



Outpost

M A G A Z I N E



- Spanish Sights, Sounds and Tastes at the Food Promotion
- Ballroom Dancing Buffoonery
- Red Hot Performances from the BCT
- Caption Competition Results



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away from it all.

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Phuket island overlooking beautiful
Nai Harn Beach you can swap
the noise of the city for the noise
of the sea. We'll massage away
your worries on your private
terrace and make sure you forget
your cares for every moment of your
stay. And maybe even a little after!*

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Le Royal
MERIDIEN

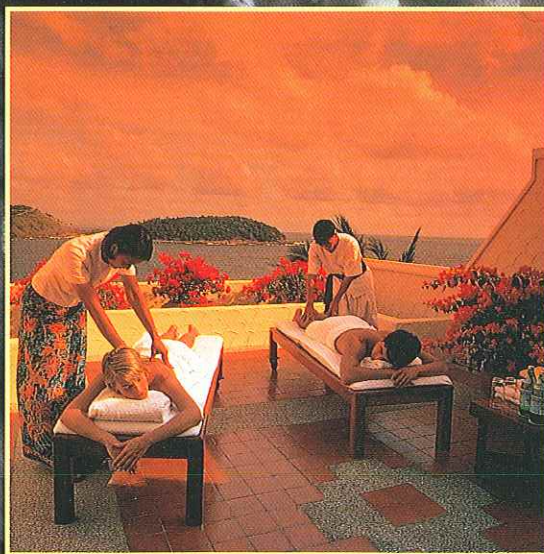
PHUKET YACHT CLUB

Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club
Nai Harn Beach, Phuket 83130, Thailand
Tel : 076-381-156-63 Fax: 076-381-164

BALI • BANGKOK • BORA BORA (JUNE '98) • ILE DES
PINS (SEPT '98) • JAKARTA • KOH SAMUI • MEDAN '99
MELBOURNE • NOUMEA • PHUKET (2) • PORT VILA
SAIPAN '99 • SINGAPORE (2) • TAHITI (JUNE '98)
THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE • TOKYO (2)

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British Club

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

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

Tel: 234-0247, 234-2592, 266 4734 or 266 0597 Fax: 235-1560

Email: britclub@loxinfo.co.th



Contributions

If you would like to contribute to Outpost please contact Gaynor on Tel/Fax: 237-4031 (home) or Tel: 2854721-2 and Fax: 285 4723 (day)



The Outpost Magazine

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



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Outpost Magazine

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With over 3,000 successful moves every year, a well established overseas network and so many years of finding solutions and answering individual needs, Transpo is Thailand's largest and most experienced moving company.

Transpo has the expertise together with the local and international muscle to deliver the best possible service - time, after time, after time...





The BC's First Master Diver!

A very special congratulations to Steve Renshaw on qualifying as the first PADI Master Scuba Diver of the British Club's Scuba Section.



Peter Gary with Steve Renshaw holding wall certificates and emblems for five Speciality diving courses: Drift, Deep, Night, Wreck and Underwater Navigation

Steve started with the Discover Scuba experience and progressed steadily through the Open Water Diver, Advanced Open Water Diver, Medic First Aid, Rescue Diver and 7 Speciality courses: Multi-level, Peak Performance, Buoyancy, Drift, Deep, Night, Wreck and Underwater Navigation. The Master Scuba Diver rating is the highest recreational rating in the PADI programme and denotes superior achievement and proficiency. Steve has almost 50 dives logged and has dived

several times in the Philippines and Bali. Also congratulations to Graham, Elizabeth and Jessica Beal and to Kirsten McGuire for completing the Open Water Diver course. The number of families completing the dive courses is rapidly increasing and have reported they are enjoying their new found skills and adventures together.

There are many who have completed the Open Water Diver course this year and are now signing up to take the Advanced Open Water course between now and the

year-end holidays. The best time to dive in many parts of Thailand is December to April. The next couple of months is a great time to complete the Open Water Diver and advanced courses or a Scuba Review to brush up on skills that may have gotten a little rusty. Please make your appointments early as the schedule is getting very full. In addition to offering the existing PADI Open Water Diver through Divemaster programmes plus 10 Speciality courses, I have recently been authorised to teach the Distinctive Speciality: Orientation to Recompression Chambers. This course is very different in it allows one to make an actual dive in a recompression chamber to pressure depths of 40 meters without being in water to experience safely under strict controls the effects of nitrogen narcosis prior to taking deeper dives in open water.

Peter Gary

Farewells

Goodbye and all the best to this latest batch of deserters (just kiddin'! —G):

Simon and Brenda Antrobus, Nicki and Steven Ashton, Michael Chandler, Barry and Sahattaya Crawford, Richard Dobson, Bob and Annette Faherty, Ian Fawcett, Michael Forrer, Vituruch Goodwin, David Kennard, Joanne and Nigel Killick, Jonathan and Alison Parry, Kevin and Jean Peacock, Peter and Jane Rodgers, Sally Schoon, Anthony Solimini, Andrew and Pauline Spiers, Peter and Shalla Sykes, Vinai and Gunnigar Virojanavat, Bob Vliestra and Emmeline Watkins.



Saved by the Storm!

Really, we're going to have to find more ingenious ways of avoiding the loss than we've come up with of late; ways which have included running out of time, lending players to the opposition, and now this: saved by a cloudburst.

I'm glad to say I wasn't around to see our lot snatching a draw from the jaws of victory against Thai Inter, but there again that does mean that yet again there's no pictures in this report. When will you all learn? I'm ill far too often these days to be relied on for photos; you're just going to have to fend for yourselves.

Lotsaluv

Me

Home Match vs Thai Air International

Saturday 12th September 1998

Having had a number of fixtures called off this year due to the prevailing economic situation, we were rather relieved that this match actually managed to get off the ground but of course in this case we were playing 'host' which perhaps had something to do with it. To keep cost to a minimum for all concerned, the Saturday afternoon format was chosen with a 3pm start and running buffet being served from 4pm.

Our visitors showed up pretty well on time but there was a pronounced shortage of lady players on their side. The BC team was also afflicted with more than the normal level of 'no-shows', 7 in all with two players actually showing up on the wrong day! However, the situation was recovered somewhat due to there being one or two members who had left it too late to put their names down for this event

and, as luck would have it, were on hand when needed.

With an overall shortage of players, games were fast and furious and from the outset it appeared that the BC team were going to be on a winning streak yet again. Our men were chalking up wins at a steady pace in the early part of the match and our ladies also seemed to be getting the upper hand in their various encounters.

Notable wins came from Tom Westbury partnering me at 6-1, with Richard and Ken coming in at 6-2 and again Richard, this time with Lawrence, chalking up another win at 6-3. For the ladies, new players on the block Joanne Wood and Mariska van der Heijden were the outstanding pair with two wins at 6-0 and 6-2 respectively to their credit. This pair will be a serious threat to any aspiring ladies doubles title seekers or holders for that matter, as they are capable of playing very positive attacking tennis from the net position. Very nice to see.

At the half-way stage it seemed that we had done enough to take the match but it was not to be. As the pace of games slowed due to the player shortage being further exacerbated by one or two players from both sides having to leave early, our opponents gradually started to catch up and with the advent of the mixed doubles our lead just melted away. Whilst Fons and Mariska, our outstanding new husband and wife duo, led the way with a crushing 6-1 win, the rest of us were distinctly shaky to

say the least. We might just have held on but for the onset of a very heavy thunderstorm which washed out any chance of resuming play over what would have been the last critical half hour. However, huddled together as we all were under the Club's decidedly unstable and leaking awning, the event had a distinctly sociable ending with everyone trying to keep dry at the same time as doing their best to eat up all the remaining generously provided food before it too became saturated like the rest of us.

In the event the result turned out to be a dead heat which was perhaps the right outcome. In closing it has to be said that neither this result nor the weather did anything at all to spoil what had eventually turned out to be yet another most enjoyable afternoon's tennis with many closely fought games along the way.

On a more serious note, the very high numbers of 'no shows' on this occasion as on others preceding it must be considered very unsatisfactory as much work is put into arranging these matches and of course expenses are incurred which cannot then be recovered. This particularly applies to the buffet where minimum numbers have to be guaranteed in order for the BC to have any chance of providing sufficient food of acceptable quality. On this occasion, as with all others, Barry and staff had worked hard to provide an abundance of excellent food only to see half of it go uneaten.

With an influx of new keen tennis players, we currently find that there are more than enough people wanting to play in these inter-club matches. Consequently 'no

Calendar

British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - November

Sunday



1

11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3-5pm Volleyball
3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

Swimming Gala

8

11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3-5pm Volleyball
3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

Guy Fawkes Night

Monday



2

8am BWG Mahjong
9.30am Aerobics
6-8pm Squash Coaching
7-9pm Tennis Team Training

Scottish Dance Practices start -front lawn

9

8am BWG Mahjong
9.30am Aerobics
6-8pm Squash Coaching
7-9pm Tennis Team Training
7pm Scottish Dancing - front lawn

Tuesday



3

7am Ladies Golf
8-10am Ladies Tennis
10.30am Aqua Aerobics
12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
6-7pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
7pm Ballroom Dancing
7-9pm Soccer Training
8-11pm Friendly Bridge
9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

Loy Krathong Night

10

7am Ladies Golf
8-10am Ladies Tennis
10.30am Aqua Aerobics
12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
6-7pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
7pm Latin American Dancing
7-9pm Soccer Training
8-11pm Friendly Bridge
9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

Wednes day



4

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

11

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

Thurs day



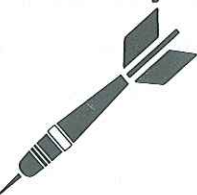
5

8-10am Ladies Tennis
9.30am Baby Swim Class
10.30am Aqua Aerobics
12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
6-7pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
6-9pm Squash Mix-In
7pm Ten-Pin Bowling - Cosmo Bowl
7-9pm Rugby Training
9-10pm Hockey

12

8-10am Ladies Tennis
9.30am Baby Swim Class
10.30am Aqua Aerobics
12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
6-7pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
6-9pm Squash Mix-In
7pm Ten-Pin Bowling - Cosmo Bowl
7-9pm Rugby Training
9-10pm Hockey

Friday



6

9.30am Aerobics
3-9pm BC Tennis Coaching
5-7pm Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
7pm Social Darts

Extraordinary General Meeting

Family BBQ starts - back lawn

13

9.30am Aerobics
3-9pm BC Tennis Coaching
5-7pm Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
6-9pm FAMILY BBQ
6pm Junior Squad Swim Training
7pm Social Darts

Surin Elephant Trip leaves BKK

Satur day



7

8am Junior Tennis
9am-12pm Squash Coaching
9am-1pm BC Swimming Coaching
8-11am Tennis Coaching
4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15

Family BBQ - back lawn

14

8am Junior Tennis
9am-12pm Squash Coaching
9am-1pm BC Swimming Coaching
4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15
6-9pm FAMILY BBQ

Surin Elephant Round - Up

Don't Forget !!

- Help your Club and make your views known at the EGM on Friday 6th
- That the Club is CLOSED except for ticket holders for the Guy Fawkes Night spectacular on Sunday 8th
- Sample the latest Beaujolais Nouveau crop at the special dinner and wine evening on the 21st!

15

11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3-5pm Volleyball
3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

22

11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3-5pm Volleyball
3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

Squash - Tony Austin Cup Finals

29

11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3-5pm Volleyball
3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

16

8am BWG Mahjong
9.30am Aerobics
6-8pm Squash Coaching
7-9pm Tennis Team Training
7pm Scottish Dancing - front lawn

23

8am BWG Mahjong
9.30am Aerobics
6-8pm Squash Coaching
7-9pm Tennis Team Training
7pm Scottish Dancing - front lawn

30

8am BWG Mahjong
9.30am Aerobics
6-8pm Squash Coaching
7-9pm Tennis Team Training

17

7am Ladies Golf
8-10am Ladies Tennis
10.30am Aqua Aerobics
12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
4-6pm Kids Swimming Class
6-7pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
7pm Latin American Dancing
7-9pm Soccer Training
8-11pm Friendly Bridge
9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

24

7am Ladies Golf
8-10am Ladies Tennis
10.30am Aqua Aerobics
12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
4-6pm Kids Swimming Class
6-7pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
7pm Latin American Dancing
7-9pm Soccer Training
8-11pm Friendly Bridge
9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

18

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

25

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

19

8-10am Ladies Tennis
9.30am Baby Swim Class
10.30am Aqua Aerobics
12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
6-7pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
6-9pm Squash Mix-In
7pm Ten-Pin Bowling - Cosmo Bowl
7-9pm Rugby Training
9-10pm Hockey

26

8-10am Ladies Tennis
9.30am Baby Swim Class
10.30am Aqua Aerobics
12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
6-7pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training
6-9pm Squash Mix-In
7pm Ten-Pin Bowling - Cosmo Bowl
7-9pm Rugby Training
9-10pm Hockey

Venues

Soi 15	NIST grounds
Soi Nares	Behind Bangrak Police Station
Cosmo Bowl	Central Plaza Rama III
Aerobics	Surawong Room
Golf	As advertised

20

9.30am Aerobics
3-9pm BC Tennis Coaching
5-7pm Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
6-9pm FAMILY BBQ
6pm Junior Squad Swim Training
7pm Social Darts

27

9.30am Aerobics
3-9pm BC Tennis Coaching
5-7pm Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
6-9pm FAMILY BBQ
6pm Junior Squad Swim Training
7pm Social Darts

St Andrew's Ball

Big Screen Poolside Movie Night

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

21

8am Junior Tennis
9am-12pm Squash Coaching
9am-1pm BC Swimming Coaching
4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15
6-9pm FAMILY BBQ

Ploenchit Fair

Beaujolais Nouveau Night

28

8am Junior Tennis
9am-12pm Squash Coaching
9am-1pm BC Swimming Coaching
4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15
6-9pm FAMILY BBQ

Sports - Contact the following:

Aquatics	Liz Beal	262-9351
Badminton	Anant	654-0002-29
	Leighrahathorn	
Cricket	Nick White	246-0832
Football	Matt Duke	545-5555
Golf	Bernie Adams	861-0608
Rugby	Jon Prichard	712-1650
Scuba	Cheryl Lamb	258-1382
Squash	Peter Corney	712-4398-9
Tennis	David Blowers	285-4721-2



shows' have a doubly deleterious effect in that they prevent both the BC and the Tennis Section from deriving much needed income from holding the event and equally damaging, they prevent other keen players from participating as all places on the team appear to have been filled. Not of course to mention the disruptive effect on the rest of the team with the consequent reduction of their enjoyment.

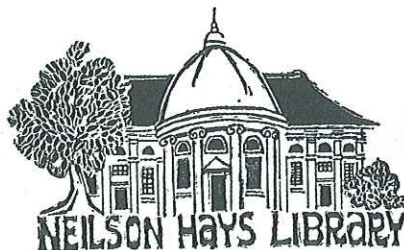
However, to opine will not put matters right and it is therefore with some reluctance that we have concluded that we

must now charge the full event charge to anyone who puts their name down for matches and does not give a minimum 24 hours notice of cancellation. This is only fair to those many players who regularly play for the team and who always manage to turn up on the day on time, come hell or high water.

So there we are.

Captain Flash

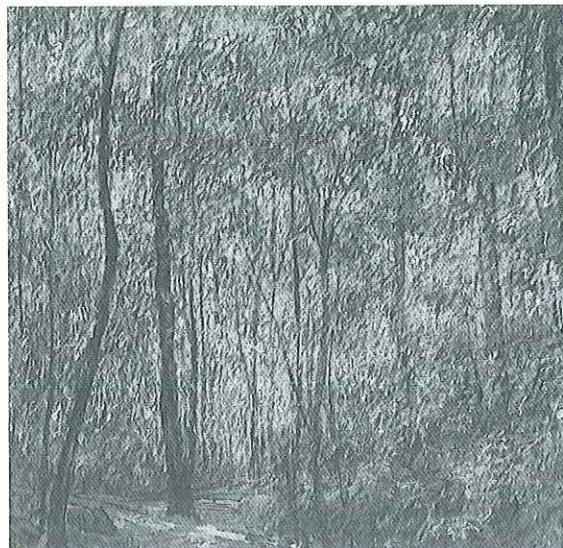
Riches of the Forest - until Thursday 26th November



Boonchai Methangkool, an artist who has devoted himself wholly to landscape painting to which he felt himself irresistibly drawn, will be exhibiting his most recent paintings of tropical forests and all their richness in the Rotunda Gallery of the Neilson Hays Library from the end of October until Thursday 26th November.

Boonchai has successfully exhibited his oils in Norway, France and Switzerland over the past three years. He works in intimate contact with nature and considers technique subordinate to sensitivity; he has taken the motif of Thai tropical forests and translated all the richness and space onto canvas.

For further information please contact the Neilson Hays Library on tel 233 1731 or Pascale Robert, Curator, on tel/fax 424 1566.



Hard to believe it is November already. Where has the year gone? Hope to see many of you at the Club's Loy Krathong and Guy Fawkes celebrations. There are a number of events forthcoming, so please check management news for events and dates.



Lisa Fitzpatrick - SRC

Swimming and Tennis coaching are continuing up to the end of this month. Please ensure your children are enrolled in these 4-week courses (you are only required to do this ONCE) and inform me (in writing) if you wish to withdraw from the course.

Mothers and Babies Swim classes have

resumed every Thursday at 9.30am (before Aqua Aerobics). This will continue until Christmas. Please come along and join in the fun.

Ballroom Dancing classes have proven to be very successful. Some 22 participants have waltzed, cha-cha-cha'd and jived their way around the Surawongse Room every Tuesday night. Due to its popularity, another course is likely to run next January/February. **Latin American Dance** starts on November 10th. This class is already full, but a waiting list has been placed at Reception. Again, if this class is as successful as the Ballroom Dancing, another course will be offered early next year. Thank you to Bangkok Dance and Sam Tseng for his help in organising these classes.

Belly Dancing classes will be starting at the end of October/early November (TBC) on a Wednesday night. Sign up at Reception.

With the rainy season almost over, we hope to have **Volleyball** on the back lawn every Sunday afternoon. The Aquatics Section will resume their **Big Screen Movie Nights** poolside from Friday 27th November (one a month).

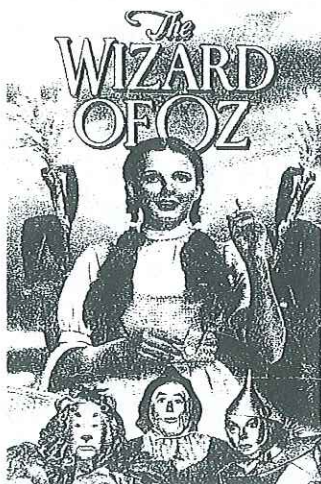
The **Tuesday Dolphin Swim** class has been tentatively postponed (at the time of writing) due to the small numbers registered. Please sign up for these activities if you want them to go ahead. Finally, don't miss any of the pre-Christmas events. The **British Club Ball** is not to be missed on December 12th. **Carols by Candlelight** on Wednesday 23rd December is a great night for all the family. Likewise, the **New Year's River Cruise** on the Chao Phraya is the best place to be for the spectacular fireworks display.

Lisa Fitzpatrick

Sport & Recreation Coordinator

The Wizard of Oz

A Family Musical Spectacular



Bangkok Community Theatre presents: One of the biggest family events of the year!
• Great fun for all ages and nationalities! • Performance in English

at The Bangkok Playhouse, 2884/2 New Petchburi Road (next to Charn Issara II)

Performances

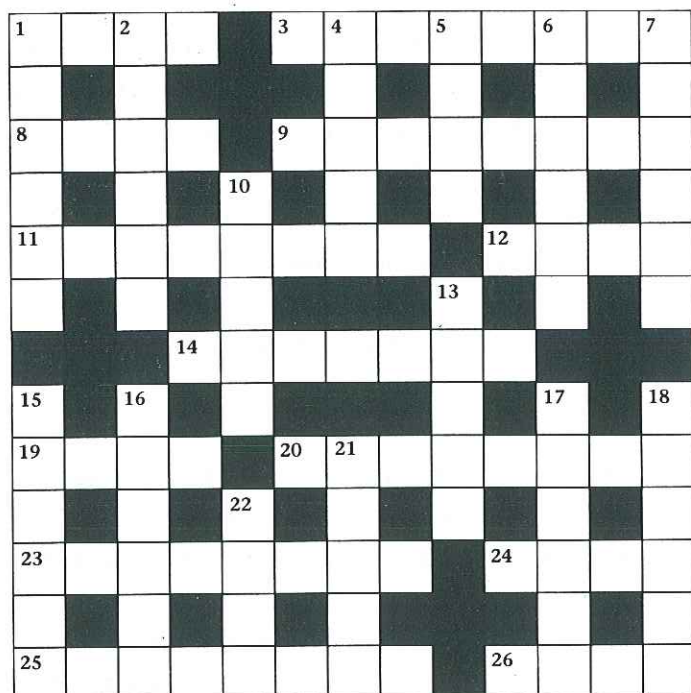
Friday 20th November, 7.45pm

Saturday 21st November, 5.30pm

Sunday 22nd November, 1.30pm and 5.30pm

Tickets available at Reception or from The Bangkok Playhouse
(Tel: 319 7641-4) or CSB, or for more information call 258 8495.

General Knowledge Puzzler



Clues

Across

- 1 Musician Elton _____
- 3 Ancient British Queen who led a revolt against the Romans
- 8 His pen name was "Elia"
- 9 World-wide web
- 11 Book and film — "The Ugly _____"
- 12 Kept by an apiarist
- 14 An Italian speciality
- 19 A girl who was once worth money in India!
- 20 "The Merry Widow" was one
- 23 Sweet white wine
- 24 "The last and greatest art — the art to _____." (Alex. Pope)
- 25 Battle at a London railway station?
- 26 Churchman known as the Red Dean

Down

- 1 The calendar we use
- 2 River dividing Yorkshire and Lincolnshire
- 4 This was "ALL" in Caesar's day
- 5 Expired
- 6 Horses' gait between trot and gallop
- 7 Degas was a French one
- 10 One of those in Sheridan's play
- 13 Star of the silent movies — _____ Bow
- 15 Popular piano solo — "The _____ Concerto"
- 16 "The rain falls also on the _____" (Bowen)
- 17 Uncle Joe of the Soviet Union
- 18 Conductor Sir Simon _____
- 21 Festive season entertainment in Britain
- 22 "Exit - pursued by a _____" (Shakespearean stage direction)

A wide-ranging crossword to test all areas of general knowledge. Clear out the cobwebs and spend an afternoon in the comfy chairs in the sala over a fruit shake or an evening over a beer or three in the Churchill Bar with this one; that should crack it.

Last Month's Solution



Guy Fawkes Night

MEMBERS - Please Read these Important Safety Regulations for the 1998 Guy Fawkes Night Sunday 8th November

1. The Club will be closed to all cars from midnight on Saturday 7th November to midnight on Sunday 8th November. Instead, members may use the AIA car park at 181 Surawongse Road.
2. As last year, the Club will be **closed to all members** from midnight on Saturday 7th November until 10 am on Sunday 9th November. **WHEN THE CLUB OPENS, ONLY MEMBERS WITH GUY FAWKES TICKETS WILL BE ALLOWED ONTO THE PREMISES.**
Members of the Club will support the security guards at all entrances onto the property to ensure compliance with this rule. This restriction is to guarantee that we do not extend the numbers we are licenced for at this event.
3. Children must be accompanied by an adult or, if in a group, then the nominated adult in charge of that group must enter the Club and stay with the group at all times.
4. **ABSOLUTELY NO FIREWORKS OF ANY DESCRIPTION CAN BE BROUGHT ONTO THE CLUB GROUNDS BY ANYONE OTHER THAN THE CONTRACTORS.**
5. There will be an ambulance on site by the Silom Gate and there will be clearly marked first aid posts on the back lawn and in the front car park.
6. There will be a fire engine on site by the workshops with hoses deployed ready for use.
7. There will be a fire post established next to the first aid post. There will also be a fire post close to the point where the fireworks are ignited, with water, sand buckets and fire extinguishers.
8. There will be a fine mesh net up to a height of 15ft above the crowd to collect debris and a rope to stop the crowd approaching the display area. There will be a 25m gap between the fireworks and the crowd.
9. Spectators will be positioned with their backs to the wind.
10. There will be nominated stewards in 'bibs' to help control the crowd.
11. All access points onto the front lawn will be closed off and manned by stewards.
12. All exits from the Club onto Silom and Surawongse Roads will be lit, manned and open during the display.

A Women's Weekend Investigating the Spirit of the Chao Phraya

Imagine experiencing the beauty, culture, history and ecology of Thailand's most important waterway, the Maenam Chao Phraya, up close aboard a 100-year old converted rice barge. Join the Magic Eyes Chao Phraya Barge Program and women from various cultural backgrounds, experiences and ages for a stimulating yet relaxing Women's Weekend on November 28-29. During the journey up-river and back explore rural communities and markets, participate in workshops, swim, canoe and watch the river float by. In the evenings watch the stars, sip wine and talk to new friends. Sleep to the sound of waves lapping the teak hull then rise with the sun to drink coffee in the crew's nest.

The trip cost is only 3,500 baht and includes food and accommodation. Space is limited and fills up fast! For reservations, maps or more information please contact Sue by phone on 439 4748, 439 4746 or fax 429 4754.

What a Balls-Up !

Well, we had several quality entries to describe what our Rusty might possibly have been grimacing about/saying to team-mate Eddie in this choice picture featured in September's issue. Captions, from members such as Leonie Vejjajiva, Steve Eaton, Niki Borisute and Tom Watson, included:

"No! I said grab the ball not the balls!!"

"So this is what they meant by a Rusty Nail."

"I thought this was a hair-raising game but this is ridiculous!"

Rusty: *"Jep!!"*

Eddie: *"The name's not Geoff, it's Marco."*

"I used to be a top handball player but I'm kinda rusty now."

"Mrs Bobbitt missed this one!"

"Another balls-up!"

"Sorry, Rusty, but I thought it was worth a try..."

"I'm out of practice these days, just don't get a chance to keep my hand in."

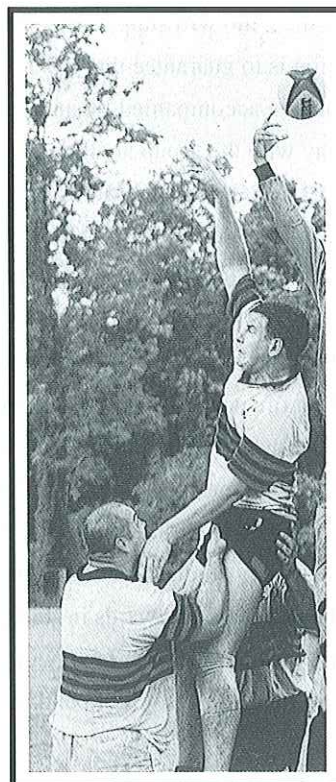
"Missed it... darling!"

"I said 'Stiff upper LIP', Rusty!"

"Hands up!"

"You've got great ball-handling skills there, Eddie."

"My ball.....zzZZ!"



And the winning caption: *"Your Love Has Lifted Me Higher"* (with apology to Rita Coolidge)

Step forward Tom Watson, winner of the bottle of Club plonk! Please contact me at Creative on 285 4721-2 to arrange the collection of your prize! And many, many thanks to the other members who submitted captions to the competition; it was a difficult decision.



Face painting, plenty of food, free-flowing drink and plenty of smiles at a Royal Dutch Society family day party in the Surawongse Room in early October

Jazz at the Alliance

The French Embassy in Thailand and the Alliance Française, Bangkok present:

**Accoules Sax
Street Jazz Band**

Friday, November 27, at Alliance Française, 29 Sathorn Tai. 20.00

Ticket: 150 Bht, available at Alliance Française

Note: 28 & 29 November, Phra Chan Road, European Street Festival. 16.00-19.00

What do you get when American street culture collides with multi-ethnic music from France? A big jazz sound and hip-hop attitude from this French band of six saxophonists and two drummers. This group is among the finest examples of the current French sound style collision.

This band first played the blues on a cold December night out on a street in Marseilles, France. Since then, the group has expanded, as has their repertoire, often making street festivals their stage. From the blues sounds of the '60s to the hypnotic trance sounds of today, Accoules Sax fuse them together brilliantly in their hiphop, modern fusion jazz.

Please contact: Alliance Française, Natacha Antolini, on tel: 213 21 22-23; fax: 213 20 64 for more details.

Red Hot Performances!

"An amusing and endearing night out for Bangkok's hungry theatre lovers..." How often have you seen the *Bangkok Post* rave about the Arts in town? Well they were unparalleled in their compliments about Bangkok Community Theatre's September production of Neil Simon's *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. at The British Club.



To quote *the Post*: "Powerhouse performances by all four members of the cast...", "Ms. Roy was simply stunning...", "Mr. L'Argent obviously enjoyed every minute on stage...", "Top marks to the costume designer..." and so on.

The cast of four was lead by Patrick L'Argent in the dual role of the show's Director and male lead, Barney Cashman. Chrystiane Roy played his counterpart, the sexually aggressive Elaine, in Act 1; Niki Thongborisute played the schizophrenic Bobbi Michele in Act 2; and Bonnie Zellerbach played the terminally depressed Jeanette in Act 3.

Professional as always, BCT carried the amusing "Red Hot" theme of the production into the chili pepper tickets, the poster, the die-cut programme and even the delightful menu and wine list on the tables. And the BC staff matched the theme with red and white tablecloths and flowers,

jalapeno dip and "passion" fruit pie for dessert. They obviously had a lot of fun with the production and so did the audience

The Last of the Red Hot Lovers played 3 nights to sell-out audiences and a room full of laughter. As the *Post* said: "The BCT made the most of this classy material proving, once again, that there is nothing amateurish about their productions."

If you missed it, make sure you catch their next production, *The Wizard of Oz*, at The Bangkok Playhouse in November. Details included in this month's Outpost.

Bonnie Zellerbach

Cast in order of Appearance



Patrick L'Argent as Barney
Patrick and his family have lived here in Bangkok since 1988. In these ten years he has appeared on stage in over 20 productions. You may have seen him in *The Mousetrap*, *Greater Tuna*, *Other People's Money*, *The Foreigner*, *Equus* or one of his other transformations. This is the third time he's directed for BCT, but the first time he's played the dual role of actor and director!

Chrystiane Roy as Elaine
Chrystiane graduated from the Conservatory of Dramatic Arts in Quebec City and moved to Bangkok all in 1997. In the past 12 months this talented Quebecoise has supported BCT as Props Mistress for *Godspell*, as Babette, the big-bottomed chef, in *Death at the Manor*, and now as Elaine in *RHL*. Do we dare ask what's next?



Niki Thongborisute as Bobbi
By day, Niki is a high-powered attorney, and by night, a talented thespian! *RHL* marks Niki's 3rd BCT performance with previous roles including Ginger Brooks in *Radio Daze* and Annabelle/Candy Lane in the recent murder mystery, *Death at the Manor*.



Bonnie Zellerbach as Jeanette
RHL marks Bonnie's 15th BCT production in 5 years! Her first on stage appearance in Bangkok was the 1994 production of Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite* on this very stage, so Bonnie feels like she's coming home with tonight's performance.



The Production Team

Patrick L'Argent, Chrystiane Roy, Kevin Moll, Bonnie Zellerbach, Lorna Doyle, Cathy Kell, Daryl Morrissey, Michelle Zielinski, Rungtiva E. Whisenand, Angela Mitchell, Pinut Libnukul, Frank Goudsmit, Rick Whisenand, Sarah Cassell, and so many others who pitched in and helped out at the last minute.

Letter to the Editor



To the Editor,

Letters to the Editor often focus on complaints - for some reason we seem to get more motivated to put pen to paper when we have a gripe. But this particular letter is one of sincere and grateful thanks.

Bangkok Community Theatre staged two productions at The British Club this summer: "Death at the Manor", an audience participation murder mystery which was staged in June, and "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers", a 3-act dramatic comedy staged in September. Both events were successful in large part due to the tireless efforts of the BC staff. Our hats go off to Khun Dong, Khun Sarakit, and the reception staff for their many long hours, cheerful help and unflagging energy. However, our deepest thanks go to Barry Osborne who not only leapt into the fray on the F&B side with creative menu & seating suggestions and joined the ranks of amateur thespians as a "plant" in the audience during the murder mystery along with his partner in crime, Tom Bain, but also saw to a myriad of other important details.

No matter what task we set him, Barry responds with a cheerful "can-do" attitude, and even more importantly, delivers on his promises. BCT has experience staging productions in venues all over town, and we recognize a true professional when we work with one. Barry, we thank you. Working with you is a real pleasure.

Angela Mitchell and Bonnie Zellerbach
Producers, Bangkok Community Theatre

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The Gentleman's Agreement

A short story in two parts by Margaret Miller

Somchai stifled a yawn and doodled on the paper in front of him as he looked at the people seated round the long table in the palatial board room. The meeting had been called by Mr Veerachai, eldest son of the founder and owner and present general manager of Regal Department Stores, to discuss plans for the forthcoming Christmas promotions. A small man, peering short-sightedly through thick glasses, he seemed lost in the huge teak armchair at the head of the table, but he controlled the meeting effortlessly and permitted no one to wander from the point under discussion. Beside him sat his daughter, Raviwan, who was also his very efficient secretary; and next to her sat Mr John, the company's art director. It was he who had requested that Somchai, one of his assistants, should attend the meeting since the art department was the heart and centre of the Christmas preparations. The heads of all the other departments and sections were also present, each with his or her own ideas of what was needed to make Regal Stores — and the Regal Rose in particular — the most lavishly decorated shops in town.

Somchai smothered another yawn and added a pair of large bosoms to his doodled figure. What a bore it all was! Always a stupid promotion for some reason or another — for no reason he could see except to encourage foolish people to part with their money! He was utterly indifferent to his work in the art department, but he was quick and clever, spoke good English and Mr John relied on him. These days a job is a job, I suppose, Somchai told himself, and even with such lousy pay it might be a step on the road to somewhere, the pride and joy — and only interest — of Somchai's life was a huge, powerful, gleaming motorcycle on which he was paying instalments every month. His burning ambition was to be a famous racer. The hours he spent at Regal Rose were just stretches of time to be filled in before he could be back on his bike again. Somchai glanced up and saw Raviwan frowning at him. Hastily he stopped his doodling, sat up straight and gave a good imitation of great concentration and interest in the proceedings. Mr John was

on his feet addressing the meeting. He was a tall, slim Englishman with tousled fair hair and, although only in his late twenties, already had experience in the big stores of London and New York before he came to Thailand. He radiated energy and enthusiasm, and there was no doubt at all that he was very talented — he had a perfect genius for using ordinary articles and materials in totally unexpected and exciting ways. Regal Rose's window displays and promotions were far and away the best in Bangkok.

"Right then," he said, "We are all agreed that the theme for Christmas will be Santa Claus and his reindeer. Each department will have a Santa figure and the sleighs which the reindeer are pulling will be loaded with the goods which are on sale in that particular department... Lots of scope there for individual talent, I think!" he smiled. "But for the toy department, I want to do something really special — something that used to be done years ago in the big London stores." He looked round the table at the expectant faces turned towards him. "We set up a room as a scene from a fairy tale — I would like to suggest Aladdin this year. The kids pay five or ten baht — we can decide on the price later — to come in and see the spectacle. As they leave, they meet Santa Claus who hands each one a present approximately equal to the value of the entrance fee. I tell you, it really gets the kids into the store. They just love it. And they sure get a thrill out of meeting Santa and telling him what they want for Christmas." Mr John's face shone with enthusiasm. "We'll get Charley Sen to be Santa — he was perfect in the part when we had him do the walkabout here last year. That is, if you agree, sir." He turned to Mr Veerachai.

Oh God, thought Somchai, withdrawing again entirely from what was going on around him. Not Charley! Charley Sen (born Cha Lee Sen) was a well known character in Bangkok with whom Somchai had enjoyed more than one night out on the town. Nobody seemed to know exactly how he made his living, but he and his brother Henley (born Hen Lee Sen) both had smart apartments and Henley had a pretty young wife in his. They seemed to live very comfortably indeed on the odd jobs that came their way. Rumour had it that they were not too particular about the

way they interpreted the law and it was popularly supposed that they had been behind more than one successful confidence trick. Both brothers exuded an air of respectable bonhomie that had deceived several unfortunate jewellers. But when Somchai had produced Charley the year before in answer to Mr John's appeal for a Santa Claus, everyone had agreed that Charley, with his portly figure and rich, fruity voice, was perfect for the part. Somchai nevertheless insisted that Charley enter into a 'gentleman's agreement' and refrain from operations in Regal Stores.

"Just you keep your sticky fingers out of this store!" Somchai warned him sternly. "It's my job that's at stake!"

"A gentleman's agreement is a gentleman's agreement!" Charley had replied grandly. "You can rely on me!" And he had kept his word, reserving his talents for the rival department stores around town.

"So, Somchai will contact Charley," Mr John's voice broke into his thoughts, "and we'll get the art department cracking on Aladdin's Cave right away!"

Mr Veerachai thanked them all and declared the meeting closed. As the heads went back to their various departments, Somchai muttered an excuse to Mr John and headed for the coffee-shop. He needed a beer! Reindeers and sleighs! Aladdin's Cave! Jingle Bells all day over the loudspeakers! Weeks and weeks of work for the art department! And what was it all about, anyway? Wasn't this a Buddhist country? What did the kids want with Christmas and Santa Claus?

"Christmas is for everyone," Mr John had told him earnestly. "It doesn't matter what your religion is — Christmas is for you! And especially for kids — every kid in the world!" Bloody nonsense! thought Somchai. Pie in the sky! Just an excuse for them to make more money, that's all. On the point of ordering a beer he remembered that Mr Veerachai — nosy bastard — was prowling around the store today. He settled for a coffee and a cigarette and sat back to dream of racing his motorcycle round a vast modern track: he was in the lead, thousands of fans cheering him on...

For the next few weeks, the staff in the art department worked at full pressure all day

and every day. The routine production of all the Santas, reindeers and sleighs went on. Polystyrene snowflakes by the thousand were turned out, not to mention sprigs of holly, poinsettias and Christmas bells. Somchai was fed up with the whole thing, especially Aladdin's Cave. He was fed up with making fiddly bits of false jewellery, fed up with stringing false pearls and bending bits of clear plastic to look like stalactites and stalagmites; and most of all he was fed up with the glowing enthusiasm of Mr John, utterly absorbed in his pet project.

But when it was just three weeks to Christmas, and Aladdin's Cave was ready to open, even Somchai was struck silent at the spectacle — he had to admit that it was a great tribute to Mr John's talent. Through a door in one corner of the toy department, where a gorgeously dressed Arabian Nights girl took money and issued tickets, the children passed into a dream world. The cave had been most cleverly constructed. Its walls gleamed as if the rocks were really and truly wet, and glittering stalactites hung from the roof, while stalagmites rose up from the floor. Trees made of sparkling crystal were hung with ropes of jewels and pearls, their smaller branches draped with bracelets and studded with rings whose stones flashed a myriad of colours. There were two huge, brass-bound treasure chests, their lids unable to close on piles of gold coins and brilliant uncut gems. In one corner, Aladdin (shapely Nitaporn from ladies underwear), splendid in yellow satin and pigtail, rubbed 'his' lamp for each batch of children, and a cunningly concealed projector threw the gigantic figure of the genie on to the wall of the cave, wreathed in real smoke. It was a masterpiece — even Somchai couldn't deny the fact. And as the children walked out of the cave, there was Charley, the fat and friendly Santa, handing each one a present and making a great show of getting him or her to whisper in his ear the secret of what they wanted on Christmas Eve.

From the moment the show opened it was a monumental success. Every child in Bangkok wanted to go to Aladdin's Cave — some lucky ones even went more than once. At times the queue of children stretched right from the toy department to the top of the escalators. Mr Veerachai meanwhile sat in his office studying the sales returns with an expression of complete satisfaction. Charley demanded — and got — more money as he sweated in his red suit from ten in the morning to seven at night. Mr John was in heaven! Everyone was happy!

Everyone except Somchai. The worst had happened. A decidedly unpleasant dealer had told him bluntly that unless the next instalment on the motorcycle was paid within three days, it would be repossessed. Somchai was aghast — his bike! His precious bike! He couldn't bear it! But where, oh where to get the money? He had known that the payment was overdue but surely that miserable so-and-so of a dealer could wait until pay day? "We get paid early at Christmas time," Somchai had pleaded. The miserable so-and-so was not impressed. "Three days," he repeated grimly. "Three days, or else..."

Somchai was buried in his wretched thoughts when he arrived at the staff entrance next morning to find Mr John waiting for him in a state of great agitation. "Ah, thank heavens you're here, Somchai," he exclaimed, "We're in trouble! The police have pulled Charley and Henley in for questioning in connection with that theft at Paragon Jewellers the other day. You'll have to take over as Santa."

"Me?" Somchai's voice squeaked with indignation. "You must be joking! Why me?" "No joke chum! You're quite a big chap for a Thai and with a bit of padding you can fit into that suit — we certainly haven't got anyone else at such short notice. Besides, you know the ropes — Charley's patter and all that... Come on, will you? It's only twenty minutes to opening time!" A furious Somchai was pushed and pulled into the red suit and the beard was stuck on to his face. Hell — how it itched! What a fool he felt! Just wait until he got his hands on that idiot Charley! Sulkily he sat down in Santa's chair in the corner by the exit, just as the first wave of kids swept into the cave.

Somchai knew it was the worst day of his life. He hated every minute of it. He muddled up the boys' and girls' presents, not to mention the age groups, and was soundly berated by a furious mother who indignantly returned a rubber baby-doll which he had given to her fourteen-year-old son. When he growled at the kids, "Well, and what do you want for Christmas?" they were frightened. Some of them even cried. And when one obnoxious brat tried to pull his bear, Somchai gave him a sharp nip, and the kid went off howling that Santa Claus had pinched his bottom. Somchai had just decided that he could not stand it for another moment when the Arabian Nights girl at the entrance put up the notice: *Break for Lunch — One Hour.* Thank God!



A few stragglers were still looking at the display. How he wished they would hurry up. A small girl and her mother were gazing in admiration at a small crystal tree that stood on a rock beside Santa's chair, the rings on the branches flashing fire in the dim light.

"Are they real, Mummy?" the child asked. "No darling, I'm afraid they're not," her mother replied, smiling. "If they were real, they would be much too valuable to be in here. They are all made of some kind of paste, I think, or glass. But they certainly look real..."

Her words echoed in Somchai's mind as he closed the door and stripped off his Santa gear. What a relief! Now for a quick beer in the coffee-shop. He glanced again at the little tree beside his chair — how right that woman was! They did look real! But he knew only too well that they were paste, and how the art department had sweated their guts out making the damn things. Still — they did look real... After a moment's hesitation he reached out and took three rings from a small branch at the back of the tree, then slipped them into his pocket. It wasn't stealing — he knew that they were worth only a trifle — and Mr John would gladly have given them to him if he had asked. Sure he would!

Find out what Somchai does with the rings from the Aladdin's Cave in the second half of this Christmas tale in next month's Outpost!

Four Divorces and a Quickstep!

Maybe I over-dramatise a little, but there's been a fair few humdingers in the married-partners-disagreeing-over-who's-right stakes during the Ballroom Dancing course that's been going on in the Surawongse Room this last few Tuesday nights!



A teacher's helping hand is often useful

Mind you, there's also been a terrific amount of fun, a great sense of camaraderie (read: everyone getting it wrong at the same time) and every now and then one of those moments of breakthrough, where you realise that you can actually do this dance thing, that makes it all worthwhile.

The long-suffering instructors from **Bangkok Dance** have been remarkably patient with some of the sow's ears they've been working with, getting the doubly-lefted of foot to count a 3-step for the waltz and a 4-step for the cha-cha-cha. Some couples have taken to it faster than others, as the pictures show, while some spend almost as much time talking about it as they do actually dancing!

There have been some wonderful quotes made on some of the evenings, including these choice remarks

"No, no, it's 4-2-3!"

"Good feet. Bad face."

"Shouldn't you cross your legs there, not open them?"

"He was hugging me so tight I couldn't cross my legs!"

"I dance much better on my own." "Oooh, so do I; you cover so much more ground." and, finally, my favourite from Steve Goode: *"Where's the wall?"*

Being the guinea pigs for this course, I think I can confidently state that we - the Class of '98 - would give the course a rousing vote of approval as having provided some of the funniest moments we've had in ages. Well worth the effort, and I'm expecting to try out some of this stuff on the dancefloor at the Christmas Ball next month!

Gaynor de Wit



Back to basics - without a partner



Couples getting there...



Steve & Marie do the Stroll while Anita and Ray discuss the waltz



"You tread on my foot again...!"
Sherry gives Martin what for



Gaynor holds her eyes at 11 o'clock
while the instructor, er, looks on



A waltz round the floor



David and Keiko letting rip, as Anita and Ray are still talking about it



"We're getting it!" Anita decks
the instructor, off-picture



"TA-DA!! Once round the floor
without colliding or getting stuck
in a corner!"



A well-earned break to laugh at all the others



"No wonder I'm not getting this; just LOOK what he's doing with his feet" - Marie

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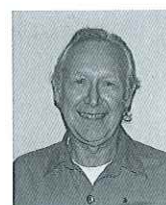
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If you have any questions about the British Club or if you have any suggestions, please call any the Committee Members above or the General Manager on 234 0247, 266 4734 or 266 0597 or email us on <britclub@loxinfo.co.th>

Spanish ¡Olla!

"This is going to be a disaster," I thought as I looked at the numbers booked for the Spanish Food & Drink Promotion arranged for the weekend of the 25-26th September.



But, always faced with adversity, I checked my stock and prepared to make this European extravaganza special.

As with all the food promotions I design the menu myself, taking pride and care choosing the right dishes which will inspire people's thoughts and make them feel they are in the actual country and surroundings. It doesn't just stop with the dishes, visual effects are always extremely important. The Spanish music was supplied by a friend in the know! The one and only Spanish dress for rent in Bangkok was lent to us by the Spanish Embassy, worn proudly by Khun Asadang, and she looked spectacular. The bunting and decorations were borrowed from BC stores. Decorating the room in itself is an operation, but it creates the ambience necessary for the evenings. As with all events I prepare for the inevitable - I have to remain sane! Friday saw the team preparing the food, showing the chefs how to cook the speciality dishes, arranging the room, putting up the bunting - all this for no confirmed bookings. I don't like to cancel events if possible, as it reflects on the catering staff and the team

and we always enjoy ourselves, though it's hard work. As a final last attempt to lift the numbers I toured the outside salas with Khun Asadang in her Spanish dress reminding people about the weekend.

Friday evening came as did the rain and our best nightmare: the numbers in the restaurant just grew and grew. Saturday night was an even bigger success with so many covers served; we were running out of food.

The Sunday carvery was changed to the alternative Spanish carvery and even this evening saw families locked together over tables laden with food. Parents allowing children to experience continental cuisine à la British Club. It was as much as we could have hoped for and more; our pitchers of home-made Sangria were flowing faster than we could make them and the staff were entering into the Spanish spirit of the evening. We served over 50 covers, having started with only a handful of bookings. There was only one complaint: "Where were my castanets?!"

Barry Osborne

(with help from Sarah Musgrove)



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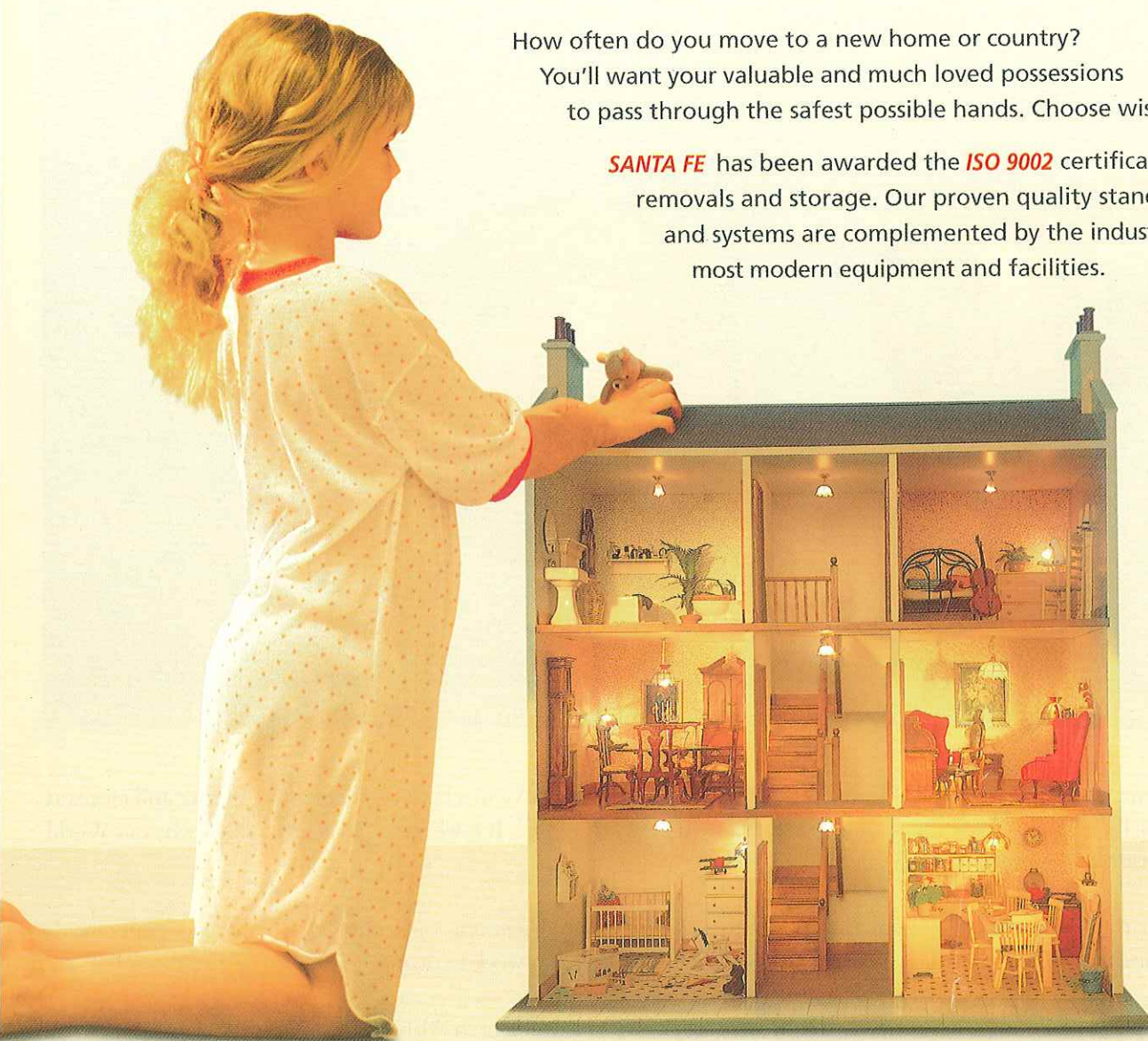

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