



# Outpost

November

M A G A Z I N E 2000





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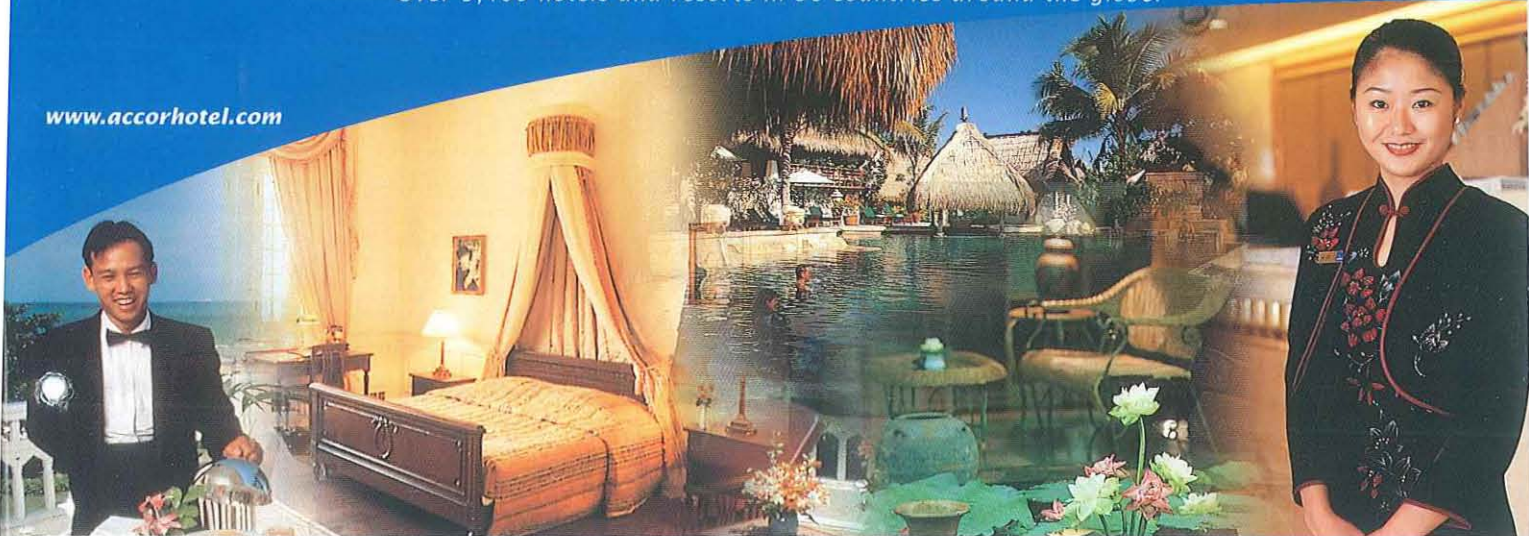


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### The British Club

is a family, sporting and social club with an international membership. For details about the Club contact the Membership Marketing staff at  
189 Surawong Road, Bangkok 10500  
Tel: 234 0247 Fax: 235 1560  
Email: britclub@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.britclub.com



### Contributions

If you would like to contribute to Outpost please contact the Editor, Gaynor de Wit, on tel: 285 4721-3, fax: 678 1292 or email: creativ@loxinfo.co.th



### Outpost Magazine

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



#### Front Cover

The Goodliffes on tour  
Dads give it a go  
Old colonials, Dick and Nick in Sri Lanka  
New members José and Cecilia Humbert-Droz  
Chamber networking at the BC

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### Outpost Magazine

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# I'm Still Here!

**A**pologies to those members who were wondering what had happened to page 5 and/or my message in last month's *Outpost*, as always there is a rational explanation for these things!

The blank page was the result of an advertiser unfortunately having to pull their ad at the last possible moment, i.e. seconds before the printing plate was mounted onto the press, so the only option we had at that horribly late stage was to scrub the page and run it blank. By unfortunate coincidence, I was just too busy at work last month to drum up some of my wit 'n' wisdom in the form of an editorial for ye magazine. These two factors combined meant that we had that blank page, which several of you observant types spotted...

I guess I should say thank you to those who expressed concern about my disappearance, mostly for *noticing* that my page of ramblings wasn't there. I had to smile at those who suggested I'd probably written something so controversial the whole message had to be deleted – as if I would...

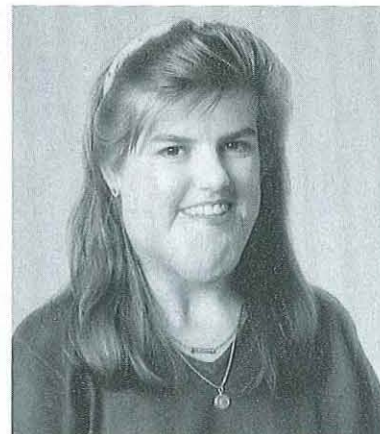
Onto this *Outpost*, the main photo-feature is the Golf Section's trip to Sri Lanka. Thanks to Karen Carter, regular Golf scribe, for the great photos – that one of Dick and Nick reading the papers in true English colonial style (shown on the front cover) is priceless! There's another double page spread for What's On this month, the silly season being well and truly upon us. It'll be Christmas before you know it – writing cards to catch the overseas postal deadlines, mad dashes around the shops for presents, thoughts of booking where you'll eat your turkey and plum duff, swearing you'll be more organised next year... Eeesh.

Other contributions this month include an informative look at parasites in one of Sherry's Paws for Thought, and an amusing look at surviving the times, submitted by Duncan Niven, for both of which many thanks.

Finally, there's the first Members' Mutterings column as announced in September's *Outpost*, and this month's subject is Club email – see page 22. Do you have any opinions on this topic, or on next month's intended theme? If so, please give me a call on 285 4721-3 or email your thoughts to me at: [creativ@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:creativ@loxinfo.co.th)

## Good News for Mae in November

News reaches me via Margaret Miller of the decoration of Mae Barr with an MBE! Some of you may remember Bill and Mae Barr, who were here for many years and active in Club and Bangkok community circles – Bill was a Chieftain of St. Andrew's, and Mae was a year in the chair of the British Women's Group among numerous other involvements. Bill and Mae recently stopped here en route back to the UK after a few years working in Bangalore, and revealed that Mae has been named in this year's Honours List with an MBE for serving "British Interests and Voluntary Service Overseas" and will collect her gong from HM Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace on the 16th of this month. Congratulations, Mae, and I'd love a photo of you and your award at Buck House!



Gaynor de Wit

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gaynor de Wit'.

Gaynor de Wit  
Editor

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Dear Members,

I regret to inform you that Mr. Damon Nemish has resigned from his post as Sports and Recreation Coordinator. Damon has been employed at the Club from January 1999 and has made a lot of effort to develop the sports and recreation section. Until the end of the year he will continue the swimming practices at the Club. We would like to thank Damon and wish him all the best with his future career.

The month of November is normally a very busy month at the Club with a lot of activities and functions. The highlights in November include the dance practices of the St. Andrew's Society every Monday night in November and the Beat the Retreat on Wednesday, 29th November. A tradition not to be missed.

On 5th November we are holding the Guy Fawkes' Night at the Club. As in previous years, all members are asked to leave the Club by 4.00pm and cars should be removed from the car park. The gates will reopen at 4.30pm. Tickets are available at Reception. On behalf of the management of the Club, I have to apologise for the late issue of the member statements in September 2000. Due to a hardware breakdown this process was delayed. We have also received comments from Members that the financial statements are not very easy to read. We fully agree with this comment and will make adjustments to these statements by early 2001.

We are very pleased to have received a lot of positive feedback about the new pool furniture at the main pool. Also the Silom Sala will be upgraded by early next year. The electric work upgrade will be finished by this month as well as the kitchen renovation in the main kitchen at the Club House. In October we installed a fire alarm system at the Club House for security and safety reasons.

Last but not least the date of the Christmas Ball has changed from Saturday, 16th December to Friday, 15th December 2000. Please mark this important date in your diary.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Club in the not too distant future.

Yours sincerely,



**Willem T.P. Pentermann**  
General Manager



Willem T.P. Pentermann - General Manager

## The British Club General Committee 2000/2001

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If you have any suggestions or queries about the British Club and its activities please contact any member of the General Committee, or contact the management at:

Tel: 234 0247 Fax: 235 1560 Email: britclub@loxinfo.co.th

# Remember, Remember the Fifth of November

## Christmas Cards on Sale

Beat the rush and buy your cards now in plenty of time for posting overseas. The BC Christmas cards are on sale now in Reception at just Bt30 each.

## Guy Fawkes' Night

*Sunday, 5 November*

The gunpowder plot may have failed back in 1605 but here at the Club it's always a success! So young folks and old, join us around the bonfire for a sparkling evening of fun and fireworks. Tickets are Bt500 for adults, and Bt350 for youngsters between 3 & 12 to include a BBQ, plenty of entertainment and a spectacular fireworks display. Starts at 4.30pm and you can get your tickets at Reception.



## New Zealand-British Networking Evening

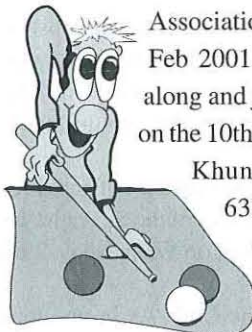
*Thursday 9 November*

Continuing this popular series of networking evenings between the Club and the Chambers of Commerce; this month the NZ-Thai Chamber is holding a joint event in Lords from 6pm. Entry is free, finger food will be provided by the Club and drinks are at Club prices.

## Snooker Mix-In

*Starting Friday, 10 November*

It's time to revive the snooker section! Join us in the Snooker Room for a mix-in every second and fourth Friday of the month for a snooker revival. The evenings will start at 7.00pm and everyone is welcome, whatever their level. If the evenings prove popular, 'Snooker League 2000' will start before the end of the year. Our Club will also participate in the sixteenth Club Tournament sponsored by the Snooker

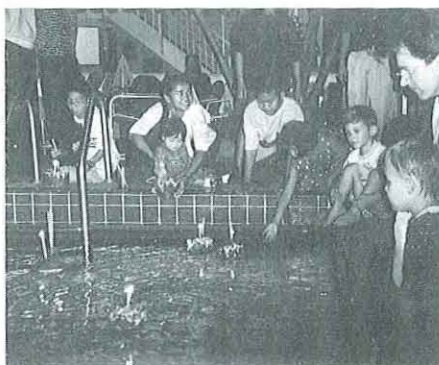


Association of Thailand in Feb 2001. So please come along and join us this month on the 10th and 24th. Contact Khun Kittisak tel. 01 633 9490 for more details.

## Loy Krathong

*Saturday, 11 November*

All the magic of Loy Krathong here at the Club! Enjoy a traditional Thai buffet and entertainment for all the family for only Bt300 for adults and Bt220 for children. Bring your own Krathong to float on the pool or purchase one at the Club for just Bt85. Dress up in your fanciest Thai costume and you could be the winner of a special prize.



## Film Night: 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty'

*Wednesday 15 November*

Get lost in an imaginary world this month with Danny Kaye in this classic film. Starting at 7.30pm, the price of Bt250 includes a light buffet dinner.

## Neilson Hays Book Fair

*Sat & Sun, 18 & 19 November*

A great selection of books, old maps, prints, and post books is on offer at The Neilson Hays Library between 10.00am and 5.00pm both days. And while the grown-ups are enjoying a Sunday

afternoon browse, send the kids to the...

## Little Puppet Theatre

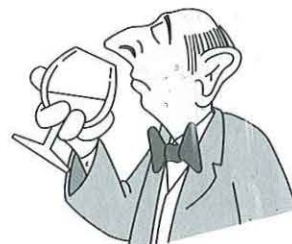
*Sunday, 19 November*

An afternoon of enchantment for the kids presented by The Neilson Hays Library and The British Club with crafts, pony rides, face painting, balloon-typhoon and refreshments. A whole heap of kids' activities are planned including "The Nutcracker" performance by The Little Puppet Theatre. Curtain rises at 2.00pm. Admission Bt180. Tickets available in advance at the BC.

## Wine Tasting

*Friday, 24 November*

From 7.00pm onwards in the Snooker Room, Vanichwathana Bangkok Co Ltd will present a selection of great Spanish wines for members to sample. Cocktail food will be provided by the Club and all you have to do is sign up at Reception.



## Indian Spice Buffet

*Fri & Sat, 24 & 25 November*

Next in the series of Food Festivals in Lords is the Indian Spice Buffet which will definitely be a hot item on the Club's calendar - so book early! For only Bt500, you can enjoy a superb selection of authentic curries, tandoori dishes, salad bar, Indian breads and all the trimmings.



## The Ploenchit Fair

*Saturday, 25 November*

From 10.00am - 5.00pm in the grounds of the British Embassy, the Ploenchit Fair is a great family day out with over 75 stalls and attractions, plenty of gifts, games, eateries, drink stops, and a Grand Raffle. All proceeds raised are distributed throughout the year to Thai charities, so go along and spend freely in the knowledge that you are helping those less fortunate in Thailand. See article on page 25 for further details.

## BC Christmas Ball

*Friday, 15 December (New Date)*

No-one wants to miss this one so sign up now at Reception for the highlight of the Club's calendar - the Christmas Ball. Get into the spirit by enjoying an aperitif or three during the one-hour open bar on the front lawn, followed by a mouth-watering 3-course Christmas roastie on the back lawn including a half-bottle of wine, all for Bt1,600... then dance the rest of the night away!

### REGULAR EVENTS

#### Churchill Bar Cocktails

Try our Cocktail of the Month for just B95 per glass!

#### No Fixed Abode in the Bar

*Friday nights*

'No Fixed Abode', Bangkok's Celtic, Antipodean and folk band, play every Friday in the Churchill Bar from 8.00pm until midnight,!

#### Poolside BBQ

*Friday nights*

"All You Can Eat" at the barbecue at the poolside every Friday from 6.30-9pm at just B295 for adults and B185 for kids under 12 - and the kids get free Coke too!

#### Kids Corner

Every weekend there are activities for kids, including games and movies. For details, please contact Khun Aey.

## Kids' Christmas Party

*Tuesday 19 December*

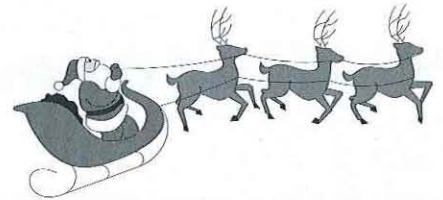
An afternoon of excitement and fun for the kids starting at 2.30pm, with pony rides, a balloon typhoon, Derek Rutt's magic show, face painting, games and much more. And of course, Santa will be making an early appearance! The price of Bt 360 per child includes a delicious Christmas supper and a present.



## Christmas Carols

*Wednesday 20 December*

Warm up those vocal chords with a hearty carol singing session on the lawn of the Club; starting at 7pm the price of Bt 290 for adults and Bt 200 for children includes the usual festive goodies of glühwein, mince pies and shortbread. Recall those Christmas classics with a jolly good sing-song!



## New Year River Cruise

*Sunday 31 December*

Yes, the ever-popular New Year's River Cruise is back again, setting sail at 8.30pm and culminating with an excellent boat-side view of the major hotel fireworks on the Chao Phraya to welcome in the new year. Price of Bt 1,350 includes a buffet dinner and a disco on board. Book at Reception early, as this always fills up quickly! But for those who aren't happy on the water, how about...

## New Year Poolside Party

*Sunday 31 December*

This year we have an alternative to the cruise - this family BBQ will be held at the poolside, with games, a disco and a moderate fireworks display at midnight to welcome in 2001. Kicking off at 7.30pm, the price is Bt 950/Bt 500 for adults and children respectively. Please sign up at Reception.

## SPORTS UPDATE

### Snooker Mix-In

*Starting Friday 10 November*

Join us in the Snooker Room for a mix-in every second and fourth Friday of the month. See 'What's On' above for details or contact Khun Kittisak tel. 01 633 9490.



### Sport accessories

A reminder that we have HEAD tennis and squash accessories along with rackets for sale in the Fitness Centre. Prices are 10% less than retail - a great deal for members!

### Aerobics

*Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays*

Aerobics with K. Joom - Wednesday is step and Monday and Friday Aerobics. Sign up at the Fitness Centre.

### Aqua Aerobics

*Tuesdays & Thursdays*

Mrs. Elizabeth Van Den Broecke is holding classes for just B875; 10.30-11.30am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sign up at the Fitness Centre.



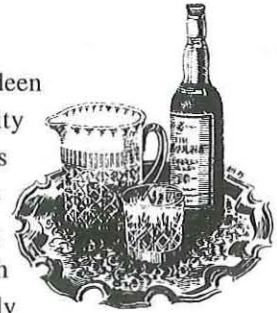
## The Royal Northern and University Club, Aberdeen



The original idea of the founding members of the Club was to provide "a home away from home" where members could dine, relax or entertain friends in warm and dignified surroundings, and today the Club prides itself on having achieved that - and much more.



Located in the west end of Aberdeen within walking distance of the city centre, theatres, cinemas and various historical venues, the Club can be found in Albyn Place in a building of special architectural interest which has been refurbished to an extremely high standard. The extension, completed in 1994, contains the same high standard of decor.



### Facilities

Suites, double or single rooms are available at the Club and the bedrooms include private bathrooms, telephone, cable television, radio, and tea and coffee making facilities.

Members can enjoy a leisurely drink in the Bar and adjacent Smokeroom, or catch up on the day's newspapers in the peace of the Reading Room. The Billiard Room in the basement is very popular and is the venue for the annual Snooker Quaiich competition. There is a Meeting Room for private seminars and business meetings and audio visual and conference facilities are available.

### Fine Dining

The Club's busy social calendar provides many opportunities for members to sample food and wine from around the world and, over the years, the Club has earned a reputation for fine dining in handsome surroundings, recalling a gracious, less hurried era. The main dining room is especially popular at lunchtimes and the service offered is an assurance to its Members that the age of elegance lives on as a Club tradition.

Alternatively, family, friends and business colleagues can be entertained in the stylish Reynolds' Room or in the delightfully airy Garden Room, which faces on to the private garden.



For further information on this or any of the reciprocal clubs, please contact the GM on 234 0247.



**The Royal Northern and University Club**  
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## BC/BCCT Networking Evening



British Chamber and Club members mingled freely during the Networking Evening in Lords in September; finger food and beer courtesy of the Club.

## Tennis

# Capitol Punishment

See the picture? See everyone's smiling? Yes, we won that one!

I have it on authority (from Bruce, of course) that the annual Club match, Capitol vs British, was a victory for our lot by a head! A 14-12 defeat by the Silomers over

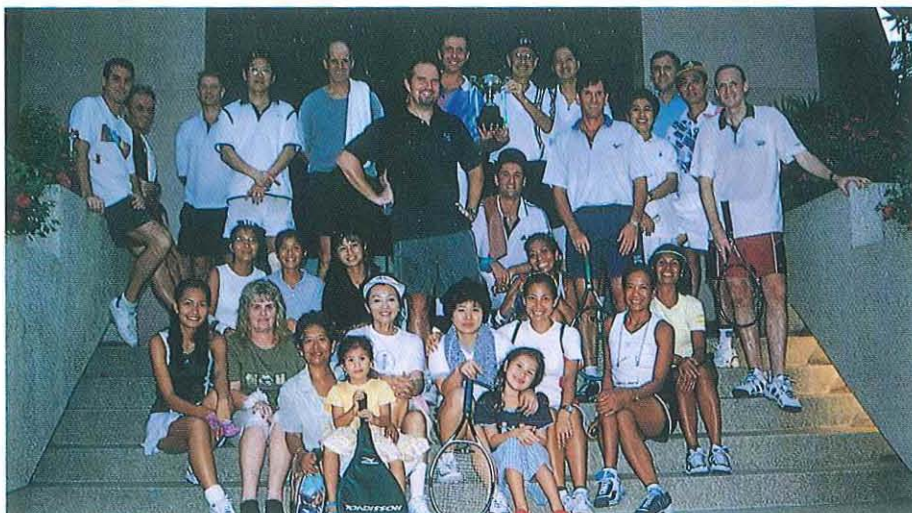
those Sukhumviters, to retain the Capitol Cup. Ha!

The fact that we won may not necessarily be unrelated to the fact that I was in America at the time. On the other hand, I was definitely thinking of you all on that

day (not least because it was *not* warm where I was, dangling over Niagara Falls) because it was my birthday!

### REAL Tennis in Thailand

If you want to catch some world standard lady tennis players in action this month – or, if you're just into watching ladies' legs – make sure you book your place at the Volvo Tournament at the Dusit Resort in Pattaya from the 13th to the 18th of this month. An international WTA-rated tournament attracting professional women players from all over. A must for pros, admirers of the game and complete perverts...



Lotsaluv  
Me



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\*\* A peak surcharge of THB5,000 for one way travel and THB10,000 for return travel is applicable for travel during the peak period from 01 Jan - 31 Jan 2001  
- The fare for children is 75% of the above fares  
- The above fares do not include taxes

**Business Class Fares valid from 01 November 2000 - 31 March 2001**

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London	THB28,430	THB55,855	No peak period

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# Squash Shots

## Central Plaza Sunday Mix-In

3rd September: In this month's handicap we had 8 players in two groups. Mark Smith made a timely return to the mix-in and took Group 2, while David Eastgate won Group 1, eventually beating Mark 51-11 in a lay-off. Thanks to Martin Reid of **Central Plaza Hotel**, who gave a meal voucher to both players.



The Handicap and Shield winners take a bow

H'cap	Name	David	Marvyn	Martin	Linda	Total	Position
- 38	David Eastgate	-	15	15	15	45	1
- 21	Marvyn Lewis	13	-	15	0	28	4
- 14	Martin Reed	14	14	-	5	33	3
- 5	Linda Eastgate	12	15	15	-	42	2

H'cap	Name	Charles	Bill	Bart	Mark	Total	Position
- 26	Char. Whiteley	-	15	15	9	39	2
- 18	Bill Randall	7	-	2	4	13	4
0	Bart Vd Broeck	7	15	-	14	36	3
- 16	Mark Smith	15	15	15	-	45	1

## Junior Coaching

Just a reminder, the Junior training sessions are held on the first Sunday of every month. Sessions start about 11:00am, through till 1:30 when the Sunday mix-in is on.

## Handicap Tournament

A good entry of 21 players contested the 2000 Handicap tournament. A few notable names were absent, but it was a great competition and the handicapping gave a lot of games that went the full distance. In

the end the final was contested by the number 1 and 2 in the club, David Eastgate and Dick Anwar, but they did not have an easy path to get there, especially in the semi final where David had to overcome a large handicap for a 3-2 win against an inform James Lawden, and only came through on fitness. Dick overcame the challenge of Marc Hagelaur in his semi with a 3-1 victory.

The best of 5 games final saw David giving Dick 8 points a game, and Dick was trying

for the winners at every chance. A close first game was won 15-12 by David, but Dick bounced back in the second and David never made positive scoring, 15 - - 1. The third game was close, but David edged it at 15-13 and Dick was gone, leaving David to close it up 15-8 in the fourth. Even bigger handicaps next time David!

I would expound on the plate event, but modesty forbids. Needless to say that yours truly got his name on the trophy for the

second time after a marathon 5 set match with Dave Parks which kept the spectators happy. Ask me about it sometime, when I come down off the cloud! And just for the record, he did beat me in a league match two days later - well done Dave. The scores:

### Handicap Final

Player	Hcap	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	Game 5	Result
David Eastgate (1)	-38	15	-1	15	15	-	3
Dick Anwar (2)	-30	12	15	13	9	-	1

### Handicap Shield\* Final

Player	Hcap	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	Game 5	Result
David Parks	-15	15	15	15	9	8	2
Philip Hall	-18	13	12	0	15	15	3

\* Shield is Australian for Plate



## Rod Carter Open

It's that time of year again when Thailand's squash players start competing for the major tournaments in the Kingdom. The King's Cup, played at the Polo Club is coming up, as is the Tony Austin open for over 45s, but the first event of the season is the Rod Carter Open organised by the British Club. By the time you read this the play will have started, with the finals around the last week of October – check it out as the last few years have seen the best players in Thailand battling out on the BC courts. Last year's winner was the Thai

number 1, Khun Apirom, and he will be in the front line again this year for sure.

### Yes Let! – playing by the rules

**A bit more squash rule trivia.** Always check the ball before you serve. If you find the ball is burst before you serve you can go back and replay the last point; if you wait until after you serve you'll never know exactly when it burst.

Shaping to play the shot is an important term for you budding referees out there. Once a player has shaped for the shot, i.e. brought the racket back into the top of the



Our own M 'n' M (Martin and Marvyn) hamming it up for the camera



Marvyn tells a joke to get the crowd going



Dick's gone!

swing and started to move down they are deemed to be playing the shot; once in movement they are much less likely to get a stroke from an obstruction.

A point of discussion the other day was "what happens if you get caught short while on court and have to run off to the toilet?" In any such situation of illness all you can do is forfeit that game and take the 90 second break, hopefully getting back in time for the next game. If you are not in time you must forfeit that one and take the next 90 second break, and so on until either you can resume or you have lost the match.

**Happy Squashing,  
Phil Hall**



## The Neilson Hays Library and The British Club



present an

### Afternoon of Enchantment for the Children

on Sunday, 19 November at 2.00pm

With crafts, pony rides, a balloon-typhoon, face painting, refreshments and heaps of other activities... And don't miss the Neilson Hays Library Bookfair right next door!

### Featuring The Little Puppet Theatre's "The Nutcracker"

Tickets at Bt 180 are available in advance from the British Club



# Calendar

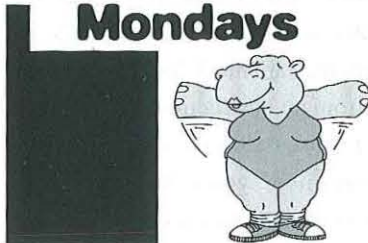
British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - November 2000

## Sundays



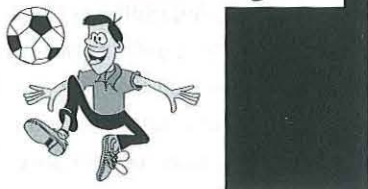
11 am - 1 pm Badminton - Soi Nares  
12 noon - 2 pm Poolside BBQ  
3 - 6 pm Tennis Mix-in  
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour

## Mondays



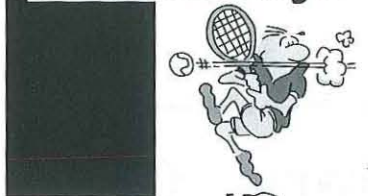
8.00 am BWG Mahjong  
9.30 am Aerobics  
6-7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim Training  
Happy Hour  
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour  
7 - 9 pm Tennis Team Training

## Tuesdays



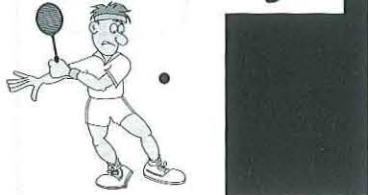
7 am Ladies Golf  
8 - 10 am Ladies Tennis  
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics  
3 - 5pm BC Swimming Instruction  
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour  
7 - 9 pm Football Training  
7.30 pm Darts  
8 - 11 pm Friendly Bridge  
9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof

## Wednesdays



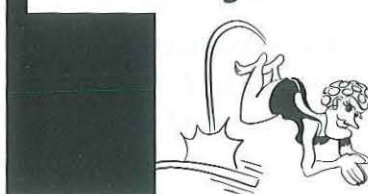
9.30 am Step Aerobics  
4.30 - 9 pm Squash Coaching  
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour  
6 - 9 pm Tennis Mix-in  
6.30 pm Cricket Nets

## Thursdays



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

## Fridays



9.30 am Aerobics  
3.30 - 6 pm BC Tennis Coaching for Children  
4.30 - 5.30 pm BC Swimming Instruction  
5.30 pm Swimming - Junior Squad Training  
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour  
6 - 7 pm Adult Tennis  
6.30 - 9 pm Poolside BBQ  
8 pm 'No Fixed Abode' in the Churchill Bar

## Saturdays



9 am - 12 noon Squash Coaching  
9 am - 1.30 pm BC Swimming Instruction  
12 noon - 2 pm Poolside BBQ  
4.00 pm Casuals Football  
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour

### MAKE A NOTE!

- Thursday 2: BCT Club Night
- Sunday 5: Guy Fawkes' Night
- Friday 10: Snooker mix-in starts
- Saturday 11: Loy Krathong
- Sunday 12: Intersection Sport & Family Day
- Sat & Sun, 18 & 19: Neilson Hays Book Fair
- Sunday 19: Little Puppet Theatre for the kids
- Friday 24: Wine Tasting
- Fri & Sat, 24 & 25: Indian Spice Buffet
- Saturday 25: The Ploenchit Fair

### DECEMBER

- Friday 15: BC Christmas Ball

See "What's On" for further details.

### Sports - Contact

Aquatics	Michele Law	295 4595
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
Sailing	Damon Nemish	266 0597
Scuba Diving	Peter Gary	634 7792
Squash	Peter Corney	714 2426
Tennis	David Blowers	285 4721-2

### Loyal Societies

St George's	Gillian Maconochie	287 2680 ext 4851
St Andrew's	Rosemary Imlah	437 9693
St Patrick's	Jerome Kelly	682 7526
St David's	Gareth Hughes	01 859 6140

### 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

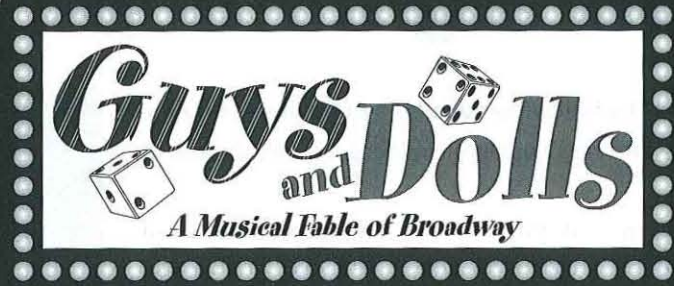
10 am - 11 pm	Churchill Bar
11.30 am - 2 pm	Lords Restaurant (Lunch)
6 pm - 10 pm	Lords Restaurant (Dinner)
7.30 am - 10 pm	Poolside Bar
6 am - 9 pm	Fitness Centre
9 am - 9 pm	Fitness Centre (Sundays/Holidays)
9 am - 6 pm	Thai Massage (Tues-Sun)

Tickets at B550 for Adults and B350 for Students are available from October 25th at The British Club reception



**Bangkok Community Theatre**  
presents

Based on a Story and Characters by Damon Runyon  
Music and Lyrics by FRANK LOESSER  
Book by JO SWERLING and ABE BURROWS



*This delightful musical comedy will be performed in English at:*

**The Bangkok Playhouse**

2884/2 New Petchburi Road (next to Charn Issara II) Tel: 319-7641-4

**Curtain rises at 8:00pm**

**Thursday, November 23rd; Friday, November 24th, Saturday, November 25th, and 2:00pm Matinee on Sunday, November 26th, 2000**

Snacks & cash bar available at the venue.

For more information, call 258-8495.



**Out in the Community**



For a great pre-Christmas opportunity to buy **Thai arts and crafts**, visit the exhibition at the Hilton International Hotel in Nai Lert Park from Thursday, 16th November to Tuesday, 21st November, 10.00am - 6pm daily. On sale will be baskets, ceramics, pottery, jewellery, fabrics, clothing, furniture, and a host of other gift items. Profits are donated to various craft-related projects in Thailand. More details from Jahn Buhrman 679 4444 ext 8807, or Masako Isomura 712 8039.

The **National Museum Volunteers** are holding a slide show and lecture at the National Museum covering the "Development of Prehistoric Archaeology in Thailand" starting at 10.00 am on Friday, 24th November with guest speaker Dr. Rasmi Shoocongdej, Professor of Archaeology at Silpakorn University Bangkok. Contact Mary Eliades (587 1880) for more information.








Join author Steve Van Beek on 9th December on the **Magic Eyes Barge** for an intriguing historical trip on the Chao Phya river, visiting the home of King Thaksin at the National Naval Base and Wat Chalerm Prakiat, a temple with a royal history. Contact Helen Harris (Magic Eyes Barge Program) on 439 4746 for further details.



# Is a Dog the Right Pet for You?

If you can't honestly say "yes" to the following questions but still want a dog, then think about this: there are around 500,000 stray dogs on the streets of Bangkok alone,

some of which have been abandoned by owners who didn't think carefully enough before taking a dog on.

-  When your contract in Thailand ends, are you prepared to ship your dog to your new home and pay the high quarantine charges if necessary?
-  If you don't have a live-in maid, are you prepared to board your dog if you can't take it on holiday with you (anything from Bt 150 a day)?
-  Are you willing to get your pet neutered? For a bitch the cost is about Bt 1,800 and for a male dog about Bt 1,000.
-  Will you get your dog vaccinated yearly and provide proper medical attention whenever necessary? Annual vaccinations will cost about Bt 400 a year, but other veterinary bills could be substantially more.
-  Are you willing to provide and pay for nutritious food for your dog? A daily serving of rice just isn't adequate.
-  Will your dog have human company for most of the time every day?
-  Can you give your dog daily exercise? If your answer to ALL of the above is yes, then a dog could be the right pet for you. Read on....

## The right choice

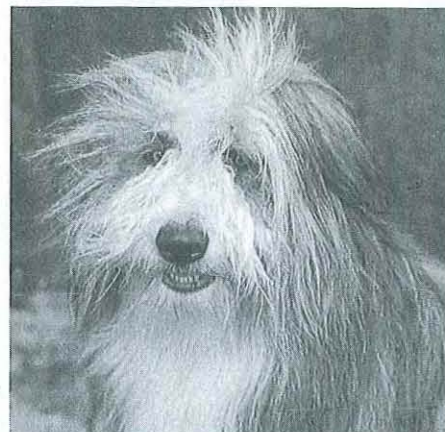
Puppies look cute and cuddly but they may not be the best choice for all dog owners-to-be. They need house training, can be very, very destructive and are really not ideal for families with elderly people or very young children. Puppies may make an elderly person trip or fall, or could be handled roughly or trodden on by a young child. An adult dog is probably the best choice for people in these situations. The sex of your new dog is up to you but always keep the cost of neutering in mind when choosing. Consult a vet for a list of reputable breeders

if you want a pedigree puppy (not necessarily the wisest choice in Thailand, and certainly not my choice). When choosing a pedigree pup, there's plenty of things to look out for. To get a good idea of its health and temperament, it is essential that you see it with its mother and the rest of the litter. Look for a nicely rounded puppy, with bright clear eyes, a dry, clean rear end, a healthy coat, strong teeth and clean ears. Never be tempted to take a pedigree puppy with runny eyes, runny nose or a cough. A pot-bellied puppy probably has intestinal worms. Remember: puppies should be about 8 weeks old before they leave their mother. If buying an expensive pedigree is not your priority, then there are some good alternatives.

## Adopt One

Keep an eye on the British Club noticeboard as members often advertise pets there. Better still, put a notice on the board yourself stating your preferences and I **guarantee** you will get a reply! Any member who read my article in the September issue will also realise that with help from my friend Pym, I can usually lay my hands on an unwanted street dog or puppy. These animals often make superb pets and are usually loyal and friendly (or should I say grateful?), especially the older ones.

Another alternative, not always problem-free, is to attend one of the "Adopt a Puppy" days held by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA). Before offering the puppies to the public, all are neutered and vaccinated, and there is no charge for adopting one. Sadly, however, some of those on offer are already sick with diseases such as parvo-virus, distemper and pneumonia. The BMA vets are usually on hand during these adoptions so check carefully with



them first before choosing one. It is extremely hard not to fall in love with these adorable puppies, and wanting to cuddle them is hard to resist. However, for the puppies' sake, resist if you can to avoid spreading disease. It can be a risky business, but I think it's worth consideration.

**Caution:** It is generally felt in Bangkok animal circuits that buying a pet from Chatuchak Market is ill-advised. They are often sickly specimens and some of the cute critters on sale there have been captured in the wild using disgraceful means. Don't support this practice by paying for any animal at Chatuchak Market.

So now you have chosen your new family member, here's what you do:

## Find a Vet

Ask around and it's easy to get recommendations. I take my dogs and cats to either Dr. Sumalee at Sukhumvit Veterinarians (tel: 391 9117) or Dr. Chisanu at Animal Clinic (tel: 258 6751), both in the Sukhumvit area.

When you first get your puppy or dog, take it to the vet for a check-up, ensure it is vaccinated and ask when it should be neutered.

## Stamp out parasites

**Fleas:** They cause a lot of irritation and can be a host for tapeworms. It's also unpleasant for your house-guests to see them jumping about! Treatments can be bought from your vet. You must also make sure that any flea eggs have been destroyed. Do this by washing your dog's bedding and

treating other likely breeding areas with specialised flea treatments. I use FRONTLINE spray every month without fail or FRONTLINE Spot-On which eradicates both fleas and ticks in my 2 dogs and 2 cats. I have not found the cheaper flea powders to be effective at all.

**Ticks:** These are blood suckers which feed off your dog for several days before dropping off. If you see a tick on your dog, only pull it off after cutting its air supply for 30 minutes with a dab of grease, otherwise the head may remain embedded in the skin and cause an abscess. One of the vets from "Animal Hospital" (that great TV programme featuring Rolf Harris) suggested that Vaseline is perfect for rubbing on ticks. From personal experience I can warn you that ticks are prolific little suckers and lay babies at an alarming rate. It doesn't take long before they're crawling everywhere and I had a right palaver getting rid of them. At first sight of one, consult your vet and/or use FRONTLINE.

**Lice:** These cause severe irritation and even anaemia. Check for tell-tale signs of white eggs in your dog's fur and consult your vet for treatment.

**Mange:** No-one living in Bangkok can be unaware of this problem as it is commonly seen in street dogs - inflamed skin and bald patches.

More about mange in a future article but if your dog shows signs of this consult your vet quickly.

### Feed well

A balanced diet and regular feeding are vital ingredients for a healthy dog. Lots of high quality protein, fat and carbohydrates are needed. Any meat or fish which is fit for human consumption can be fed raw. Supplement this with dry dog biscuits which have added vitamins and minerals. You can feed your dog on dry food only but it makes them very thirsty, so leave them lots of water to drink. For variety, you can also use some of the better-known canned dog foods which are freely available here.

Feed your dog about the same time everyday. Most adult dogs are happy with one main meal a day (with perhaps a few

dog biscuits for treats in between), but small dogs, extra-large dogs and elderly dogs may prefer two meals a day.

Young puppies between 2 and 4 months need their own special feeding regime. Small amounts of easy to digest food, such as minced meat, flaked fish, rice, porridge, and milk is best. At this age they need 4 meals a day. After 4 months of age, the number of meals can be gradually reduced and the amount of food given increased.

Give a dog a bone - but avoid cooked bones and small bones (like chicken bones) which may splinter.

Dogs and puppies need to have a bowl of fresh water available at all times.

### Go walkies!

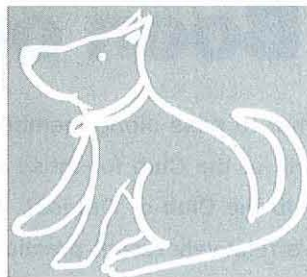
Not so easy here in Bangkok but nevertheless it's essential that your dog gets regular daily exercise. If walking the polluted streets of Bangkok with a pack of many strays sniffing at Rover's botty is not your idea of fun, then you'll have to find an alternative. Until I moved to a house with a garden big enough to exercise my dogs, I used to take them at weekends to the lake at Queen Sirikit National

Convention Centre, on the unmanicured area of grass. There's not too many stray dogs there, plenty of grass and trees, and a lake to swim in if you're not too worried about Rover drinking the waste from the Tobacco Monopoly! After dark, I'd then take the dogs for a walk on the lead in the quieter sois near my house. Now I throw a ball in the garden, with a Saturday visit to a grassed area near my husband's office and an occasional trip to the seaside.

Finding a place to exercise your dog is crucial to his health and happiness as lack of exercise can end up in a dog becoming fat, bored and destructive.

### Get grooming

All dogs benefit from a daily groom, and it's a chance for you to check for lumps, bumps, parasites or skin problems. If your dog is long-haired, then it must be combed



daily otherwise in this climate it will land up with matted hair and skin irritations. Start brushing your dog when it is young to get it used to grooming. I didn't pay enough attention to this and have landed up with a scruffy-

looking, long-haired variety who absolutely refuses to be touched by a brush or comb. If necessary, get your dog's coat clipped regularly at a professional dog groomer. I now take mine to "Dog Gone It" at 70 Sukhumvit 31, or "Sukhumvit Veterinarians" at 995 Sukhumvit Road (between sois 53 & 55) who seem unperturbed at the possibility of having their fingers bitten, but there's plenty of other good ones around.

It's fine to bath a dirty or smelly dog, but avoid doing this too often as it makes the coat rather dry.



### A happy tail to end

Last May I went to an "Adopt a Puppy" day, not to adopt but just for interest. There were hardly any customers that day and, as the BMA staff started packing up with many puppies still not taken, I picked up the skinniest, saddest-looking mongrel with breathing problems and took him home. He had suspected distemper so had to be quarantined from my other dogs. I named him 'Pepper', and am delighted to report that 'distemper' turned out to be pneumonia and today he's a healthy, glossy-coated bundle of fun, with an enormous appetite, a penchant for cats and the curliest tail you've ever seen. He now lives with another British Club member who kindly answered my advertisement for a good home. My sincere thanks to him.

Contact me at <sheridan@loxinfo.co.th>

**Sherry Conisbee**

Source: The information on caring for a dog was reproduced from literature provided by the RSPCA in the UK.

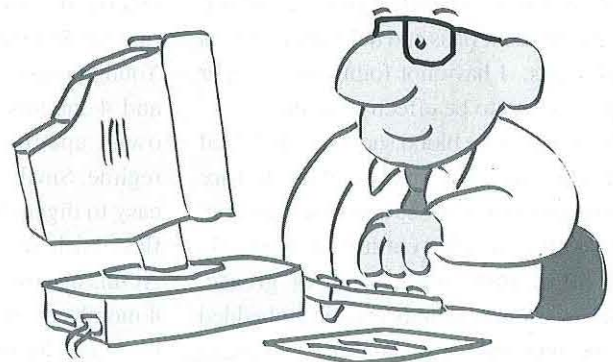


# Email - Boon or Curse?

**H**ere is my first attempt to pass along members's comments on aspects of the Club for those who don't wish to write directly to the Club or *Outpost*. This column relates to the Club's relatively recent practice of sending mass email-outs to members containing information about Club events, about which considerable discussion has taken place and private emails between members have been circulating.

Here are some of the issues raised:

- Sending individual emails for each event or activity – the argument against this practice came from those who receive dozens of emails a day, begrudging the fact that they have to open and print out each one in case a member of their family is interested in the events. The argument in favour came especially from those who have email at home, who are much happier glancing at the message title and immediately deleting all that are not relevant to them, opening only those that sound of interest.
- Members not printing emails out and taking them home to their families. A cause of considerable muttering among some of the mothers among the membership, who have complained of not being informed about upcoming family events. A tricky one this, and not easily solved where there is no email set-up at the *real* decision-maker's fingertips. Certainly, if you do have an alternative email address and would prefer to receive Club information there, please tell the Club to amend their email list.
- Appeasing members who do not wish to receive certain types of information, e.g. for those members without families who



do not wish to receive announcements of children's events. The Club could create specific email lists, but this is probably a non-starter given members' total apathy when it comes to registering preferences... Besides, you automatically filter out all the news in *Outpost* that is not relevant to you, it's no different doing the same with email.

- For those without email, the very recently-established Club news postcard is supposed to fill this gap, and for those who have their post sent to a more appropriate address. I have had little feedback on this new initiative – any thoughts on it out there?

Next month's column will be on the cakes now on sale in the salas, so if you have anything to say give me a call or send me an email.



**Gaynor**

## Hellos and Goodbyes

**Joining us in September were these New Members:**



David Aitken, Valerie Ashmar, Patrick Bermingham, Pravis Brown, Paul Carty, Derek Cook, Jenny-Less Economon, Edwin Ferner, Carel Frizelle, Colin Gellatly, Guy Hollis, Robert Jones, Anthony Keeling, Graham Lunney, Nikunj Mehta, Franco Passaro, Bruno Straub, Manish Sukhadiya, and John Twigg.

**Goodbye and good luck to all those who have bid us farewell:**

Ronald & Grania Skeldon and Timothy & Louise Porter who are moving back to the UK; Merin Waite and Ben Pugh who are both heading to new pastures overseas; Rishi Sadarangani (moving to the States); Loretta Joseph & Craig Thompson (returning to Aus); Asmi & Mitesh Mehta (heading to India); Alexander Lorenz (off to Germany); Gregory & Marion Harris (on to Hong Kong); Hideki & Eri Tomura. Cheerio!



## Italian Food & Wine Promotion

### Pasta Be the Best

Lords Restaurant was transformed into Little Italy on the evenings of Friday 6th and Saturday 7th October, as a total of 74 members attended the BC's latest food and wine event.

Diners were treated to a lavish Italian buffet including such delights as minestra de ceci, insalata di petti polla, granseola al limone, aristada di maile, al rosmarino and, of course, tiramisu.

Helping to make the evening truly Italian were Khun Thaya of **Italasia** who provided the drinks and background music, and Khun Jintana of **Alitalia** who kindly supplied the decorations.

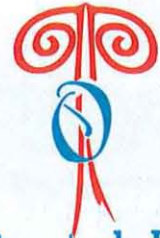
Don't let's forget Khun Boonlert and his team of chefs who provided the flavour for the evening and of course Khun Kasem and all the staff, catering and non-catering, who pulled together and provided the flair. Thanks mostly to the members who attended and made the evening a success.

Our next promotion will feature food from India so keep an eye out for the dates. I hope to see you all there.

Grazi  
Il Baztado



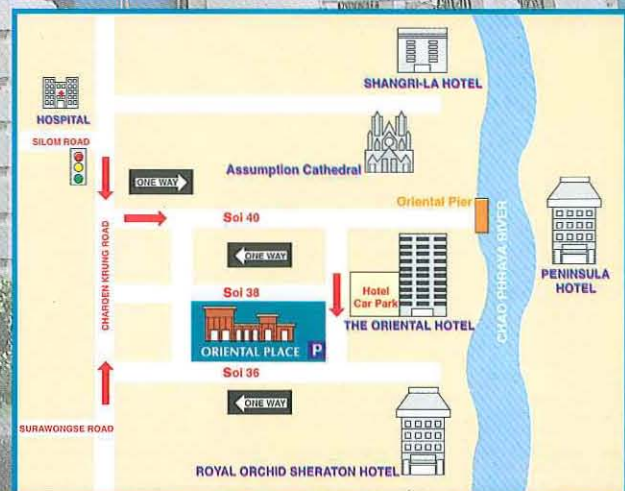
P.S. To that huge table of members and guests who turned up on Sunday evening expecting the Italian festival still to be running, we offer commiserations for missing a great evening but hope you enjoyed yourselves in Lords anyway. Perhaps you should check *Outpost* carefully for the dates of the Indian spice night!



# Oriental Place

SHOPPING ARCADE

*The Ultimate Shopping Experience  
Bangkok's Finest Antiques Centre*



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Tel. 266-0186-95 Fax: 237-4062  
[www.oriental-place.com](http://www.oriental-place.com)

For Taxi: โอเรียนเต็ล เฟลส อยู่ตรงข้ามที่จอดรถโรงแรมโอเรียนเต็ล  
30/1 ซ.เจริญกรุง 38 ก.เจริญกรุง กรุงเทพฯ 10500

# Through the Lens



Spotted during a recent visit to the Club: these dads and kids getting a feel for the water. For some it was all too much (see Simon Matthews sprawled out poolside). Some of the mothers were sitting not too far away, though I'm not sure whether they were looks of concern or amusement on their faces!



# Roll Up! Roll Up!

**P**loenchit Fair has been held annually in the grounds of the British Embassy since just after the war. It is run and organised by the British Community in Thailand Foundation for the Needy, formerly the UKCTC (United Kingdom Committee for Thai Charities).

There are over 75 stalls and attractions, many with a typical fairground theme - Treasure Island, Hoopla, Ferris Wheel, Coconut Shy, Darts and Jumping Castle to name but a few. Our Whiskey Tombola is packed all day, as is Bingo with a magnificent Final Game Prize of Bt 50,000++ and a Gallon of Johnnie Walker. The International Magic Circus will perform three shows with lots of magic, clowns, puppets and jugglers; there's the famous Petticoat Lane Shopping for the Mums and a full afternoon's entertainment on the Back Lawn with international bands. Dads can safely be parked there next to our Crown & Anchor, Wine and Guinness bars after they have checked-out Castrol's racing car and motorbike. The Grand Raffle (tickets pre-Fair from the British Chamber) has holidays for two in Britain, trips to Singapore, Hong Kong and

Samui, as well as other major prizes. Ice cream, candy floss and popcorn galore by one of our sponsors, Pepsi, and international fayre from the Shangri La Hotel, Rembrandt Hotel, Bobby's Arms and Mrs. Balbir - Hot Dogs, Fish 'n' Chips and Dunkin Donuts, or Cream Teas and Starbucks Coffee to keep you going. Please do come along - it's a great day for all the family.

Ploenchit Fair is not just a great day out - all proceeds raised are distributed throughout the year to Thai charities by the BCTFN. Last year over 35 charities were assisted all over Thailand with various projects, mostly of a self-help nature or with buildings and equipment that can help sustain small communities for a number of years. Full details of these you will find in your Fair Programme. So come along and spend, spend and spend -

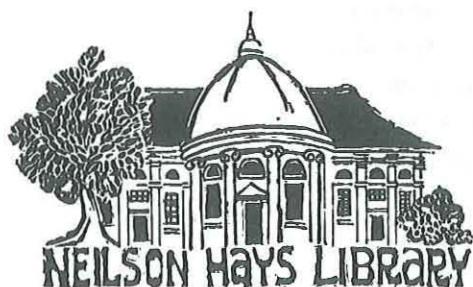


and have the satisfaction of knowing your enjoyment is helping those less fortunate in Thailand.

For any further information please contact me - tel. 390 0797; fax. 390 0798; Email: carolyn@loxinfo.co.th

**The Ploenchit Fair**  
**Saturday 25 November 2000**  
**10.00am - 5.00pm**

**Carolyn Tarrant**  
**Chairman of the BCTFN**



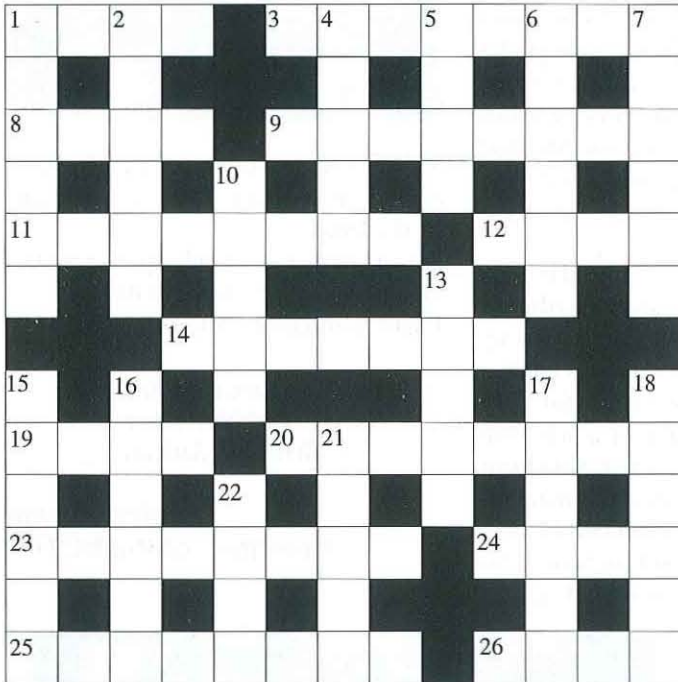
## THE NEILSON HAYS LIBRARY BOOK FAIR

**Saturday & Sunday, 18 & 19 November 2000**  
**10.00am - 5.00pm**

A great selection of books, old maps, prints, and post books is on offer at The Neilson Hays Library, with a special performance on Sunday by The Little Puppet Theatre of "The Nutcracker" - ideal entertainment for children of all ages. Curtain rises at 2.00pm at The British Club and admission is Bt 180.

*The Neilson Hays Library, 195 Suriwongse Road, Bangkok Tel. 233 1731*

# November Brain Work-out



**Across**

- 1 It was a hit musical.
- 3 Ted-out there-tied up!
- 8 The seven for the Navy.
- 9 A distinctive piece of bunting.
- 11 A white wine.
- 12 On court it's nothing!
- 14 Picked up for a shaky ride - with a car.
- 19 If it's a dead one, you're even!
- 20 It was a useful gadget in pre-teabag days.
- 23 The exertion of energy.
- 24 A movie in England.
- 25 Sent out of the country.
- 26 You say it's drinks - on the golf course?

**Down**

- 1 Croats in Cuba?
- 2 This Father is unlikely to be set on fire!
- 4 Note about a pound for a pop star.
- 5 Just suspend.
- 6 Ron is round the rough water - sensible conduct!
- 7 Dickens had an Artful one!
- 10 Fold over to make one.
- 13 Step on it and get going!
- 15 Grammar term - used by the Sherpa?
- 16 Popular computer.
- 17 I enter - in one piece.
- 18 One's best suit.
- 21 It indicates one's status.
- 22 Umpire's change?

**Solution to the September puzzle**



# We are the Survivors

This is an article for those born before 1940...

We were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen food, Xerox, contact lenses, videos, frisbees and the Pill. We lived before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens; before dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first then lived together - how quaint can you be? We thought 'fast food' was when you ate in Lent. A 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and crumpets we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating and dual careers: when a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins, and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus.

We were here before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We had never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt and men wearing earrings. For



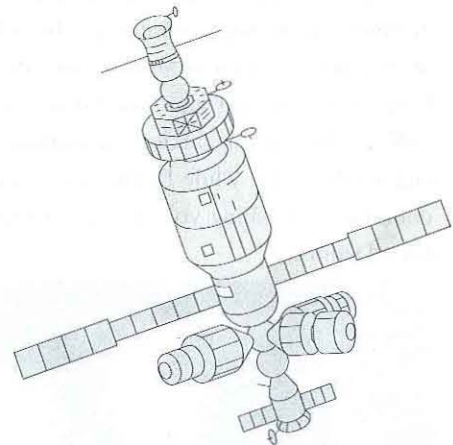
us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a chip was a piece of wood or a fried potato, hardware meant nuts and bolts and software wasn't a word.

Before 1940, 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams; a stud was something that fastened a collar on a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double decker bus until it reached the depot. Pizza, McDonalds and



instant coffee were unheard of. In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mown, coke was kept in a coal house, a joint was a piece of meat you had on Sundays and pot was something you cooked it in. Rock music was a grandmother's lullaby; El Dorado was an ice cream; a gay person was the life and soul of the party.

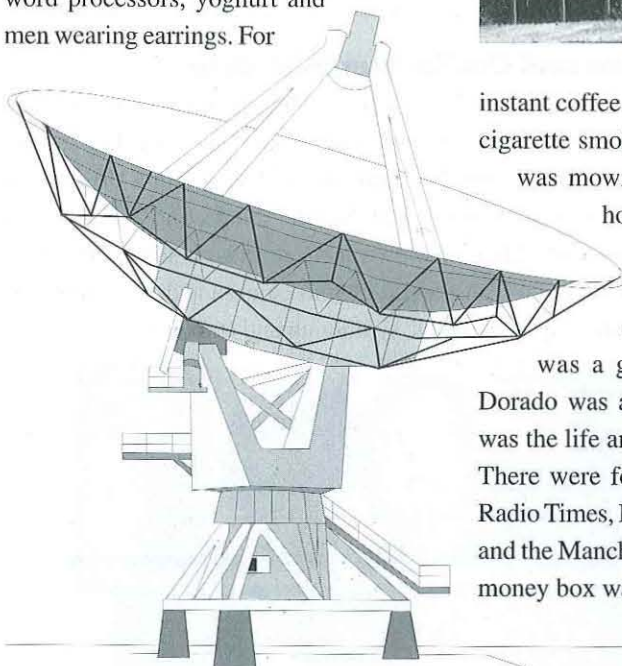
There were four grades of toilet paper - Radio Times, Daily Dispatch, Daily Herald and the Manchester Evening Chronicle. A money box was called a penny gas meter.



People had the toilet outside the home and ate their meals inside the home. A porn shop was a pawn shop; a handkerchief was a coat sleeve. Footwear was constructed of leather, iron and wood. A disc jockey was a National Hunt rider with a back injury. The recycling unit was known as the rag and bone man. An alarm was known as a knocker up. The NHS was known as the doctors bill - 6p a week. Debt and illegitimacy were secret; McDonald only had a farm. Central heating was an oven plate or a firebrick wrapped in a blanket. A duvet was your Dads overcoat. A kitchen unit was known as a slopstone. The Top Ten used to be the Ten Commandments.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the ways in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap. But we have survived. Hallelujah!

**Duncan Niven**



## Dennis and Bonnie Lynn Thomack

Singapore, UAE, Africa, India and now Thailand for Estimating & Proposals Manager Dennis and his wife Bonnie Lynn who arrived here a couple of months ago for a 2 year stay. Bonnie Lynn enjoys a host of sports and hobbies from volley ball, tennis, golf, aerobics, biking, hiking and camping to softball, ping pong and needle work, while Dennis focuses on golf, tennis and ... dominoes!. Wishing you plenty of double sixes while you're here, Dennis.



Dennis and Bonnie Lynn

## Anthony Nelson

Designer Anthony is from the States and hopes to stay in Thailand for 3-5 years. He's not much of a sports fan, preferring the more simple pleasures of eating and drinking fine fare - but he's joined us at the BC and that alone makes him a good sport!



Anthony

## Frederick Bee

Obviously a man of discerning taste, Frederick from the U.K. is another who dismisses the playing fields in favour of haute cuisine, fine wine, opera and classical music. Not only does Frederick enjoy good food but he likes to cooking and serving it up too. Arriving here after 8 years in Los Angeles, Frederick is now knuckling down to life at the Bangkok offices of Ogilvy & Mather, advertising agents. His house mates are 2 cats and 3 cocker spaniels - who probably cheer him up when he's feline ruff!



Frederick

## Peter Harper and Piyarat Suksiri

Peter, head of Harper & Associates and architect of the Club's Suriwongse Sala, has been here for 7 years and definitely thinks of Thailand as home. Piyarat works as a Cultural Affairs Officer at the Aussie Embassy and enjoys mountain biking and classical music. A member of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club, Peter enjoys sailing Hobies and has an interest in art and films. They have a one year old son, Jack, who does a lot of what one-year-olds do!



Suksiri and Peter

## Manita Herman

Having turned 21, Canadian Manita is now a fully paid-up, card-carrying member of the Club; the directory will soon be overflowing with Hermans! Certainly no hermit, student Manita was born here in Thailand, and is an energetic tennis and squash player, swimmer and gym freak.



Manita

## Jose and Cecilia Humbert-Droz

With postings in Saudi, Ghana, Nigeria, India, Morocco and Syria, José and Cecilia obviously enjoy the expat life and are just settling into Thailand for a 2 year bout. José is an Engineering Manager at Nestlé Foods and Cecilia is a housewife.. They have two teenage kids, a son of 16 and a daughter of 14. José enjoys tennis, squash and swimming and Cecilia enjoys aerobics, swimming and cooking.



José and Cecilia

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# Tee To Tea In Sri Lanka

**T**he schedule looked punishing but a feast of golf and sightseeing was promised. It was thus that 20 members of the golf section assembled at Don Muang airport on Thursday, 28th September for the 3 day golf tour of Sri Lanka. So popular is Sri Lankan Airways that the laggard Carter/Taylor party found themselves bumped off and on another airplane. That was how we lost the spare pilot. Nevertheless everyone reached Colombo in good time to be greeted with a garland of orchids.

We proceeded to the Royal Oceanic Hotel in Negombo. Half the party retired to bed and the other half led by Tissera and Young repaired to the bar.

We all woke up in the morning to be greeted by a palm fringed beach and a flotilla of fishing vessels. Breakfast was a delicious fish curry and at that point I knew that I wanted to eat Sri Lankan food forever. We set off just after 8.00am for Kandy passing Portuguese style churches and coconut groves. Ropes were strung from the tops of the trees about 60 feet off the ground to enable the pickers to harvest the crops without having to touch the ground. Scary!

Four hours later we reached the Victoria Golf Club outside of Kandy. Only 1 year old, the course is a par 73 and 6,879 yards long. Ringed by mountains it sprawls over 540 acres beside the Victoria reservoir. It has rightly already been included in the list of the top 100 golf courses in the world. Full advantage has been taken of the terrain comprising undulating hillsides, coconut groves, forests and streams. The fairways were narrow and the greens were fast. It was not for the faint hearted and definitely made mincemeat of those used to the parklands of Bangkok. The caddies, on the whole were very good and you were wise



to take the club offered and not argue. We each had a fore caddie whose specific responsibility was to locate your ball and mark it. A great way to speed up play!

We stayed overnight at the Earl's Regency, a 5 star hotel in Kandy and returned the next day to Victoria for a match against the members. Local knowledge helped as we lost... but only by a narrow margin. A sumptuous curry lunch was served in the charming club house, washed down by a few beers. We would have lingered but the itinerary demanded that we were on the road before night fall. It was with some reluctance we waved goodbye to our new found friends and climbed aboard the coach for the trip up the mountains to Nuwara Eliya.

Now as a boy Andre remembered that the school bus only took a couple of hours to get from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya. Five hours later we finally arrived at the Grand Hotel after negotiating some tortuous bends up the 6,000 feet mountain. So tight were the corners that we frequently had to do 3 point turns over the cliff to get round the corner. Fortunately it was dark so we couldn't see the sheer drop. During this time Larry Goodliffe was clutching on to his blazer like Linus and his security blanket. He was hoping to be in good time to wear it to the Hill Club for dinner. It was with huge anticipation that he set off with Jo, Dick and I only to be stopped at the doorway. "A word, Sir" said the doorman. "I regret to inform you that you are improperly dressed." "What" screamed Larry, "I've brought this blazer 1,000 miles just to eat at your establishment." "Not you, Sir" said the door man. "the ladies."



Eventually we were all let in but were told to hide in the bar and make sure that we were not seen by anyone.

We woke up in the morning and all thought "My God, I'm in Godalming!" Nuwara Eliya resembles a Surrey village set in the Scottish countryside. At 6,000 feet, the air is fresh and with a fine drizzle you could be forgiven for thinking that you were back home. The golf club itself is steeped in history, being more than 100 years old. The walls of the club house were covered in photographs of the first half of the 20th century, giving an indication of what life was like for the privileged few in those days.

The fairways were once again narrow, lined with deciduous trees and thick undergrowth. One wayward shot and you found yourself rooting around the gorse bushes. No fore caddies this time, so a lot of balls were lost. Just like St. Andrews, the holes criss-crossed and you had to keep your wits about you to ensure that you weren't clobbered by a ball coming from the other direction. One charming feature was a uniformed man serving pots of tea on the 14th hole. On this occasion the



British Club won which was quite an achievement considering the difficulty of the course.

Great hospitality was shown once again by our hosts and we enjoyed yet another delicious curry. Nick White then held court and announced the tour fines on some very spurious grounds to raise money for the prizes. Guy Snow was fined for leaving his wife at home. David and Roseanne for too much canoodling. Charles Skinner for holding up the bus on the first day. But the person who had to pay the most was of course Head of Pontification Roger Fitzgerald for putting foot in mouth on far too many occasions. Oh and by the way, we had two individual winners at the end of the three day competition: Pat Dean had lowest gross and Nick White, the stableford. They obviously had the most stamina.

It was still light when we set off for Columbo, and we could then see the road which we had traveled up on. Cut into the hillside like a discarded ribbon, it did not



look like the bus could even fit on it, let alone make the turns. The scenery was spectacular with steep terraces covered in tea plantations and vegetables. Before

the lights went out we caught glimpses of streams and running waterfalls. After a 6 hour drive, which included a detour over a very narrow bridge to avoid a flood, we returned back to Negombo. Our wake up call was at 4.30am and a few hours later we were sampling the excellent service on Sri Lankan Airways on our way back to



Bangkok dreaming of our return to Serendipity.

In all, it was a great trip and there are a number of people who deserve our thanks for making it so memorable:

Andre Tissera for organising the whole trip, Janine and Tony at the Victoria Club, Vernon and friends at Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lankan Airways, Jetwing Tours and our bus driver without whom I would not be writing this today.

to his charms and more importantly with a low handicap. Sriwan Forrest was his chosen victim this time and together they clinched the Rysome Bowl in the better ball stableford competition held at Muang Geow. Runners up were Don and Lorrie Robertson followed by Mick Murphy and Phil Hall. Don had his best round ever scoring a gross 84 off a handicap of 21. Handicap secretary, please note. Thanks to **Castrol** who sponsored the prizes.

### Staples stalks maidens

Mike Staples has cottoned on to the fact that to win these pairs competitions he needs a fair maiden at his side. For this reason he is prowling the corridors of the British Club looking for women vulnerable

### Next Outing

Sunday, 26 November – Captain's Day at Khao Kheow

**Karen Carter and Guy Snow**





## Golf



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