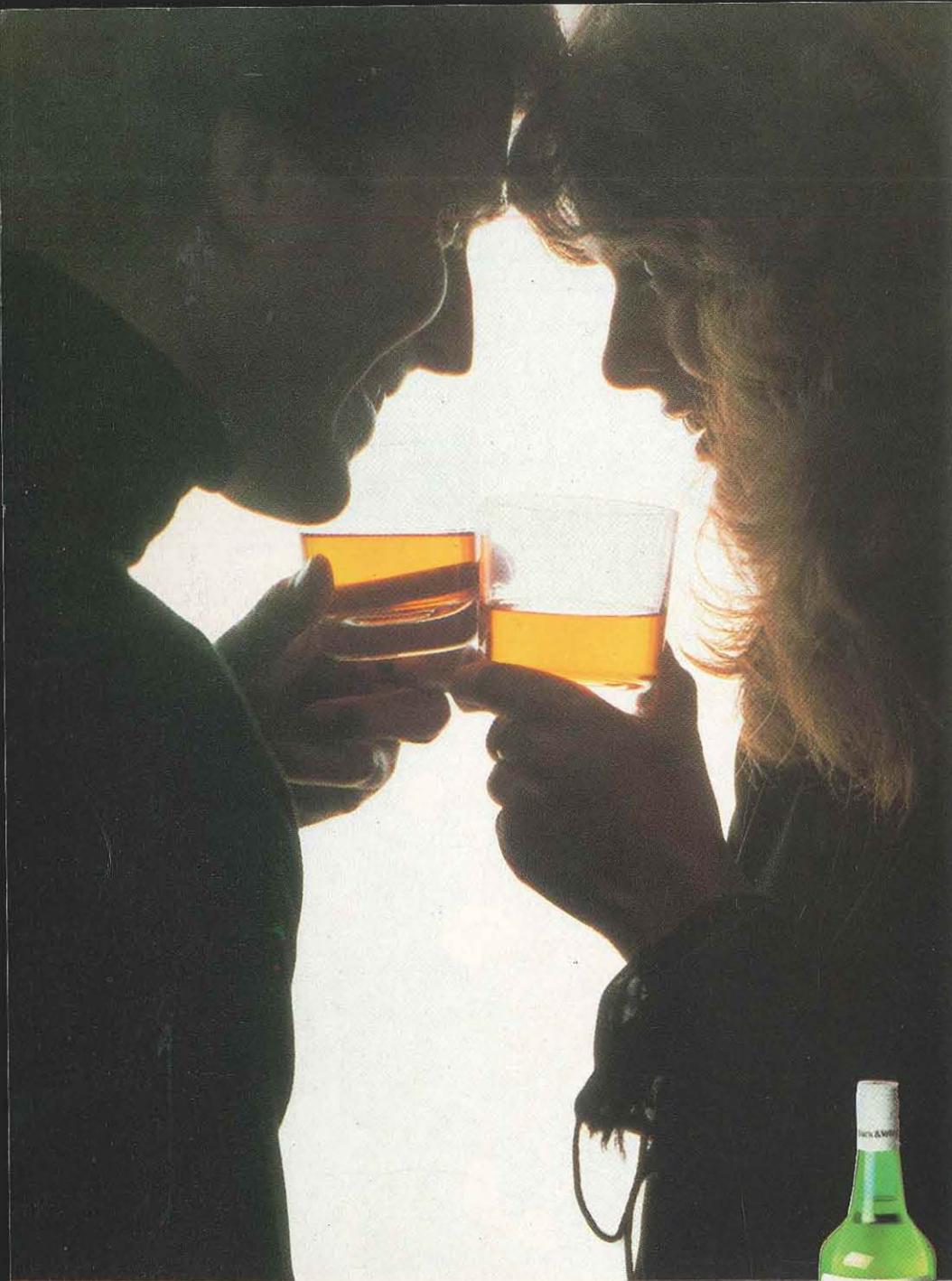


OUTPOST

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB

DECEMBER 1981





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with Black & White.



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distilled and bottled in Scotland.

The British Club



189 Suriwongse Road

Bangkok

Telephone: 234-0247, 234-2592

General Committee

	<u>Home</u>	<u>Office</u>
Charles Stewart (Chairman)	233 4704	-
Arthur Phillips (Vice-Chairman & Membership)	314 1069	394 2101
Roy Barrett (Hon. Treasurer)	314 5568	391 5177
Tony Blanc (Sport)	286 0217	233 8939
Simon Brewin (Entertainment)	314 7558	377 2500
Marshall Douglas (Food & Beverages)	251 2472	234 1302
Don Goodin (Finance)	286 3446	233 5968
Hugh Jamieson (Poolside)	233 7918	286 2251
Norman Musgrave (Publicity)	391 6000	317 7001
Scott Younger (House & Grounds)	252 8466	234 1140
Maj. K.C. Ywin (Club Manager)	392 6976	234-0247 234 2592

Members interested in the various Club activities listed should contact the Committee Member responsible.

Editorial

December is with us again although at the time of writing, the rainy season is petering out with great reluctance. Another superb edition of Outpost is with you and includes many photographs taken at the various Club functions held throughout the month.

Club Night is covered as well as a report on the Guy Fawkes celebrations when everyone's spirits were totally unaffected by the damp weather.

Margaret Miller has been working overtime to produce not only a crossword but a "Brain of Bangkok" quiz both with a "Christmasy" theme. Again - many thanks Margaret! And don't forget that the sender of the first-opened correct entry to the crossword wins a bottle of wine courtesy of the Borneo Company (Cheers, Richard!). The monthly calendar insert proved most popular and appears again (with less Scottish Dancing this time!!) Some members have asked for it to be made larger so that they may write in their own engagements and about the same number asked for it to be smaller! We can make it any size you like -- it's the same this month as last but please let us know what you want!!

There are some great new events planned for the New Year (keep working Simon!) so don't forget to book early for these. The waiting lists get larger on each occasion.

If I were to choose a subject upon which to write, the theme right now would be "USE YOUR CLUB!!" The General Committee has been discussing our finances at each of their recent meetings and it is obvious that some of us should probably use our Club more. We would be delighted to hear from those of you who fall into this category if there is any way in which we can make the Club more attractive to you. Our new Manager Ken Ywin has made an excellent (and noticeable) start in this respect and we all want to help him to continue. Remember -- the Club is only viable if it is being patronised so let's hear from those who would like to see changes -- changes which would result in their spending more time at 189 Suriwongse Road!!

Finally as this will be the last Outpost before Christmas may I wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year on behalf of Roy, Ian, John and myself.

NORMAN MUSGRAVE
Editor

Membership Matters

NEW MEMBERS

The following were elected to membership of the Club in November 1981:

Ordinary

Mr. J. Christie	Bangchak Refinery
Mr. G.H. Crittenden	Black & Veatch International
Mr. W.D.T. Gray	Union Oil of Thailand
Mr. R.L. Inder	Australian Embassy
Mr. W.J. Osborne	UNDP
Mr. S.G. Polden	Australian Embassy
Mr. E. Turner	Singer Thailand Ltd.

Non-Voting

Mr. C.J. King	Sinovest Enterprises Ltd.
Mr. B. Thompson	UNICEF

Status of Membership

The current membership status is as follows:

Ordinary	394
Non-Voting	-
Associate	25
Ladies Privileges	41
Up-Country	22
TOTAL	482
Absent	654
Candidate	38
GRAND TOTAL	1174

====

Weekly Club Events

TUESDAY	4.00 p.m.	- Swimming Training
WEDNESDAY	6.00 p.m.	- Chess
THURSDAY	9.00 - 12.00	- Ladies Squash
	4.00 p.m.	- Swimming Training
SATURDAY	12 noon - 2.00 p.m.	- Buffet Lunch, Dining Room
SUNDAY	12 noon - 2.00 p.m.	- Buffet Lunch, Poolside
	6.00 - 10.00 p.m.	- Buffet Supper, Dining Room

"Good-Bye"

Many Members were sorry to say "good-bye" recently to John Taylor - Vicar of Christ Church. During his 8 years in Bangkok, John fulfilled his many tasks with vigour and was especially active offering help and advice to orphans, refugees, widows, sick persons and all those who found themselves in difficulty.

His enthusiastic outward-looking style will be conspicuous by its absence in Bangkok and we wish him well in whatever the future holds for him.

Submissions for inclusion in the January issue should reach the Club by 21st December.

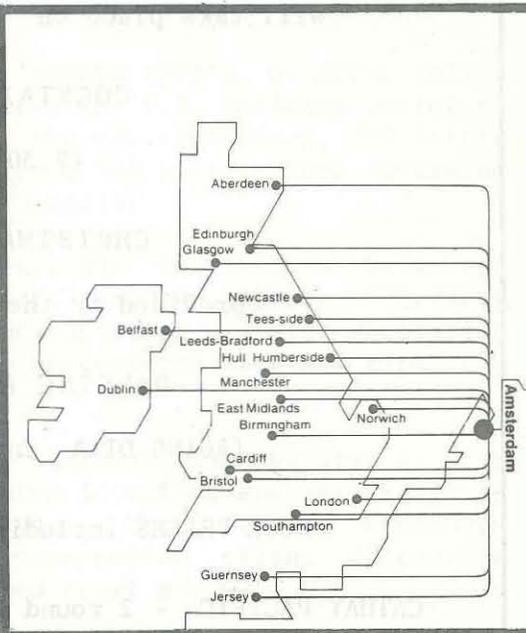
Compiled and edited by:

Norman Musgrave - Editor

Roy Regan, Ian Hill and John Williams (BA)

- Deputy Editors

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KL 812	Monday	21.35
KL 862	Wednesday	00.35
KL 802	Wednesday	22.20
KL 806	Thursday	21.25
KL 834	Friday	22.20
KL 864	Saturday	20.55
KL 836	Sunday	22.20



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The British Club's event of the year

The Christmas Ball

will take place on FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER

COCKTAIL PARTY

(7.30 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS DINNER

(provided by the President Hotel)

DANCING ALL NIGHT

(ADING DILA and 11 piece band)

DOOR PRIZES including those donated by

CATHAY PACIFIC - 2 round trip tickets to Singapore

CENTRAL STORE - Gift Voucher

THAI-AUSTRALIA - A case of mixed wine

DUNLOP - Tennis Racket

NO CORKAGE CHARGE

Tickets \$550 single, \$1,100 double

(Limited to 300)

Table reservations for parties of 8 or more

Information

PFC LAUNCHES LONDON FLAT VENTURE

Personal Financial Consultants, Ltd., the Hong Kong - based investment advisory service, announced today the formation of a new venture to offer London flats for sale.

Combining the services of London estate agents, De Groot Collis; solicitors, Warmington and Hasties; and U.K. building societies with PFC's investment expertise, the new subsidiary, PFC Estate Agents Ltd., will offer convenience and cost-savings according to Mr. William Glover, Managing Director.

"In the past, Far East buyers have had to shuttle back and forth to London when buying a flat," said Mr. Glover. "Arranging financing, sublets, legal documentation and even decorating from abroad has cost flat buyers unnecessary time and expense. This is no longer the case."

The new venture offers would-be London flat buyers a wide selection of prime flats in premium locations such as Knightsbridge, Mayfair and Kensington. Using colour brochures produced by De Groot Collis, a prospective client chooses a flat. Prices of the flats offered start at £60,000.

The solicitors are prepared to act as agents for both sides of the transaction in producing the mortgage and sale deeds. De Groot Collis offers further assistance in selection of tenants, redecoration, furnishing and resales when requested.

"Although the London residential market is currently in a well-publicized slump," said Mr. Glover, "we don't expect it to continue and current prices offer tremendous values, especially to the purchaser working through our new service, where finance is available even though the property is going to be sublet."

Mr. Glover anticipates that the Asian market for his new service will include not only U.K. expatriates expecting to return to London, but local individuals as well, who may be seeking an overseas property investment opportunity.

.....
Issued by: Personal Financial Consultants, Ltd.

Contact: Hill and Knowlton Asia Ltd.
(Katherine D. D'Arcy, 5-779025, Hong Kong)

Your Key To Buying A London Flat From Bangkok



If you are an expatriate and have ever considered buying a London flat, you may have hesitated. You have probably watched your friends spend their leave in London haggling with owners, estate agents, solicitors and finance companies. They return home only to find that something has gone haywire, necessitating overseas phone calls, telex traffic and probably a return visit. And if that were not enough, they then have to worry about sifting through applicants to find a suitable sublet tenant. Then there is the decorator and furnisher.

Personal Financial Consultants Ltd of Hong Kong is now offering Far East residents the opportunity to purchase London flats through their offices in Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo and Kuala Lumpur.

With this unique venture the services of De Groot Collis, the London based estate agency and surveyors, have been enlisted to provide a full range of details of relevant properties on the market. Once you have made your selection, then PFC's new London flat venture will make available, if required, the specialist services of a major U.K. building society and a leading London firm of solicitors to handle finance and documentations. A complete management and subletting service can also be provided. If subsequently a decision is made to sell the property, revaluation and marketing can be undertaken.

Through PFC's new London flat purchase venture you can take the first step to securing a home and an investment in London.

**Let PFC unlock the doors
for you.**

W.H.
Glover, Esq.
**PFC Estate
Agents Ltd.**
P.O. Box 30927,
Causeway Bay,
Hong Kong. Tel: 5-7908448

I would like more details on
purchasing a London flat.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

BO 12/81

Club Night

On the evening of Wednesday 28th October another "Club Night" was held at the BC. The event was, as usual, oversubscribed with some 80 people in attendance and another 20 disappointed members on the waiting list.

After an excellent dinner consisting of cold cuts, soup, roast pork and apple sauce and chocolate dessert all washed down with some fine wines, we were entertained to a talk by Mr. Ian Fawcett - Managing Director of Allied Newspapers, a group which includes the Bangkok Post and the World among its publications.

Mr. Fawcett prefaced his remarks by saying that he hoped the present occasion would prove less onerous to him than his last engagement when, at a ladies group lunch he had to follow a certain Khun Meechai who had concluded his talk by giving away free samples.

He then went on to discuss the principles of press freedom and how it was handled by various governments in order to strike a balance between freedom and irresponsibility.

Mr. Fawcett concluded his talk by expressing the hope that editors and journalists everywhere are permitted to operate in a relaxed atmosphere.

After questions from several Members (including one notable who requested Page 3-type pin-ups to be introduced in the Bangkok Post), the Club Chairman - Mr. Charles Stewart thanked Mr. Fawcett on behalf of everyone present for giving a most interesting and informative talk on a subject which is very important to all of us.



"I've been preaching
about loaves and little
fishes all morning—and
what do I get for lunch?
Sardines on toast!"

WHO SAID WHAT...

"At one time, everybody thought the world was flat. Then they decided it was round. Today, we all know that it's crooked."
Natalie Wood

Fireworks Display

Saturday November 7th dawned grey and overcast - the usual bright hues and bustle of Bangkok turned into a colourless damp backcloth as the final spluttering efforts of the rainy season made their presence felt.

The organisers of the Club's Annual Fireworks Display and Barbecue glanced anxiously skywards as the day wore on and the persistent rain showed no signs of abating.

A trickle of arrivals became a steady stream as the 6.00 p.m. starting time approached and just as the 400 plus guests had taken their seats on the back lawn, the rain stopped!

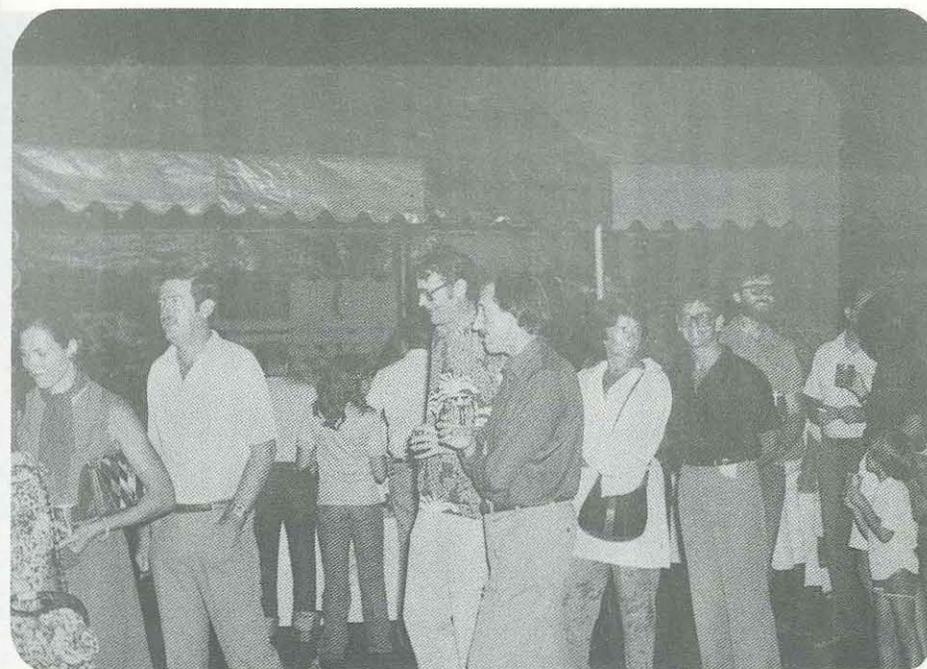
When the barbecue, which included spit-roasted pigs, beef, chicken and kebabs was completed the children called for the "guy" to be lit and cheers could be heard echoing through the Club as the flames rose higher and higher on the bonfire eventually engulfing the "guy" itself.

This was followed by a short but spectacular display of fireworks which, judging from the "ooooh's" and "aaaah's" was a great success.

As be-speckled mums and dads escorted their mud-encrusted charges home one young participant was heard to ask his parent in an anxious voice "Do they burn the Manager every year like this?"



FIREWORKS PARTY SNAPSHOTS



Letters to the Editor



The Chartered Bank
A MEMBER OF
STANDARD CHARTERED BANK GROUP

10th November, 1981

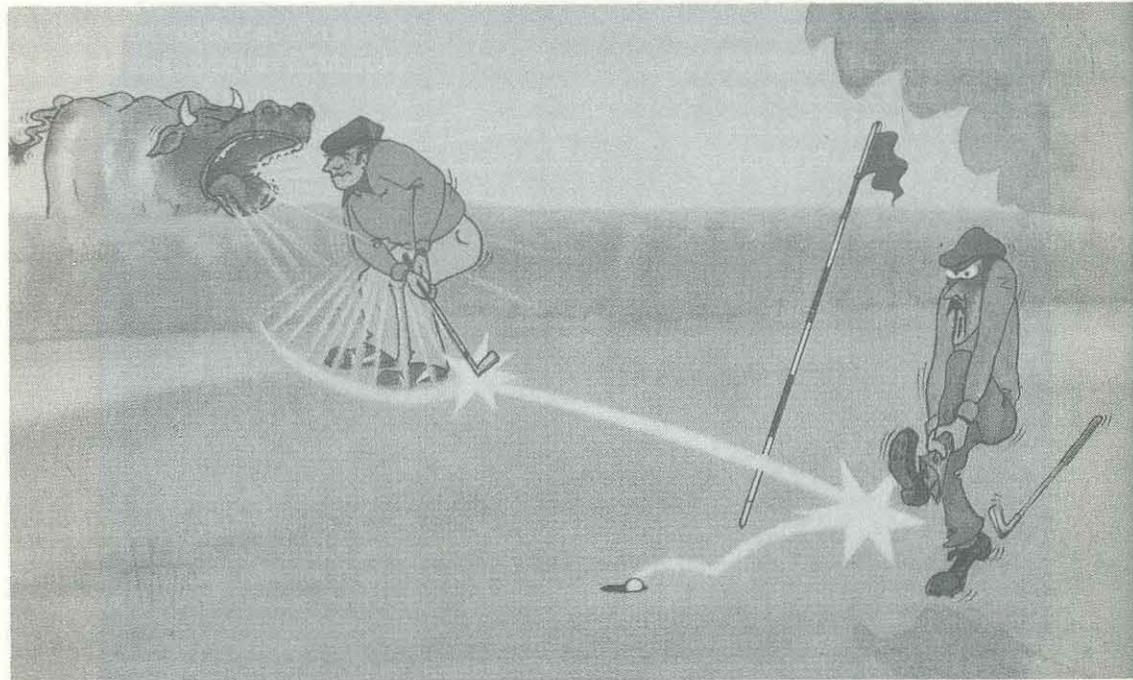
The Editor,
"Outpost" Magazine,
The British Club
Bangkok.

Dear Sir,

Having recently returned from leave it occurred to me that Members may wish to be reminded of the hazards and distractions which can be encountered on the greens of the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,

A. Johnstone (J7)



LOUIST. LEONOWENS LTD.

723 Siphya Road/Bangkok/Thailand/P O. Box 791/Tel. 2335910-7

12th November, 1981

The Editor,
Outpost Magazine,
The British Club,
189 Suriwongse Road,
Bangkok.

Dear Sir,

Am I correct in assuming that the "No Shoe" rule at the poolside does not apply to aircrew?

Or is it just that aircrew can't read?

Yours faithfully,

ROGER HELMER
Commercial Manager

News Item

Our Teheran correspondent reports that fears for the Ayatollah Khomeini's sanity increased sharply this week after he was seen at a mass rally calling for his own resignation.

The British Club
Bangkok.

25th October, 1981.

Dear Norman,

Congratulations on the vast improvement in Outpost.

Thanks also to the British Club members for making my short return here most enjoyable. I was immediately made to feel at home and it is good to see that old traditions are being maintained. For example:

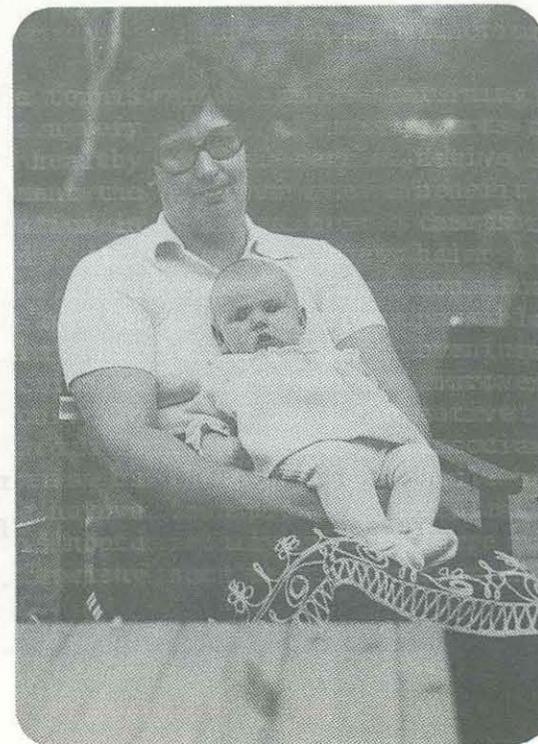
- * thumb print on the ham roll (obviously a new chef)
- * the reserved glass, at the old poolside bar, with its irregular rim.
- * the hilltribe's boiled eggs.
- * the Andrews/Docherty limousine service.

I return now to South Australia and expect to find our new maid shaping up (photo enclosed). Her working name is Aussie Pom but she is quite a "stain" on the pocket.

Regards

(W57)

Ex-Editor



Proposed Future Club Developments

Over the last few years significant improvements to the Club have been made. Others remain to be done and this is part of the work with which Club committees are involved.

In recent times, members have seen the developments in the Suriwongse Room, the layout of a new snooker room combined with a resuscitation of interest in this activity, a new Sala, a third squash court, and, somewhat earlier, a revamped bar and dining-room. At this moment, the kitchen area is being cleaned up and modernised in conjunction with the recently completed erection of an outside staircase doubling as a fire escape.

Future developments depend directly on the finances that the Club will have available. It is hoped, over the next four/five years to carry out the following developments or alterations. In the Clubhouse itself it is proposed that the upstairs Silom Room will have a similar face-lift to that carried out for the Suriwongse Room. The present upstairs office is to become a reading room, even library (for music as well as books) and a new office is to be located. This could be partially housed over the kitchen/storeroom area and this matter is presently receiving attention. The present servants' quarters are off the back lawn at the Suriwongse end but, frankly, need to be gutted. Plans are that a new structure be erected at the Silom end of the back lawn and that this should incorporate some of the Club's office requirement, workshop and additional storage, of which the Club is presently short. It is considered that the main Clubhouse should be primarily for members with support functions housed separately, as much as possible.

Turning to proposals for the grounds, improvements to the tennis courts are a matter of some urgency. Tennis used to be a very active sport in the Club and a revival here would be of healthy benefit to the Club - in more ways than one! At the moment the courts are usable for half the year, at best. Consideration is being given to raise the two courts nearest the old Sala, construction including quick draining of the courts, and, if possible, provision of floodlighting permitting usage in evenings. It is not intended to make the courts 'hard' but improvements in the surface would be planned. Resurrection of active tennis is one of the priority considerations. In association with this, apart from required maintenance, it would be intended to redevelop the old Sala to serve tennis as well as swimming. In the back lawn area of the Club, we have a large piece of ground which is relatively unused. It is hoped that this area may be improved such that a good quality bowling

lawn, and a croquet lawn, may be put down with surrounding chairs and umbrellas. The klong at the back will have to be tidied up and landscaped, some of it may be reclaimed. The back lawn would be primarily an adults area with service coming directly from the kitchen/bar.

The above ideas are primarily developments requiring capital expenditure and can only be carried out with members co-operation and active participation in the Club. Perhaps as a sign of the times, the Club is underused and revenue coming at the present rate would considerably prolong the developments. More baldly, without better usage, most of the above will be a mere pipe-dream! Use the dining room, the bar, pitch in and lend a hand. Your Club needs you!

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HOUSE & GROUNDS



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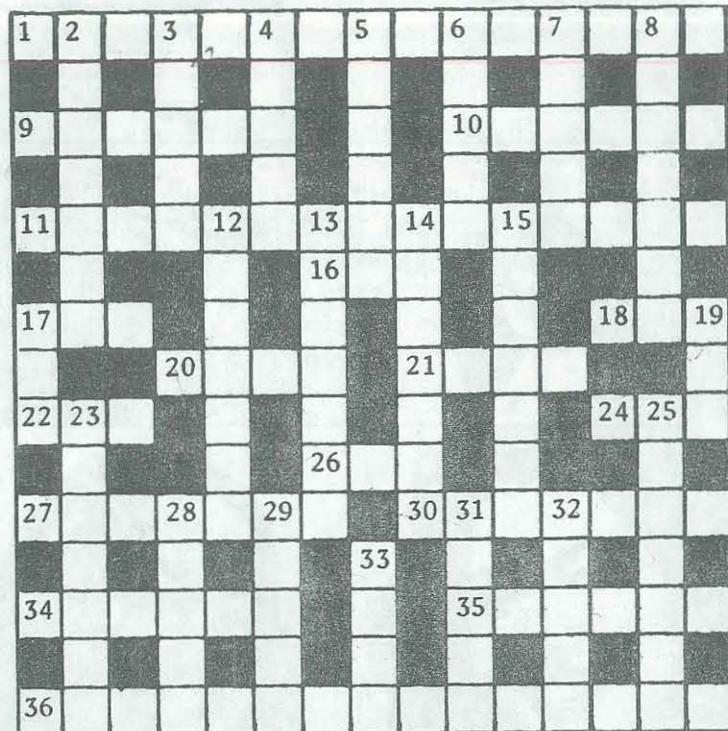
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Club Crossword



CLUES:

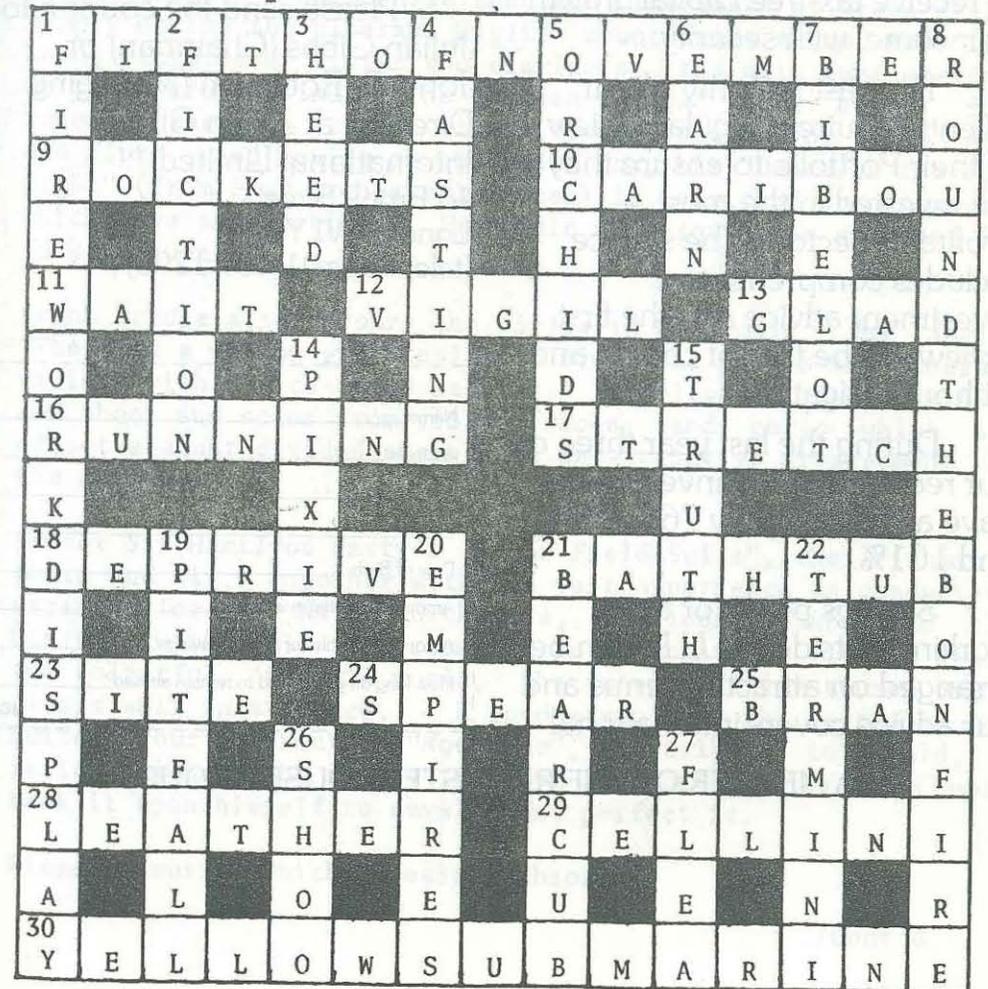
Across

- 1 Hear it, sing it or read it. (3 words)
- 9 Busy chap during the party season.
- 10 What 5 down did at the Crib.
- 11 The best pantomime will be....
- 14 ... and he might be the leading light.
- 16 Reflux of the water.
- 17 One would have been in the Stable.
- 18 Urge on your breakfast?
- 20 & 21 Fuel for the Festivities.
- 22 Literary effort that sounds as if it is in debt.
- 24 Usually attached to the present.
- 26 Point on a manuscript in Germany.
- 27 Popular gifts for girls often are!
- 30 Point of no return. (2 words)
- 34 Bead me in a way...looked so happy!
- 35 Might be the legacy of too much Christmas cheer?
- 36 Christmas surprise in some places. (3 words)

Down:

- 2 & 23 He was responsible for one of 1' across.
- 3 36 across might encourage these in the garden....
- 4 ... & 36 across would help this chap on his rounds.
- 5 Old men of wisdom.
- 6 Where 17 across might have been.
- 7 How the Cherubims & Seraphims cried.
- 8 & 25 Hope everyone is doing it on 25th December. (3 words)
- 12 What counts in a Xmas gift, they say!
- 13 When 5 down did 10 across, they did this too.
- 14 Has boil...painful but get rid of it!
- 15 She once was a maid!
- 17 Much was made about nothing.
- 19 Muzzle with a joke.
- 23 See 1 down. 25 See 8 down.
- 28 Called. 29 Put on.
- 31 Well-known name you might call for after the party!
- 32 A bit of this might be a pretty girl!
- 33 Top of them leads the charts.

Solution Last Month



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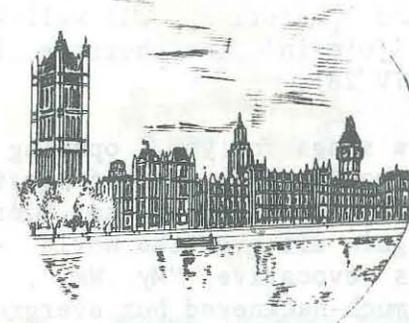
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Amount available for regular saving	_____
How long do you intend to remain abroad?	_____

BCN

A MEMBER OF THE REED STENHOUSE GROUP

New Records...by Camus



A BREATH OF ENGLAND

ENGLISH orchestral music by composers like Butterworth, Bridge, Bax, and the Irishman Hamilton Harty seem to bring a breath of fresh air to the musical scene. Typical examples are recorded on an HMV Greensleeve issue (English Heritage : ESD 7100) by the English Sinfonia under Neville Dilkes, the well-loved Butterworth 'twins', "A Shropshire Lad" and "The Banks of Green Willow" simply oozing the pleasant English countryside scene, the 'Lad' being pictured by violas and clarinets, the main tune working-up to a serene climax. The 'Green Willow' uses actual folk tunes pictured on strings with a lovely episode for solo oboe and flute, and moving on to Arnold Bax, his "Dance in the Sunlight" (from Four Orchestral Pieces) is enriched by textures which have an appetising 'harmonic arabesque' to ornament its folk influence.

Frank Bridge also favours the willow in his music, for during "There is a willow grows aslant a Brook", he paints the panorama vividly with a rich-toned bassoon, a delightful duet for harp and aboe, and solos from violin, viola, and cello which are offset against divided strings in an attractive arrangement by the composer.

As for Sir Hamilton Harty's "John Field Suite", the Irishman's charm and wit, together with his vast experience as conductor/arranger for the Hallé Orchestra, provides Dilkes and the Sinfonia with ample opportunity to demonstrate their flair for colourful, melodic music, the interpretative acumen being always well in evidence. A good example is the second of the Suite's four movements, "Nocturne", a tribute to Field, a fellow Irishman who really invented the Nocturne before Chopin took it upon himself to develop and perfect it.

Pleasant music, which is easily absorbed.

/Cont'd

MORE easily-absorbed music -- music which is suitable for 'after dinner' on Christmas day, and the days following. The Forces Sweetheart sings for you her vintage crop of nostalgic songs, wartime and peacetime, all well-known ditties which want to make you 'join-in' the choruses (Vera Lynn: Family Favourites, EMI EMTV 28).

Twenty songs, Vera sings for you, opening with 'The White Cliffs of Dover', going on to some of her very own choices -- "Mr. Wonderful" (a touch of sentimental adoration here), "When the lights go on again all over the World" -- happily they did -- Frankie Sinatra's evocative "My Way", Lennon/McCartney's "Yesterday", the much-hackneyed but evergreen "Amazing Grace" -- not forgetting a tune that must rank as one of the best ballads of recent times, 'A Nightingale sang in Berkeley Square'.

Miss Lynn's singing has always had that 'something extra' which appealed to young and old alike over the years, and on this anthology we note that she has lost none of that personal touch that endeared her to all.

"We'll meet again", she sings -- and why not?

Poets Corner

When you walk through a soi
Hold your handbag tight,
And have due respect for the dark.
At the end of the soi
Lurks a bad kamoy,
Who regards snatching bags as a lark.

Walk on through the rain
(Get your feet wet again)
'Til you're nearly half-way home.
Walk on - walk on -
The taxis have gone
And the samlor's hailed in vain.
You'll never walk again.

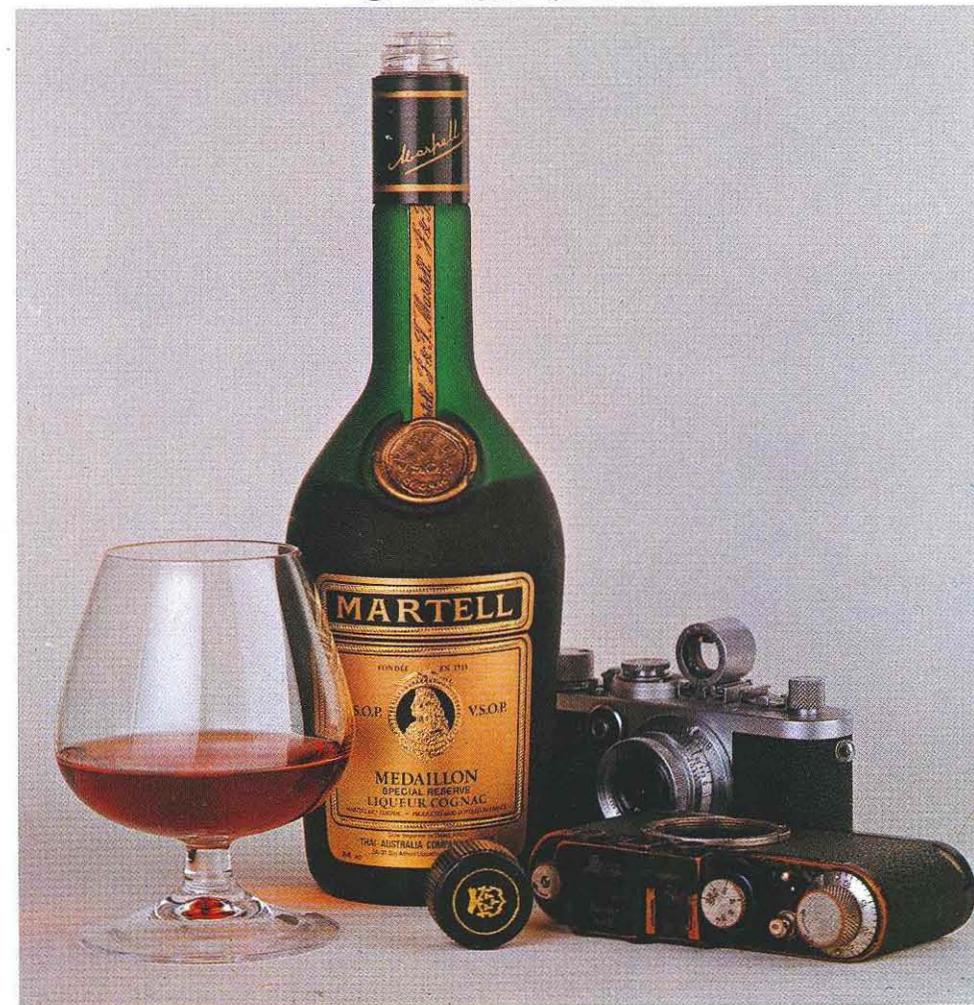
1715



1715

MARTELL

COGNAC



Lunch with an
unforgettable Australian
today.



SEPPELT
THAI-AUSTRALIA COMPANY LIMITED

Brain of Bangkok ... 1981

1) Who said:

- "Impropriety is the soul of wit".
- "I am dying with the help of too many physicians".
- "Everyone lives by selling something".
- "In two words im-possible!".
- "There are a lot of lies going around and some of them are true".
- "What an artist dies in me!".

2) Who wrote:

- The Way of the World.
- Life on the Mississippi.
- XPD.
- Eggs, Beans and Crumpets.
- The Real War.
- The Bad Child's Book of Beasts.

3) Who ate:

- Butter spread too thick.
- Strawberries and cream.
- Apricocks and dewberries.
- Pickled salmon and cucumber.
- The cheeses out of the vats.
- Chips with everything.

4) Who lived at these fictional addresses:

- The Mill on the Floss.
- Donwell Abbey.
- The Rovers Return.
- Blandings Castle.
- Manderley.
- Camp Swampy.

5) What is/was the middle name of:

- Julius Caesar.
- Margaret Thatcher.
- William Gilbert.
- Nancy Reagan.
- Peter Tchaikovsky.
- Lady Diana Spencer.
(now Princess of Wales)

6) Who is/was the mother of:

- a) Lisa Minelli
- b) Cupid
- c) Queen Victoria
- d) H.R.H. Princess Kittyhab
- e) Isaac
- f) The Duke of Cornwall

7) During 1981, what happened on:

- a) 20th January
- b) 30th March
- c) 1st April
- d) 13th May
- e) 29th July
- f) 6th October

8) Who won:

- a) The 1981 Tournament of Champions.
- b) The 1980 King's Cup Football.
- c) The 1980 U.S.A. Open Tennis Men's Title.
- d) The 1980 Calcutta Cup.
- e) The 1980 World Heavyweight Title.
- f) The 1981 Wimbledon Ladies Title.

9) What is/was advertised by the following slogans:

- a) "We give you the World".
- b) "He won't be happy till he gets it".
- c) "Reflection on Art".
- d) "All I can give a man who has everything is more of the same".
- e) "Stands out for Taste".
- f) "You press the button and we'll do the rest".

10) What would you find at:

- a) 114/1 Soi Charuwan
- b) 1980 Petchburi Road
- c) 29, Sathorn Tai
- d) 54, Suriwongse Road
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TOYSHOP MAGIC

Without wishing to delve back into the days when you could get a Meccano set, a Hornby railway, a box of soldiers, a tricycle, a Tiger Tim's Annual and an electric torch, and still have enough change out of a workman's life savings to buy a sugar mouse and a pencil sharpener to put in their stockings, it is demonstrable that the pattern of buying Christmas toys for the kiddiwinks has changed somewhat.

It has been changing, of course, since before Santa Claus had whiskers, to the extent that it may be compared with the magically-permutating kaleidoscope that remains an enchanting mainstay of Christmas – though today's little ones are enchanted in plastic where we were once enchanted in cardboard, and our parents in tin, and their parents in, I shouldn't wonder, real leather with brass accoutrements.

There have been almost as many Toy Ages as there have been Ages of Man.

In the beginning, or thereabouts (we are skipping the earliest days when primitive board games were made of ivory or mud), there was wood. Back in the time of Noah, children were given an unpainted representation of the then topical Ark, together with a limited number of crude animals going in two by two, and were grateful for it. Or we assume they were grateful for it: no case of any pre-mediaeval moppet asking for anything more substantial or sophisticated on its parchment Christmas list has so far come to light. With a rough-hewn quacky-duck on a piece of string to trundle about, they were reputedly as happy as pigs in clover. Except on Sundays, when there was nothing to do except build pretend catacombs out of piles of uplifting books.

After the age of wood came the age of tin and the age of lead. Then it was clockwork. Then electric, from Gamage's. Now it is electronic, from Japan.

Thus the history of what goes under the Christmas tree unfolds, like a Mabel Lucie Attwell Bayeux Tapestry. Children used to suck their toys and get lead poisoning. Now they can suck them and get electrocuted. That's progress.

The latest, and perhaps the final, development in children's toys is to make them so complex and market them at such cost that they cease to be children's toys at all. I am thinking of those computerised games that look as if they're hoping you will buy them by the dozen and set them up as an amusement arcade.

KEITH WATERHOUSE'S parents' guide to Christmas shopping

Parents lash out on these Space Invaders lookalikes in the belief – or perhaps the pretence? – that it is with the highest motive: that of providing their children with something they never had. But the cost of giving the children something their parents never had is so stupendous that it has to be impressed upon them that they're not getting anything else. Tough luck if they wanted Plasticine.

By the same token, however, the precious hardware is too expensive for them to be allowed to play with it, even if they could understand how to, in case they break it. The upshot is that it is hogged by the grown-ups and the wretched kids have to make do with last year's Beano annual.

(Though the games are new, the tactics are not. When I was a child, back in the Tin Age, the tribe of urchins next door were jointly presented, by an uncle who had bought it while drunk, with a conjuring set so rare and costly – he was said to have splashed out all of a guinea on it – that they were never even permitted to take it out of its box. The most they were allowed to do, usually in the presence of one or two closely-vetted friends, was to take the box lid off and stare at the contents. I was invited to several of these inspections, and found them absorbing. I tell you, the magic has gone out of childhood these days.)

All that bleeping electronic gadgetry aside, I do not see a lot in the toy shops that was not on offer a couple of years ago, with the exception, of course, of the ubiquitous Rubik cube and its sneaky offshoot, the Rubik snake.

Seventeen million of these devilish devices have been marketed worldwide so far, and it is my belief, after a cursory inspection this morning, that they are all in the same shop. Not only were there pile upon pile of plain, unadorned, unadulterated Rubik cubes but there were key-ring Rubik cubes, pencil-sharpener Rubik cubes, miniaturised Rubik cubes, magnetised Rubik cubes, Rubik cubes on a string; in short, Rubik cubes in every conceivable form save that which, in my view, would be the most satisfying: namely, the Frisbee.

Concomitant with the Rubik cube are the books explaining, in language a ten-year-old who has mastered the quantum theory can understand, how the Rubik cube can be beaten. All I have to say about these manuals is that if you buy a cube from an unmarked box in an Oxford Street gutter, it could possibly be a pirated version made in Taiwan, and if you buy a book explaining how the cube works, it reads as if it were written in Taiwan.

So what else is new? There is Sniff, the perfumed colouring pencil, enabling the young artist to execute picture of moo-cow or daddy in mint, lavender, banana, licorice, lime-blossom or a combination of all or any of these flavours. There are roller skates – there have always been roller-skates, but they didn't used to come with Brands Hatch wheels and with latex boots included. These are currently as plentiful as skateboards were two or three years ago – in fact, twice as plentiful, since the young roller-disco aficionado insists on one for each foot.

And there are horror masks. There have always been these too, but it seems to me that they are becoming more horrible, now that new technology has elbowed into Count Dracula territory. No longer will the quick-change artistes of the kindergarten be satisfied with a papier mâché mask of a standard vampire, which used to be about as frightening as a papier mâché mask of Stan Laurel. Nowadays they must have the "Movie/TV Horror Make-Up with exclusive Flex Flesh. Transform yourself into 100s of horrible creatures. Created by Dick Smith, famous make-up artist for *The Exorcist*." It costs £11.25. Smelling salts extra.

No longer
will the quick-change
artistes of the
kindergarten be
satisfied
with a papier mâché
mask of a
standard vampire...

A continuing, and growing, toyshop trend is the tendency for everything to look like something else. You can buy key-rings (do you realise that there are now more key-rings than keys in this country?) that look like chocolate bars, and pencil boxes that look like hot dogs, and crayons that look like chewing gum packets, and very likely chewing gum packets that look like crayons. These novelties seem to evoke some responding chord in youngsters – probably their deep-felt need to fool around with fake sugar lumps and joke spiders – to the extent that they spend all their pocket money on them as gifts for other people. Thus, in any given toyshop on any given day in the run-up to Christmas, there are now very likely as many children buying presents for their parents as parents buying presents for their children. And no bad thing.

COURTESY OF BRITISH AIRWAYS

Scotch Whisky - A Warning

The entertaining article in last month's issue about Scotch reminded this reader of an incident from his student days: Fraser had been suffering for some days from a worsening cold and Hamish recommended a bottle of whisky followed by extended sleep. The proposition was carried by all present and between us a bottle was bought in the interests of our friend's health and of science. In due course Fraser departed for his rooms, carrying the bottle, nearly but not quite consumed.

Not half an hour later we realized that fire-engines were drawing up at our apartments and we hastened to the scene. A dishevelled Fraser, in understandably irate mood, was arguing with the fire chief while the firemen wrapped up the smouldering remains of Fraser's bed in wet canvas.

".... and you were so drunk you fell asleep with a lighted cigarette and set the place on a fire!"

"Nonsense!" said Fraser, "total nonsense - the bed was on fire when I got into it!"



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LADIES' LIAISON GROUP

DECEMBER WRITE-UP

This month we are holding Christmas parties for the full age range of children.

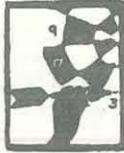
- 5 yrs and under - Tuesday December 15th at 3 p.m.
- 6 yrs to 9 yrs - Wednesday December 16th at 3 p.m.
- 10 yrs to 13 yrs - Tuesday December 22nd at 6.30 p.m.
- Over 13 yrs - Sunday December 20th at 7.30 p.m.

Please make your bookings on the slip that has already been sent out to you, and hand in to the office - in good time please!

There may be ladies who haven't been approached who would be able to help with one of the parties, - if you can help, please let one of us know.

On Monday December 14th we are holding a "Christmas Decorations making morning" for children in the Suriwongse Room at 10 o'clock. Come along with your children, the materials will be there and ideas for each age group already worked out. Again any help on the morning - much appreciated.

Finally, as we look forward to a new year, it is time to hold an AGM of the Ladies' Group and elect a new Ladies' Committee. We plan to hold this on Monday January 11th at the Club at 10 a.m. Please make a note of the date in your diary, and come along with any comments and ideas for the future.



DARTS

The 16th season of Bangkok Darts League wound up (wound down is more appropriate) for the British Club when we were knocked out of the cup competition in the quarter-final round by 20 Hotel. The Club lacked dartismo and mounted what could only be described as a short-time challenge to the Hoteliers. Most Lilywhites seemed to have brewer's droop and just couldn't get in there at the end despite some good foreplay (which I think is golf terminology, but never mind).

Your dartscribe, lacking recent practice put himself on the outside of too much aiming fluid and fortunately cannot remember even the final score. It is rumoured that we did better than last time and may even have won the team game.

Two weeks later our very own Suriwongse Room was the venue for the cup final between -- guess who -- 20 Hotel and the Nation. Our league committee, in their wisdom, always arrange for the finals to be played at the Club, safe in the knowledge that it will be a neutral ground for the finalists. On this occasion the Club even managed to create the appropriate hot and smoky atmosphere, redolent of your typical converted-shopouse bar, where dartists traditionally congregate.

In these trying conditions a large and appreciative audience saw the Nation emerge as champions by a margin of 9-8. The Paparazzi popped a record-breaking 19 tons in the process. It was a close match as the scoreline shows. The Nation overcame some mid-match nerves to retain the massive, beribboned and gilded multi-tiered monstrosity for yet another season. A great game but certainly no battle of the tight'uns. Most of the players approached the board with the expression of a Scot wondering whether to trust an automatic vending machine.

Thus ended another league season for the B.C. arrowmen. The following week a small but select team attended the end of league banquet at the New Imperial Hotel when the new BC trophy for sportsmanship was presented to the popular PTT team by Bryan Baldwin, who had rushed over from the Nursing Home where Ingrid had just given birth to a healthy dartette. Congratulations!

The next two Thursday evenings were devoted to competition for the prestigious Gadsen Gong, the Club's singles knockout cup. Sixteen entrants, including surprise entry John Sill, fiddled

their feathers, adjusted Amarit levels and threw off in the 301's. Theoretically, being the best of three games, luck shouldn't have influenced the results, but your scribe still seemed to have more than his fair share, finishing two games on double bull. Man about the world John Sill battled through to the finals and immediately left for a side trip to Europe and South America. In the other half the Derby Uno scrambled into a finals slot, relieved that John was checking out some steel billets in Timbuctoo, giving the poison dwarf time to get in a bit more practice before the final.

The date and time for the epic encounter between John and Arthur will be arranged over a couple of quiches at the St. Andrew's Ball. Barrackers will be welcome.

Regular readers will be delighted to hear that this darticle will probably be the last dose of this drivel to drip from the quill of your erstwhile scribe, who is leaving Thailand at the end of the year for fresh fields and impostures new. Rumour has it that others may be leaving soon too, so if you can distinguish one end of a dart from the other and can count backwards in your head, why not join the Club's dartists for a few convivial Thursday evenings at various select establishments around town? Contact Bryan Baldwin, Norman Burbridge or Roy Regan for details.

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SQUASH

The current league programme as usual got off to a flying start but initial impetus has not been maintained. However as there are still a couple of weeks remaining we hope that all the games will be completed by 13 December 1981 as due to the forthcoming Christmas period there will be no extension to this date.

Our three teams competing in the T.S.R.A. tournament are giving a good account of themselves and we certainly should be in among the silverware at the end of the current league.

Ken Little has been playing extremely well, with fine wins recorded in all his last four outings.

We are pleased to inform you that the "ladder" will be on a more organised basis in the future. thanks to Ken Little ably assisted by Jack Dunford. Enquiries in connection with the workings of the ladder should be directed to either of these gentlemen.

Unfortunately we must bid farewell to Jim and Marilyn Finnegan who return shortly to the U.K. No doubt Jim will long be remembered for his delicate skills on the squash court which will be sadly missed by all. Good luck to you both for the future.

We are delighted to hear that Tony Blanc has now been "released" from hospital and we look forward to seeing him back in the squash courts in the very near future.



LADIES' SQUASH

Interest in the Thursday morning squash sessions in extremely high at present, however new members are always welcome and should anyone be interested in joining please come along to the courts any Thursday morning between 9-12 when Carolyn Tarrant will be in attendance and you will be assured of a welcome.



GOLF

As the year nears its end and the section's golf activities are 'hotting up', November saw two events, both well supported, good competition and thoroughly enjoyed.

The first of the two was the much publicised British vs Australians day held at the Hua Mark course on Sunday November 1st. The Australian Ambassador was, unfortunately, called away to an engagement in Pattaya at the last moment, however the Australian team headed by substitute captain Ken Laughlin showed some good form and was somewhat unlucky to lose by so great a margin as 6-2! It was therefore "the day of the Brits" who in their tastefully coloured team shirts and matching sun hats all made specially for the occasion, were able to bask in patriotic glory unmatched since the royal wedding. Brits' organiser Clive Miller directed the teams' operation from the new club house and left the British Ambassador to monitor progress in the field. The Aussies were also dressed in made to measure team colours (green) which clashed nicely with the Brits 'orange jobs'?

Conditions were optimum and four players shared overall winning position by bettering their handicaps and returning 38 stableford points. These players, Jim Harris, Bob Allen, Ken Boughton and Les Vize collected their prizes from the well sponsored event and thanks go to May and Baker Ltd., Snowy Mountains Eng. Corp., Sterling Drug Int. Inc., and Dulmison (T) Co. Ltd. for their generosity and support to this annual match.

The next event by contrast was a wet day at the Rose Garden and although the course was certainly moist, play did not suffer unduly and, owing to the cool conditions, could be favourably compared to golfing in the United Kingdom. The course had comparatively long grass on the fairways, hence the ball received no advantage from "any run" and thus all credit to the several golfers who held their handicap in these challenging conditions and returned stableford scores of 36 points. Winners of the day were Bob Allen and Don Goodin in A flight and Graham Mitchell and Peter Isle in B flight all of whom collected beautiful gifts. Prizes of bottles of wine were collected by Ward Washington and Derek Johnson who returned good scores for first and second nines. Many thanks to S.C. Johnson for their kind sponsorship, (and we were sorry that manager Ian McLean could not be with us). With the last month of the golfing calendar approaching all BC golfers are getting naturally

excited about the annual Hua Hin thrash, this event being noted for its cool sea-side breezes, excellent seafood and traditionally poor golf scores. Two of this year's committee members are organising the golf days, their respective Companies ICI and Cyanamide being sponsors so, we can be assured of excellent hospitality, even if the golf quality does not come up to scratch. (December 5/6/7)

Prior to this 'Southern game' we shall have had our annual American Chamber vs British Club day at the Unico course on Sunday 29th November. Many of our regulars said a little over a year ago that they would never play the course again (due to the jungle like rough growing central of the fairway at that time) but there has been a miraculous improvement to the course and whilst not perfect it does certainly now provide excellent golf conditions. More about this in the post match report in the next Outpost.

Lastly but by no means least, the golf section this month loses three of the most regular and notable golfers, Jim Harris, the congenial Mr. Volvo whose handicap continues to tumble of late, and the Allens, Bob and Gillian who have demonstrated some excellent low handicap golf to all, and set a fine example of 'how it should be played'. We wish them all good fortune in the future, and on behalf of all our golf section members "it was nice knowing you".



AUSSIES RYAN, HANCOCK AND WASHINGTON
BRITS QUINN, MORAN, AND HALLIDAY



LES VIZE TAKING AIM



HER NAME IS SALLY.....



JIM HARRIS BEFORE THE GAME



JIM HARRIS AFTER THE GAME



LADIES' GOLF

Our numbers were very depleted during November, with a lot of Ladies away, and sadly some who have left us for good, however, a hard core turned up manfully to play during the month despite variable conditions.

As we now come to the end of 1981, we would like to remind British Club Lady Members (and others) that we do exist as a Golf Section and we would welcome not only newcomers, but those who subscribe to the section but whom we rarely see to join our Group and help swell the numbers in 1982 particularly for the A.G.M. and round-up which we propose having on Tuesday December 8th.

PROGRAMME FOR DECEMBER

December 1st - This will be played either as the November Monthly Medal (if the numbers had not be sufficient on 24th November, or a Stableford Competition at 7.00 a.m. at the Army Golf Course.

December 8th - A.G.M. and Round-Up starting time 8.00 a.m. at the ARMY GOLF COURSE.

December 15th - Eileen Ford's CAPTAIN DAY 7.00 a.m. at NAVATANEE GOLF COURSE.

We will then take a 'BREAK' for the Christmas period and start again on Tuesday January 5th 7.00 a.m. at the ARMY COURSE by which time a new Committee will have been elected and an announcement will be posted on the Golf Section notice board in the British Club.

We take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.



BILLIARDS

Progress on the last three competitions of 1981 has been too slow to finish in time for presentation at cups at the end of November. The presentation of cups and general meeting of the billiards/snooker section has therefore been postponed to January, the date will be announced during December. Players are requested once again to play their matches promptly.

O'Connell Cup

At time of writing, we are waiting for Messrs. Adcock and Burbridge to decide who is to play Mr. Phillips for a place in the final. The other finalist is Mr. Armstrong who had a close game against Mr. McLean. We welcome Mr. McLean back to the billiards room: a glance at the honours board shows that he was no stranger!

Leonowens Cup

This competition has nearly caught up with the last - we have three semi-finalists in Messrs. R. Armstrong, T. Watson and B. Brook. The fourth slot awaits Peter Prince (again, or is it still?) and Denis Mellor. This report sounds like a dunning list!

Fothergill Cup

The draw for the doubles produced an even eight pairs. The competition is now open and the Scottish pair of Tom Watson and Ian McLean is strongly tipped.



CRICKET

Late rains disrupted all plans for the early net practices announced last month, however, we have received very good response to our request for cricketers to register their interests for the club in 1981-82 season.

Details of the season fixtures are still not available from RBSC but it is still hoped that the season will now commence in January, and please watch the Club notice board for further details.

For any further people who are interested in playing for the Club please sign the list on the Cricket board at the Club House or phone D. Goodin, office 233-5968 or home 286-3446 or 286-1474, or Jack Dunford, office 234-0098 home 252-7221. All standards are welcome.

A circular will be sent out notifying all members when the first Cricket meeting will be.



SWIMMING

The November GaGa had a welcome increase in the number of competitors. 39 swimmers this month, which made for a busy morning's activity.

Most swimmers seemed to benefit from the extra competition and a host of personal improvements were recorded. 24 swimmers were contenders for the Improver of the Month but the final winner was Lisa Laing. Congratulations Lisa.

The races themselves provided another crop of swimmers who won first places in each of their three events -- well done Karen Prendergast, Katherine Walsingham and Jeannie and Timothy Collins. Laura Dunlop had the timekeepers on their toes as there was a possibility she might take a Club Age Record in the Butterfly but it was not to be. Dzung Williams and Jonathan Albright continued their personal duel with Jonathan just winning the I.M. this month and Dzung just pipping him on the touch in the Breaststroke with both boys' clocking identical times.

Finally, the Collins squad of swimmers are all showing impressive improvements with each Gala that passes. David, Jeannie and Selina swam to 8 first places between them and Seksan was unlucky not to have any competition in his age group to add to the tally. They train hard and they win their races. Well done.



Members of the St Patrick Society of Thailand recently gathered at the President Hotel to welcome the new Irish Ambassador Mr Bernard McHugh and his wife. Based in New Delhi, Mr McHugh came to Bangkok to present his letters of credentials to His Majesty the King. Photo shows Mrs McHugh, standing left, with Ambassador McHugh, fourth from left, being surrounded by their hosts.

IS THAT LES BEHIND THE DARK CLASSES?



DON'T WORRY: IT WILL BE ALRIGHT ON THE NIGHT



HOST PEOPLE PAID RAPT ATTENTION
TO THE SPEAKER AT CLUB NIGHT



BUT SOME HAD OTHER THINGS ON THEIR MIND!

The Hooster Book of Records!

THE LEAST POPULAR CHRISTIAN NAMES

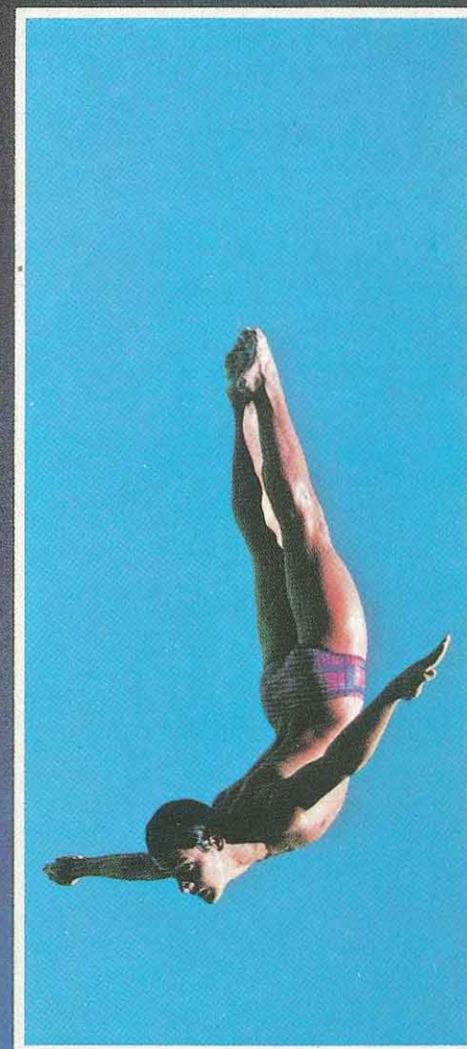
For many years Mr J. W. Leaver wrote annually to *The Times* with the twenty Christian names which had proven most popular around the font during the previous year. He at no point listed the twenty least popular. The following names were all used between 1838 and 1900, but now have fallen into spectacular neglect:

Abishag	Ham
Amorous	Lettuce
Babberley	Minniehaha
Brained	Murder
Bugless	Salmon
Clapham	Strongitharm
Despair	Tram
Dozer	Uz
Energetic	Water
Feather	Wonderful



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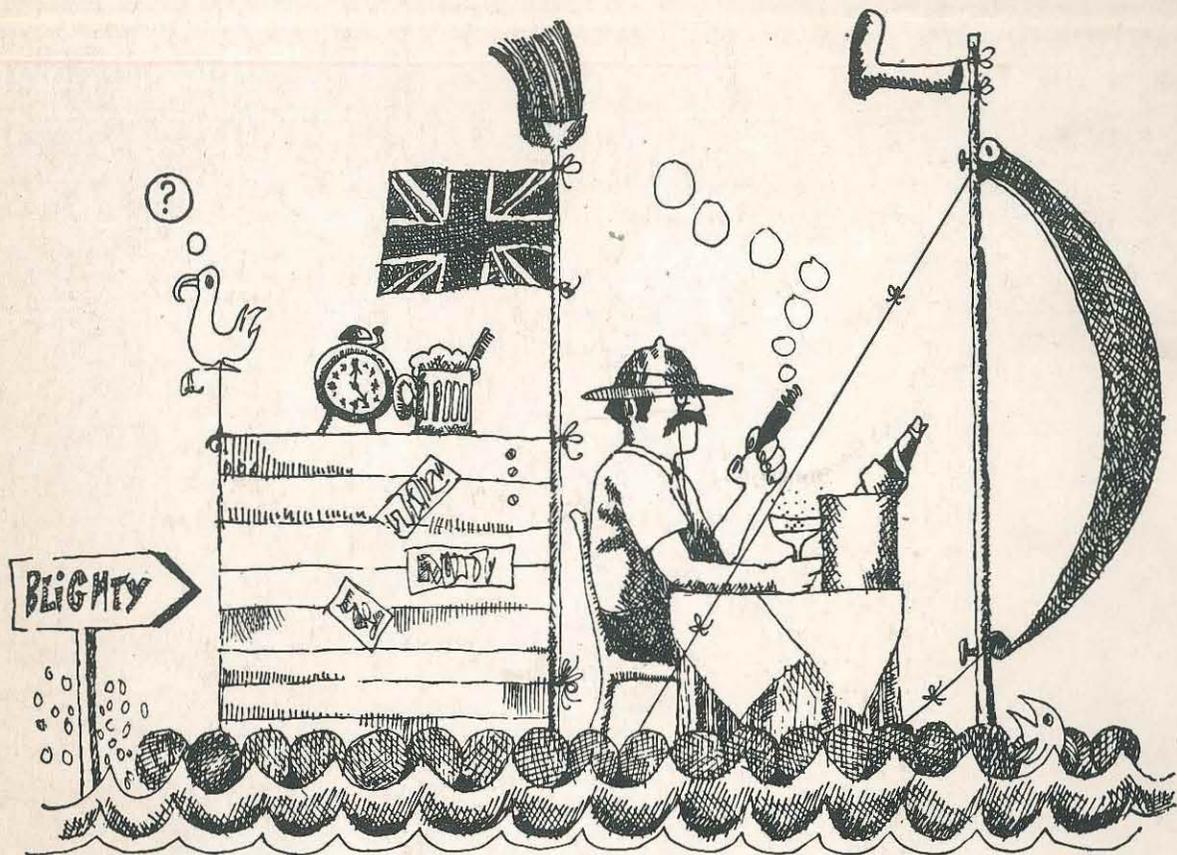
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