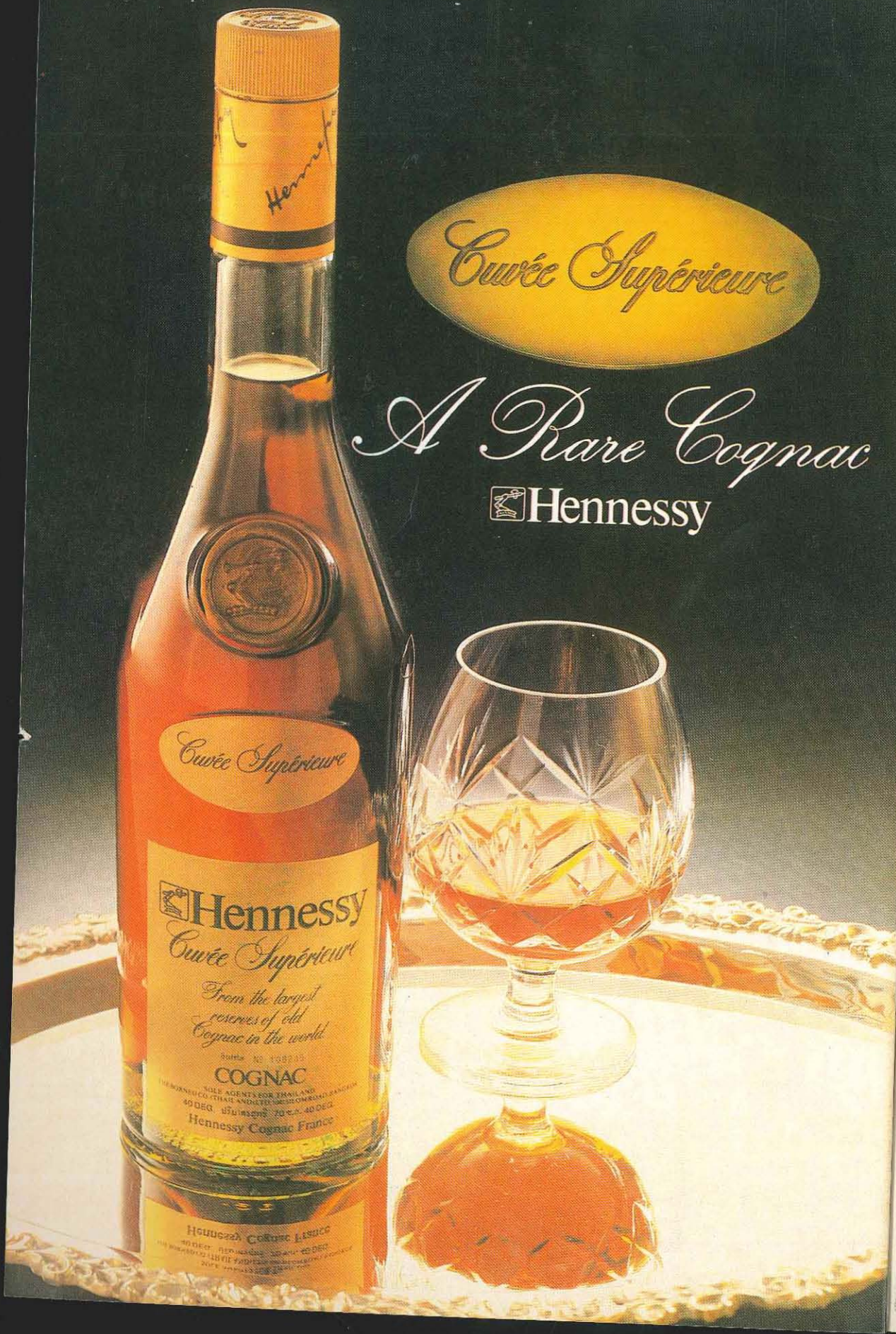


OUTPOST

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB

DECEMBER 1983





The British Club



189 Suriwongse Road
Bangkok 10500

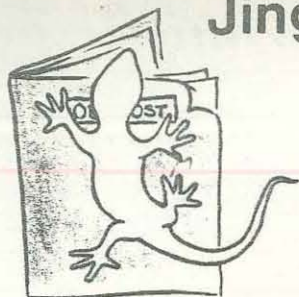
Telephone: 234-0247, 234-2592

December 1983

General Committee

	<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>
Roy Barrett (Chairman)	314 5568	377 2500
Geoff Percival (Vice-Chairman & Membership)	314 2464	
Anthony Bekenn (Hon. Treasurer & Finance)		233 6307
Paul Buckland (Sport)	392 8790	377 7081
Stewart Fergus (Food & Beverage)	392 0731	395 4211
David Frost (Publicity & Outpost)	391 3790	286 3833
Bernard Grogan (Personnel)	392 3807	391 5177
Tim Hughes (Entertainment)		234 5545
John Walker (House & Grounds)		222 4155
** ** *		
Bob P. Vlietstra (Manager)		234 0247 234 2592

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



Dinner Videos

With our new delux dining room and maestro chef K. Chamnong now in operation, what could be more pleasant in this frenetic time of parties, christmas shopping, mopping up after the floods and squaring the books, than to pop down to the British Club for a relaxing meal and watch the box. UK adverts, interspersed with the odd programmes, remain the most popular fare, and your committee is trying to secure further supplies (any help on this score would be gratefully received). In the meantime, however, we shall continue to bring you old favourites - even the Sound of Music.

Watch out for those flyers!

F & B Sub-Committee

Submissions for inclusion in OUTPOST must reach the Club by the 20th of each month.

Compiled and edited by:

David Frost - Editor

Geoff Percival, Geof Connor, Bill Friel

Advertising Manager - David Frost (Tel: 286 - 3833 or 286-2471) or contact The British Club Manager.

Membership Matters

NEW MEMBERS

The following were elected to membership of the Club in November 1983

Ordinary

Mr. L.J.R. Currie
Mr. R.W. Hickling
Mr. J.B. Holtom
Mr. G.R. Kilgore
Mr. A.A. Thompson

Ciba Geigy (T) Ltd.
Johnson & Johnson (T) Ltd.
Thai Shell E & P
Canadian Embassy
Jamieson Mackay & Partners

Non-Voting

Mr. T. Sowerby

Albright & Wilson Ltd.

Ladies Privileges

Mrs. S. Almeren

Swedish Embassy

Honorary

Mr. T.A. Madar
H.E. Mr. J.L. Paynter

Canadian Embassy

Deceased

Mr. C.J. Albright

Status of Membership

The current membership status is as follows:

Ordinary	417
Non-Voting	9
Associates	48
Ladies Privileges	35
Up-Country	21
Candidates	26
	<hr/>
TOTAL	556
Absent	695
	<hr/>
GRAND TOTAL	1251
	====

Editorial

A number of members have shown concern and have enquired as to the direction the club is taking. It is true that the last, (extended) 5 year plan is coming to a close and a new plan is yet to be tabled.

Other members voice concern over the amount of money being spent on the modernised dining room, and wonder if this facility will be fully utilized.

The fact is, the membership did elect a committee to oversee the affairs of the club. The fact is, it is difficult to get a general feeling from membership as to their requirements. The fact is, membership should ask more questions of their committee and read the minutes of committee meetings.

We have a good club; let's make sure it continues that way.

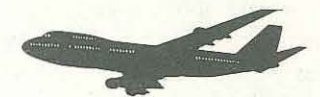
A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers.

** **

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A CHRISTMAS TREAT - "A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

Back home in Britain, Christmas would not be Christmas for many families without a visit to the theatre to see a Pantomime, or a children's play like "Peter Pan". And those who can't get to a theatre can always see such shows on their T.V. screens.

Now, here in Bangkok, we have the chance this year to see such a show - a real, traditional Christmas play, family entertainment in every sense of the word - when the Bangkok Community Theatre, joining forces with the Alliance Francaise, presents "A Christmas Carol" at the Alliance building, 29, South Sathorn Road, on 15th & 17th of December.

Regardless of age or sex, or indeed of nationality, millions of people have loved this story ever since Dickens wrote it in 1843 and it is still a firm favourite today. It tells the tale of the mean old miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, and what happened to him one Christmas Eve. As a story it has everything - jolly spirits and scary ghosts, Victorian Papas and Mamas celebrating Christmas with their children, familiar characters like Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim and a host of other personalities - mostly very nice people but with one or two nasty ones to add a touch of spice!

A large cast, under Director David Cardwell, has been hard at work for weeks, with dancers, carol singers from the Bangkok Music Society and special effects, to bring this story to life. So make a date NOW to step back in time for one evening to a Victorian Christmas, and bring the family to meet all these old friends on stage at the Alliance Francaise.

The opening night on 15th December will be a Gala Performance, when the cast joins the audience for supper after the show. Tickets for the Gala Night, inclusive of the show, supper and wine, are Bht. 200 - for adults, and Bht. 100 - for children under twelve.

Tickets for the other two performances will be Bht. 120 - for adults and Bht. 80 - for children under twelve. Tickets for all three shows may be obtained from members of the cast, or from:

Asia Book Store; D.K. Book Store; Alliance Francaise;
American Embassy (Community Liaison Office)
Madame T's Restaurant & Beauty Salon (Soi Ruam Rudee)

For any further information, you may contact the Producer of "A Christmas Carol", Tom Gerhart, on 390-1722 (Ext. 34)

Answer to October Puzzle

Blocks 14 and 28 are not connected.

Peter Adcock is the winner of the October puzzle.

X'mas Preparations

On Monday, 19th December at 10 a.m. there will be a Christmas decoration making morning in the Suriwongse Room. All children are welcome but children under 5 yrs. old accompanied by mothers please. There will be a charge of 20 baht per child to cover cost of materials.

AFTER THE CROSSWORD WHAT IS THERE?

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"TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT"

a monthly restaurant review



La Rotonde, on the 15th floor of the Narai Hotel is a much better restaurant than one would expect to find in a package-tour hotel. Although its evening trade is quite brisk, its lunch time clientele is few in number despite the excellent food (and service), something I have never been able to understand.

For some months, the hotel experimented with a Thai buffet instead of European food but this either did not work or the buffet has been transferred elsewhere. Whatever the reason, La Rotonde is now back to European (basically French) food, and one can only be grateful for it.

Not everyone enjoys eating on a roundabout, and for those who do not there is a static section containing the bar and perhaps a dozen tables from which one can observe the revolving diners passing by. Sometimes interesting, sometimes not.

La Rotonde has long been a favourite restaurant of mine and an article in praise of it had to be torn up when it started to serve a Thai buffet. However, it is back to what it was before -- not cheap, but not outrageously expensive either -- and I recently enjoyed my usual hors d'oeuvre, ballotine de poisson au caviare (but enjoyed it rather less than usual because it had not been properly defrosted). My companion spoke highly of the Lady Cuzon soup and of the lamb chops that followed. I had scallops cooked in butter, herbs, garlic, and cognac and we both enjoyed an excellent selection of vegetables. Wines are expensive and we settled for asti spumante, which was too sweet but my fault for ordering without knowing it.

(It may interest readers to know that there is an excellent asti spumante made by Cinzano called "Principe de Piemonte" now available at some shops in Bangkok. If you see it, buy it, and if you serve it from an ordinary champagne bottle it would be hard to identify).

We had no time for dessert or coffee; the bill was just over 1,100 baht, which included service and tax, and which I considered to be well worth while for very good food and courteous and attentive service.

** ** *

St. David's Society of Bangkok

At the recently held annual general meeting of The St. David's Society of Bangkok, Mrs. Gwladus Adams was elected Bard for the coming year. Other members of the society elected to the committee were Mervyn Jones (Vice-Bard), Brian Haskell-Thomas (Hon. Treasurer), Jeremy Davies (Hon. Secretary), Mai Butterworth, Stephen Evans and Leighton Fowles

As your (ex) puzzle editor has just left for his home leave we felt it fitting that his last offering should be about leave. He also left a bottle of Black Label for the first correct entry picked at random at 12 noon on the day before Christmas Eve.

EUROPEAN TOUR

Six couples - the Roberts, the Quinns, the Palmers, the Oglethorpes, the Neales, and the Morgans - departed via different flights from Don Muang one morning not too long ago, each of them bound for a long-anticipated European home leave.

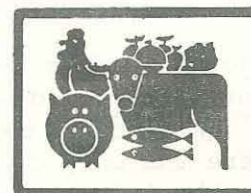
The Wives (not respectively) are Laura, Kate, Jenny, Ingrid, Helen, and Glenda. Their husbands are (again not respectively): Fred, Edward, David, Charles, Barry, and Alan.

These 12 individuals have all achieved a fair measure of success in their respective fields. They are (in no particular order) a photographer, a newspaper columnist, a university professor, a magazine editor, a high school principal, a novelist, a professional tennis player, a doctor, a television scriptwriter, a public relations director, a fashion designer, and a psychoanalyst. Of course, all of these careers can be pursued by members of either sex.

From among six countries - Denmark, England, France, Italy, Norway, and Spain - each couple elected to visit four, spending exactly one week in each. No two couples visited the same four countries or spent the same week in any given country.

Here are additional data about the people and their travels that should enable you to (1) match up the first and last names of the six husbands, (2) link up each wife with her husband, (3) name the occupation of each of the 12 individuals, and (4) name the country visited by each couple during each of the four weeks. So, tighten your seat belt...

1. The first week found Edward in Denmark the high school principal in England, the fashion designer in France, Ingrid in Italy, the Oglethorpes in Norway, and the psychoanalyst in Spain.
2. Alan visited England, France, Italy, and Spain, not necessarily in that order.
3. Denmark was visited in succession by the photographer, Jenny, Barry and the university professor.



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4. Charles, Helen, and the university professor are three of the four people who did not visit England.
5. Glenda was in Norway after the magazine editor had been there, but before either the Neales or the psychoanalyst.
6. Fred and his wife limited their picture-taking to black-and-white stills; the Roberts shot colour slides exclusively; and the magazine editor and spouse took only movies. Ingrid and her husband were the only couple who didn't take at least one camera on the trip.
7. Mr. Palmer, the psychoanalyst, the photographer, and Laura all visited Norway, not necessarily in that order. No two were there during the same week.
8. Kate and her husband took both still shots and movies in Denmark, France, Italy, and Spain, though they did not necessarily tour the countries in that order.
9. The PR director and spouse got a beautiful colour slide of Queen Elizabeth leaving Buckingham Palace to address Parliament. The following week they were so engrossed in further picture-taking that they barely made the flight back to New York.
10. The novelist, the tennis pro, and Fred are three of the four people who did not visit Denmark.
11. The scriptwriter visited Denmark, England, Italy, and Norway though not necessarily in that order.
12. Just before they reached the midpoint of their trip, Helen and her husband finished up their last roll of movie film on the top of the Eiffel Tower and they had to record the rest of their travels via stills.
13. England was the last country visited by the novelist and spouse. It had previously been visited, though in no particular order, by Mr. Roberts, Glenda, and Barry, all at different times.
14. During the week that the newspaper columnist and spouse were in Norway, Laura was in Denmark, Fred in Italy.
15. Spain was visited, in no particular order, by Charles, Jenny, Mrs. Morgan, and the newspaper columnist, no two of whom were there at the same time.
16. Helen went to Norway the same week that the doctor was in France.

17. Mrs. Neale and the photographer did not tour Italy.
18. The newspaper columnist, the tennis pro, and the magazine editor are of the same sex.
19. Alan and the doctor are not of the same sex.
20. France was the final country on the tennis pro's itinerary.
21. The PR director and the high school principal are of the same sex.



*"Those of you having the businessman's lunch
please signify by saying 'Aye.'"*



PHOTOGRAPH BY TREVOR LEIGHTON

THE JOYS OF COMING HOME

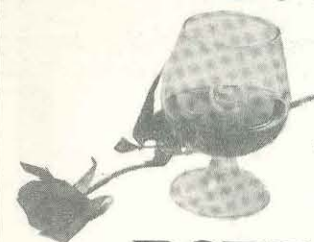
(Extracted from Dec '82

Woman's Journal)

I have recently become a 'wenwee'. I've joined the ranks of those repatriated to their homeland after years of living in foreign parts. My conversation is steeped, à la Swann, with remembrance of things past—and with anecdotes of the 'when-we-were-in-Poona' variety. Hence the nickname. Predictably, I have major re-entry problems.

'Wenwees' are easy to identify. We tend to be tanned of hue and wrinkled around the eyes from too much squinting into the tropical sun. Our syllables are clipped and clearly enunciated from constantly speaking English to those whose first language it isn't. Our speech is full

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of abbreviations and acronyms meaningful only to the initiated. For us 'expats', as we reminisce over our G and Ts about BA, KL and Dar, it is forever 'the UK', never 'England'—no matter how long we've been home. We tend to congregate in expatriate ghettos on the south coasts of England and Spain. You'll run into us having ecstatic reunions with our own kind in those London clubs hung with oil paintings of colonial nabobs (they were the very first 'wenwees', after all). We also turn up at the AGMs of international trading companies, whose lavish buffet lunches remind us of how things used to be . . .

We like to tell you, frequently, that during our years of exile we've had to take the rough with the smooth. But frankly, a major cause of our re-entry problems is that some of the smooth was very smooth indeed. You'd be surprised at the number of places dotted round the globe where you can still—for a not inordinate outlay—live the exotic Somerset Maugham lifestyle of punkahs and marble floors, siestas and sundowners: places where the curry lunch still flourishes (lunch at 4, Bloody Marys and Pimm's from 11.30, served to guests relaxing in the pool between the floating ashtrays); places where you can have a household staff who can produce dinner for twelve, laid impeccably on your best napery and crystal, at two hours' notice, without you having to lift a finger.

Before you spin on your egalitarian heels, I should point out that in many parts of the developing world if you decide to run your household single-handed you may not only be throwing individuals out of work in a country where employment is much scarcer

than here—and unemployment benefits are non-existent—but also jeopardising the welfare of a large extended family entirely dependent on the wages of the breadwinner.

And I must add that often the more sybaritic the surface appointments—the private cottages on the beach, the ball-boys on the tennis courts—the greater the likelihood of water and electricity cuts, of bare shelves in the supermarkets, weevils tunnelling in your flour, unmentionable wildlife in your bathroom, and cockroaches scampering playfully across the floor in the middle of your formal dinner party—swings and roundabouts, you might say.

Actually it's usually at the point in the conversation when I'm just getting going on the cockroach story that the eyes of my friends begin to glaze over. It's very sad, but one of life's frustrations for us 'wenwees' is that no one back home wants to listen, particularly to tales of lavish foreign high life. (Anecdotes of the 'I remember a fantastic lunch that the Hamilton-Pomfrets gave at the Oriental in Bangkok' type fall especially flat, I find.)

There is one exception. For all 'wenwees' a welcome as unstinting as it is unsolicited awaits them—from the tax inspector. All the personal details as to your peregrinations and financial circumstances before, during and after your sojourn abroad are cordially invited and painstakingly pored over, somewhere in Cardiff, I believe. Any 'wenwee' who has managed to stash away a meagre peso or two during his time abroad has small chance of retaining them on his return.

All would-be expatriates are warned about culture shock before they venture abroad. They're always advised to be

adaptable, to make efforts to conform to customs, to respect local traditions. In more exotic parts of the world, this can mean coping manfully with power blackouts which last days rather than hours, weathering the siege conditions of awful three-day typhoons, sending one's children to local schools where they acquire strange accents and even stranger habits and friends, accepting huge lepidoptera as part of the family, and learning that a good fifty per cent of the time an oriental 'yes' means 'no'. Also how to react with poise and aplomb when confronted with some very different social situations. Try, for instance, eating that traditional Chinese delicacy, sliced sea slug, or the equally tarty Filipino equivalent—raw duck embryo floating in its amniotic fluid—with a convincing show of fastidious delight.

I now learn that the same culture shock—and advice—applies in reverse. On re-entry one must adapt to a whole new set of British customs such as flying pickets and NUPE strikes, topless tabloids and mushy peas, *de rigueur* regional accents throughout the media, trendy vicars on roofs, and the new social scene of the municipal dump on Saturday mornings (absolutely everyone is there) where one disposes of garden rubbish which the dustbin men these days disdain. And as for Anna Raeburn and her friends solving your exotic sex problems on Capital Radio, I assure you coping with duck embryos is a doddle in comparison.

Which leads me to another irritating 'wenwee' trait: those comparisons we're always drawing on matters of lifestyle between British and other cultures we've known. I'm afraid it's hard to resist.

Take plumbing, for example,

which is a subject topically close to my heart. Since my return I've been quite unable to find a plumber actually prepared to come to my house. Unless, that is, I happen to want to renew my entire central heating system. In foreign parts my plumbing was always going wrong. In Africa it was a green mamba in the cistern. In the Far East typhoons wrought havoc with the drains. In Turkey the soak-away didn't. But I never lacked for plumbers. On the contrary. On one occasion in a Far Eastern country I had a team of seven plumbers crammed into one small bathroom. At least they *said* they were plumbers. Unfortunately they shared one monkey wrench between them and didn't manage to fix the leak. But at least they came.

Another problem is maintaining my family in the style to which they have grown accustomed. My husband has become used to a nightly three-course dinner on a flower-bedecked table, preceded by a Happy Hour of cocktails served on a silver salver. These days he's lucky to get a warm sherry in the kitchen while I wash up the breakfast. My children are still stepping out of their beds—and their clothes—without a backward glance. Laundry has become a family flashpoint area. In tropical countries one had to shower and change twice a day. With a resident laundry girl every garment that had been so much as breathed over was washed at once. This has unfortunately not inculcated the most practical of attitudes towards our British laundry basket.

Personal standards of glamour have also taken something of a knock. Gone are the days in a distant country where for the equivalent of £3 I could emerge from the beauty parlour blow-dried, varnished, plucked and

waxed as smooth as Savalas all over. What in any case would be the point of a manicure on nails which are so grey and scarred from my battles with ground elder, and hands reacting with an angry rash to anti-fungal wallpaper glue?

And when would I fit in a visit? Time as a disposable commodity has suddenly shrunk, and my leisure with it. I am perpetually, anxiously, watching the clock. Pingers, alarm radios, cooking timers, train timetables and school runs dominate my life.

Lastly, coming home has brought moments of sad disillusion. In the maudlin moments abroad (especially after two sherries downed at the regulation embassy cocktail party on the Queen's birthday) we exiles would gather together and swop Rupert Brookeisms about the great British institutions we so missed—pork sausages, Wimbledon, strawberries and summer salmon, the smell of November bonfires, Glyndebourne, and always, the tranquil country cottages or Nash terraces to which we were going to retire.

But reality is different. The British pork sausage doesn't burst and splutter in the pan any longer, thanks to some inventive food technologist who sneaked up in my absence and substituted plastic casings for the real thing. Fish shops have vanished from the high street. Even strawberries have become do-it-yourself. Wimbledon is dominated by grunting American wunderkinder. Bonfires contravene the Clean Air Act. Glyndebourne is booked solid by tone-deaf businessmen on expenses. And the country cottages and Nash terraces stand perceptibly quaking as the juggernauts thunder past—and are now priced beyond our reach in any case.

So why don't I stop bitching,

pack my bags, and retire to Malaga or somewhere? Well, Britain does have certain things going for it: real friends, not expatriate acquaintances who pass in the night; friendly taxi drivers who actually know the way to your destination; British TV, incomparably the best in the world, and in London a cultural scene second to none; a free and astonishingly varied Press. Breakfast in bed with the British Sundays is still the tops. And there still remain some British culinary delights I'd go out on a limb for, like HP sauce, Manx kippers, Irish stew and Yorkshire Pudding—which for some reason one simply can't make with foreign flour. For weeks after my return, the sight of bottles of milk on my doorstep, those rivulets of condensation trickling down the sides, gave me *frissons* of delight.

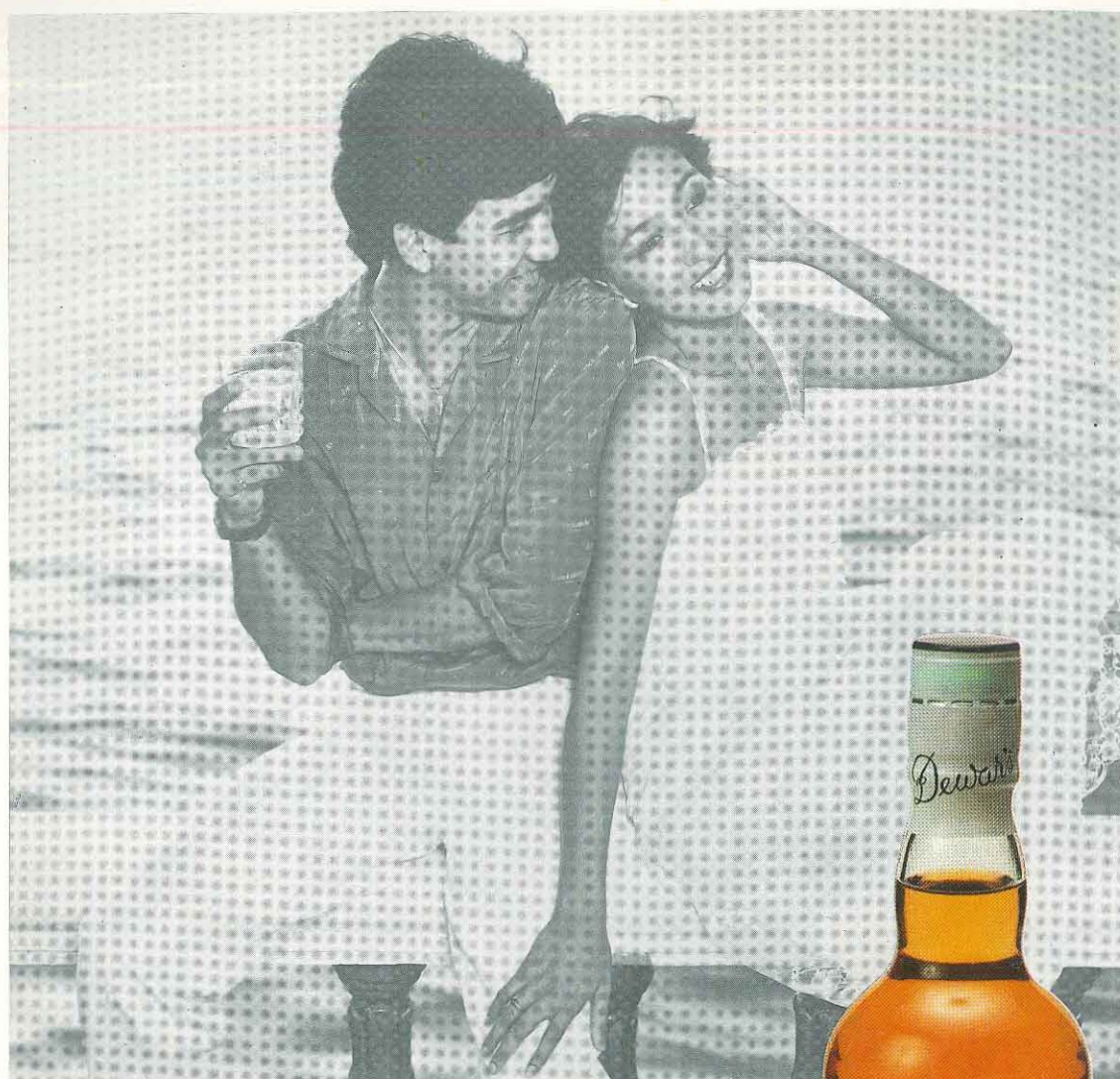
Even the British climate we so beef about has a lot going for it. You need to have lived in a steambath country to appreciate hoar-crisp English winter mornings, or in a region of drought and unrelenting sun—which dries and wrinkles European skin till it resembles an old medlar—to fully appreciate what Chaucer called 'the small rain' of England.

And the garden; I've lived in countries so hot and humid that if you stuck a fork in the ground it would sprout, where hibiscus and bougainvillea grow wild and straggly at the roadside, but where you can't grow roses, wallflowers or sweet peas, where you'll never see spring bulbs or autumn crocuses. One misses such things.

Of course I pine for the curry lunch bit occasionally. It's those swings and roundabouts again I suppose. Foreign swings are dandy for a while, but for this 'wenwee' at least, British roundabouts are, finally, best. □

Have you ever seen a grown man cry?

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DARTS

The team has done it again we are the proud joint winners of the Sportman's trophy, we certainly must have put up a good fight for it, we may not be the most skilful team in the league but we do enjoy are darts.

There has not been any league activity these past few weeks so we have been playing practice matches in the bar on Thursday nights, which have gone down very well as one of our teams always wins.

It is hoped that the new league will begin again soon, meanwhile our talent scout reports that there are still some players who have not yet signed up for the new season I overheard that he has been looking for new talent in all sorts of strange places make a point of it come and join us.

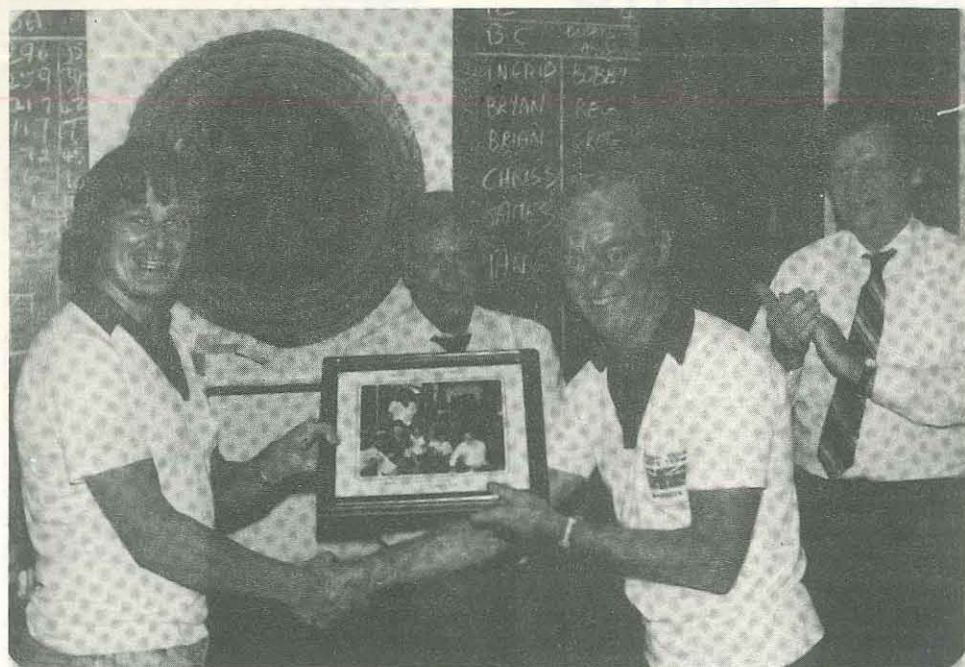
Presenting the photograph of the team to Ian Hill, is our Chris Staddon, they are both residing in Britain, now doing it over and under in their own way.

Number seventeen on the board is in a strange place too maybe that's why we don't win as often as we should.

Best wishes and Seasons greetings to all our readers from your very own darts team.



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TENNIS

Notes

The Tennis sub-committee have planned plenty of activities for the new season, but much will depend upon the playing conditions of our four courts. The raised courts Nos. 1 and Centre will be open from 24th November, but at the time of writing it has not been possible to assess their playing quality. We hope that they will play as well as they look, but we can only wait and see at this stage.

The two front courts Nos. 2 and 3 are unlikely to be opened for play before the beginning of December because they are still affected by the tidal flow. We learned last season that it is not possible to arrange any events properly unless all four courts are playable, so we have deferred organising any major tournaments until January, but we will have a pre-Christmas Handicap Round-Robin Doubles Tournament on Saturday 10th December commencing at 2 p.m., which is open to players of all standards. Partners will be provided, so you do not need to bring your own. An entry fee of Baht 50.- will be made and this will cover provision of tennis balls and tea. It will help if you would enter your name on the list provided at the Reception Desk, but late entries on the day of the tournament will also be accepted.

On the holiday weekend of December 5th, a team of eight men and four ladies will travel to Chiang Mai to play two matches with local clubs. As the number of players was restricted at the request of our hosts. It was not possible to offer a general invitation to participate in the event.

In January, we plan to commence Singles League Tournaments on the lines of those successfully held last season. Entry forms are available at the Reception Desk and should be completed and returned to the club not later than 17th December. An entry fee of Baht 50.- will be payable to cover the cost of trophies. The Singles League Regulations are attached to the entry forms and members intending to enter are asked to particularly observe Regulation No. 4 'PLAYERS MUST PLAY THEIR MATCHES EITHER ON THE SCHEDULED DATE OR IN ADVANCE OF THIS'. In effect, this requires that you play on average one match a week.

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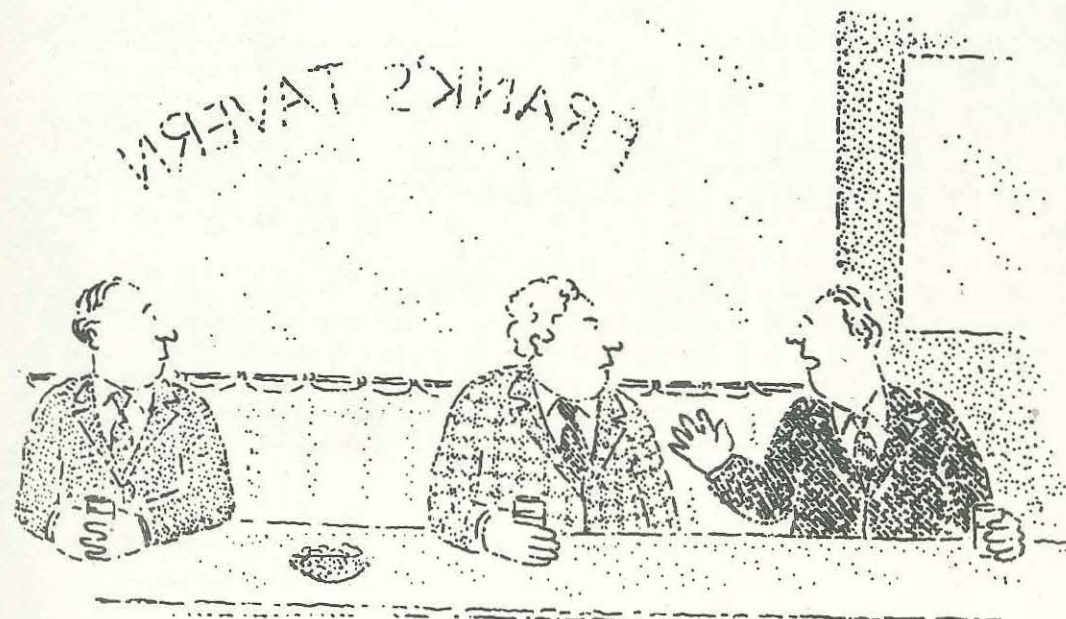
The Reliable Airline



We propose this season to reduce the size of the various divisions to not more than eight players each, so the maximum number of matches to be played will be seven within an eight week period. The first three divisions Men's A and B and Ladies A will commence on January 5th.

If any Ladies are interested in playing in a Ladies morning league, we would like to introduce this around the same time. The same entry form can be used for this competition.

Finally, in order to ascertain our playing strength this season, it would be appreciated if all intending players, whether tournament entrants or not, will complete the Registration Form enclosed with this issue of OUTPOST and return it to the Club as soon as convenient.



MANKOFF

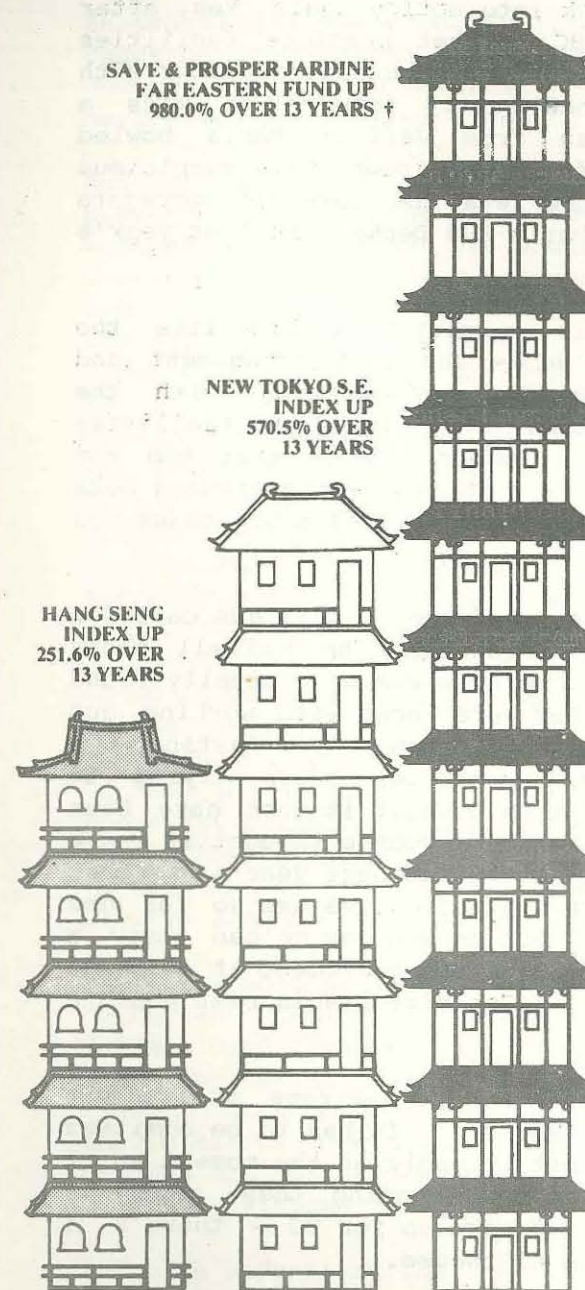
"Look, maybe you're right, but for the sake of argument let's assume you're wrong and drop it."

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CRICKET

After months of talking and writing about cricket the BC squad has actually creaked back into action again. Yes, after months of planning, the new BC cricket practice facilities were unofficially opened at 2.36 p.m. on Sunday November 20th when Ollie the Bricklayer leaned lazily forward to miss a cunningly flighted full toss from Jeff de Paris bowled approximately 2 metres wide of his off stump. This auspicious hour had been chosen since 236 was the combined aggregate score of Messrs. Bricklayer, Paris and Beckett in last year's Marshall Trophy Match.

Although the bowlers run-up is currently a bit like the aforementioned Southport sand dunes the Club management and committee are to be congratulated on providing BC with the best practice facilities in town, (or at least the facilities with easiest access to a bar.) Rumour has it that Bob and Khun Adisak were up all night on 19th crocheting fishing nets so that all would be ready on the big day and a big thank you is due to them.

Oh yes, the slip cradle has arrived too! This has caused a few red faces I can tell you. Cricketers who had all along pretended they knew what a slip cradle was were cruelly found wanting when it arrived and they were faced with working out how to use it. Not mentioning any names, Toni Austino, who arranged delivery to the Club, spent two hours trying to straighten the bars out because he thought it must have been damaged in transit. Jeff de Paris of course thought it was a bed, and BC staff had it all set up for next year's November 5th celebrations. True, its most effective use so far has proved to be as a mobile bar, but as soon as we can throw a ball accurately enough to hit it we are confident it will do wonders for BC catching power. See pictures in next month's Outpost!

With only 3 hours practice under our jock-straps it's a bit early to predict BC form for 1983/84. It has to be admitted that our bowling does look a bit friendly at the moment so if there are any new cricketers in town reading these pages we again urge you to come along and sign up for BC - there's a list on the noticeboard in the Clubhouse.

Talking of signing up, we are justly proud of the fact that BC has registered the longest list of players in the Thailand Cricket League this season! One or two people have expressed their surprise at finding their names on it but in spite of

their modesty all have been carefully screened by the committee, are known to be proven performers, and are likely to be called on at short notice. Early practice is recommended to avoid embarrassment in more public circumstances.

By the way, the cricket committee would like it to be known that BC is not involved in any way in the pre-season player snatching and back biting recently reported in the sports pages of the National Press. We've have to loan a few of our best cricketing members to help RBSC out as usual but we never resort to player grabbing ourselves.

And talking of RBSC we do have to congratulate them on the player umpiring course which they have organised this season. Woe betide any batsman who argues with any of the 6 BC players who have attended this course this season! Armed with such impressive arguments as "Jim Baker said..." or "Go and read Law 23, Section 2 old cock!" It will take a brave man to dispute any decision with confidence. For those interested, the course of 3 sessions has now actually finished, but there will be a final examination at RBSC on Tuesday 29th November. (If you're reading this in Outpost you are too late!). We will probably not be publishing the results in next month's Outpost, but successful candidates will be carrying a certificate in their flannel pockets signed by Jim Baker but carrying a photo of Ollie as supplied by The Nation.

At about the time you receive this month's Outpost a handsome squad of young men will be boarding the 6.5 Special to Chiang Mai to represent the BC in the opening cricket fixtures of the season. On 3rd December we will be taking on the might of CMGC in the annual 'Richard Woods Cup' match, and those who survive the following festivities will engage CMGC again the following day in a practice 25 over game. Let it suffice to say that we will do well if we win these two! (Please note, cameras are not permitted on this tour).

Finally, on a note of discord, if we ever find out who 'borrowed' two of our bats and returned them in dirty and damaged condition they will be picked for the Marshall Trophy match and forced to bowl 10 overs against Doug Beckett whilst fielding at long on at the other end. Under no circumstances should kit be 'borrowed' from the Club, and under no circumstances are children allowed to use kit except when playing with Club Playing Members.

P.S. We understand the Australian PM was in town this month to try to persuade Lockyer and Goodin to stay on for the British Ambassadors XI vs Australian Ambassadors XI in May. We understand that he was very upset when he heard that the Aussies would be using Kiwis to make up numbers this year.



SQUASH

As Jack Dunford was only saying last week "What a year 1983 has been for the Squash Section". Would you believe we have had fourteen tournaments consisting of six leagues and eight club competitions, plus two fun days and two TSRA competitions - no wonder everyone has been somewhat reluctant to complete their games in the November league. Please note the year is not yet over with one final event to be completed in December - The Don Johnson Cup, see the Squash Noticeboard for details of the draw.

Handicap Competition

Our congratulations go to Rod Carter for an excellent win over "Super-fit" Steve Tapner by two games to one in the final of this competition, which lasted over an hour. Even bigger congratulations go to Audrey Sill for a stunning win over David Gillett in the final of the Plate event. Jack informs me that Audrey is the first lady ever to win an open British Club competition - worth a prize in itself. A special mention also to Id Hastings for a supreme effort in reaching the semi-final stages of the Plate competition.

TSRA (Thailand Squash Rackets Association)



"WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS"

(L to R: Dave Wallace, Bill Friel capt., Tony Austin and Steve Tapner)

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Yes, after being runners-up in 1982 Div. II competition our 1983 team produced the surprise result of the entire tournament by defeating a previously unbeaten Rama Garden team 2-1 in the Div. II final.

For consistency a special mention goes to Dave Wallace who remained unbeaten throughout the tournament - superlative effort Dave. In the final, well what can one say about Steve Tapner's performance. I think everyone's feelings were encapsulated in Tony Austin's cry of "Absolute Magic". Steve, recently returned from home leave and after a stamina sapping illness, produced an unforgettable performance in defeating Nopadol, the Rama Garden's number one player, by 3-1. The smiles on their faces say it all. Well done Lads.



"BEATEN FINALISTS"

(L to R: Magaret Smith and Jill Van De Lint.

Amnuay Alexander missing from photograph)

Not to be outdone our ladies played well to reach the finals of the ladies division losing out to the unbeaten Gang by 3-0. Well done ladies.

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Who is the well dressed squasher seen around the club recently? No it isn't Jantje Davison in her micro black and red or Meg Friel in the latest French Leotard - it's none other than Tony Austin in the latest matching, British Club, shirt and socks, available in two colours - see the lobby display case for samples and prices.

Jack has asked me to draw everyone's attention to the following rules and regulations concerning the use of the squash courts.

- Please use shoes with soles which do not mark the floor.
- Do not wrap tape around racquet head as this often leads to marks being left on the walls and floors after racquet contact.
- Use non marking balls - preferred green ball available at the club.
- We have new mats outside each court. Please wipe your feet before entering.
- Squash courts are not play areas. Parents are requested to ensure that their children are not allowed into the courts or spectators galleries unattended.
- Finally a few words about minors using the courts. It is the Squash Sections sole objective to popularise everyone's participation in the Squash activities of the club. This includes minors. However parents are respectfully requested to adhere to the following rules concerning peak times and adult supervision of children using the courts.

Rules

4. During peak periods bookings are subject to certain restrictions. For the purpose of these rules peak periods are defined as follows:-

Weekdays:-
12.00 hrs to 14.00 hrs
16.30 hrs to 20.15 hrs

Saturdays, Sundays and
National holidays:- 11.15 hrs to 17.15 hrs

5. (a) A member alone is limited to one advanced booking per peak period. However at the end of that period, if there is a court available, a further booking may be made.

- (b) The only exception to this rule is that a second court may be booked in advance by a member in a peak period, provided the court is not used by the member, but by the member's spouse.

6. During peak periods children of members are not permitted to play, except they may play with a member or a member's spouse. i.e. Two children are not permitted to play against each other in a peak period.

Next Month...

- * Rules of Squash completion

H O G M A N A Y D I S C O

Saturday 31st December at Poolside

from 8 p.m.

See notice board for details



GOLF

One can hardly believe that the wet season is finished and now that it is, we can get back to the serious business of playing golf to non-winter rules.

Some 4 teams of BC golfers played at AIT course on Sunday the 20th of November and it certainly was a marathon in time, but the day was beautiful and the hospitality was marvellous as always, and we look forward to our BC outings on this course in 1984, which is already booked for the 1984 programme.

The Annual General Meeting of the BC golf section is to be held in January 1984 and soon after the AGM the 1984 Programme will be issued.

The following, is some golf information and perhaps some good tips.

A Bisque

A bisque consists of strokes conceded in the form of a handicap in a match by holes, but they differ from an ordinary handicap in respect that the strokes given need not be taken at the ordinary holes where strokes are taken, but they may be taken when and where the receiver of the bisque may decide. That is to say, two strokes may be taken at a hole or three strokes if the player wishes and it is not necessary for the receiver of the bisque to announce before the hole is played his intention to take his bisque at that hole. He can take his bisque after the hole is played out, but he must declare before leaving the putting-green if he takes a bisque or bisques. It often happens in a match that a player does not require his handicap at the particular hole it must be taken at, therefore, the bisque operates in favour of the handicap player. It is a sound principle to take bisque early in the game.

Clubs: Selection and use as recommended by Ben Hogan way back in 1949

	Regular	Maximum	Minimum
From:			
Driver	265	300	235
Brassie	250	270	220
Three Wood	235	250	210
Four Wood	220	230	200
One Iron	195	220	185
Two Iron	185	210	175
Three Iron	175	200	165
Four Iron	165	190	155
Five Iron	155	180	145
Six Iron	145	170	135
Seven Iron	135	160	125
Eight Iron	125	150	115
Nine Iron	115	140	105
Wedge Pitch	50	105	in to green
Wedge Sand	25	40	in to green

Before Tommy Madar departed from Bangkok he gave to me some very old fine books all about golf and on reading through some of these books I would like to share these books with my fellow golfers in the BC so if you are interested in reading some old books and some new ones please contact the captain or check the noticeboard at the club.

THE CAPTAIN



SOCCER

November 3rd December 1984 : The "Off"

And so it began. Late, of course. But eventually we did kick off against reasonable opposition from Singapore Cricket Club and the season, if not the BC team, was up and running.

Their team comprised of a bunch of well-seasoned veterans, getting a bit long in the tooth but still fast enough on the hoof.

The talents assembled in our team ranged from the very rare, through medium rare, average, the occasional well-done, and on to the completely burnt out. Prior to kick off, the pessimists in the team attempted a premature rationalisation for defeat by estimating our average age to be higher than theirs. Even with our combination of the old, the new, the old but new and the newly old (like the captain) this was unlikely unless half our team was lying. So it probably was true.

As it turned out, it was a close-run thing, and they ran a little closer than we did. It ended up 3-2 to them with Thompson and Wallace pulling one back apiece for us and Colin "the Cat" doing the same at the opposite end.

However, it should be borne in mind that the team was operating under two abnormal constraints (apart from the usual lack of fitness, coordination, imagination, boots, laces studs etc.):

first, specific instructions at the off for everyone to "enjoy themselves"; and secondly

the captain's announced intention to "experiment" with players in different positions.

The former caused severe emotional trauma to those brought up to regard football as a religion, rather than a game, and therefore not something to be enjoyed in any case. The latter, while sound in theory, produced even greater bewilderment and disarray given the eccentricity of the 'experimental' rearrangements made as the game regressed. Defenders were sent into attack, attackers into retreat,

left-footers to the right, and the fit to the substitutes' bench. (You can guess how many halves I played, and it wasn't two.) That the captain had been carried away was not in doubt; that he should have been carried off and had his marbles felt to see if they were still attached continues to be the subject of debate.

Nevertheless, it was an enjoyable first outing and in view of the large number of players in the squad it was necessary to try out as many permutations as possible.

The apres-match took place on the strip, and was distinguished by a virtuoso performance from one of the Singapore lads who for an hour outclassed the singer in the Napoleon and temporarily kept the drunken hordes from tasting the other delights of Bangkok.

It was a good fixture (thanks due to George Stretton) and I hope it becomes regular.

Finally, training. A record number (15) attended on November 22nd, lured not only by the kick-around preceding the masochistic trip up "The Hill", but by the prospect of a few cleansing ales afterwards. It's definitely a case of the more the merrier (players not Klosters). Get into it: 5.30 for 7.00 every Tuesday and Thursday at the Club.

Mr. John Lawrence, Regional Director of Personal Financial Consultants Ltd. of Hong Kong will be giving a talk entitled:

"Investment Opportunities for the Expatriate"

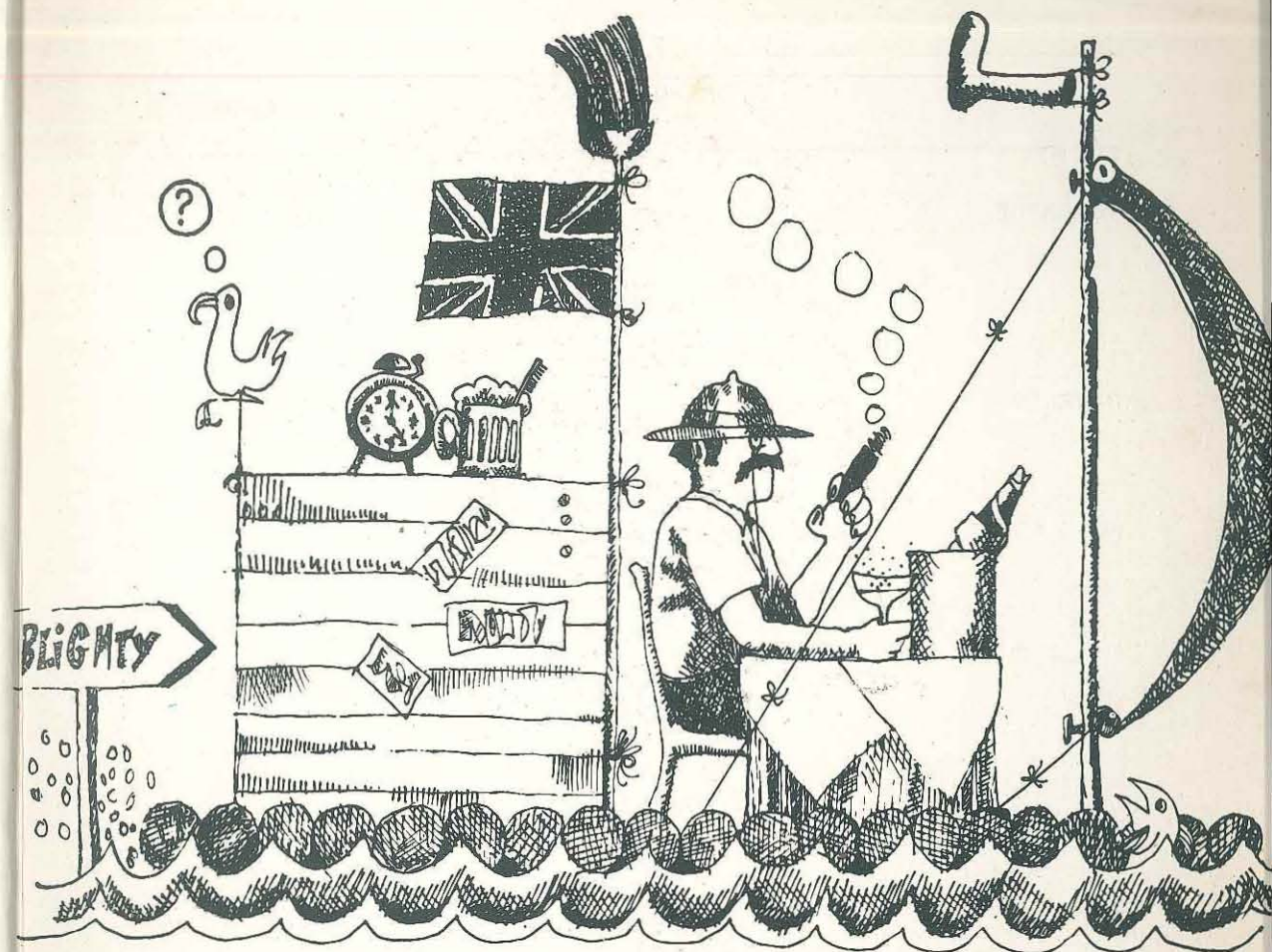
at The British Club at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 13th December.

Members & their wives welcome

Drinks & Snacks provided

Affiliated Club

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