining the Club and invite them down to the Club to see what we have to offer. Our membership has been steadily declining over the past 14 months or so due mainly to there being more expatriates leaving Thailand than there are taking up residence; an inevitable consequence, I fear, of these difficult times. The Club does seem to suffer from an image problem too, however, and the best way to dispel that must surely be to give anyone showing an interest the opportunity to visit

the Club and see for themselves what the Club is like.

Last month I mentioned the excellent work that a number of our sections were doing to encourage their activities at the Club and this month I should like to continue that theme with a mention of the Golf

Section, who initiated and organised the very first Ryder Cup competition. This proved to be an excellent event as a report on it elsewhere in this issue will indicate. The day was rounded off with an evening in the Surawongse Room watching the closing stages of the real event on the big screen television. An excellent day all round and full marks to the Golf Section for their initiative in thinking up the event and organising it all. Hopefully it will become a regular bi-ennial fixture.

It is perhaps pertinent here to mention the big screen television equipment that we have. This really is an excellent way of watching any major event and I feel sure that with a little more thought and planning it could be put to much greater use than it is at present. Over to you.

As you will see from the other pages in this issue, there are many varied events that will be taking place over the next couple of months. Do come along and join in and have a good time. They are, after all, arranged for your enjoyment.

Dugal Forrest
Chairman



Dugal Forrest - Chairman

British Club General Committee



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Forrest**



**James
Young**



**Phil
Evans**



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Adams**



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Turner**



**Ian
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Phil Evans	Treasurer T. 246 8844 F. 645 3400
Bernie Adams	Club Development T. 6740810-1 F. 2102332
David Henton	Club Development T. 254 6819 F. 254 4849
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Colin Hastings	Club History T. 240 3700-9x1511 F. 240 3843
James Woodford	T. 326 0660 F. 326 1123

Club Staff



**Tom
Bain**
General Manager



**Barry
Osborne**

Operations Manager

If you have any questions about the British Club or if you have any suggestions, please call any of the Committee Members above or the General Manager on 234 0247



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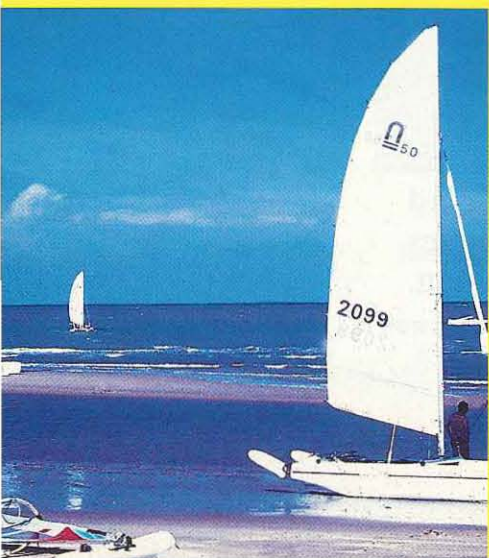
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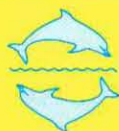
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