

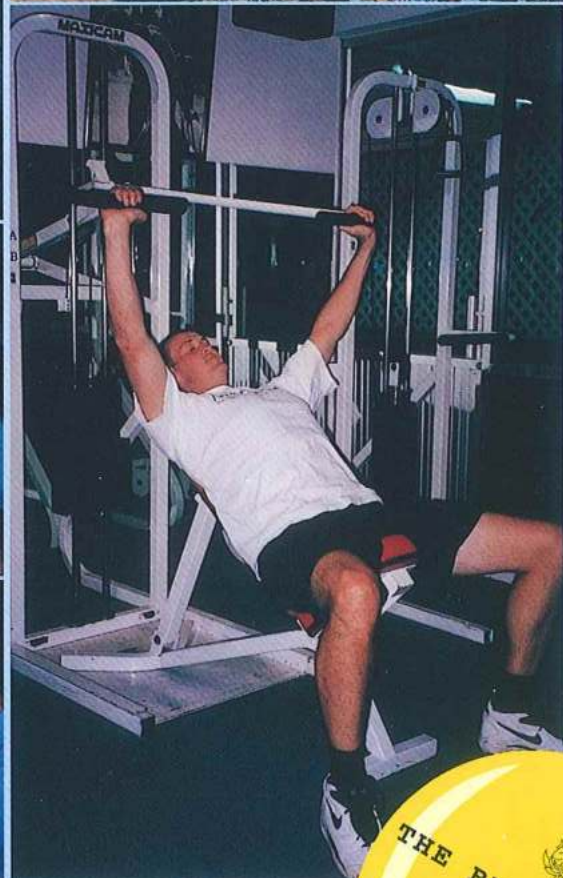


# Outpost

November

M A G A Z I N E

1999



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### The British Club

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### Contributions

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



### Outpost Magazine

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



### On the Front Cover:

Squash Handicap Champion David Eastgate

New members Chris & Shiao-Ling with sponsors Ged & Sarah

Bridge players Colin, Brian, Bob and Chris Shelagh Weekes and Diane Du Mont going zulu!

New member, Doug Allan, making use of the BC gym

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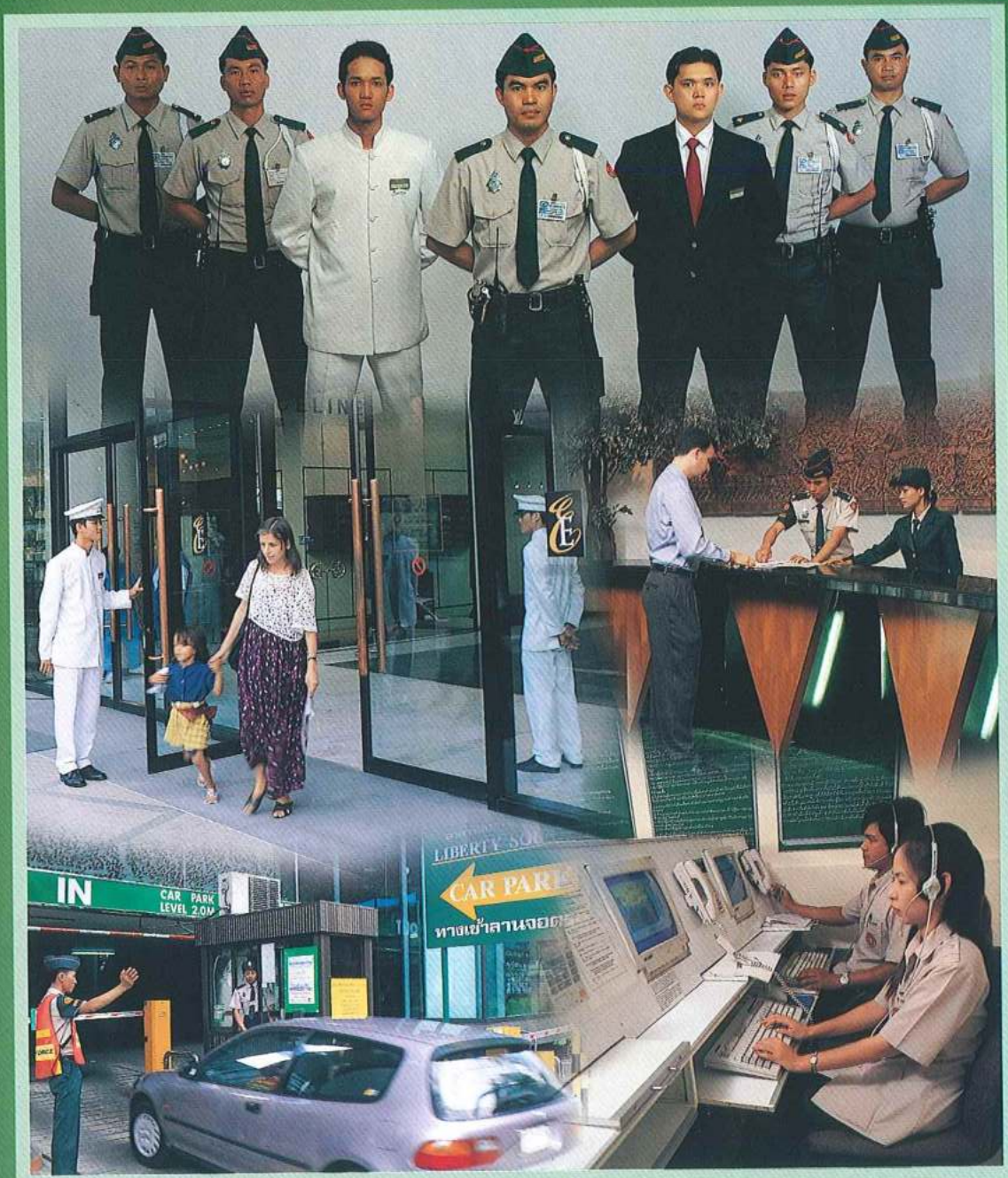
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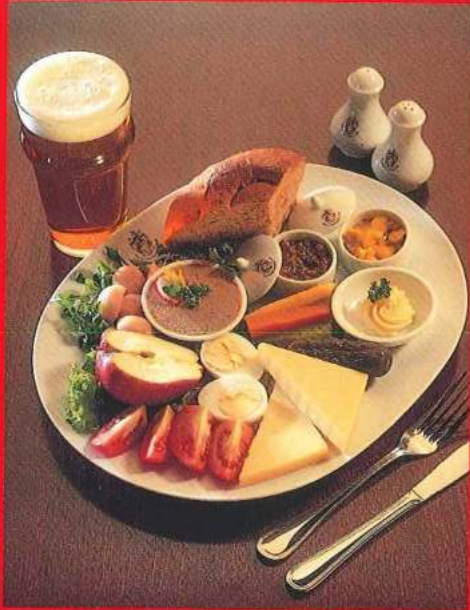
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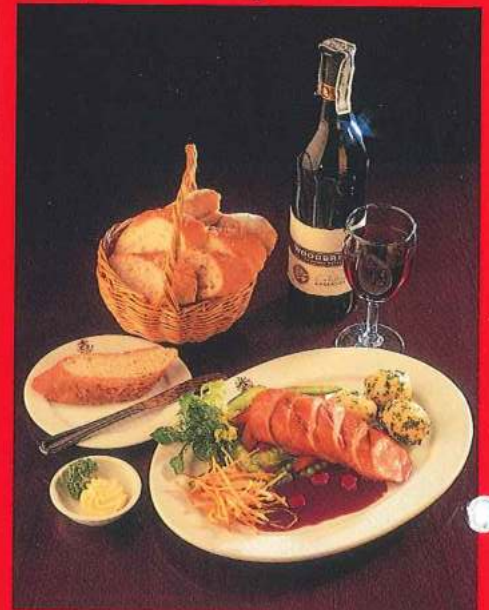
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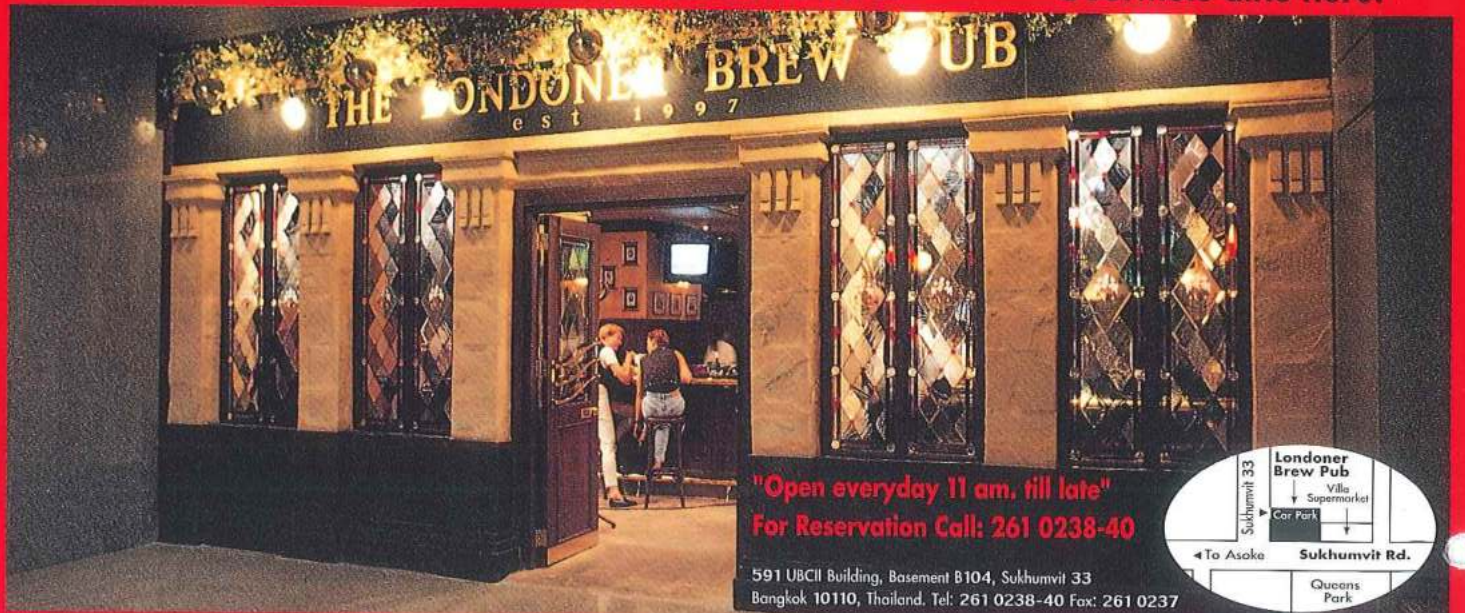
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I love November! My diary is full of engagements from Scottish dancing and live theatre to fancy French dining in Lords and the amazing Ploenchit Fair, not to mention a 10-day trip to England to see my family and deliver the Chrissy presents - which I haven't bought yet. I haven't even made a list. Frightening, but we've only got 50 shopping days left to Christmas.

New Members Night at the beginning of October was a riotous affair. The bar was packed with new and old members, jostling for position at the buffet table and keeping the bar staff on their toes. By the time I'd exhausted myself taking photographs of the new bunch, the buffet table was bare! A lesson well learnt for next time - indulge in the freebies first, take photographs second. For new members, it's a great evening for breaking the ice with other members and for chatting to the Committee and Club staff to find out what's happening at the BC. My husband was down there too, scouting for talent for the soccer section. If any of you new guys know the top end from the bottom end of a football, then I understand the soccer section wants you! As for me that evening, well besides standing around starving, I was waiting, camera ready and with bated breath, for a certain new Aussie member to sashay through the pub doors garbed in tight black pants and cuban heels. Among our new members (according to the New Member Information Forms) is the *current* Latin American Ballroom Champion of Thailand and Southeast Asia. (Can this really be true or was it just a bit of tomfoolery and artistic licence in the form filling?) I was seriously 'wowed' and dying to meet him. To my disappointment he didn't show, but for me and all the other dance-loving members of the BC, I'll try and catch up with him later for an interview - and some free lessons! The annual Surin elephant round-up is fast approaching and I thought I'd make a plea now to all those attending to be ready with your cameras, and to let me have copies of your photos. Perhaps one of you hardy, adventurous souls will do an article for a future edition of *Outpost*. I really would appreciate it.

New in this month's issue is the puzzle on page 27. Take time to practice on this one as next month there'll be another double grid puzzle with prizes for the first two correct entries. Margaret Miller, our puzzle compiler, mentioned to me that members used to contribute mathematical problems, number games and brain teasers to keep readers amused. Perhaps some of you more numerate members may like to do this again?

Finally, my thanks to Mrs. Carolyn Tarrant MBE, Honorary Chairman of BCTFN, for letting us have an article on the Ploenchit Fair being held on Saturday, 20 November. Do mark your diaries with this date as the Fair is an exciting day out, a great place to buy your Christmas cards and presents, and the money raised helps support the needy of Thailand. See you there.



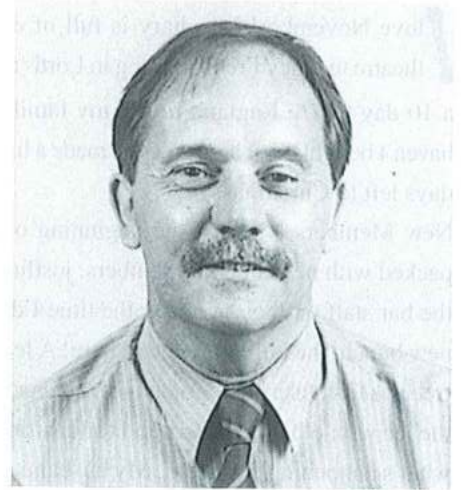
The Editor

**Sherry Conisbee**  
Editor

**A**s I write this message (10 October) for the November issue of the Club's magazine, the Surawong Sala upgrade has still not been completed. The project was supposed to have taken four weeks but currently we are up to eight and a half weeks and still going! As I mentioned last month, we have had numerous problems with the sandstone floor tiles and in addition the roof beams had to be strengthened. By the way, there's no truth in the rumour that the roof is about to fall down! I hope that once the new furniture arrives and the Sala is fully operational again, that the results will be worth the wait and members will be able to watch tennis and enjoy the outdoor comfort of the sala in peace. My apologies go to all members for the delay in re-opening and for any inconvenience it may have caused.

November sees some of the best events on the Club's calendar. Guy Fawkes Night at the Club on 7 November is always spectacular and an event not to be missed, then there's the (fully subscribed) trip to Surin to see the elephant round-up. This is one of those 'must-do-once-at-least' trips. The Loy Krathong family evening is also very special and then, if all of that is not enough, we host the St. Andrew's dance practices every Monday in November on the front lawn, and there are five Mondays in November this year!! All Club members and members of the St. Andrew's Society are welcome to attend the practices.

Tickets for the Christmas Ball on 11 December are on sale now. Please hurry as the 500 plus tickets always sell quickly. Finally, to see the century out, we have the BC cruise to watch the fantastic display of fireworks on the river. This New Year's Eve we will also be having a relaxed, casual family evening to welcome in the New Year at the Club, so for anyone who is still in Bangkok and has nothing planned, then why not join us.



Tom Bain - General Manager

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

**Thomas Bain**  
General Manager





Ooops, what a blunder - a photo in last month's *Outpost* was wrongly captioned! The fit-looking bunch pictured here are in fact the dream team from the Londoner Brew Pub who were the winners of the inaugural Tug of War Competition held at the BC last August. The miscaptioned photo in the last issue was the team from The Barbican who put up a good fight, but not good enough! Thanks to David Williamson of the Londoner for pointing this out - and I reckon the BC GM owes everyone a pint for the error! - Sherry

## **St. Andrew's Dance Practices** start 1 November

Join us for a reeling good time at the Club every Monday in November, starting on Monday, 1 November. The annual "Beat the Retreat" is on Wednesday, 1 December and the Post-Ball breakfast starts at the Club at 6.00am on Saturday, 4 December.

## **Curried Theatre**

12 & 13 November

'Hot Currie Theatre' of Singapore proudly presents 'The Expat Wife', a new comedy of expatriate proportions! Starts at 7.30pm in the Suriwong Room of the BC on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th November. The price is B750 which includes a curry buffet. This will be a thoroughly entertaining evening so why not book now at Reception.

## **Surin Elephant Round-up**

19/20 November

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

## **Loy Krathong**

21 November

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

## **Chateau de Meaume Wine Dinner**

26 November

Join us in Lord's Restaurant for a special 5-course dinner with a difference. A specially selected wine from the Chateau de Meaume Vineyard in France will accompany each course. So you know, Chateau de Meaume is a French vineyard but British-owned. Alan and Sue Johnson-Hill will give a talk about the wines on offer, and special pre-Christmas prices will be available to diners. The cost is B850 and this includes a glass of brandy. Limited space is available so please sign up quickly at Reception. The evening is sponsored by Khun Tom of PTK Marketing and Management.

## **Hansel & Gretel at the BC**

4-6 December

Bangkok Community Theatre presents Hansel & Gretel, an interactive children's play for the young and young at heart! The show will be performed in the 'Suriwong Room' twice daily at 2.00pm and 4.30pm and refreshments (not included in the ticket price) will be available before and after the show. Tickets are B200 for adults and B150 for children. Sign up at Reception. (Also see page 15.)

## **British Club Christmas Ball**

11 December

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

## **Christmas at Lords**

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

## **New Year's Eve River Cruise**

All aboard Tubtim 1 and Tubtim 2 for our traditional cruise along the river. If you are in Bangkok, it's the best place to view the spectacular firework displays. Tickets are strictly limited so book early. Contact reception for further details. Tickets go on sale on 15 November. Over 14s only for safety reasons.

## **New Year's Eve Family Affair**

If you're not much of a sailor and you wish to enjoy a family celebration at New Year, why not join us at the Club for a family barbecue and disco poolside. Reservations accepted from 15 November. Book early for this one!

## **Obituary**

**Col. Hugh Docherty**  
Passed away 26th August, 1999

Col. Hugh Docherty, Chairman of The British Club from 1972-1976, sadly passed away in England on 26th August, 1999 aged 79 years.

Hugh was a colonel in the British army and served as Staff Officer in the Bangkok Head Office of SEATO (South East Asia Treaty Organisation) founded in the mid 1950s. During this time, Hugh was a regular visitor to the British Club and an active member, very interested in all aspects of Club life. He left Thailand on his retirement from SEATO, but for several years after he returned each year for the annual Christmas Ball at the Club. This was a measure of his loyalty to the British Club, and for the life he so enjoyed and appreciated here in Thailand.

On behalf of the many British Club members who remember him fondly, our sincere and heartfelt condolences go to his wife, Joan, and the rest of his family and friends in England.

**Sherry Conisbee**  
Editor



# The Big Scrum

The annual "Pink & Black Rugby Ball" held recently at the Grand Pacific Hotel marked another brief chapter in the colourful history of the British Club Rugby Section.



Rileys Pub and Cafe owner Mrs. Surindar Morgan (left) receives a thankful hug from the well-padded chairman, Jon Prichard, whilst Pub Manager Khun Nee and Mr. John Morgan hand over the sponsorship cheque.

The highlight of the evening was Chairman Jon Prichard confidently delivering his annual address to a highly respectful audience, cowering from a barrage of bread rolls and other missiles, thrown by most of the 230 guests. Sensibly Jon had come well prepared, sporting an ice hockey goal keeper's protective wear, complete with helmet and (unnecessary) padding for the testicles. If only our aim was as good in the lineouts.

Predictably, the evening started late with a collective reluctance of the drinkers to shift into the dining area. This delay in getting something solid into the bellies seemed to have slightly impaired our master of ceremonies, Mr Bruce Jackson, who became more like Steinbeck's Lennie than the acerbic Canadian we know and love. David "Fish" Salmon, was given one of the longest send-offs in sporting history, certainly outstripping the likes of Bradman and Barry John.

The Rugby Section is saddened by the imminent departure of "Fish". Voted Club man for his magnificent contribution to the rugby team this year, both on and off the field. Fish will be sorely missed. If there is anyone else out there who can cajole 20 delicate bodies onto a rugby field by the airport for a 2:00pm kick-off, please give us a call asap.

The disco proved to be a huge success and the dance floor was packed well into the

wee hours. It was refreshing to have a DJ who knew the age of his audience (old) and played the music of our younger years, instead of subjecting us to the mindless throbblings of "house". Roger Fitzgerald could swing to Bill Haley, Bruce Hill could jump to Madness while those without bald heads and large stomachs enjoyed more

contemporary sounds after the older generation had passed out.

The most pleasing aspect of the evening was the very generous sum of 50,000 baht that was raised for "Baan Rachawadee", a home for mentally and physically disabled children in Pakkret. The Home has asked us to purchase an industrial washing machine. The Rugby Section and Baan Rachawadee would like to thank all those who contributed.

The Rugby Section is greatly appreciative of our sponsors, **Rileys Pub, Cafe and Sportsman's Bar** (Soi Nana Sukhumvit), and we would like to thank **Surindar Morgan** for her support of our club.

We encourage all BC members to stop by Rileys' and take advantage of their big screen for major sporting events.

Special thanks should also go to **Vinno**, a doyen of generosity, who picked up the tab for the pre-dinner drinks.

**Andy Davies**



David 'Fish' Salmon says: goodbye from me!



Andy Davies explains about the charity donations. Is that a frog in the mouth expression or what?



The MC Bruce Jackson at an early stage in the evening - he was not using Duracell batteries!!

# BCTFN explained

**C**ontributions to Thai charities by members of the British Community in Thailand reach back to the war years.



In 1968 the United Kingdom Committee for Thai Charities (UKCTC) was formed to organise and run the Ploenchit Fair and disburse the funds there raised throughout the subsequent year. Committee members personally visit the charities, ensure the smooth running of the projects and the application of funds. Over the years the UKCTC has given direct help to groups in need through the provision of various basic necessities and equipment to improve health care, nutrition, education, agricultural projects, the disabled and self-help schemes throughout Thailand. The list of recipients of donations is endless and includes charitable funds, foundations, institutions, hospitals, schools and many other needy groups. The Ploenchit Fair is the only UKCTC fund-raising event at present. Over 2,000 members of the British community voluntarily organise and run over 75 stalls and British companies donate goods and materials and help to meet the costs of the Fair. Last year Ploenchit Fair raised over 5.6 million baht when 22,000 people joined us in the Embassy gardens for the event. Earlier this year, Foundation status was approved by the Ministry of Interior and the British Community in Thailand Foundation for the Needy (BCTFN) - the successor to the UKCTC - was formed under the patronage of the British Ambassador, Sir James Hodge. This change ensures the Trust is fully in line with Thai legislation and will strengthen our ability to continue United Kingdom support for the needy in Thailand.

## The magic of Ploenchit Fair ■

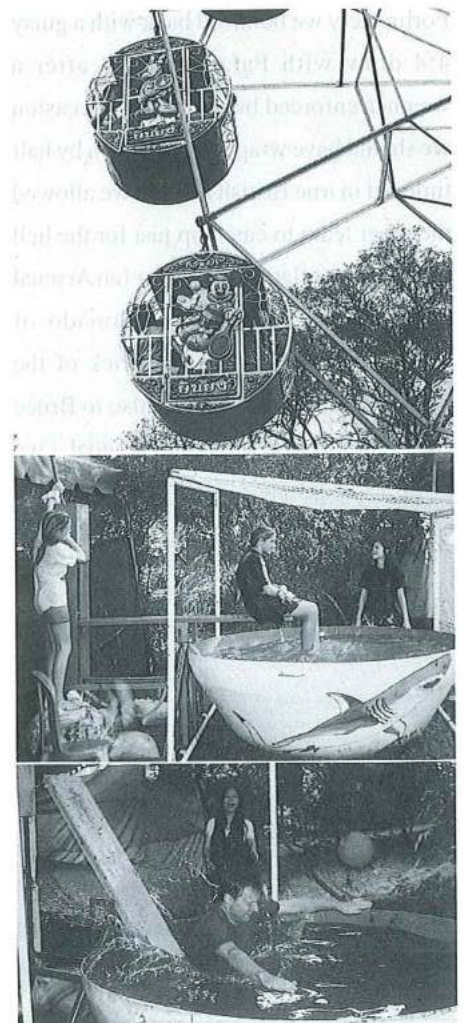
The British Community's annual blockbuster fund-raising event will be held on Saturday 20th November 1999, 10.00am - 5.00pm. Everyone is invited to make this the biggest and best fun-fair ever.

The magic words 'Ploenchit Fair' conjure up nostalgic smiles at the thought of the traditional British Community's annual moment of glory. You'll meet everyone you know at the Fair during the day and especially on the Back Lawn in the afternoon, where the Crown & Anchor pub, Champagne & Wine Bar, Guinness, Bobby's Arms and Angelini's, amongst others, feed and refresh thousands whilst enjoying our afternoon of entertainment. As usual, the closing of the programme will be a jazz concert from Thailand's top saxophonist Khun Tewan and his band. This year, Dr. Penguin's Magic Circus will be joining us - with special performances for the kids in their own Children's Theatre. The theme is a typical British fairground with lots of games of chance, stalls selling produce and inexpensive goods in Petticoat Lane, a Ferris Wheel for the kids, Treasure Island, Bingo and loads more. There is something for all the family, young and old, and our high-street favourites, Marks & Spencers and Boots, will have special items on sale. Most British companies in Thailand will be with us at the Fair - would you recognise the Standard Chartered Manager in the Water Drop stall, or how would you like to take your chances with a pistol and your friendly insurance man

from CGU? There are lots of donated prizes to be won on all the stalls and several airline trips including a British Airways holiday in London and a Thai Airways flight in the Grand Raffle. Castrol/Honda have two motorbikes up for grabs and there are hundreds of bottles of whisky on Adrian's Bottle Stall. It's a full family day out - so do join us and bring loads of cash (beware pickpockets) knowing that all money raised will be donated by the BCTFN to Thai charities.

The British Ambassador, Sir James Hodge, will open his gates at 10.00am - please do join us, it's an event not to be missed. Come in a taxi if you can and bring plenty of shopping bags to take home your prizes. For further details of the Fair or BCTFN, please call Carolyn Tarrant on 390 0797.

**Carolyn Tarrant**  
Honorary Chairman, BCTFN



# You Can't Win Them All!

It had to happen - after an impressive string of victories, the BC Casuals were finally beaten 5:2 by new team ITV in the Social League. What can we say? ITV were young and fit; BC were not so young and far from fit.



The training gang gather around Gez Doran, broken leg and all!

The match was fairly physical and Tony Distin suffered a nasty back injury which will keep him off the field for some weeks. Fortunately we bounced back with a gutsy 4:4 draw with Patana School after a weather-enforced break. On this occasion we should have wrapped up the win by half time but in true British fashion we allowed the other team to catch up just for the hell of it! Congratulations to Junior (an Arsenal supporter and football aficionado of course) for the first BC hat-trick of the season in this game. Thanks also to Bruce Darrington for taking a turn in goal - we

must teach Bruce the current rules of football some time.

For all section members who keep turning up for the weekend fixtures, please don't lose heart. It may be difficult to get a full game now due to the number of subs we have, but once the Farang League starts and we are fielding two teams every week, there will be plenty of football for everyone.

Training on Tuesday evenings at the BC continues to be well supported. Maybe it's the new coloured bibs or the chance of free curry and beer afterwards, but long may

the support continue.

The Farang League looks to be up and running for a start later in the year after the problem of getting volunteers to organise it. Not an easy job at the best of times. Hopefully the fixture list will be available next month and will be posted on our notice board.

Our tour party is off this weekend (22 Oct) to participate in the Phuket International Cup and hopefully we can improve upon our performance last year when we were a creditable last place in the competition. By the time you get to read this, the tour will be over and a full report will follow in the December issue.

If the rain ever stops in Bangkok we may get to play a bit more football over the next month!

*Enjoy your football,*  
**The Gunner**

## Match Result Round-up

### 27 Sep: Casuals vs ITV

Casuals lost 5:2 with BC goals from Chris Power and Junior.

### 10 Oct: Casuals vs Patana

Casuals drew 4:4 with BC goals from Junior (3) and Suradej.



After the football, the food - courtesy of BC catering



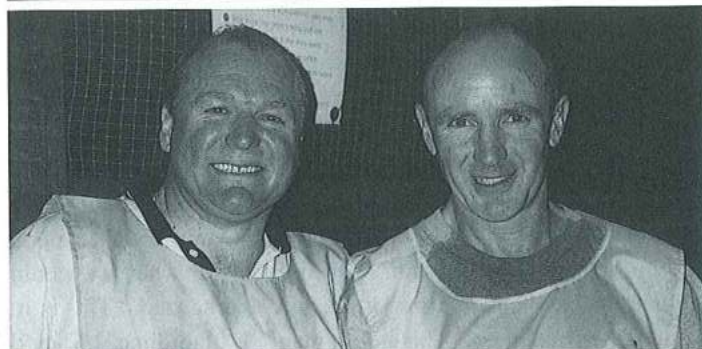
Adrian and Lucie Colman. "I missed the football but the curry is good!"



New BC member Jim Vessey with his mind on anything but football



A rose between two thorns, Paul? When does the beer drinking start?



BC stalwarts Stuart Edwards and Ray Hughes. Is yellow really their colour?



Colin Hastings points out his younger brother in the BC football archives (just joking Colin)

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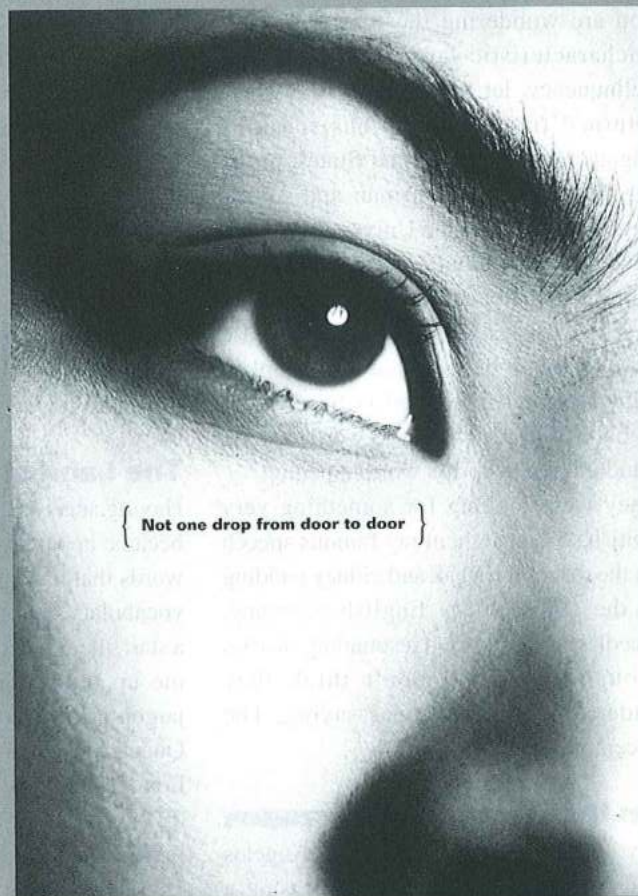
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# Goodface Does America

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



"Well hello there, y'all, how'd you folks lahk my noo Texan drawl?" (chuckle, chuckle). Not bad, eh? If it wasn't for me bowler hat, monocle and tweed suit, I'd pass for a genuine redneck any day. In case you are wondering the reason for this uncharacteristic lapse into linguistic delinquency, let me explain. I have just returned from a prestigious speaking engagement in the United States, at the invitation of the Chairman and Acting Grand Supremo of the University of Mud Creek, Texas, Alumni Association's Anglo-American Friendship Committee. Not exactly the Royal Geographical Society I'd have to admit, but who am I to complain with all expenses paid and a US\$5,000 fee to boot. Why that must be worth a good hundred pounds if it's worth a penny!

They were looking for something very British so I gave them my famous speech on the role of the steak and kidney pudding in the 19th century English economy. Needless to say it was a resounding success though actually I don't think they understood a word I was saying. The accent you know.

## On the Warpath

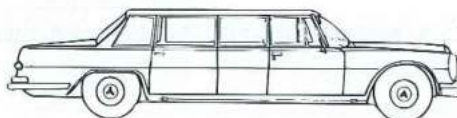
My itinerary took me first to Los Angeles and on the plane over I was perusing a magazine and noticed an article entitled "Travelling Tips for Visitors to America in 1830". "Stay on the well marked trails,"

it read, "don't stray into hostile territory because the Redskins are in an uproar and the Sioux and the Arapahoe are on the warpath. Keep well away from the Eastern Plains because of stagecoach hold ups and dangerous crossfire from feuding bandits" Well, I thought, it's a jolly good thing it's 1999 and there won't be any of that nonsense.

No sooner had I put down the magazine than the coloured gentleman sitting next to me said, "Yo man, this your first time in LA? Well listen up. Keep on the main roads, d'yer hear? Stay out of Watts 'cos the brothers goin' crazy down there an' the Cripps and the Bloods been popping caps, you dig? An' don't you all go near East LA, man, cos you get car jacked there man, or caught up in some drive by shooting, you know what I'm saying man?" Great Scott! I thought. The bloody Yanks haven't improved a thing in a 170 years! When the plane landed I looked anxiously out of the window half expecting to see hordes of screaming savages pursuing the plane down the runway.

## The Land of the Big

Having survived this first scare it quickly became apparent to me that there are two words that have no place in the American vocabulary – subtlety and moderation. For a start, there was the car they'd sent to pick me up, known in authentic American jargon as a "limo". At first I thought the Queen Mary had slipped her moorings at Long Beach and drifted into the arrival lane of the airport. There was room enough inside this vehicular behemoth for a



battalion of grenadiers with full kit and field kitchen but I was the sole occupant. The driver somehow managed to guide this ridiculous tub out onto the motorway, and then we were off. We went from one freeway to another which intersected with another freeway taking traffic from the first freeway back to the third so they could reach the slip road from the first freeway down to the second freeway and then round again. I asked the driver when we would arrive in the city and he said, "This is it. This is LA man!" Extraordinary! They'd obviously been so keen to get all these roads laid down by the time they'd finished there was nowhere left to build the houses so everybody spent the whole time driving around the freeways.

Meanwhile the chauffeur seemed intent on striking up a conversation. Not being in the habit of conversing with the hired help, when the insolent scoundrel asked me where I was going, I put him firmly in his place and replied, "If it's any of your business young man, I'm going to Texas." But this proved to be a grave error. I only found out later that every American is just itching to tell you his life story including intimate details of medical problems and personal relationships. Once you open the door a crack, they're in and nothing can stop them! "Texas? Why one of my wife's cousins on her father's side is from Texas. Yessir! Course she had to move out when her back started playing her up so I said, 'Hell woman, you just come and stay with us.' But my wife, not the one with the cousin cos she ran off with a professional wrestler, well she didn't like it, so..." And on and on and on until at last we arrived at the hotel.

### Yanky Efficiency

Once in the hotel the wonders never ceased. The room was about the size of two football pitches and all for less than you'd pay for cubicle sized accommodation in the worst part of King's Cross. The water mains must have been directly piped into Old Faithful because when I turned on the shower I got a jet of high pressure, searing hot water which knocked me across the bathroom. It took me a good half an hour to battle my way through the steam and spray to get this monster under control. Then, feeling a bit chilly after my shower, I turned on the heater. It sounded like a

thermo-nuclear plant coming on line with great clanking and wheezing noises but once it was running at full throttle the room heated up like an oven within the space of a minute. I swear if I'd been holding a chicken it would have roasted in my hand! Battling the first symptoms of dehydration and heat stroke I managed to crawl gasping to the machine and turn the dial in the opposite direction but I'd barely got halfway back across the room before my teeth were chattering and my skin was turning blue as this fiendish contraption belted out an icy wind which would have frozen the toes off a penguin.

Thanks to my hardy British constitution I survived this first encounter with American over-efficiency and made it on to Texas for my appointment where I faced my greatest challenge – the "all 'merican dinner". But more about that another day, maybe..... Now you folks have a nice day d'yer hear? (Chortle, chortle).

**Maj. Henry Goodface (Rtd)**

*Written and contributed by  
Damian Jaume (J79)*

---

## Bangkok Community Theatre

merrily presents

### HANSEL & GRETEL

at The British Club  
4-6 December 1999

*performances at 2.00pm and 4.30pm*

Magic and mime, clowns and colourful costumes! Although designed for the under 10s, the child in everyone will enjoy this unique type of live theatre, which stimulates the imagination and involves the audience in the action.

**Tickets available at Reception from mid November.**

**Price: B200 for adults and B150 for children**

**For more information call:**

**Bangkok Community Theatre - 258 8495**



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## Magic Eyes Chao Phraya Barge Program

One day adventure on the Chao Phraya River!  
**November 27, 1999**

Come aboard our renovated rice barge and cruise to Pathum Thani. On the way visit a local Thai market and discover its cultural significance to Thailand. Learn how to cook a delicious Thai meal and visit Wat Pa Lom, famous for its Asian Open-Billed Storks.

This is a non-profit organisation, and proceeds go to partially fund underprivileged Thai school students to enjoy our programs.

**For more information contact:**

**Bridghid or Gonthong**

**Tel: 439 4748, 439 4746 Fax: 439 4754**

# Through the Lens

If proof is needed that members enjoy themselves down at the Club, then here it is... two pages of photos taken in October of members and staff doing what they do best. In the case of members, this is eating and drinking!



Doug Allan - a glutton for punishment



Angela and Lisa from BCT (with Damon) plotting their next play



Nice hand, Judy, but I should count your cards...! This group applied their own rules to Bridge. Dealer Ken thought it fairer to deal the girls more cards than the boys, and Liz, when prompted for the third time for her bid, replied "Do you think we should order some chips?"



Judy Turner just couldn't keep away. Here with the Fitzs.



After a closely fought league match, in which K. Yuharet pipped Martin in a tie-break.



Janet and Brian Weavin with the egg 'n' chips glow



Committee man Bernie teaches the Chairman to sit



Patiently awaiting a BC all-day, 5000 calory fry up



Roderick's favourite spot at the bar

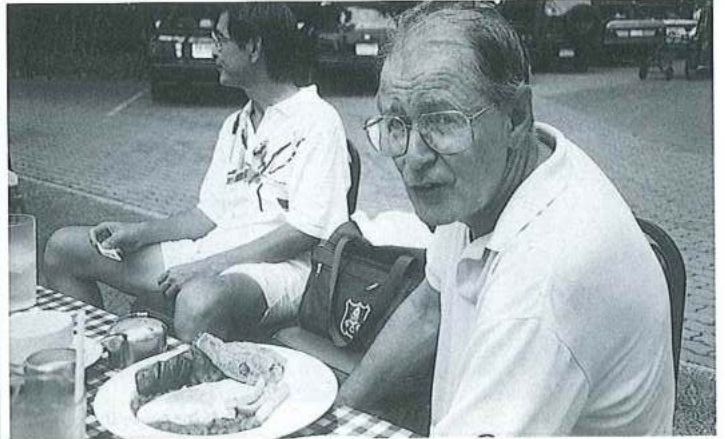


Damon gets to go home, sometimes





All for one, and one for all! (Committeers, David, James and Chris)



Bruce knows how to keep fit and healthy



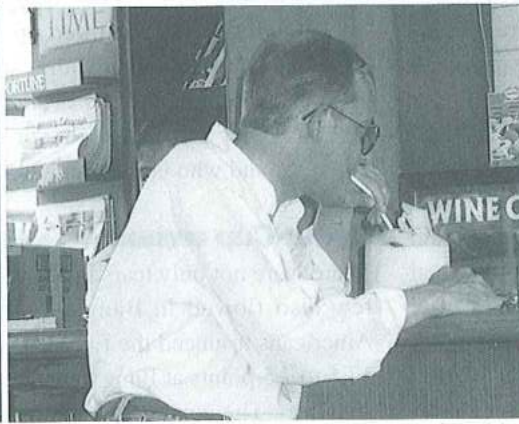
Bernie and Charles with their golf handicaps (*I know I'll be shot! - S.*)



The BC girls with new and old members in the Churchill



Brian and Gaynor mid flirt!



Steve Eaton in a rare moment drinking something non-alcoholic!



No, not a punch-up - this is spoofing



Team talk and nosh-up at the Football Curry Social



Your weight problem starts here



# Matchplay Time

It's matchplay season! Throughout August and September we were counting those holes! It culminated in the final of the matchplay competition and the Ryder Cup. But first things first...



Ryder cup presentation



Prize winner Bridget

## Niblicked

The Pattaya GeeGees managed to lick us in the annual Niblick matchplay competition held over two days at Green Valley, Rayong and Khao Kheow. We were three holes down after the pairs competition on the first day and the margin widened after the singles competition on the Sunday. There was a memorable encounter between Andre and Bernie and Teresa and Catherine. However, the women finally humbled the men on the 18th after a seesaw match. Vice Captain Bernie Adams presented GeeGees Captain Teera with the Niblick for the second year running.

## Matchplay Final

Congratulations to Tony Jeffreys and Hazel Fazackerley, winner and runner-up of the first Club matchplay competition. Both did exceptionally well to make it to the final after playing six rounds of hard golf. Hazel began the day by eliminating the other semi-finalist Mike Staples in a sudden death play-off after they squared their earlier match. She then gave Tony a run for his money but finally succumbed on the 18th after her only fluffed shot of the day. Winner Tony was presented with a very smart new golf bag and Hazel ascended into heaven with a seven wood. Special mention also goes to the semi-finalists Peter Williams and Mike Staples. Mike in particular made a special effort rising from his sick bed after his doctor explicitly told him to lay off golf for the next six months.

The plate competition final is still to be held between Andre Tissera and Peter Bond. Everybody judged the matchplay competition to be a great success with many new players joining in. It will therefore be held again next year avoiding the peak holiday time. There will also be the opportunity to play the matches on Club Days.

## Snow White Washes Opposition

A stableford competition was also held on the same day as the matchplay final. Bridget Snow beat runner up Jamie Woodford by five points with a score of 40 stableford points to see of the rest of the pack. Her prize? a night for two in Pattaya... and who is she going to take?

## Ryder Cup

There were not only tears in Boston but a few also flowed in Bangkok after the Americans trounced the Europeans again 13.5 to 7.5 points at Bang Sai course near Ayudhya. The concept was to mirror the real competition as much as possible with a combination of foursomes, fourballs and single matchplay competitions. However a few people were confused by their nationality. The United States was represented by a Yorkshireman and a lady from Hong Kong! Fortunately the Americans in Thailand did behave much better than their counterparts by waiting for us to putt and not trampling on our line. A good day's golf was interrupted by a severe electric storm and at one point I

counted 30 people in the drinks hut next to the 6th hole. We waved our beer cans to the people sheltering under a tree for an hour as the lightning forked around them. After the game we retired to the British Club for tea and medals. Barry put on a good spread and we watched the real competition on the big screen. On behalf of the British Ambassador, Colonel Johnny Thoys presented the Ryder Cup (donated two years ago by Geoff Lamb) to American Captain Kerry Mattison. Near pin prizes were won by Randy, Graham Hallet, Nigel Walker and Kerry Mattison. Breakfast was planned but as the blood began to flow Stateside, the Europeans in Bangkok slowly went off home one by one, tired and emotional. A lone voice cried "that was a great day, let's do it again next year." Maybe not next year but we'll be back. See you in 2001!!

## Next Outings

- Sun, 14 Nov at 11.42am - Medal at Royal, Lad Krabang
- Sun, 28 Nov at 12.00 - Club Day at Green Valley
- Sat, 4 Dec - Match vs Cocktail Lounge at Majestic Creek
- Sun, 5 Dec - DeeMed Trophy at Springfield
- Sun, 12 Dec - Medal Final at Royal, Lad Krabang

**Karen Carter**



Pat, Karen, Teera and Teresa



Graeme Revell with GeeGees Mike and Neil



Teera gets his Niblick



Runner-up Jamie



Matchplay winner Tony



Hazel in heaven



Sheltering from the rain

# Make the most of your British Expatriate Status

Many expatriates believe, mistakenly, that UK tax concerns only UK residents – a **misconception which can prove expensive**. It is essential to receive expert professional advice if you are to be free of the UK tax net and capitalise on being an expatriate.

**Examples of costly mistakes include:**

- ◆ Failing to claim the tax refund due for the year of departure.
- ◆ Falling foul of the complicated residence rules which determine UK tax status.
- ◆ Wasting the potential benefit of independent taxation of husband and wife.
  - ◆ Misunderstanding the new Self-Assessment system.
  - ◆ Failing to plan for a return to the UK.

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Our booklet **"The British Expatriate"** provides a guide to the most important ways to make the most of your expatriate status. For your **free copy** simply complete and return the coupon below.



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Please send me more details of your personal tax advisory service, together with my free copy of "The British Expatriate"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of intended return to UK \_\_\_\_\_

**Head Office:**  
 Crescent House, Crescent Road  
 Worthing, Sussex, BN11 1RN, England  
 Tel: Worthing (01903) 231545  
 Fax: (01903) 200868. Offices in Exeter



# Calendar

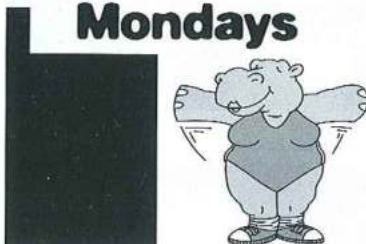
British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - November 1999

## Sundays



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

## Mondays



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

## Tuesdays



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

## Wednesdays



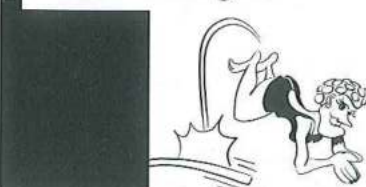
9.30 am Body Shaping  
4.30 - 9 pm Squash Coaching  
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour  
6 - 9 pm Tennis Mix-in  
6.30 pm Cricket Nets

## Thursdays



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

## Fridays



9.30 am Step Aerobics  
3.30 - 9 pm BC Tennis Coaching for Children  
5.30 pm Swimming - Junior Squad Training  
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour

## Saturdays



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

### MAKE A NOTE!

- Get ready for the St. Andrew's Ball by joining in the Scottish dancing practices at the Club every Monday evening in November.
- Something for the juniors - the first Sunday of every month is squash coaching. Starts at 11.00 a.m.
- Snooker night - every second Friday of the month.
- Carlsberg Beer Buffet every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month.
- Sign up for the 'The Expat Wife', a comedy by the Hot Currie Theatre being performed at the BC on 12th and 13th November.
- Visit the Ploenchit Fair, 10.00am - 5.00pm, 20th November.
- Chateau de Meaume Wine Dinner on 26 November in Lord's Restaurant.
- The annual 'Beat the Retreat', Wednesday, 1 December.
- Bangkok Community Theatre presents 'Hansel & Gretel' at the BC from 4-6 December. Kids will love it!
- Book your table now for the BC Christmas Ball on 11 December.

*For more special events and further details on the above, check out Management News on page 9.*

### BCT Club Nights

Bangkok Community Theatre holds their Club Nights at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of every month at the British Club, usually in the Suriwong Room. These social events, which are open to everyone, cover a wide variety of theatre related topics. There is usually an opportunity to join in, but people are welcome to come and just watch if they wish. Please note, the December Club Night is NOT on the 1st Thursday, but on the 16th instead.

### Sports - Contact

|              |                      |                  |
|--------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Aquatics     | Liz Beal             | 262 9351         |
| Badminton    | Anant Leighrahathorn | 654 0002-29      |
| Bridge       | Ernest Lee           | 612-3580 ext 503 |
| Cricket      | Nick White           | 246 0832         |
| Football     | Martin Conisbee      | 366 0432         |
| Golf         | Bernie Adams         | 675 6123         |
| Rugby        | Jon Prichard         | 662 6376         |
| Scuba Diving | Peter Gary           | 634 7792         |
| Squash       | Peter Corney         | 381 7240         |
| Tennis       | David Blowers        | 285 4721-2       |

### Venues

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Badminton        | Soi Nares, behind Bangrak Police Station |
| Aerobics         | Squash Court 3                           |
| Casuals Football | Colgate Ground, Rama III                 |
| Massage          | Near the BC Squash Courts                |

### Opening Times

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

**Yes... We Can!**

# British Club General Committee



**James  
Young**



**Nick  
Bellamy**



**Bernie  
Adams**



**Alex  
Blackwood**



**Peter  
Corney**



**David  
Eastgate**



**Dugal  
Forrest**



**Chris  
Moore**



**David  
Turner**



**James  
Woodford**



**Tom  
Bain  
General Manager**



**Barry  
Osborne  
Operations Manager**

## The Committee is:

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

## Club Staff

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

# The Surawongse Sala

Firstly, I trust by the time you read this brief article, our refurbished Sala will be open, albeit just a "soft opening". I am taking this opportunity to share the trials and tribulations experienced by the Maintenance and Development (the acronym MAD seems appropriate as misfortune has unerringly dogged them) Sub-committee.

As I have previously mentioned, this project was undertaken with the view of completing the basic work of relaying and extending the floor of the Sala during the quietest month of the year, namely August. The Club has been fortunate in engaging the services of two key companies. The design and project management has been undertaken by Harper & Associates and the main contractor is Ozcon. Both companies have taken a very pragmatic view of the problems they encountered and have reacted in a highly responsible manner to the tasks they faced.

The key issue has been the quality of the new sandstone floor. This is a natural material and as such has a number of elements and minerals that are unpredictable. Although I am writing this in mid October, we will probably not have technically had the project handed over to the BC by the time you read this. Neither of the companies is satisfied with the finish of the new surface but recognise that our members have been extremely patient with the delays. They have collectively accepted the responsibility of allowing us to use the Sala for a month or so after which they will give the stone a final clean and seal. Undoubtedly the colour will change over the weeks and months ahead. Remember that whole cities have been built with this type of stone, London and Rome to name but two, which seem to have survived rather well.

Some of the other problems encountered during the project were:

- The sub-contractor who laid the floor, although highly recommended, laid some of the tiles upside down and used inappropriate cleaning fluids, and ultimately had to be replaced.
- No supplier managed to provide their materials on the promised timescales.
- The roof trusses have twisted resulting in the whole ceiling moving around 3-4 inches towards the Clubhouse. Obviously this represented a major safety risk and had to be strengthened.
- Minor items such as the fans and lighting were not supplied as specified by the designer.

Hopefully the problems are now behind us and we can look forward to a Grand Opening later in the month. New furniture should be delivered very shortly which will be the final element in creating an improved image for the Surawongse Sala.

My thanks to the key individuals involved in the project. First and foremost, Tom Bain and his staff who have coped with the disruption and endless questions from members and committee alike in a stoic manner.



James Young - Chairman of the General Committee

If any member has any particular reason to discuss this project or the merits of employing a project manager, I would invite them to call either David Eastgate or myself. I perceive that this is the way in which refurbishment will be managed at the British Club in the future. While lessons have undoubtedly been learned through this experience, we have the benefit of "accountability" of professional companies. This cannot be underestimated particularly when problems of this magnitude are encountered.

As the Chinese say, "We live in interesting times". There's never a dull moment at the BC!

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "James Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

James Young  
Chairman

## British Club

David Eastgate  
Nick Bellamy  
Bernie Adams  
Chris Moore

## Harper & Associates

Peter Harper  
Alex Welsh

## Ozcon

Chris Cartwright  
Gary Burke  
Warren Purdon



10 October 1999

Dear Sherry,

Whilst I wholeheartedly support Susan Race's opinions on the look of Lord's (and yes, Dr. Grace must stay!), I would add that the major problem with Lord's as with the Churchill Bar menu, is the food quality.

One day the food is of the highest standards, and the next it is very poor. One day the chilli is hot & chili, the next time it is sweet; one day the tomato soup is red, the next it is brown!

I am not about turning Lord's into Dusit Tiara, but a consistently higher standard than now is urgently needed.

Regards,

**Paul Cheesman (C267)**

22 October 1999

Dear Editor,

### **Nuisance Nocturnal Faxes**

Over the past year I have received a number of unsolicited faxes at my home. The fax number has clearly been obtained from the British Club Directory, which - correctly - lists my fax as an office number. These faxes always arrive in the middle of the night, which is irritating, to put it mildly. My standard response of returning the fax to sender with a clear and concise message written in thick marker pen does not always result in the removal of our number from the mailing list. On two occasions a second nocturnal fax has been sent by the offending company.

It is obviously impossible to stop people from using the Club Directory for commercial purposes, but I would urge those that do so to think carefully. You cannot be certain that the numbers you are sending to are located in offices, not homes. When your missives arrive at the dead of night you can be sure that your organisation will make a big impression on the recipient - but it is unlikely to be one that you want.

Yours,

**Louise Truslow (T92)**

20 October 1999

Dear Sherry,

Being an averagely bad crossword fan, I had immense difficulty with 24 down in the October issue of Outpost. Any clues?

**Bernie Adams (A60)**

### **Editor's reply:**

Dear Bernie,

This was a deliberate omission by the editorial team for market research purposes to find out who actually does the crossword...! The missing clue was "24. Chinese leader \_\_\_\_\_ Xiaoping, who died in 1997" and the answer can be seen on page 27. (Sorry mate.)

Keep puzzling,  
**Sherry**

# Return of the Shuttle

**Y**es we do have a badminton section, though few of you may be aware of it. There are only about 10 members, a good percentage belonging to the Cherdrumphai family!



Badminton: The BC took a thrashing

This little publicized section had a match against the Singapore Cricket Club (Keith Bell's new posting) on 1 October. The wrangled together BC team comprised K. Anant, captain and mentor, with Henry, Katy, Roy, Nick and Damon. This friendly was held at the nearby sauna(!) known as the Soi Nares courts from 3-5pm. Our wishful advantage of being used to the heat and MUCH younger – they were all 45-60 with one 39 year old – was for naught. Their experience, tri-weekly practices and longtime partnerships proved far too much for the youthful vigor of the newly formed BC team. The score was a landslide for the Singaporeans (we did not win a game, let alone a match) and, to pour salt on our wounds, at the end of each game the Singaporeans offered up beer to the sweat drenched and defeated BC members. Then they finished with a friendly game (after more beers) amongst themselves to decide who was going to buy the whisky for the night. They had polished off the 18 bottles of liquor they had brought with them... granted there were 12 of them. After the slaughter, the BC badminton section hosted the Singapore Swimming Club for dinner at the Churchill Bar where they continued their destruction of the BC team by drinking far more beer than we – our excuse was that our star beer guzzler had fallen asleep after his shower at home (he had had a few the night before). All in all, this friendly match with the SCC, which Keith Bell (former BC GM) had a

strong hand in setting up, was great fun despite the thrashing.

For future matches, more preparation is on the cards for the BC badminton team who refuse to be deterred.

## Tennis clinic

The free tennis clinic held in September was a great introduction to Paul Ho and what he can offer the club. It was attended by some of our regular tennis players - Scott Cunliffe and his partner Lori, K. Wan Pickup who rolled out of bed to join us, K. Napa came with her son (the girls had trouble getting up!), plus a few new tennis players (faces I remember, names I do not). All players enjoyed the format. It was a bit of an eye-opener for me who had never seen this type of clinic before. It ran for 2 hours and each student was evaluated on a set number of points – serve, forehand, backhand etc.

The success of the clinic and Paul's enthusiasm for working at the BC has allowed me to schedule weekly clinics on Sundays (working around the Tennis sections fixture dates). These clinics will focus on a specific skill set and be centered on ability – for beginners, intermediates and advanced players. The groups will be divided as follows:

The 'beginners' will be very much beginners, i.e. those still formulating a stroke they can call their own. 'Intermediate' will house the majority of the BC tennis players and will have twice as many

classes as the beginners and advanced. The more advanced players who have not had anyone to help them with their game can look to Paul, who is a certified USPTR Tennis Pro, for game improvement.

The class size will be 3-6 people and the charge will be B1000 for a 2 hour clinic. Sign up in the fitness center for the one(s) which interest you. By the time you read this, these special workshops will have already started (on 24 October) but here's the schedule for November and December:

### 7 Nov: Intermediate (II) Doubles Tennis

Tips for successful doubles.

- Effective serves and returns.
- Poaching at the net.
- Lobs and overhead smashes.
- Basic team work and communication with your partner.

### 14 Nov: Advanced (I) Tennis

- Use of different kinds of serve for the purpose of variety and reception and the elimination of predictability (for both singles and doubles play).
- The chip and charge return, together with learning how to cover the net effectively. Zones will be dealt with different volleying.

### 20 Nov: Beginners Tennis (II)

- Learn the basics of net play; forehand and backhand volleys.
- Learning how to play a basic approach shot followed by going up to the net.
- Basic groundstrokes-cum-volleying drill.

### 27 Nov: Intermediate "B" Grade Tennis (III)

- Single play: winning tactics and court strategy.
- Forehand, backhand and serve: topspin slice.

### 12 Dec: Intermediate "B" Grade Tennis (IV)

- Topspin lob, underspin lob.
- Half-volley.
- Drop shot.



## 18 Dec: Advanced Tennis (II)

Focus on the following:

- Learning to deal with the net-rusher
- Learning to deal with a steady baseliner
- Learning to deal with a serve and volleyer

If interest is strong enough we will certainly add similar clinics during weekday mornings. See you there and please say hello to Paul Ho if you see him around the club. He will be available for private lessons on Tuesdays, Thursdays, all day Saturday and Sundays in the morning.

## Sailing is born!

The members and their titles of this newly formed and light-hearted section are:

Don Mackenzie  
 Martin Conisbee  
 Neil Semple  
 Ed Shiffner  
 David Race  
 Simon Hutchinson  
 Figure Head  
 Fore Deck Hand  
 Galley Slave  
 Bilge Rat  
 Grinder  
 Cabin Boy

The section will focus on two main areas. The first is teaching people how to sail in dinghies and keelboats. The second is trip planning with people who already know how to sail (or do not sail at all) on bigger 6-12 person boats. The section's first planned date was shot to pieces by the Christmas Ball on 11 December. Such is life! Look for a "happening" early next year. The members on the committee have a wealth of sailing experience with two of them seldom (if ever) sailing big boats and two others sailing almost exclusively the

big ones. I think we have all the bases covered as far as knowledge goes. However we need people willing to do the work (not to mention some ladies)! The above members are very keen but also very busy.

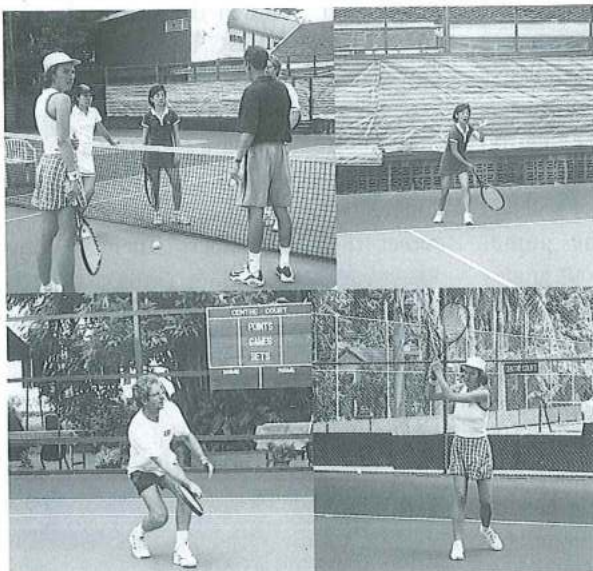
We need lots of new members for this section as well as someone who is willing to write the articles for *Outpost* (not me!). Look in next month's issue and we should have an idea of section fees and hopefully a planned event in 2000.

Happy sailing!

**Damon Nemish**  
 Sport and Recreation Coordinator



Paul Ho, Tennis Coach



Paul Ho's Tennis Clinic

## CHIROPRACTIC

We offer chiropractic treatment for the relief of back pain, neck pain, tension headaches and numbness to the arms and legs.

We administer chiropractic treatments in a relaxed unhurried environment. We see a low volume of patients with a high level of quality. We also use acupressure muscle massage as well as other physiotherapeutic techniques. Call for an appointment today!

**Mark Leoni, DC**  
 438/13 Ekamai Road  
 (between Ekamai 26 and 28)  
 Bangkok 10110  
 Tel: 711-5102, 01-627-0312, 01-881-6248

# Club Handicap Championships and Handicap Shield

There were 23 entries for this tournament. The handicapping appeared to be fair as most games went to three leading up to the semi finals.



Handicap runner-up Dave Herron



Wayne explaining how he defeated Mark in the Handicap Shield

Unfortunately September seemed to be the month of travel for many members and some of the matches did not get played but those who reached the semi finals and finals provided plenty of entertainment.

In the semi-finals of the shield played on Saturday 25 September Mark Bowers on -17 soundly defeated Peter Corney on -26, the scores being 15-4, 15-10 and 15-13. Mark played very well and each time Peter looked like getting into the game he would win the crucial points. Wayne Needoba was lucky to get a bye through to the finals. In the handicap championships Dave Herron also had a bye through to the finals because Barry Daniel had a last minute presentation in Pattaya (sounds shaky). David Eastgate on -36 played Andre Tissera on -20 in the other semi. This proved to be a hard fought game with David at one stage scoring 21 points in a row, he won that game 15-10. Andre won the second 15-8 in a see-sawing game in which he was always ahead of the handicap. Unfortunately for Andre, David's fitness then came into the equation and, even though Andre won 6 of the first 8 point, he was soundly beaten in the latter part of the game with the score being 15-8. David then won the fourth game against a very tired Andre 15-5.

In the final of the Shield, Wayne on -7 looked like he was going to go down easily to Mark Bowers on -17. Wayne seemed to get better as the game went on and with some mad dashes at crucial points he went onto to win it 12-15, 15-7, 15-7, 8-15, 15-5. Wayne certainly played some weird shots, even worse than Tom Livingston at

his best. This seemed to throw Mark and he certainly wasn't as consistent as he played in the semis.

The Handicap final was an entertaining contest, which saw David Eastgate on -36 really focused and playing at his best. Dave Herron (-21) at one stage after losing a long rally, which he thought he had won three times, remarked that he could not play any better than that. David Eastgate won a high standard game 15-8, 15-10, 15-11 (see front page Photo). Dave Herron played very well and never gave up and was certainly a worthy finalist.

## Rod Carter Open

The Rod Carter Open Singles Championships and the Tony Austin Cup were open to all residents in Thailand and were played in October. Full results and pictures in the next issue.

## Balls

The macho players around here always play with a Dunlop yellow spot, but as more ladies and kids get into the game you should think more about the ball you will play with, as the wrong choice of ball can spoil the enjoyment of the game. Traditionally there have been four grades of ball, with yellow as the slowest, and best for good club players and professionals. Many people are unaware that there are also blue, red and white balls graded with blue as fastest through to yellow as slowest. In Thailand blue is probably too fast for all except small children, but for beginners and lady players who do not hit the ball so hard they should try and go for

red or white, to improve their game.

Dunlop has just introduced a new range of balls, not here yet, but expect them by year end. The yellow XX is the same, but there are 3 new balls. The XT is the same size as the standard ball but has a 10% longer "hang time" which means it stays in the air longer, so is easier to hit. The "Max Progress" is 6% larger and has a 20% longer hang time, and is aimed at "improvers and recreational players". The third new ball is the "Max", and is blue in colour, 12% larger and with a 40% longer hang time. This is the ball for beginners, although it may be a little too lively on the warmer BC courts. So remember to choose a ball according to your skill level and enjoy the game more.

## Yes, Let!

Every month we will include some tips and comments on refereeing. This month we start with something very simple.

I often get dragged into discussions in the Sala about whether a point was a let or not. The decision is a very subjective thing and depends on the position of the players at the time the ball was ready to be played and usually the two people on court are not in a good position to see that, as they are too busy trying to play or get out of the way. The best advice is that if the position is unclear - PLAY A LET!

You often hear the comment "I could have got to that", and in the warm playing conditions at the BC that is often true, however you must be able to get to the ball *and play a shot*, so be honest with yourself; were you really trying to get there? Did you even have the racket up to play? Could you really have got the ball out of the back corner when you got there? There is a copy



There's still some fire in this old fella!

Continued p27

# Your Chance to Practice

Get some practice at solving this one and in December you could be in with a chance of winning a bottle of wine kindly donated by The British Club. Yes, next month's issue will feature a double grid Prize Puzzle compiled specially for Christmas by Margaret Miller. Watch out for it in the next issue.

Solve the clues A to J and enter in the spaces. Each letter is numbered - transfer the letters to the correspondingly numbered spaces in the square and you will find a quotation from a famous play. Reading down, the initial letters of the solved clues A to J will give you the name of the author of the play.

- A Cover to a person on a cold day
- B "We \_\_\_ him here" (Scarlet Pimpernel)
- C Seeming incessant
- D A Chinese calculator
- E Disorderly retreat in defeat
- F "More things are \_\_\_ by prayer" (Tennyson)
- G Can be envisaged
- H Arms of the sea in Scotland
- I Distribute the Social Security money!
- J Treat as equivalent

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |    |    |
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |    |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |    |    |    |    |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 |    |    |    |
| 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 |
| 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 |    |    |    |    |

|   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|   | 44 | 14 |    | 32 | 6  | 40 | 22 | 18 |    |    |
| 9 | 52 | 29 | 35 | 21 | 54 |    | 57 | 2  | 63 | 28 |
|   |    | 46 | 58 |    | 59 | 60 | 17 | 62 | 10 |    |
|   | 61 | 13 | 25 | 30 | 4  | 24 | 38 | 48 |    |    |
|   | 45 | 23 | 55 | 26 | 16 |    | 37 | 3  | 33 |    |
|   | 7  | 36 | 11 |    |    |    | 39 | 8  |    |    |
|   |    | 47 | 1  | 34 | 12 | 53 |    | 27 | 50 |    |
| 5 | 20 | 49 | 51 | 19 | 56 | 41 | 31 | 43 | 15 | 42 |

### Solution to the October puzzle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | I | G | H | T | I | N | G | A | L | E |   |   |   |
| E |   | E |   | R |   |   |   | U | I | S |   |   |   |
| L | I | O | N | E | L |   | K | N | I | G | H | T |   |
| L |   | R |   | K | S |   | T | H |   | O |   |   |   |
| I | N | G | E |   | N | E |   | E | T | T | U |   |   |
| E |   | E |   | H | V | A |   | H |   | T |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | R | A | L | E | I | G | H |   |   |   |
| S |   | A |   | L | N | A |   | A |   | B |   |   |   |
| M | O | N | K |   | U | T | E |   | A | N | N | A |   |
| O |   | D |   | T | H |   | D |   | G |   | N |   |   |
| C | A | R | T | E | R |   |   | R | E | G | E | N | T |
| K |   |   | E |   | L |   |   |   | N |   | L |   | U |
|   |   |   | W | E | L | L | I | N | G | T | O | N | S |

### Squash Continued

of the rules at the back of court one. Take a few minutes to read it and think about it when you watch other people play.

### Future Events

**Kid's Squash:** There will be squash coaching and organized games for BC

members' children at 11am on the first Sunday of every month. Children from 4 years up are catered for. There are also sponge balls and undersize racquets suitable for 4-7 year olds available on loan from the gym.

**Annual Triangular Squash Series:** Due to a lack of players the Ambassador team

has had to pull out of the annual triangular tournament. However there will still be a two way match between the BC and the Gymkhana Club, to be held at the BC on the weekend of 23-25 October. Results next month.

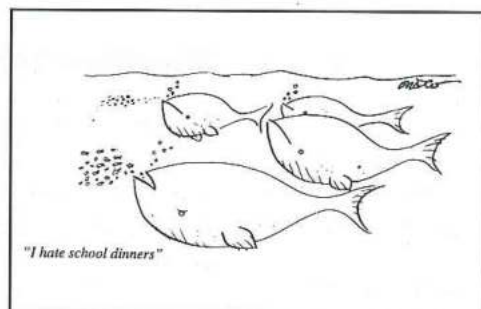
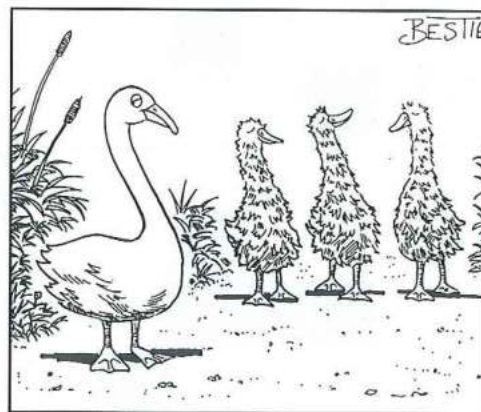
Philip Hall

# Seasonal Warning

Pedigree dogs are expensive to buy, the vet bills can get out of hand and they're a real tie when you want to fly off to Phuket for a weekend break. They also grow up and lose some of their appeal! And what do you do with them when your contract is up and you have to move on? Spend a heap of money to ship them home and more money for 6 heart-breaking months of quarantine. Pause for thought before you bring home a gift-wrapped puppy for Christmas.



Nothing makes me laugh more than funny stories or cartoons involving animals. I've chosen a selection for Outpost and hope they make you smile too. If you come across any humorous articles, cartoons or photographs featuring animals, then do please brighten my day by sending them to me at Outpost - Sherry.



**"Time's fun when you're having flies." - Kermit the Frog**

Continued p29

### Yanks vs Brits - or a raw deal for Fifi

An American soldier, serving in World War II, had just returned from several weeks of intense action on the German front lines. He had finally been granted R&R and was on a train bound for London. The train was very crowded, so the soldier walked the length of the train looking for an empty seat. The only unoccupied seat was directly adjacent to a well-dressed middle-aged lady and was being used by her little dog. The war weary soldier asked, "Please, ma'am, may I sit in that seat?" The English woman looked down her nose at the soldier, sniffed and said, "You Americans. You are such a rude class of people. Can't you see my little Fifi is using that seat?"

The soldier walked away, determined to find a place to rest, but after another trip down to the end of the train, found himself again facing the woman with the dog. Again he asked, "Please, lady. May I set there? I'm very tired." The English woman wrinkled her nose and snorted, "You Americans! Not only are you rude, you are also arrogant. Imagine!" The soldier didn't say anything else; he leaned over, picked up the little dog, tossed it out the window of the train and sat down in the empty seat. The woman shrieked and railed, and demanded that someone defend her and chastise the soldier. An English gentleman sitting across the aisle spoke up, "You know, sir, you Americans do seem to have a penchant for doing the wrong thing. You eat holding the fork in the wrong hand. You drive your cars on the wrong side of the road. And now, sir, you've thrown the wrong bitch out the window."



## Meet the Staff

# Purchasing Power

**K**hun Sumol Tanulanon (Awe) is Purchasing Officer and has been employed at the Club since 1990.



Khun Awe

She heard of the opening at the BC when she was working as an operator at an apartment block where Keith Bell, a previous BC General Manager, lived, and it was through him that she learnt the Club was looking for a receptionist.

Starting at the BC in reception and then moving to a position in the store, it only took a few months before she was promoted again, this time to Purchasing

Officer taking care of both store duties and purchasing.

Khun Awe is willing and friendly and can be counted on to help out at Club functions, standing behind the bar or food tables making sure that members have everything they need, or accompanying them on special trips organised by the Club. She says she likes working at the Club and enjoys the variety her job offers.

Khun Awe was born in Bangkok. She has two grown-up children of 23 and 20, Khun Nattasak who is working and Khun Tanitsara who is a third year student at the Rajchapat Institute.

A fan of movies and music, Khun Awe admits that she never misses a new movie release and enjoys listening to all kinds of music. She also likes travelling which is just as well as she will be accompanying members on the Surin Elephant round-up, as well as looking after members during the Royal Barge Procession.

If you've signed up for these, make a special note to say hello to her.

*Interviewed by:*

**Ratchanida Tippayalert**  
Administration Officer

# Isle settle for this

**C**rossing the pale green stretch of sea between Don Sak and Koh Samui I realised it had been over ten years since I'd last visited; from all I'd heard it had changed beyond recognition so I was steeling myself for the worst, usually an advisable trait in the exotic east.

My first wake-up call to the changes was the ferry itself: back in the late-'80s I'll swear there were no more than 20 of us on the small boat crossing from Surat Thani, so it came as a surprise to see the monster ferry carrying several coaches, cars and pick-ups as well as hundreds of people. Next were the dozens of *song thaews*, motorbike taxis and coaches waiting at the other end to pick up the hordes swarming off the boat. Then there were the thousands of roadside signposts advertising hotels, pubs and clubs, including an inordinate number for the Reggae Club.

## Peace vs ...

I consider myself lucky: I was staying with friends at a quiet bungalow 'village' called Sunset Two on Big Buddha beach, where there was plenty of room between chalets, a central cafe-cum-'hang-out' point and plenty of vegetation around not to mention a generally peaceful and uncluttered beach, with the several other bungalow places — meeting all budgetary requirements (from an Imperial property to brand new chalet gatherings) — safely tucked away behind the palm trees. The only disturbance was the occasional drone of the small prop aircraft flying into/out of the dinky little airport nearby, but we're not talking jet engines here so you hardly noticed it unless you were sitting on the beach watching the 'planes come in, a pleasant diversion when the solitude of beach life gets to you.

## ... Progress

This fabulous peace and quiet, which was typical of the island when I last visited, is no longer applicable to other parts of

Samui. The beaches at Chaweng especially and Lamai are hard to get to these days, as you have to pick through tightly packed bungalows and expensive hotels to reach them. It seems every square inch along the length of the beach has been built on, and there's certainly no room to swing a cat between bungalows. Amazing Thailand.

On the other hand, there's more things to do on Samui these days — I'm fairly sure there weren't elephants on the island ten years ago (another advantage of the large ferries), now you can go heffalump trekking up to some of the waterfalls on the island. Day and longer trips to Koh Phang-na are commonplace rather than for the serious hippy getting away from the electricity and relative comfort of Samui. Large nightclubs centred around Chaweng cater for the night-owls, and there are still jeeps and motorbikes to hire and at reasonable rates. Facilities on the island have also improved, as have the number of tarmac roads, banks and mini-supermarkets. During my recent visit one road was under significant repair (read: unpassable), which made the hugely-advertised (but now out of the way) Reggae Club awkward to reach, so I didn't bother. Moreover, I would guesstimate that over 80% of the shop and bungalow construction boom has been concentrated on the two main beaches, which mercifully has left most of the island largely intact, except perhaps with more bungalows but tastefully built, hiding in amongst the palm trees and still almost nothing above tree height.

## Still worth it

Overall, then, I was pleasantly surprised

that Samui is still a paradise isle despite the tourism boom; there is still a slightly hippy-ish atmosphere if you want it (there was an all-night 'Black Moon' party further along our beach during my stay) and a luxury resort stay if you're not, though I was stunned by the sheer size of the 'Green Mango' pub which from friends' descriptions I was expecting to be a one-storey club!

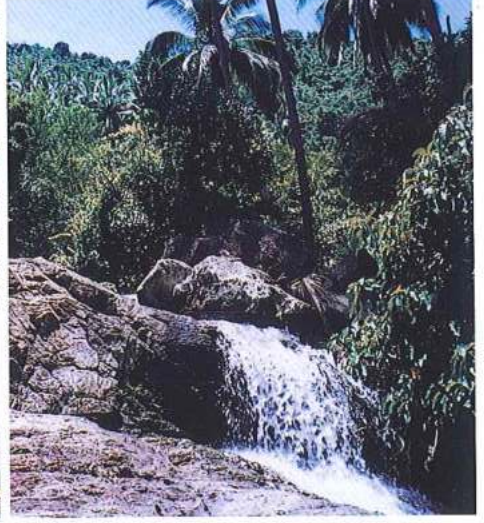
Word of advice: book a return trip! Ferries off the island are usually part of a package to get you to a certain place such as the airport or Surat town, there are no freelance taxis at the port on the mainland to take you anywhere. As it happens I left it too late to book either a flight back from Surat Thani (approx half the price of the direct Samui-Bangkok fare and with minimal airport tax) or the overnight train, so ended up going by overnight coach which is not an experience I'd repeat in a hurry, even if cheap (Baht 380 one way). Transport to and from Samui is easily organised at any travel agent, both in Bangkok and on the island, book a good couple of days in advance if you want the Surat flight back (approx Baht 1,850 one way) and *at least* a day in advance if you want to go by train (about Baht 600 one way).

But do go, it may surprise you as it did me that it's still a beautiful place. An interesting diversion for those in Bangkok pondering a visit is the website <[www.kohsamui.com](http://www.kohsamui.com)>, compiled by a resident expat on Samui and quite absorbing!

Gaynor de Wit



One form of local transport



Part of an 80m high waterfall - I never made it to the top



A great beach is always a good start



Kids playing in one of the lower pools



Another form of local transport



The brilliant blue water of Samui



Another day, another glorious sunset

# I Sky with my Little Eye!

**E**arly in October, before galloping off to watch the World Cup Rugby, I was fortunate enough to be able to preview the Bangkok Transport System's new Sky Train Service.



l-r: Dr. Chaisak Srisethanil, Dr. Karoon Chandrangsu, Greg Watkins (BCCT Exec. Director), Lorenzo Moretti, (BCCT Committee) and David Wyatt (British Embassy)

The trip was organised by Greg Watkins of the British Chamber of Commerce Thailand. Two hundred of us met at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel where we were

treated to a delicious buffet lunch and a presentation by Dr. Karoon Chandrangsu, Chief Operating Officer of BTSC. We then walked to Rachadamri station for

the exciting bit - a ride on the new train system. Two lines are about to open, the Silom Line and the Sukhumvit Line. The former will have a soft opening on about 16 November while the whole system will open on His Majesty The King's birthday on 5 December. You will be able to transfer between the two lines at Siam Square Station. Apart from the Chamber guests, there were about 100,000 people invited to use the system as an operational test. I found the journey exciting, fun and efficient, and my two teenage daughters in particular will be using it daily when it opens.

Thumbs up to BTSC and thanks to Greg Watkins for organising this excellent trip.

**Tom Bain**



The latest models!



Standing room only



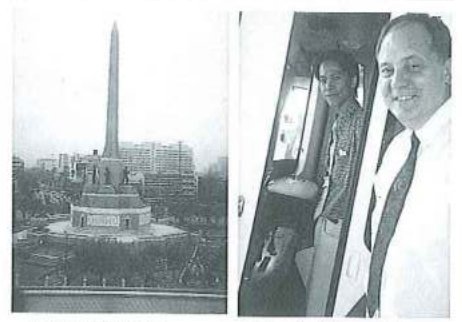
The end of the Silom Line and a view over the river



Tom catches his breath after the climb at Rachadamri Station



Jeryl Bain at the ticket office



A view of Victory Monument from the train

Tom checking out the driver

## Farewells

**T**hirty-four people signed on the dotted line for membership of The British Club in September, and nine members resigned. To those 9 and their families, we say goodbye and good luck: Christopher Evans, Annabell Ley, David Proctor, Peter McDonald, Matthew Payne, Nicholas Briggs, William Maddox, Lira Lee and Jiraporn Boriraj.

Five members were placed on the Absent list so to them we also farewell and hope to see you again soon: Julian Lipman, John McConnell, Morcar McConnell, Sonthaya Tangsantikul and Martin Hedes.



## Dick and Duangporn Chatjaval



Duangporn and Dick

now too old for his other sporting favourites of rugby and cricket. *Rubbish Dick - get out there!*

Dick and his Thai wife, Duangporn, along with their 3 young children, have been in Thailand for about 3 months. Dick is British and employed with Orican Asia, and Duangporn is busy at home enjoying her hobby of cooking and looking after the kids; she also likes playing tennis and swimming when she gets the chance. Dick also plays tennis and enjoys karate but confesses he's

## Anup and Surbhi Kaul



International and Surbhi is a housewife whose hobbies are squash, swimming, music, eating out and taking care of her 3 boys (*she means her husband and two sons, Arjun and Rahul!*). Anup enjoys swimming, squash, rugby and football and, according to Surbhi, he's just one big party piece.

Full of smiles and wise-cracks, this fun-loving British couple are the dream couple for most removal companies; they've lived in Turkey, Indonesia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Hong Kong and the U.S. before arriving in Thailand about 9 months ago. The frequent flyer miles must be mounting up! Anup is Regional Director with Littlewoods

## Varapong Supachok and Korbsook Iamsuri



Korbsook and Varapong

hobbies are architecture, interior design and helping design stage sets. Varapong scuba dives, jogs, swims and leaps about in a leotard to stay fit.

Both executives at Kamolkij Group, Varapong and Korbsook are Thai but Varapong spent many years in the UK as a student. They say they have two pests of the male variety (aged 9 and 7) who spend part of their time studying and the rest of the time nagging their parents! Varapong plays squash, badminton and table-tennis and in his Uni days enjoyed hockey. His

## Rob and Amanda Hornman



Rob and Amanda

On a 3 year posting as Director of Sales & Marketing at Accor Asia, Rob and his wife Amanda, both Dutch, say they enjoy tennis, skiing, hiking, music, the theatre, travel and fine wining and dining. Rob says he also enjoys watersports and jogging, while Amanda adds ballet and fitness training to her list of hobbies.

## Doug Allan



Doug

enjoys long distance swimming, and has competed three times in the race from Rangitoto Island to St. Heliers in Auckland. He also enjoys travelling and earlier this year took the exciting trans-Mongolian railway journey from Moscow to Hong Kong. When he's not swimming or goofing off around the world, he can be found at PricewaterhouseCoopers where he is Taxation & Legal Services Manager. Doug plays tennis and 'pumps iron' in the gym and fully intends to improve his golf handicap while he's in Thailand. He's got 2 years to do it.

Reach for your atlas! Doug is originally from Ohope Beach near Whakutane in the Bay of Plenty (*come again?*) but for the last 10 years has lived in Auckland. He

## Paul and Liz Clegg



Paul

or so. This is Paul's first posting outside Europe but he has travelled extensively on business during the past 5 years. He plays squash and says he is very interested in all sports, but mainly as a spectator these days! In his youth he did some rally driving - he looks back on it now as suitable training for the Thai traffic!

Paul is Regional Packaging Manager with Unilever and his wife Liz, still in the UK teaching French and German and looking after their three boys, will be joining him here in 12 months

## Roger and Noelle Prince



Northern California has been home for the past 14 years for Americans Noelle and Roger who now both work for Chevron Overseas Petroleum, Noelle as a geologist and Roger as an IT Manager. They have a 6 year old daughter, Isabelle, who has just started at Patana. Thailand is their first overseas posting (as grown-ups!) but as a child Noelle lived in Switzerland, France, and Israel. Both Noelle and Roger like to swim and spend time travelling. Noelle also plays tennis and likes photography and painting while Roger plays squash, collects stamps and researches geneology.

## Michael and Michelle Pease



Michael and Michelle

Aussie Michael, who works for Ford Motor Company, and Welsh Michelle have been in Bangkok for 2 years. They say their daughter, Ceiwen, was pushing them to join the BC so she could use the pool - so they did. It just took them 2 years to get round to it! As for their own sporting interests, well Michael has no time and Michelle says she has no inclination, but she does have an active interest in the National Museum where she's a guide and likes to collect ethnic clothing, textiles and furniture. Michael and Michelle also have a son, Lachlan, aged 11, and both children attend Patana School.

## James and Bonnie Davis



James and Bonnie

Americans James and Bonnie have been in Thailand for about 30 years. James is retired and now likes to spend some of his free time either on the golf course or cooking in the kitchen. Bonnie is a freelance writer and historian and will be helping the BC with research and preparation for the production of the book to mark the Club's centenary.

## Chris and Shiao-Ling Cave Jones



Chris and Shiao-Ling

Brits Chris and Shiao-Ling have two children, Tamara aged 4 and Jasmine of 19 months, and before arriving in Thailand in April of this year they lived in Singapore. Chris works for PWC/Managing Consulting and Shiao-Ling is a 'Home Executive' who enjoys swimming, singing and orchestral works. Chris also enjoys choral singing and likes to exert himself occasionally with a game of tennis or squash, swimming, cycling and walking.

## Kelvin and Sharyn Ashby-King



Sharyn

Kelvin, away on business so unable to be at New Members' Night, is M.D. at Thai Inova and Sharyn is a teacher currently taking time out to look after No. 3 son aged 5 months. The other two boys, Drew (6) and Lane (4) are at school. Kelvin admits to being too busy at the office and travelling around Asia to have any sporting hobbies but he is an avid reader and no doubt carries *Outpost* with him wherever he goes! Sharyn says she spends hours in the pool with the kids, and enjoys cooking and eating the end results!

## Frank and Jeab Flatters



Frank

Frank from Canada is an Economist and his Thai wife, Jeab, is Editor of *Krungthep Turakij*. They have lived previously in Indonesia and England and have been in and out of Thailand since 1994. Frank enjoys squash and both enjoy a game of tennis. Top three hobbies for both of them are beer, wine and food - apparently in that order!

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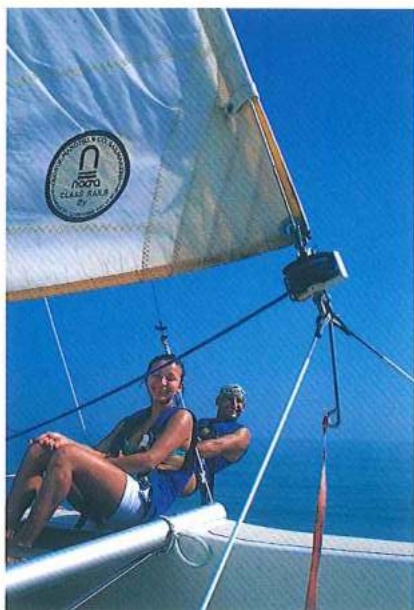
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# SHOSHOLOZA!

**E**asily my favourite song of the evening (and the CD!), 'Shosholoza' — which means something like 'Go on, work hard' — rang throughout the Tiara restaurant compelling even the most cynical foot to tap.



Ms. Zulu in among the boys!

And it seems several of the 27 BC members who went to the South African Food and Dance Festival held at the Dusit Thani recently and bought the CD (after several reminders from the band!) would agree with me. A wonderful evening of entertainment in this cultural desert of a city, the evening was the brainchild of our very own Barry and was a welcome change for a Friday night. The band, Thula Sizwe

were back by popular demand after a successful run at the hotel last year, and I can see why, weaving that inimitable township rhythm with wonderful harmonies. Maaaaan, I was sent! The food too was interesting, it being a first time for most of us to eat crocodile — flaky and not overly flavoursome; and ostrich — the texture and colour of beef, which was fabulously tender and delicious.

There was also a great spread of fresh seafood (the crab was mm-mmm!), salads with some unique vegetable life and a carvery which could have been lamb or impala, I didn't catch what the chef said... As a change from just the band singing and whirling round, several of the audience were invited on stage to have a go at the dancing bit, including the BC's very own Shelagh Weekes and Diane Du Mont (see pics), who gave a credible performance though it might perhaps have been even more fun had they dressed them up in the same scant, multi-part outfits! Many thanks to Chris Dexter, F&B Director of the Dusit Thani, for his help in arranging everything, to Barry and Khun O for their part and to all the members who I hope enjoyed it and by their participation encourage the Club to organise more nights out like this.

Me, I liked the whole evening so much I went back again, on the last night, and managed to prise a copy of last year's CD off the band, so it's been 'Lendoda', 'Nkosi Sikelel' and 'Uhlalelani Wedwa' on the hifi ever since!

**Shosholoza!  
Ms Zulu**



## South African Festival!



Some were invited on stage for a dance, the rest of us tucked into crocodile and ostrich



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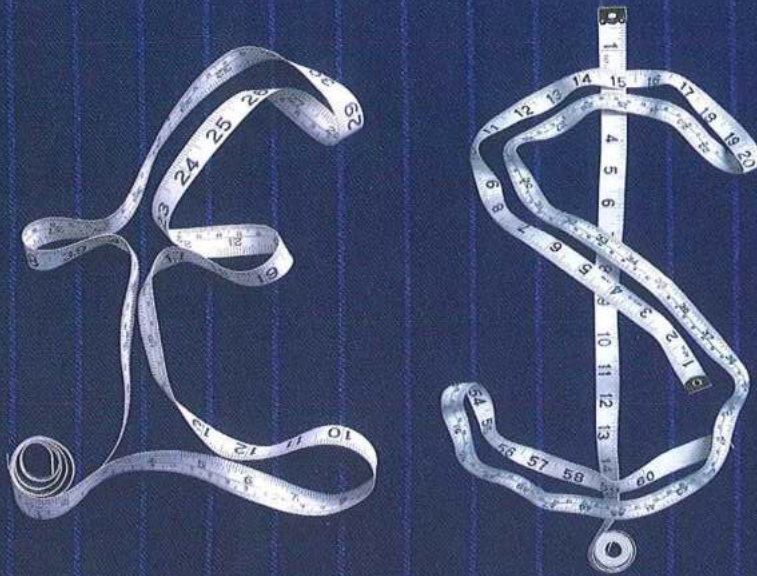
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