

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKO

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FRONT COVER

As the end of year celebrations approach, a surprise chance for kids to have a go at abseiling and climbing arose. Our esteemed Clubhouse provided the challenging walls which were shinned up and 'seiled' down, ropes securely in place! It was a great first-time sport and very much enjoyed.



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OUTPOST

Outpost is the monthly publication of **THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK**, the international club for friends and families in the heart of Bangkok.

A full version of the magazine is also available online at

www.britishclubbangkok.org/outpost Opinions expressed need not
necessarily represent those of the Club. All events, dates and times are correct
at time of press. Outpost welcomes contributions from Members. No part of this
publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the Publisher.

FOUNDATION TO GRADUATION IB almost done, Uni here I come Played the lead in the school production, it was brilliant! Helped organise the Green charity day at school, we raised loads! Chosen as a member of the winning Fired my first **FOBISSEA Maths team** sculpture in pottery Drew my own superhero on the Sang a solo in the computer - cool! Christmas Concert Gave a speech about my country to the class Starred in the school play, mum and dad took loads of photos! Hearned a song about the hungry caterpillar



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LETTER FROM THE ACTING GM



Dear Members.

I am pleased to be writing to you all from my position as Acting General Manager of the Club. Although these are challenging times for us, I am honoured that the Club has shown the confidence to appoint me to this role, and to support me in carrying it out to the best of my abilities.

I am fortunate in being assisted by an extremely capable management team; some of them, like myself, have been at the Club for several years while others are new.

In addition to my usual finance activities, I will also be looking after operations and all staff matters. Khun Laak will continue to cook up a storm in our kitchens and Khun Somboon will ensure that drinks and meals are served with a smile. Ashley Boca, our new Events & Sales Manager, has already made a great start on arranging the events calendar; Paul Ringer our new Sports Manager is continuing our traditional programme of sporting activities and mixing it up with new and exciting innovations such as rock climbing. Khun Prang, our Membership Manager, will be out and about marketing the Club to new and potential Members.

New and long serving alike, we are all working together to continue delivering good food, quality service and a broad range of exciting events during our busiest season of the year. All our major cool season events such as Guy Fawkes and the Christmas Ball will be going ahead, and they promise to be more enjoyable than ever.

I ask for your support to help me fulfill my duties, and I look forward to seeing you at the Club soon.

Premrudee Thanyaluck Acting General Manager

CAR PARK CLOSED

For the entire day of Saturday 5th November, the Club car park will be **CLOSED** to prepare for and conduct the GUY FAWKES PARTY.

We regret any inconvenience.

OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES

The Verandah 11am - 2pm (Mon. - Thurs.)

5pm - 10pm (Mon. - Thurs.)

11am - 10pm (Fri. - Sun. and Public Holidays)

Neilson Hays Coffee Shop	9am - 6pm	Fitness Centre	6am - 10pm (Mon-Fri)	
Churchill Bar	10am - 11pm	Fitness Centre	6am - 9pm (Sat-Sun)	
Poolside Bar	6:15am - 11pm Last food orders 9:30pm	Thai Massage	9am - 5pm (Tues-Sun)	



Psychology of Investing

ONE of the realities of markets is that at any one time, there has to be at least two individuals who are taking completely opposing views as to what is likely to happen next.

While one person will look at the economic data and think the worst, another will look at the same data and interpret it in a completely different way – think of it as the glass half empty, or half full. One will see a disaster, the other an opportunity. This difference of opinion will ensure that markets continue to thrive, after all, the adage that "two views make a market" is, at a very basic level, what keeps the economic wheels turning. But which one you will be depends on everything from your previous investing experience and

understanding of the sector you are investing in, to your current financial and emotional commitments. But it seems we are not spending enough time thinking about how we deal with our finances.

Professor Janet Reibstein, a psychologist who specialises in commitment and relationships, said: "[The Standard Life report] Your Commitments, Your Future shows a discrepancy in how much attention we devote to our financial and emotional commitments. We spend over two hours a day thinking about emotional commitments, but just 37 minutes on our financial commitments.

"People consider financial commitments as something abstract, separate to their emotional life. But our finances underpin our most important relationships and often our ability to achieve our future goals. The Standard Life report makes it clear how vital it is for people to engage with their finances, their personal relationships and future aspirations as one single entity."

Even if you try, or think you succeed in eliminating emotion from your financial decisions, it is almost impossible to do, especially if you are relying on the money you are investing for a specific reason, such as retirement or paying your child's school fees. The closer you get to that date, the more important it will be that nothing goes wrong with your investment – so the emotional pressure for it to succeed becomes greater.

There is an inherent part of human nature which makes most of us more comfortable if we are acting along the same lines as many others. This 'herd' mentality is not for everyone, there are some very successful contrarian investors who prefer to go their own way.

However, this herd mentality is one of the key factors in the creation of investment 'bubbles' in the markets. Often investors want to believe that something is going to happen, and that 'shared' optimism is what leads to assets being over valued.

For example, in the last 15 years there have been a number of bubbles – the tech bubble in the late 1990s, the property bubble fuelled by sub-prime lending in the States

'People consider financial commitments as something abstract, separate to their emotional life'

to mention just two – many of which would not necessarily have been seen as bubbles until the markets turned, investor confidence faded rapidly, and prices crashed.

US investment giant Vanguard has characterised its model of a bubble into four stages. In a report earlier this year, it said: "In Stage 1, investors develop initial forecasts of asset prices based on errors in statistical inference, broadly captured under the idea of the representativeness heuristic (where 'heuristic' means a decision shortcut).

"In Stage 2, these forecasts of future price appreciation become exaggerated. Overconfidence and excessive extrapolation of recent positive experience come into play.

"In Stage 3, individual forecasts influence the behavior (sic) of the group (in this case, the market or financial system as a whole). Through a process known as group polarization, the financial system takes on higher risk exposures than individual members would separately agree is prudent.

"Finally, in Stage 4, as actual market data begins to undermine the group's overconfident forecast of the future, the group polarization process plays in reverse, and the collective market outlook shifts sharply to the negative."

At Vanguard's stage 2 in the process, the tendency for an improvement in the price of a stock or sector in the short term can be extrapolated farther into the future than perhaps is deserved. This overconfidence is a well-recognised phenomenon in investing, and is aligned with an overconfidence in other areas of our lives.

Vanguard's report continued: "Overconfidence is perhaps the bestknown bias in behavioral finance. It is found in a wide range of human decisions, financial and nonfinancial. On a number of dimensions, most individuals tend to rate themselves as above-average. For example, most drivers, joke tellers, and students rate themselves as better than average. The tendency to view oneself as above-average extends to professionals, including CEOs, managers in general, doctors, negotiators, investment bankers, and entrepreneurs.

"Overconfidence has been linked at the margin to gender. Men, on average, appear to be more overconfident. For example, they trade more in brokerage accounts—and generate inferior results—compared with women, who are more likely to be buy-and-hold investors."

However, it is the same herd mentality that causes bubbles to form that pops them so effectively in a short time — when sentiment turns, the majority of investors will look to sell rather than hold, as that appears to be the 'right' thing to do.

'There is an inherent part of human nature which makes most of us more comfortable if we are acting along the same lines as many others'

So, given how many people get 'burned' when one of these bubbles eventually bursts, you might wonder why these cycles are repeated time and again, in different markets but with the same painful results? Human nature tends towards being positive, and hopeful. It is also, unfortunately, to try to convince ourselves that 'it could not happen again', or 'it is different this time'.

This bias is what has caused millions of investors throughout history from the South Sea China bubble to the property bubble in the USA in 2007 to make the same mistakes time after time. It comes back to the emotion that we use when we are making all of our decisions, including investment ones. No matter how hard you try, there will still be some emotion in your investment decisions, and that can mean you

making a choice more with your heart than your head.

The most successful investors are the ones that have a solid foundation for their reasoning, a clear understanding of why they have chosen their investment and what they expect to get, and the exact point at which they will take profit – no matter what happens.

Investing in what you know can help with this decision-making process, and will inevitably give you a better understanding of how a stock or sector is likely to behave. It will also help you to understand the impact of the wider economic environment on your holdings, and help you to be more cool-headed than others.

Feeling in control of your finances is directly linked to your self-esteem, according to a study by Aviva last year in association with a psychologist at the City University in London. Nearly nine in 10 of those surveyed with high self-esteem also felt in control of their finances, while seven in 10 with poor self-esteem felt they had no control of their financial affairs.

Taking control of your financial affairs is not only going to be good for your wellbeing now, it will give you peace of mind for the future. If you cannot do this for yourself, then consider getting some assistance from a specialist.

For more information or to review your investments please contact info@infinityfinancialsolutions.com.

Get in touch today.



NCHEONS

7th - 11th November 2011

Starters - 50 Baht

Chicken, Pumpkin and Cranberry Salad Coriander Dressing

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 130 Baht

Salmon Fish Cake Served with Chips, Garden Peas and Tartare Sauce

Turkey Lasagna Served with Garlic Bread

Grilled Mixed Sausages Served with Fried Onion and Mashed Potato

Gaeng Som Phak Ruam Goong

(Sour and Spicy Soup with Mixed Vegetables and Prawns)

Moo Tod Kratiam Prik Thai

(Stir-Fried Pork Fillet with Garlic and Pepper)

Gai Takrai

(Stir-Fried Chicken with Fresh Lemongrass and Peanuts)

Dessert of the Day- 50 Baht

Choose from our à la Carte Dessert 10% off

14th - 18th November

Starters - 50 Baht

Nicoise Salad

Potatoes, French Beans, Black Olives and Boiled Egg

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 130 Baht

Lamb and Beef Eggplant Moussaka served with Mixed Salad and Garlic Bread

Fish and Chips Your Choice of Bread Crumbed or Battered with Garden Peas and Tartare Sauce

Roast Chicken Breast Bacon Rolls

Served with Roast Vegetable and Home-Fried Potatoes

Gaeng Jued Woon Sen Phak Gard Kao

(Chinese Lettuce Soup with Minced Pork, Vermicelli and Tofu)

Pla Sam Ros

(Deep-Fried Dory Fish with Sweet and Sour Sauce)

Phad Kana Nam Man Hoy (Stir-Fried Chinese Broccoli with Oyster Sauce)

Dessert of the Day-50baht

Choose from our à la Carte Dessert 10% off

21st - 25th November

Starters - 50 Baht

Carrots, Raisin and Apple Coleslaw

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 130 Baht

Mini Steak Served with Mixed Vegetables and roast Potatoes

Chicken Maryland with Pineapple, Banana,

Sweet Corn, Tomato, Bacon, and Home-Fried Potatoes

Mexican Style Fish Kebabs Grilled Fish Seasoned with Lime Juice, Coriander and Mixed Herbs Accompanied

with Mixed Salad and Corn Salsa

Tom Kha Gai (Chicken Soup Enriched with Coconut Milk and Herbs) **Larb Moo** (Spicy North-Eastern Style with Minced Pork and Herb Salad) **Phad Phak Ruam** (Stir-Fried Mixed Vegetable with Oyster Sauce)

Dessert of the Day-50Baht

Choose from our à la Carte Dessert 10% off

28th November - 2nd December

Starters - 50 Baht

Chicken, Pasta and Pesto Salad

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 130 Baht

Grilled Fillet of Pork in a Light Curry Sauce Served with Zucchini and Coriander Rice

Grilled Chicken Breast and Spinach Risotto with Shave Parmesan, Rocket and Pesto

Grilled Dory Fish with Caper Meuniere Sauce served with Broccoli, Carrots and Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Gaeng Kiew Wan Look Chin Pla

(Fish Balls in Green Curry Sauce)

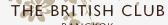
Kai Jiew Moo Sub (Thai Style Minced Pork Omelette)

Phad Tua Ngok Tao Hoo Lueng

(Stir-Fried Bean Sprouts with Bean Curd)

Dessert of the Day- 50 Baht

oose from our à la Carte Dessert 10% off



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MONTHLY ROUNDUP



The events we've seen

On 30th September, we had our monthly wine-tasting. Once again, you could sample some great wines from local retailers, and it was a good evening for all including this BC newbie. The 1st October was a busy one, with many functions winding on through the day, one of which was an attempt at our first Car Boot Sale. The sale started at 2pm very promisingly. Unfortunately for those with gaping car boots outside, This Is Thailand (TIT), and 4pm rolled along with an epic downpour. The vendors and customers all ran for cover in the Churchill or Verandah, and a classic indoor rainy day ensued.

The Bangkok Muscial Society gave a performance on 8th October, which encompassed all the upper floor rooms. I heard them making beautiful music during their rehearsals, so inevitably it was a brilliant success for the performers and the attendees alike.

The Club was the venue for the St. Andrew's Society Highland Games on 9th October, a charitable funfair with proceeds benefitting Operation Smile. As intended, there were smiles and laughter everywhere as people enjoyed the food and treats. Children could be heard tossing cabers and knocking over coconuts, and always backed with the sound of popping balloons. As we go to press, Bangkok is fighting off floods, but it looks as if it will get away with little more than what the rain brings. Hopefully, these plans will not be upset:

And the ones to come ...

While the adults enjoy imbibing at Friday 28th October's wine-tasting, the kids will be entertained and enthralled by Khun Susie's Halloween Hi-jinks. The pictures will surely be a laugh, and should appear in next month's Outpost.

The Beer Festival 2011 is still being finalised for 28th-30th October - this should be tasty so keep your eyes peeled for information! Meanwhile, our Beer Garden should be running between November and January, with specials announced as they are confimed. This will be a great way to wind down after a workday, with enticing Happy Hour deals! Outside, enjoying the better weather with a drink and great food, what could be better?

Remember, Remember the 5th of November the Guy Fawkes Day annual celebration, which falls on a Saturday this year, promises a spectacular fireworks display. Also, a riproaring bonfire to delight young and old alike, as well as crafts to entertain the kiddies à la Susie. Fun for the whole family, so don't miss this weekend treat! Soon after onThursday 10th November there's the festival of Loy Krathong; most of you are familiar with this most beautiful of Thai festivities, but it is new and interesting to this Bangkok Newb. This water ceremony takes place at the Suriwongse Sala with a Thai buffet thanks to Khun Laak and her team. Make sure to craft, buy or get ready to build your Krathong with us and celebrate this tradition by the pool.

WATER FUN DAY on Sunday 13th November is still in planning. Paul Ringer and his team will be organising some awesome sports and competitions, all revolving around water, which will be entertaining for all, regardless of age!

There's always more to come, so be sure to check the Events page on the Club website, and scrutinise the Club email newsletters.

Ashley Boca Events & Sales Manager

NEW MEMBERS NIGHT

Bv Khun Prans





I would like to thank all of you for coming to the New Members Night on 27 September! It was a really good evening and so much fun too. There was a really good mix of existing Club and Committee Members with new Members, which meant it was easy for people to circulate and meet lots of people.

We all met up in the Verandah for drinks and, like the drinks, the conversation just flowed! I was so happy to see that people enjoyed their time at the event. It was rewarding to see everyone smiling and chatting away, and I hope we have an equally successful event just like this in the not-too-distant future.

And a big 'thank you very much' must go to our special sponsor for the evening: **J W Marriott, Khao Lak**. They generously gave away a 3 days 2 nights voucher which is a sumptuous package! Many congratulations to Mr. Robert R Thomas who won the prize, and we hope he will have a fantastic holiday in beautiful and luxurious surroundings with amazing food, just what **J W Marriott** is known for!

Wow so lucky, yay yay!!



Join us to celebrate ...

LOY KRATHONG



Thursday 10th November 2011

On the River

- Bus leaves from the British Club at 6:30pm
- Loy Krathong Festival Night on board the Chao Phraya Princess Cruise with an international buffet

3,000 Baht for adults

2,000 Baht for children under 12 years

includes buffet dinner, soft drinks and Banana Leaf Cup (Krathong)

At the Poolside

- Children's games & activities Bouncy Castle
- Children's traditional Krathong making
- Festival Buffet from 7pm
 385 Baht for Adults
 200 Baht for Children under 12 years
- Krathong Ceremony

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THE SCIENCE OF SPEECH



Freddie and Eliza

Mrs Higgins' drawing room

The British Club was home to Bangkok Community Theatre's stellar production of George Bernard Shaw's classic comedy "Pygmalion" over the final fortnight of September.

The audiences that attended the six dinner theatre performances and 3 student nights enjoyed a rare treat when the Suriwongse Room was transformed into three completely different London scenes: Covent Garden, Professor Higgins' study, and Mrs Higgins' drawing room.

Kudos is due to the director and cast, the set and costume designers, and the ensemble who moved the set between acts. Amazing! The cast and crew featured more than a few British Club Members and were superb and wholly convincing, evoking suitable reactions from the audiences at the appropriate times.

For more info about the BCT, check out www.bct-th.org courtesy of Tim Pelling http://www.timpelling.com/











cordially invites you to the

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BALL 2011



British Club Bangkok 189 Suriwongse Road Bangkok 10500 Tel. +66(0) 2234 0247 Email: info@britishclubbangkok.org www.britishclubbangkok.org

BRITISH CLUB BALUT

By Sausage



Last month we covered the Balut Shield Awards Night, which effectively rounded off the Balut year, other than the 5th Det5 Challenge. We are now looking forward to the new Balut year which we hope will bring new challenges for and new members to the Balut Section. It would be good to see an expanded section, so please encourage other Club Members and friends to come and join our boisterous Section, and if that means joining the Club, so much the better! Furthermore, any ideas on new challenge opponents or improvements to the Section would be welcomed by the Section, and should be addressed to the Secretary (or any other member) of the Balut Section Committee.

BALUT SHIELD 2011-2012

It was an inclement evening with many regulars out of town, so the Balut Shield 2011/2012 kicked off with a defiant and committed handful of 15 players, who despite the extended monsoon exposure, were in remarkably high spirits even before Happy Hour!

The playing was as effervescent as one would expect following a warm welcome from Bowling Ball, though for me the dice seemed intent on disproving the laws of probability as well as confounding popular opinion. There was some appallingly bad throwing, in contrast to the usual run of greys-in-one, Baluts and the occasional miraculous recovery.

All in all a great evening, with 5 players over 500, a close trio for highest score, and a terrific showing by the Balut Juniors present, all of whom scored in the top 67%.

31st STC INTERPORT COMPETITION

It looks as if there will be only one BCB team travelling to SIngapore for this year's Interport which is scheduled to take place 18th - 20th November, At one point, they stated that no minors were allowed, which would have resulted in BCB withdrawing completely as our Juniors are good players! However, they relented, so we wish all the BCB Team Players the very best of luck, have a good trip and a a fantastic holiday!

As always, our sincere thanks are extended to **OUTRIGGER HOTELS AND RESORTS** for their kind supply of the prizes, and to **YES TECHNOLOGIES** for their easy-to-use and highly efficient Balut Online Scoring System **(BOSS)**.

Prizes Winners for Tournament 1:





The Club wishes to acknowledge substantial support provided by the following:









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5th BCB:Det5 CHALLENGE

There was a frenzied energy emanating from the Club's team captain, The Jackal, in a bid to maximise players' luck (and skill) into a triumph which would lead to victory and recovery of the Cup from the iron grip of Det5's skillful (if rather lucky) team.

The first tournament was held at the Club on 25 September and despite an excellent team (featuring Orange, Swampy, Sausage, TC, Lindy, H, Mrs Orange and Tom), the day concluded with our formidable opponents leading overall by 66 points. It was a good day and such a close match, with the spot prizes and complimentary buffet/drinks easing the loser's consciences.









The second tournament was held at Det5 Bar & Restaurant at on 2 October, running into a shortage of players on the BCB team even before the games got underway. Despite attempts to recruit other players, Mr C kindly stepped in and made up the eight players, which on this occasion featured Lindy, Jackal, Shanghai, Tik, Swampy, H, Sausage and Mr C. After a delicious buffet including oysters and sashimi salmon (and one of my favourites Tod Mun Kung), the play got off to a roaring start, and the teams moved through the games neck and neck, with increasingly loud shrieks of joy at fortunate throws and spot prize claims. Two games from the end, the competition was intense, with barely 40 points in 15,000 between the teams. Only too soon it was over, with the Det5 team retaining the Trophy, but only just! Terrific stuff, with tremendous play from all participants from both teams, with special mention to Preeda (Det5), H (BCB), and Shanghai (BCB).















*LUNCHEON *WINNER

25TH DECEMBER 2011

The Verandah Restaurant & Churchill Bar Buffet 950 Baht/person 550 Baht/ Child under 12 years



British Club Bangkok 189 Suriwongse Road Bangkok 10500 Tel. +66(0) 2234 0247

Email: info@britishclubbangkok.org www.britishclubbangkok.org

PAST PARTICIPLE

Auspicium Melioris Ævi

By Paul Cheesman



We look back at events of 1969 ...

The year opened with a trial on a weekly basis of a Curry Luncheon each Sunday. The initial success waned as the rainy season approached, and it was reduced to once a month. In addition, from late January we were able to add a second draught beer to 'The Bar' to that of Singha, in the form of 'Krathing Thong' (Golden Bull), brewed by Thai Amarit Brewery.

This year we had a 'hit' and 'miss' situation with overseas volunteers ... the 'hit' was a luncheon on 27th August to which all 20 new Voluntary Service Overseas workers from the UK were given temporary privileges in the Club, and the 'miss' was a letter on 29th September in which the 43 workers from Canadian University Service Overseas withdrew from the Club when it was realised that our constitution did not allow all Canadians to hold membership!

It was another good naval year for the Club with visits from Daring class destroyers HMS Dainty and HMAS Duchess, River class destroyer HMAS Derwent, Leander class frigate HMS Ajax and Whitby class destroyer HMNZS Blackpool. The plaques from the Dainty and the Derwent are still on display in the Churchill Bar.

It was agreed, for the first time, that all Honorary Members by virtue of position would be granted complimentary invitations to the Christmas Ball with their wives. These were, as indicated last month, the Ambassadors of Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand, plus the Vicar of Christ Church. In addition, we invited the Chairmen of the Royal Bangkok Sports Club and the Old English Students' Association (under Royal patronage). At some point later we ceased inviting the latter two positions.

Following discussion at the AGM, a motion was put to a Committee meeting to change our membership criteria from "citizens of the UK and such other persons who are of British descent, as the committee may decide" to "citizens of the United Kingdom; also for other such persons of the British community in Thailand whom the Committee in their sole discretion shall decide".

RABE TAARD JASE

TO LOUS DUTY SERVICE TO THE SERVICE S

Unfortunately the Committee could not agree on the exact wording, leading the Chairman to record in the minutes "If Moses had been a Committee the Israelites would still be in Egypt". The wording was eventually agreed and was put to two Extraordinary General Meetings, and passed by the first and heavily defeated by the second.

A Golden Bull to fight a Lion!



WANTED: GENERAL MANAGER

It is no secret that there have been six appointments to the role of General Manager or Chief Executive Officer in the Club over the past eight years, and that none have succeeded for a variety of reasons. Not only does this unfortunate trend leave us without continuity of direction, but it has also left us out of pocket at times and without leadership during our busiest periods of the year.

The General Committee has therefore established a SEARCH COMMITTEE in order to first of all look at what has gone wrong in each case, to look at how we appointed people (through agencies, advertisements etc) and to try to establish a different procedure for recruiting the next GM. The Search Committee will then define exactly what the role of the General Manager is, the exact skill set that is required and define the remuneration and bonus package that industry expertise says will attract the right type of candidate. We will then start the recruitment procedure.

To this end, from the Horeca Industry we have co-opted **Anthony Dupont** (Amanpuri, Amansara and Amantaka Resorts); from the Executive Recruitment industry we have **Tony Rodriguez** (ICPA); from 25 years in the Retail Industry we have **Paul Cheesman** (retired but was Boots and then Shell), and finally with over 30 years involvement in music & bar/restaurant business and organizing folk music clubs and live music festivals, we have **Paul Williams**. The Search Committee will be headed by the Club's Vice Chairman, **Chris Watt**.

If you have a view on this procedure, or even would like to be considered for the General Manager's role once the new criteria have been set, please contact the Search Committee on **cjwatt@loxinfo.co.th**

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BC CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2011

MONDAY

























TUESDAY



















WEDNESDAY

























THU



Fitball



























CAR PARK CLOSED

ntire day of Saturday 5th November, the Club car park will SED to prepare for and conduct the GUY FAWKES PARTY.

We regret any inconvenience.

BC Golf Society

Sunday 13th November Bangkok GC

Sunday 27th November The Royal GC



British Club Bangkok 189 Suriwongse Road Bangkok 10500 Tel. +66(0) 2234 0247

Email: info@britishclubbangkok.org www.britishclubbangkok.org

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SPORT & LEISURE

By Paul Ringer





Dear Members,

This month we have a water fun day on Sunday 13th, which we are planning to be a day of excitement and amusement for all ages. Then on Saturday 19th, there's the BIG BALLS-UP, which is a new type of extravaganza which you must just attend to find out about. Throughout the month, there are all the regular mix-ins, boot camps, swimming classes and tennis lessons.

Hope to see you oot and aboot.

Paul

SWIMMING

Swimming classes are now well underway, and I would like to thank all parents who signed their children up for classes. We have five new levels, BC Squirts, BC Nemos, BC Marlins, BC Barracudas and BC Sharks. Each level consists of 12 sessions, with a set of outlines, and the kids receive certificates for each level of competence they reach.

I hope in the future to add further awards for distance swimming and safety and survival competencies.











TABLE TENNIS

There was a high stakes ping-pong match played on 7th October between two BCTS Members to resolve what I believe was an argument over who had the bigger tennis racquet.

It was decided that equally small racquets or bats should be used to settle the dispute, and so a table tennis table was hastily set up in Squash Court 3 and the Members got to it.

Somebody won, but I'll keep that a secret in a face-saving gesture for the person who obviously has the smaller racquet!







PLOENCHIT FAIR BY THE RIVER

AT SHREWSBURY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



△ SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2011

วันเสาร์ที่ 26 พฤศจิกายน 2554 เริ่มงาน 10.00 น. - 21.00 น.

ความสนุกสนานต่างๆ นานา ที่งานเพลินจิต รวมไปถึงการซื้อของต้อนรับเทศกาลคริสต์มาส และการต่อรองราคาอย่างเหลือลัน มีรางวัลมากมาย ถึงพันๆชิ้นจากการจับรางวัล รวมไปถึงอาหารนานาชาติ แฮมเบอร์เกอร์ สเต็ก รวมทั้งเครื่องคื้มนานาชาติ ทั้งแชมเปญ บาร์เบียร์และความบันเทิง จัดเตรียมไว้ให้ใกล้ๆ กับแม่น้ำเจ้าพระยา

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ABSEILING & CLIMBING

By Paul Ringer

As a promotion for the kids Sports Camp on the 7th and 8th October, we arranged for P.T. Climbing Adventure to come along to the Club to do some abseiling from the Clubhouse balcony, and to try out some elementary climbing on our glorious Club facade! They set everything up, checked the walls and surfaces, and double-checked all the safety aspects before any kid got near a rope.

the balcony! Such was the success and feedback that I hope we can repeat the same or or arrange something similar



TENNIS

By Paul Ringer



October, like September was wet, but maybe wetter. However we still forged ahead with the Graded Doubles Championships on 1st October. The number of entrants wasn't, shall we say, massive although with both the rain and the Thailand Tennis Open vying for people's attention, the field was such that every double had a reasonably good chance of getting to the final.

The championship started, it rained, and so play stopped, it dried up so it restarted, and then the rain got all torrential and play stopped again. For some, the boys mostly, this signalled

the end of competitive tennis and the start of competitive beer-fuelled cheerleading. For others it meant a patient wait to see what happens. What happened was the torrents stopped and play resumed, and to the competitors credit, all competitions were completed.

Well done to Glades and Debbie who won the women's doubles, congratulations to Kitti and Pattana for winning the men's doubles and 'Sud Yord' to Kitti and Wandee for winning the mixed doubles.





Having had a good look at the Tri-Levels league tournament, I spoke to a few people, took some advice and have come up with the following format which is hopefully simpler, easier to manage, and will help more people benefit from some competitive team matches.

Mixed Team Tennis:

Mixed Team - minimum 3 people, maximum 5 people.

It is best to have a core team of 3 and if possible 5 players. However, as we all lead busy lives and traffic is a problem in Bangkok, it is acceptable to have substitute players fill in as and when needs be.

Competition Format:

3 Matches to be played on the same court, time limit 1hour.

Match 1 - Singles

Match 2 - Doubles

Match 3 - Mixed Doubles

It is advisable but not necessary to have your strongest

player(s) in matches 1 & 2 and your weakest player(s) in matches 2 & 3.

Match 2 can be same sex or mixed sex doubles.

Match 3 must be mixed doubles.

The matches (singles, doubles, mixed doubles) will be best of 7 games meaning first to 4 games is the winner.

Your team scores 3 points for every court won, meaning a maximum of 9 points per team contest are up for grabs. Points will be added up each month and a leader board will be created for the year.

As a team it is your responsibility to make sure you play every other team within the month.

I propose 2 courts be blocked off for the team tennis tournament, so a minimum of 4 teams can compete on any given Monday. You can, if your team wishes, challenge more than 1 team per evening.

I also plan to introduce a tennis league and a tennis ladder in the new year. I will keep you posted.

SQUASHY BITS

By Bruce Madge



SQUASH ONLY PLEASE. THANK YOU.

Piles of squash gossip, squash data, squash incidents and squash codswallop coming up. It's been backing up for a while and now it's all coming out from Mad, H, Cat Flap, Bobby, Corn, Lord D and Evans. They are puking it all up.



JUMBO DOUBLES by Bruce Mad

Captain Neil, and Vietnam Warr, had a go in a Jumbo Doubles event. A doubles squash court is a bit wider than a regular court, but a jumbo court is massive. It's wider, higher, longer, deeper, darker, brighter, even higher, even wider, even longer than that. However, the court size isn't the reason it's called jumbo doubles. No. It's because of the elephants. Jumbo



doubles squash or squash jumbo doubles or even doubles squash jumbo is a squash competition between humans and elephants. So there they were Civil and Captain on this colossal court waiting for their opponents. They didn't know that they were not going to be human. And in they came. An African one with monstrous, flapping ears and an Asian one eating a banana. David and Neil were scared. Doubles squash is a

dangerous sport anyway, but this was going to be very unsafe. Well, they had a go, but it just didn't work. These elephants were too clumsy, terribly cumbersome, and very slow to clear the ball. They held their rackets with their trunks and swished them left and right often catching Neil and David's legs. It hurt. They just couldn't get in the game, and then the elephants started leaving their droppings all over the court which they slipped over on and got all over their squash kit. Neil's all-white, matching Adidas kit was ruined. Well, they played six pairs of these jumbos and managed to beat two of them, but lost the rest. I don't think they are going to play in this competition next year.



KING'S CUP by H

Err, yeah, me, err, Wally Evans, and Kitti played in the King's Cup at the Polo Club last month or whenever. Evans made the second or third round, I think. Can't remember. Don't care. Kitti was out, err, pretty early, and I pulled out early, too, because, err, I hurt my leg playing hopscotch with Evans' kids. End.

SQUASH LEAGUES by Cat Flap

Hi there. David here. Just like to report on the leagues. Well, David Warr won League 1 in September and Charles won League 2. They both played very well. League 3 was a bit bare. Come on you squash players. Join the leagues. It's great fun.



SQUASH LADDER by Come on Bobby

Well there gents, it looks like the vouchers for September's ladder are going to Mick Marshall and Ozzier Khan. Well done to them and I bid you goodnight gentlemen.

NEW MEMBERS by Corn

We've had some new Members join the Squash Section. A couple of Micks, an Ozzier, a Bernard from before and a Gary Baines. Welcome to them. Gaynor left. We'll miss her. Oh, and Dean's back from Singapore. Thanks Girls.

KL TOUR by Jack

The squash team was absolutely useless in KL. Half of them didn't turn up and the rest got thrashed. Neil was the captain and he was absolutely hopeless. His team couldn't get even one victory and then he forgot to note down any results or take any pictures. Disgraceful. Lord Dunford.

WEDNESDAY TEAM MATCHES by Captain Neil

The Squash Section has been entering a team in a new TSRA Wednesday League featuring clubs from all over Bangkok. At the moment, the BC team is unbeaten with the latest victory being over Rama Garden Hotel. Well done team players of Me, Marc, Ja, Rit, Charles, H, Davids, and all the others.



HANDICAP COMP by Bruce Mad

Straight after the food fight, we did this, though the numbers were low because of the floods, some of it was like this: Cornspice beat Duncan, but lost to Mick Marshall who is nearly 70, and he lost to Star Wars, who had beaten Den, so Warr in the main final against Evans who had beaten Mad, and others, who then beat Yasser, but lost to Charles so Charles vs Rit in the plate final as Rit beat Den after Den lost to Warr, but Charles off to Cambod to see his WAG, not young school girl, but older farmer type lady, so Mad vs Rit and Rit won 3-2, just, after the ball got stuck up the wall, and Mad had a match point, yet didn't win, and then Evans lost 3-1 to David so David is better at the moment, while Den was Man of the Tournament. Thanks to them.



ROD CARTER by Rit

It come next month or now soon. Have prize money and trophy. Have 50 player from other club. Two or three week. Last year Win win. Maybe this year I win.



Until the Rod Carter.....

(Check out the BCB facebook)

HARD BALLS

By Squire Legge



Fireworks can be expected as the BC Cricket Team lights up a new season against the RBSC at the Polo Club on Guy Fawkes Day, 5th November. The new Captain Dale Lamb has declared "We're going to win ALL our matches this year". We'll certainly be off to a good start if we win this one, always a tough fixture.

The Cricket Section was reborn just two years ago with the modest ambition of playing half a dozen games of social cricket in the old-fashioned gentlemen's way and, to avoid mistakes leading to the demise of other Sections, by limiting participation to Club Members only. At its Annual General Meeting on 5th October, it was noted that all expectations had been exceeded. 15 matches were played during this second season; two successful tours were made to Chiang Mai and Kuala Lumpur; and the Club excelled in the Southerners Sixes tournament. No less than 26 Members turned out for the Club.

This level of enthusiasm was sustained in spite of the fact that playing results were pretty modest with only four wins (two against young Thai cricketers in Chiang Mai) and one draw set against 10 defeats. The secret, of course, was that every match

was fun and almost without exception the opposition told us it was one of their most enjoyable matches of the season.

Sometimes success can bring its own challenges. Will we have too many players next season? Should we consider re-entering the League? Not yet, we decided. We want cricket at the British Club to remain fun. We hope that before long some young(er) cricketers will emerge who want to play regular league cricket ... and organise it. But for now, most of us are happy with the irregular but varied social calendar.

It would of course be even more fun to win a few more matches, and it was unanimously agreed that in many games it was our fielding that let us down. If we had held even half of our catches, some of those lost matches could have been won. Some of the ground fielding was appalling. Even modest improvements would help and this, Mr Lamb, we must do, if we are going to win all our games!

The season's playing averages reveal all. We have an OK batting side with 7 batsmen scoring over 100 runs or averaging over 20. Considering in most of our matches batsmen have to retire on 30, this is not bad at all.

Name	Innings	Not out	Runs	HS	4	6	Average
Vaughan McClear	11	4	215	33	27	1	30.71
Joss Dimock	10	2	206	45	23	5	25.75
Colin Hastings	5	2	77	30	10	0	25.67
Dale Lamb	11	3	186	33	20	4	23.25
Andrew Spedding	4	1	65	46	7	0	21.67
Nick White	8	1	128	29	12	2	18.29
Sailesh Dalmania	12	2	171	33	15	4	17.10

Well done Vaughan! Top of the bunch, in spite of also skippering and keeping wicket. He will be awesome next season with Dale taking over the captaincy worries.

The bowling was less impressive with only 4 bowlers averaging less than 30 per wicket. But add on a few dropped catches and take off a few 4's through the legs for each bowler and the figures would look a lot more respectable. A couple of youthful quickies might come in handy next season though!

Name	Matches	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	average
Jack Dunford	11	35	0	272	15	18.13
Anthony Dupont	6	17	0	128	6	21.33
Andrew Spedding	4	15	1	69	3	23.00
Phil Alexander	5	18	0	139	6	23.17
Jon Arnold	6	12	0	92	3	30.67
Sailesh Dalmania	12	43	1	264	8	33.00

This was a happy season with many players contributing to the team spirit. Special mention should be made of Sailesh who played in 12 matches mostly without the use of his legs. A bit of minor post-season surgery promises miracles next season. A presentation was made to Vaughan McClear in appreciation for two years of inspired leadership as captain and his huge contribution in helping reestablish cricket at the British Club.



We would like to emphatically say a serious "Thank you", once again, to the Landmark Hotel for sponsoring our smart playing shirts again this season.

The 2011/12 season looks even more exciting. 12 new Members have shown an interest in playing next season and the new Section Committee is:

Chairman: Jack Dunford	Statistics: Neil Evans		
Captain: Dale Lamb	Media/Talent Scout: Colin Hastings		
Vice-Captain: Vaughan McCLear	Social Media/ Practice: Nick Annets		
Treasurer: James Crossley-Smith	Music Maestro: Richard Harvey		
Secretary: Anthony Dupont	Member: Rahul Gupte		
Fines Master: Nick White			

Fixtures are being drawn up and will be on the Section Notice Board next to the toilets shortly. We might be playing 20 matches this season!

Net practices are off to an erratic start due to appalling weather and the Rugby World Cup, but should be in full swing by the time this is published. Normal practice times are 3.00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays when we are not playing matches.

Watch the Section Notice Board, but even better, join the Section and get on regular email updates. New players should contact Jack Dunford.

No current pictures this month, just a few memories of last season including pictures from each of the grounds we played on and a couple of squashie pictures which ought to have been in Squashy Bits.





BCGS GOLFING NEWS

By Jack O'Flynn



Monthly Stableford, Bangkok GC Sunday 4 September 2011

The golfing gods clearly took pity on us as we somehow managed to find a dry and sunny day in the midst of all the wet and gloomy weather, so common of late. Surprisingly, the golf course was in reasonably good shape, and it was a determined group who turned out to enjoy this rare occasion - or, would have enjoyed it more fully had it not been for the state of the greens, most of which, at first glance look great but things are not always as they seem!

(1). They were at best, bewildering.



Joining our group for this month's Stableford Competition as new members were John Griffiths and James Illsley. The latter demonstrated some fine poise and technique on his first outing, (2) as well as some promise for the future, if his back nine gross score of 41 is anything to go by. Also included in the field was guest John Underwood (3).





And so to the business at hand — on the precision side of things, new boys John Underwood and James Illsley quickly got in on the act, winning near pin awards. Similar awards went to Jack O and Julie S, while Mark took the honours for longest putt. Grumblings about the absence of longest drive prizes were quickly dealt with by the Captain, as these were replaced by the day's Mystery Prizes. Perhaps it was for their good-showing on the course or maybe it was designed to act as an inducement to return for future events, but both prizes went to the new members! Harmony restored once more, everyone sat back to enjoy the refreshments and await the final results (4).



Frustrations a-plenty on the greens may have led to the fairly ordinary scoring, with only one competitor playing to handicap. Randall C with 35 points just edged out the Captain on countback for 2nd place, and despite a shaky finish, Jack O did just enough to hold on to top spot with 37 points (well played Jack! Ed). Our photographerat-large managed to catch up with the winner as he enjoyed an excellent day out at the British Club, courtesy of the generous F&B voucher awarded for the first place finish (5).



September Medal, The Royal GC Sunday 25 September 2011

A large turnout in soft conditions would summarise yesterday's Medal event. Seven groups teed off in bright sunshine at holes 1 and 10, but the drying breeze and strong sun made little impact, and it quickly became obvious that we would experience little run on the ball. We would just have to give a little extra 'umph' on our shots to match our expectations.

The incoming results showed that the extra 'umph' was clearly the wrong strategy, thereby proving the oft-quoted adage 'less umph, more distance' - but we never learn.

Playing steady, umph-free golf, Jeremy narrowly took the Flight A Medal with a net score of 73, and not surprisingly looks decidedly pleased with his efforts (6). Following his



mid-week success in the matchplay competition, David Humphreys (applying selected 'umph') continued his fine form to finish a close second with Tracy, JC, Varghese and Randall hanging on to their coat tails with nett 76.

The Flight B result was decided by a countback - Rod and Capt. Ray finished on net 74, but, with much derision at the announcement, the Capt. sneaked it by a whisker (7). Art C also had a good round and took third place with net 76.



MATCHPLAY COMPETITION FINALS:

Despite all difficulties associated with the organisation of this particular event, a conclusion was eventually reached when the finals of the Plate and Main competition were both played in the last week of September.

The Plate Competition

The final of the matchplay Plate Competition was contested between the big and powerful David Humphreys and the equally big and powerful Frank Fawkes. Unfortunately for Frank, that is where equality ended. David quickly stamped his authority on the match with his trademark long, straight drives, backed up by some unusually precise putting. David's unexpected short game skills clearly rattled Frank, who was unable to raise his game in response. He never posed a serious danger to his rival, who won by a comfortable 7 & 5 margin.

And so back to the Clubhouse for an early bath and some much-needed refreshments. I leave you to draw your own conclusions as to what happened next??? (8).



The Final

Firstly, apologies to the masses who turned up at Subhapruek GC for the grand final (as announced in last month's article) only to discover that the match had been rescheduled and took place at Kiarti Thani GC instead!! In wet conditions after heavy overnight rain, with little roll on the ball, the two protagonists started cautiously, halving the first two holes. Then followed alternate wins, until Ray pulled away to build up a three hole lead at the halfway stage. The back 9 continued in the same vein with Ray polishing off the match at the 13th hole. Well done Khun Yurachatr for putting up such stern opposition in the trying conditions.

Congratulations to all who took part in this event and especially to Capt. Ray and David H on their deserved success in the 2011 Matchplay finals.

Website: http://www.bcgsthailand.org Email: bcgs2002@Qyahoo.co.uk

Phone: Golf Society Captain, Ray Bloom - 0870513548

BRIDGE

Bridge Results for September 2011

EVENT	RANK	NAME (PAIR)	SCORE%
Sunday 4th September (19 pairs)	N/S winner	Mike & Leo	53.70%
Suriday 4th September (19 pails)	E/W winner	Chakramon & Manthanee	64.84%
Tuesday 6th September (6 pairs)	1st	Benjarong & Narin	65.00%
Tuesday 6th September (6 pairs)	2nd	Leo & Michael Winckless	58.75%
Tuesday 13th September (7 pairs)	1st	Jeremy & Chintana	59.72%
Tuesday 13th September (7 pairs)	2nd	Benjarong & Narin	56.94%
	1st	Chalermpol & Prarop	65.38%
Sunday 18th September (14 pairs)	Tied 2nd	Usha & Lalit	55.45%
	Tied 2nd	Chakramon & Manthanee	55.45%
T do.: 20th Contact to (0 in)	1st	Supote & Somchai R.	65.87%
Tuesday 20th September (8 pairs)	2nd	Kiatchai & Hiran	60.32%
T d 274b (Contact b (7 in))	1st	Chakramon & Supote	63.89%
Tuesday 27th September (7 pairs)	2nd	Jeremy & Monita	55.56%

Bridge Play Techniques

(by Helmer Nissen)

What do you play and why?

Declarer opened 1 NT, your lovely partner leads $2 \spadesuit$ (4th highest), dummy got \spadesuit JT6, you have: \spadesuit Q 8 5 3

What do you play if declarer plays the 6 from Dummy, and respectively the Jack? Before you decide what to play, you need to be able to count to 13: partner has 4 spades in his hand, there are 3 in dummy, and you have another 4. So now you know that declarer has only 2 spades in his hand, but which two?

Let's say it is the A9, then declarer will always get two spade tricks. But what if it is K9?

Therefore don't cover with the Queen, but encourage your partner to play the suit again, and whenever you or partner gets in, the King will drop, and your side will get 3 \spadesuit tricks.

That was a set-up question. Would you play like this at the table?

Two more questions, what do you lead upon 1 NT - 3 NT from opponents?

A)	♠	AK654 63	B)	♠ ♥	T98642 7
	*	864 975		•	965 832



If your partner got two • and both opponents three, you need to play a small to keep an entry to your hand, try also to imagine partner having the Jack doubleton, and dummy having Q82!

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Saturday 5th November 2011

with an afternoon full of activities Kid activities from 4:00 pm - Late

BBQ from 4:30 pm ◆Fireworks at 7:00 pm ◆ Guy Burning at 7:15 pm



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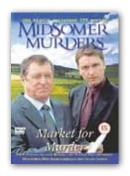
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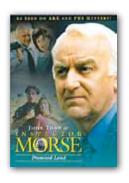


"What an apt village name"

7th Market for Murder

When a Ladies Reading Club was doing more than speculating about books, when a disgraced currency trader is still in the pool and when the lack of motive was, perhaps, the motive itself.

This misleading murder trail casts John Nettles as DCI Barnaby with guest stars Anton Rogers, Angela Thorne and Barbara Leigh Hunt.



"G' day Robbie"

14th Promised Land

It's a trip down under for our intrepid Oxford team but what takes them so far afield? What did they find that is so bizarre that Morse uses Lewis's Christian name? And did the real witness actually come forward I wonder?

John Thaw is DCI Morse with guest stars Noah Taylor, Maureen Green and Max Phipps.



"Not quite the 4.50 from Paddington!"

21st The Plymouth Express/ Wasp's Nest

Another Poirot double bill ...

In which a trip to Plymouth is a deadly affair and a wasp's sting is always fatal; when the family jewels have more than one suitor and murder was always the fëte on the cards!

David Suchet is Hercule Poirot with guest stars John Stone, Kenneth Haigh, Peter Capaldi and Martin Turner.



"It's not just sex, drugs and rock & roll"

28th Counter Culture Blues

A Rock Star rises from the dead but it is not just the band who have the blues! The death of a teenager, a mute electrician, a dead music tutor and a blast from the past means that Midnight Addiction was not just addicted to drugs!

Kevin Whateley is Inspector Lewis with guest stars Joanna Lumley, Simon Callow and Anthony Higgins, with Laurence Fox as Sergeant Hathaway.



Including children's craft with Susie and the fantastic friends, Bouncy Castle and lots more.

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FUN WEAR FOR GUY FAWKES' CELEBRATION

FIREWORKS HAT



Materials

- · Foam, red and white
- Blue tape (we used plastic tape, 1½ inches wide)
- Star Stickers
- Scissors
- Gold pipe-cleaners
- Tape
- Yellow foam stars

Instructions

- 1. Arrange 5 red and 5 white $2\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 inch craft foam strips side by side, alternating the colours.
- 2. Apply a 26 inch strip of blue tape across the panels about 1 inch from the bottom, wrapping the ends around to the back.
- 3. Decorate the tape with sticker stars.
- 4. Then cut a ½ inch wide fringe in each panel starting from the top and ending just above the tape.
- 5. Flip over the fringed foam and position a gold pipecleaner in the centre of each of the inner 8 panels so that the lower end is about an inch below the fringe.
- 6. Tape them in place. Now sandwich the top of each pipe-cleaner between a yellow foam star and a large sticker star.
- 7. When you are ready to wear the crown, wrap it around your head, overlapping the ends and securing them with a large paper clip.

SPARKLESS SPARKLES

Materials

- Unused chopsticks the disposable kind you would break apart if using to eat; alternatively, an unsharpened pencil or a dowel rod
- White electrical tape
- Red, white and blue ribbons of various widths
- Foil party ribbons (those used for pom-poms) or foil streamers
- Scissors



Instructions

- Cut the ribbons and foil party ribbons at various lengths and wedge them between the two chopsticks.
- 2. Tape down to secure ribbons to the chopstick and then begin ...
- 3. Overlapping the tape around the ribbon and chopstick all the way down the full length of the chopstick.









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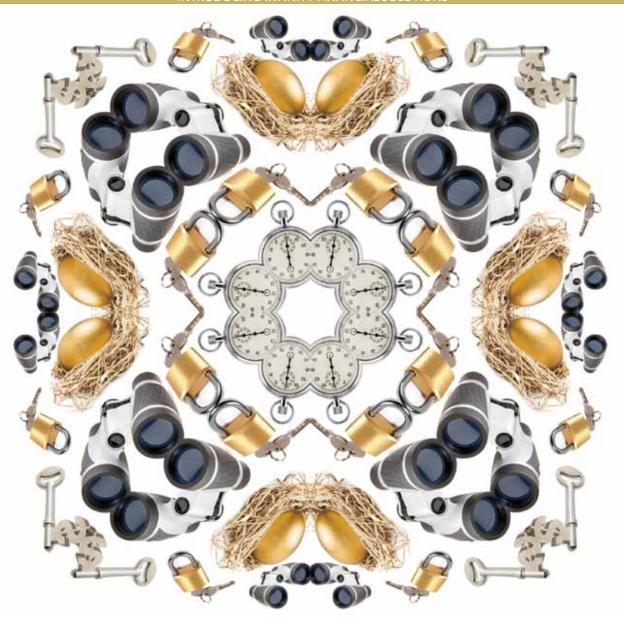












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