

OUTPOST

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB, BANGKOK

MERRY CHRISTMAS



AND A HAPPY 1994

DECEMBER 1993



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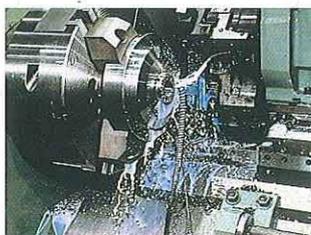
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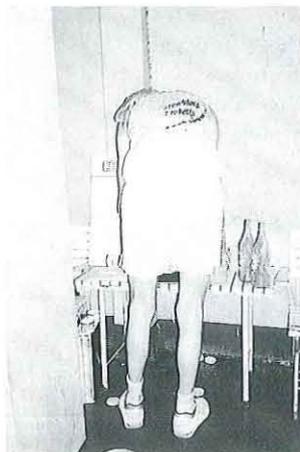


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CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to contribute to Outpost Contact Bea Grunwell on 2589509. All photographs - articles should be received by Bea on 1st of each month.



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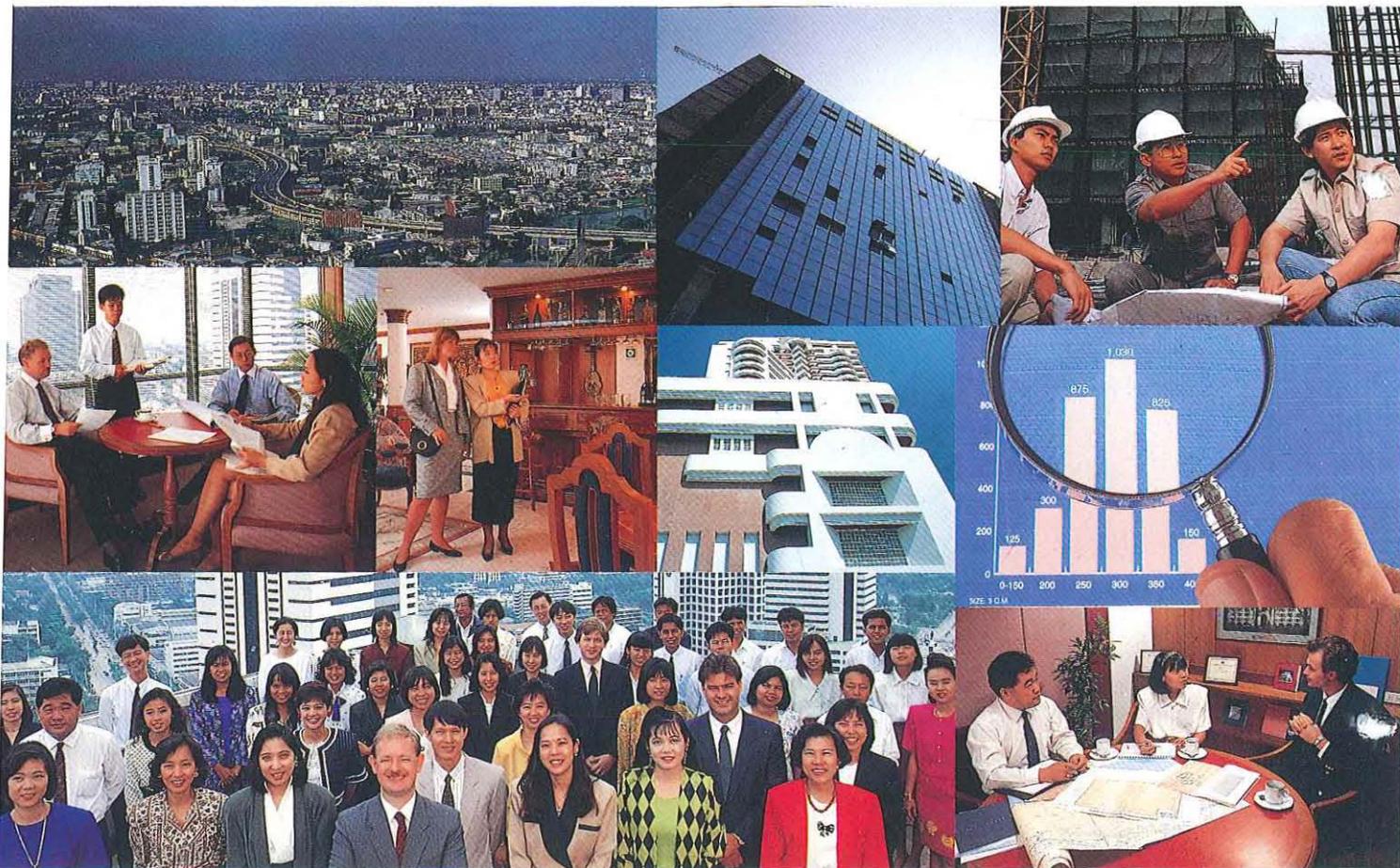
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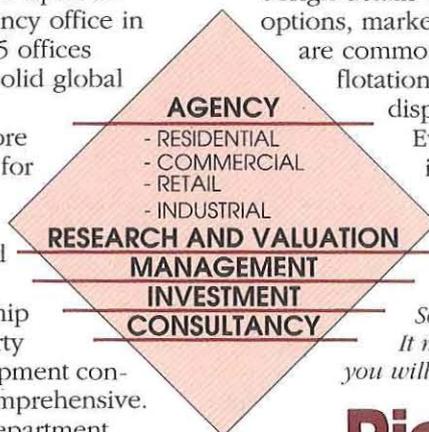
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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Well, it has been a busy month. A lot of people joined the Committee on 5th of November to say farewell to Keith Bell and welcome the new Manager Mr. David Vickers. It was good to see so many people there and showed the appreciation that many members have for the hard work Keith has done over the last 5 years or so. Nigel Oakins handed Keith a present from the Club and a "special" farewell gift, a photograph of the present general committee. Which I am sure Mr. and Mrs. Bell will know where to put already.

I must wish the new Manager all the luck as he has joined the Club in its most busiest season and he surely has his work cut out for him. He was busy making notes on 5th and 6th of November and had time for a word with everyone who wanted to meet him.

On the subject of 6th of November, Guy Fawkes Day/Night at the Club, it was a great day for the children, Maurice and his entertainments committee did a marvelous job organising all the games. The little ones really enjoyed it and so did many of the parents I saw on the sidelines.

The fireworks, however spectacular they were, were quite a scary event for little ones



and grown ups alike. I feel we are much to close to exploding missiles and next year, before any serious accidents happen, serious consideration should be given, by the General Committee, to the safety aspects of this event. Sparks flying could quite easily, and did, hurt a child or an adult and leave them scared and scarred for life. There should be a definite maximum number of attendance, as I was number 800 and something on the list, this seems completely over-attended to me.

However, this fortunately did not spoil the fun and a great day was had by all, with a full Suriwong Room to enjoy the antics of Mr. Rick Scott who entertained us all, yes the children as well, with some new and some old favourites.

This months Outpost is full of goodies, all the regular sports sections seem to be contributing now, an article on Gemstones, 2 letters to the Editor and some Xmas specials. Keep the letters and contributions coming, I welcome them with open arms.

Anyone who has taken photographs at special events

like the Managers Leaving party, Guy Fawkes or any sporting event, if you would like some of your better photographic efforts printed in Outpost, please let me have your pics by 1st of each month. If you put your name and address on the back, I can let you have them back asap.

This year has seen quite big turnover in the General Committee, heavy job commitments and frantic traveling schedules have caused Frank Crocker and Paul Curtis to resign. We welcome Mr. Des Keane as the new Treasurer and wish him good luck in this very difficult position. And of course thank you to Frank and Paul for jobs well jobbed!

So finally, to all of you and your families a very special Christmas and a happy 1994. Hope to see you in the Club!!

Bea Grunwell



New Members

No volunteers yet for "Guest Interviewer", but who knows New Years resolutions may come up with a waiting list of people who are keen to exercise their writing skills. Suzanne Partridge helped out this month and as usual did an excellent job.



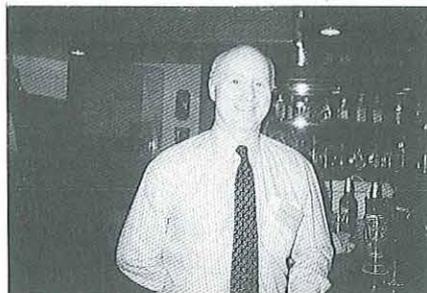
Mark Webster, Australian Embassy, has been in Thailand for 2 months. His wife, Elizabeth, is still in Australia but she will be joining him soon. They have three children, 2 boys and a girl. Mark reckons his job in the Oz Embassy is to sign cheques and do the administration. He enjoys playing golf and bush walking. Elizabeth likes tennis, skiing and joining Mark in a bushwalk or two. He was in Canberra, Sweden and Chicago before gracing the Land of the Smiles with his presence. He thinks Bangkok is a fantastic place as long as you are able to arrange your life around the traffic.



Another person who slipped in last month, this month joined by wife Ruth. Cecil Crane (look him up in November issue for the details), did not tell us much about his wife. She used to play squash until she was involved in a skiing accident, speaks Dutch, cooks, and carves fruit. She is also a teacher and worked with mentally retarded children.



Iain Hubert, is the Branch Manager for Kier International, a construction company. He has been in Thailand before for 3 years, went back to the UK for 3 days and was posted to Bangkok. He is single, likes squash, tennis, paintings especially by the French Impressionist Schools as shown in Degas, Renoirs etc. He is Scottish by birth. He did not join before because he had no time and thought Asoke was too far away to join the Club. He plans to be an upstanding member of the BC and looks forward to joining in with all the fun and games.



Charles and Toni Skinner, he is the Director of Engineering for Holiday Inn and reckons as the BC and Holiday Inn are close neighbours a close cooperation should be worked on. They have 2 children a boy of 2 1/2 and a little girl of 4 months. He hails from Scotland and decided that joining the British Club was the only thing to do as this would make them feel less homesick and more in touch with the British community. He used to be a heavy hockey player but now enjoys sociable football and the occasional game of golf and squash. Toni

enjoys swimming, tennis, BAMBI, BWG and is a book a day reader which the Neilson Hays Library kindly supply.



Janet and Graham Bretag are from Australia, Graham is an exchange officer with the Thai Army. They have been here for 5 months. They both like outdoor activities, unfortunately Graham does not have time to do much else but work. They have one son who is 4 months old. They both enjoy Thailand and hope to get as much joy from their stay here as possible.



Marie Cunningham works for the Australian Embassy and this is her first posting abroad. She is single and enjoys squash, swimming and dabbles at tennis. She also likes a good drink. She does not think the smell in Bangkok is particularly good but the social life is great.

New Members



Bob Merrigan works for E.C. Harris and has been here for almost a year. He has decided to join because he is not as busy as before. He is interested in Rugby, golf and general sports. He loves Thailand as a whole but is not that keen on Bangkok.



Andrew McTighe has been here for 5 years and has decided to finally join because Maurice told him, so he could join the Fitness Centre. He has been to the BC many times as a guest and likes the atmosphere. He works for Anglo Asia and enjoys Thailand most of the time but has his off moments. His real interest is motor sports.



Allan Payne is here with Reliance Environmental Group, he wants to keep Bangkok clean. He is married to Dora, who is still in England. She is joining Allan for Xmas. They were in Hong Kong before and have 2 children of 21 and 22. He is interested in all sports but specifically Rugby, he was a rugby coach once. He has been in Bangkok 3 months and already suffers from the "keep your mouth shut in front of the press" syndrome.



Brian Diamond, Australian, here for 5 months, he works for the Oz Embassy. He is single, plays cricket and would like to play for the BC. He also enjoys playing squash. He travelled around Thailand 12 years ago.



John Oliver, aka Tony, spent most of his working life in Hong Kong. He has come to Thailand to retire (how lovely Ed). He used to work for Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotel. He swims, travels and has been visiting Thailand since 1959.



John McDermott, lived in Hong Kong and Japan before and came to the Far East in 1956. Also retired, he used to be a Civil Engineer. He plans to do absolutely nothing but enjoy himself.

THIS SPACE COULD HAVE BEEN

YOURS

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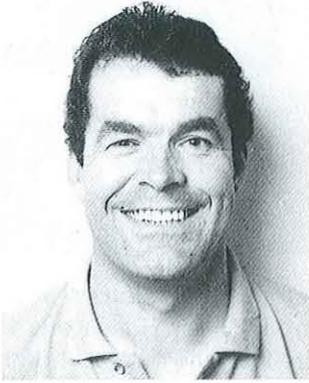
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FOR RATES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Notice Board



FROM THE MANAGER

Dear Members,

Firstly let me say how delighted I am to be here at the British Club. While I have had 10 days "walking the course" with Keith before he departed, there are still very, very many areas about which I am unsure ... Here comes plea number one!

If things are not as you like them or if you can see a disaster looming, please tell me, I genuinely do want to hear your views, comments and advice.

My next point is a big thank you to all those club members who have made me feel so welcome! I have really been struck by how very friendly everybody is long may it continue! Lastly, some of my first impressions; ... super staff ... charming members ... beautiful grounds ... lovely facilities (if a bit ageing!) ... heat ... underused dining room (Why, I wonder?) ... sun ... traffic (yawn, yawn!) ... I know I will enjoy it here ... with your help and advice.

David Vickers
General Manager



NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Last month, unfortunately, Paul Curtis has had to resign from the General Committee, after working very hard with the accounts at the Club. Des Keane will have taken his place from November. Des is a relatively new member (6 months), but very keen to get to work and get to know people. He was around on the New Members Night and had a little word with Outpost. He is the Financial Controller for Premier Finance and Securities Co. Ltd. He is married to Jo they have 2 children at University in Melbourne. They have both joined the golf section. Whilst in Australia Des was the State President for the Australian Society of Accountants and Treasurer of the State Opera of South Australia.

He says upon joining the General Committee: "It was about time the GC was balanced by the presence of a sensible Australian person."

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Christmas at Christ Church - 1993

*** ADVENT SUNDAY ***

- Sun Nov 28 07:30 : Eucharist (1662)
10:00 : ADVENT EUCHARIST & Lighting of Advent Wreath
(*Scots Guards Pipers in Church;
Slum children for Picnic afterwards*)
15:00 : Thai Service
18:00 : ADVENT CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

*** ADVENT II - THE EMPTY MANGER ***

- Sat Dec 04 [Decorate the Church Day]
Sun Dec 05 07:30 : Eucharist (1662)
10:00 : PARISH EUCHARIST + Sunday School & Creche
15:00 : Thai Service

*** ADVENT III - PAGEANT DAY ***

- Sun Dec 12 07:30 : Eucharist (1662)
10:00 : SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT & EUCHARIST
15:00 : Thai Service

*** ADVENT IV ***

- Sun Dec 19 07:30 : Eucharist (1662)
10:00 : PARISH EUCHARIST + Sunday School & Creche
15:00 : Thai Service
18:00 : CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

*** CHRISTMAS EVE ***

- Fri Dec 24 15:00 : Scandinavian Society Christmas Service
19:00 : FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS (Thai)
23:00 : CHRISTMAS DAY AT MIDNIGHT -
FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

*** CHRISTMAS DAY ***

- Sat Dec 25 08:00 : Carols at Bangkok Nursing Home
09:00 : FAMILY CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST - *Children bring presents
for the underprivileged Children*
19:00 : FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS (Thai)

*** FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS ***

- Sun Dec 26 07:30 : Eucharist (1662)
10:00 : PARISH EUCHARIST + Sunday School & Creche
15:00 : THAI CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Poetry

This new page is started off by our Poetess Laureate, Trixie Brann, whose regular contributions make a change from the ultra serious contents of OUTPOST magazine, Trixie, thanks!

IN BRIEF

Because of hubby's snickers
about the state of my knickers
Elastic gone all saggy
backside gone all baggy
I asked my dear friend
to rescue my rear end
It's all in a good cause
help me (I need new drawers!)

It was the Night of the Proms
when in my friend comes
I didn't get these G-strings
but I got you these things

Thanks, they are just right
Not too big, not too tight
They'll go down very well
to the tune of Willie Tell

I'm glad she bought me bikini
Oh.. I did enjoy Rossini!
Now here's a sad story
After Land of Hope and Glory

We all donned our spurs
and galloped in our chairs
After God Save the Queen
Tired, I left the scene

I almost saw bright red
when it came into my head
Oh, flipping 'eck Mable
Me drawers are under yon table

Next day prompt at nine
Anyone seen those knickers of mine?
No madam, we have not
Said the lady with the mop

Sawasdee Kah, Madam cor tot
but your pants we have not
with smiles and snickers
said, sorry madam, no knickers!

This leaves us in no doubt
there is a knicker nicker about
to the Club I cannot come
Well, but not with my bare bum

If you pinched my new pants
you've still got a chance
please help my sad cause
and **HAND BACK MY DRAWERS!**

Trixie Brann

And now for someone who uses his
time in the car very well, a ballad from
Mr. Tom Watson, composed on
Ratchadapisek Road in a traffic jam.

**On turning up its home in Soi Sawadee
for the fourth time. With apologies to
Robert Burns.**

Wee Sleekit, cowrin', tim'rous beastie
O, what a panic 's in they breastie
Thou need na start awa sae hasty
out in the rain
The lad have gone for something tasty
Before they'll dig again

You might have though three times's
enough
to lay the drains and other stuff
But now they're back, the going's rough
For you and me
and fellow mortals, life gets tough
in Sawadee

It's months, or is it years ago
Diggers came, men and machines, ah so
The big one "Komatsu" like dinosaur
Steel toothed as a shark
Laid waste and made the Soi we know
Jurassic Park

It lies in wait into the night
Unlit, unseen the monster sets it's sight
on passing cars, and drivers taking fright
Slam on the brakes
Life or death, inches left or right
Is all it takes

Let's call Khun Krisda, he'll take action
Wait! He's busy with the main attraction
Shaking hands with Michael Jackson
Don't tell them, yet
Potholes are full for his attention
Come get them wet

Cares of Mice and Men are rarely heeded
by powers that be, when action's needed
Until a greater Power has interceded;
For me and you
We'll wait the day our case is pleaded
Bye, Bye, the "noo"

Tom Watson



Well, it is that time of the year again - the thugby season is over and it is time for the gentlemen - the flannelled fools to grace the cricket grounds of Thailand.

Cricket season is here at last!!

White, Cooper, Hough and even Peter "Give me a wider bat that won't break when I hit the ball" Snell (If you hit the ball Snell!!) are raring to go.

On October 31st - Halloween - appropriate because last season was like a horror film in some respects - the brains trust of the cricket section held their AGM at the BC.

A record attendance of 80 - sorry 8 - gathered to elect officers for 93/94, discuss the season past and more importantly have a beer - I mean plan the season ahead.

Chairman Dr. Nick White graced us with an inspirational report and once again to his sheer delight!! was reappointed for the 1993/94 season.

Other key areas apart from Sir Jackson Dunford - that wily pace bowler - being nominated and elected T-shirt "looker after" included Frank Hough being reelected Treasurer despite the fact he has a vocabulary of 10 words - "... did I tell you about then I hit the winning runs..", yes you did, Frank, hell, the man on the moon knows about it by now!

Frank produced a very impressive financial statement and has promised to elaborate on the reverse entry for the annual dinner at a later stage (you had to be there).

The section will also have a Youth Development Programme this season, headed by the not so youthful Dave Rendall and Geoff Cooper.

The shock of the evening was the election of that very obnoxious Australian Peter "OK I open the batting and the



Thailand Team - Plate winners in Singapore Sixers. BC Reps Adam Caro & Geoff Cooper. The tall guy is Joel Garner.

bowling" Young, to Captain the team in the 45 over league. A very brave selection indeed. Heaven knows what was in those Carlsbergs that night!?

The Captain for the Pavs - in the 25 over competition, has yet to be decided, but if Graham Gooch declines (Loser!!), David Lamb is a hot tip although Peter Snell's name was being bandied about, which shows there definitely was something in the Carlsberg!!

The meeting rounded off quite smartly after quick discussion on kits, last season and the aims for 93/94.

- A quick meeting is a good meeting - (Take note Slap 1, Grunwell), just to stray for a moment I believe Fran Kucera or Coocherra how he reckons it is pro-

nounced, is challenging the great J. Grunwell in the "Slap Position". Look out Slap 1, Slap 2 is gunning for you, and by the look of things up top he is not too far away!!

Sorry about that, back to cricket.

Nets training will be Sundays 2.00pm - the season kicks off during November with the Annual TCL - Sixers Tourney and the first big test will be the Chiang Mai tour over the long weekend of Dec. 10, 11 and 12.

Catch ya next month, and marvelous to have you along, super stuff.

Ritchie B.

CRICKET SECTION COMMITTEE SEASON 1993/1994

Chairman	:	Nick White
Treasurer	:	Frank Hough
Youth Development	:	Dave Rendall and Geoff Cooper
Captain 45 Over League	:	Peter Young
Vice Captain	:	Adam Caro
Captain 25 Over League	:	To be advised
Thai Cricket League Rep	:	Frank Hough and Peter Young
Social	:	Wendi Ellis
Outpost Scribe	:	Richie Benaud
T Shirt Monitor	:	Jack Dunford



BC vs Sri Lanka April '93

Badminton

Christmas is coming and the goose and several of our members will no doubt be getting fatter, judging by the increase in parties, balls, slap-ups, etc, at this time of year. Let's just hope that the Jomtjen weekend of sport and the Yuletide Round Robin wear off some of those seasonal calories...

A packed month, this, kicking off with the long weekend of fun and debauchery (Shouldn't that be 'sport'? - G) down in Pattaya with Bernie Adams and crew. At time of writing, there's still the possibility of some Tennesisers joining us, and it also hoped by some that some games of golf could be organised... spouse's permission pending. Mega write-up and photos for this one in the New Year.

We're also hoping to hold a **Yuletide Round Robin** (quite a seasonally appropriate bird, when you think about it) mid-month to add that element of competition for those unable to make it to the coast; date to be announced. Everyone welcome for this, including all the kids out for the holidays, and a good turnout for this will round off an eventful 1993.

This month we'll definitely be holding the **Annual General Meeting**, postponed from October due to the breaking of the news that the Dalton square pair are absconding to Pattaya on a kind of permanent basis early in the New Year. This will be held on a Sunday after the mix-in, date to be confirmed. There will be ample notice of this on the noticeboard, by word of trap amongst members and by flyer - everyone's welcome.

On the social side, I'm not exactly sure at this point whether we're holding a party as a section or not, again, keep eyes peeled and ears tuned. Whatever, there's also the **Club Xmas Ball**, seeing as we Badmintonians are fast becoming hardened ball-goers, I'm sure we will be putting in a good representation there.

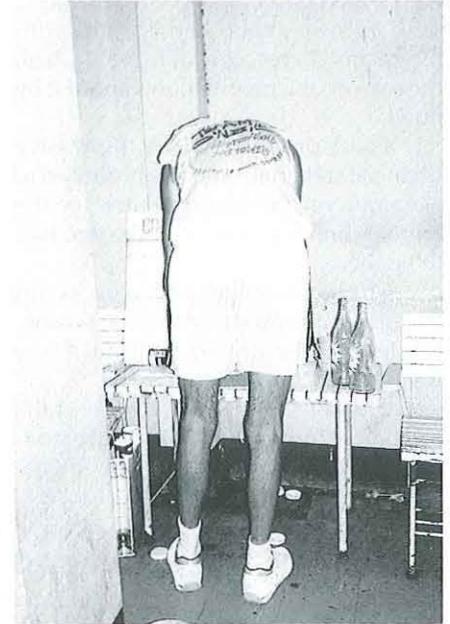
Going 'back' a couple of months, I'm sorry to report a set 'back' for the section: Pauline doing her back some major mischief. Although she was 'back' at home after only a couple of days in hospital, with Peter nursing her 'back' to health, she will be unable to play badders with us for some time, so she has our 'back'ing, in that we all wish her well and hope she puts her 'back' into getting better, as she's part of the 'back'bone of the section!! Oh gawd, enough of this silly nonsense, back to the badminton report...



That damn sickeningly photogenic couple again! (Rugby Ball)



"One more word and I spit out the wine!"



Guess who? (Clue: width of leg; length of leg)

October saw another occasion for the frippery and finery, to which we are rapidly becoming accustomed, with the Rugby Ball... OK, so it's not our sport, but any excuse for a dressy night out. Good fun was had by all, and one of our table was voted most distinguished gentlemen (although it could have been anything, the sound from the PA down

our end of the hall was pretty distorted), but what would you expect from such class? (Don't answer that. - G) There should be a photo or two from that event somewhere on the page.

The next amazing ish should contain the report on the **Badminathon**, the sponsored badminton event in cahoots with the British Women's Group to raise

money for an incubator for the Siriraj Hospital, which promised to be a humdinger of a day.

To round off another short and sweet report, there's some news on the ladder: at a recent meeting, your truly amazing Committee decided in all its wisdom to temporarily disband the ladder and to reform it in the New Year with new partnerships in order to revitalise a ladder which had been suffering from a malingering case of inertus swottingitis. Incidentally, the new couples need not be of mixed sex either, which should remove a previous obstacle of not enough men.. story of my life. After all, it may not necessarily be a disadvantage to have two women and no men on a team...

And that's it for 1993! Best Wishes for Christmas and Sawatdee Bpee Mai!!

Lek Farang
XXX

GAYNOR-GUIDE TO BADMINTON

In line with recent Xmas tips in this esteemed rag, I would now like to present our version of what to buy the enthusiast, as spotted by your eagle-eyed (and currently supine) Chairperson-for-not-much-longer, Pauline, in a corny mag called 'Essentials' or something. It makes fascinating reading:-

Following publication of this issue, I expect a sea-change of fashion among you lot. I want to see a more polished turnout first thing on a Sunday morning (well, 11 am is 'first thing' to me); including the professional hair and make-up job. And that includes the men!

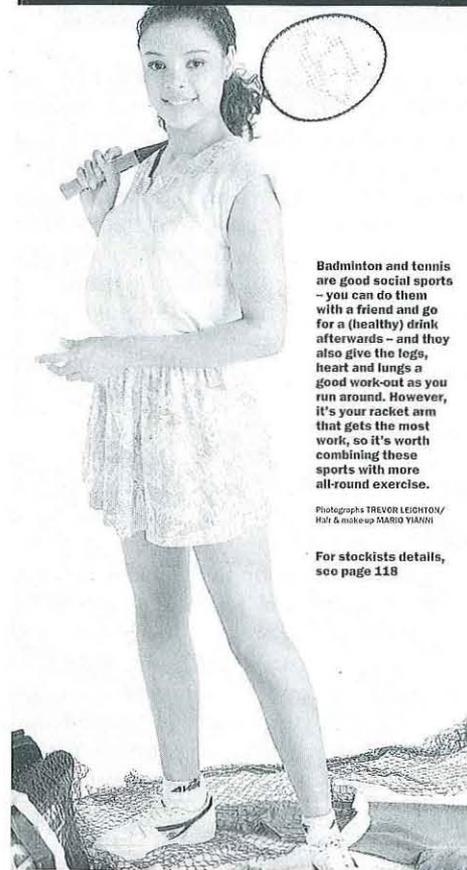
Footnote: I actually wonder if the author of this tripe had trouble keeping a straight face. I mean, "You'll need a bag to pack your kit in"? Who WRITES this stuff?!? Do they get paid for it? (If so, I'm in the wrong job.) And as for "A tube of shuttlecocks is a must, too":- well, let's put it this way, it certainly helps....



Pauline: "Next year I'll be on your side"
Bernine: "Aaaaaaaaaaaaaarrggghhh!!!"

BADMINTON ESSENTIALS

- Your kit should be light and quite flimsy in a fine cotton knit; this gives freedom of movement and will keep you cool, too.
- Shoes should be light and flexible with a non-marking sole.
- A good racket is important. Price is the main concern for the beginner but, if you do get more serious, you'll be looking for a racket which offers more performance characteristics. The more professional (and expensive) sort will give the shuttlecock more power and speed. Carlton offer a selection of 16, ranging from £2.92 to £39.99, available from all good sports shops.
- A tube of shuttlecocks is a must, too. Nylon, synthetic and feather shuttlecocks are available, with feather being the choice of the professional. They also come with differently weighted ends which affect the speed of shuttlecock - the heavier the end, the faster the speed. Expect to pay around £4 for six.
- You'll need a bag to pack your kit in. A small one will do, but make sure it's got room for your racket - usually a side pocket.

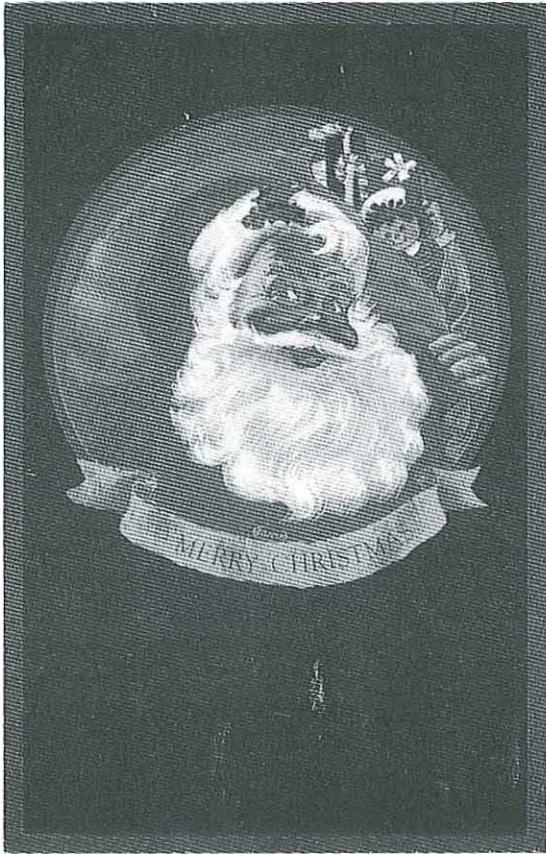


Badminton and tennis are good social sports - you can do them with a friend and go for a (healthy) drink afterwards - and they also give the legs, heart and lungs a good work-out as you run around. However, it's your racket arm that gets the most work, so it's worth combining these sports with more all-round exercise.

Photographs: TREVOR LEIGHTON/
Hair & make-up: MARIO YIANNI

For stockists details, see page 118

After such a promising start to the season, October was not so successful, although it did end on a winning note.



7-1 up against The Wall, the opposition certainly had their backs to the wall and resolved to gamesmanship with unscrupulous tactics, such as turning the air-conditioning off, inconsistent scoring and even distracting players on the Oche. In fact, it reached farcical proportions when El Capitano Frank going for a massive 164 check out, had scored treble 20 and treble 18 with his first 2 darts but was not sure of the exact scores, so moved towards the board for confirmation, upon turning back to the Oche his opponent had positioned himself on the Oche ready to throw his darts. When informed that Frank had yet to complete his throw, he moved to one side but then whilst this was going on another of the opposition had removed Frank's two darts from the board!!

Unbelievable tactics, - the 2 darts were then replaced in their original positions but by then Frank had lost all concentration and missed the bulls-eye which would have given him the highest check-out in the league.

All this had a disastrous affect on the British Club team morale and eventually ended up loosing the match 7-10. The next 3 matches resulted in similar scores with a few highlights worth mentioning, such as Paul's 76 check-out, Orin's 122 scored in a most unusual way and the team's tremendous fight back against the previously unbeaten top of the league "Bad News Bears". From 1-5 down in the singles, we had them rocking at 7-7, but then we ran out of steam and eventually lost 7-10.

Now sitting firmly at the foot of the 4th Division, and one would imagine, rather dismayed, in fact, to the contrary,

so keen was Orin to win that she turned up one and a half hours before the next match for a practice session with the infamous ruggerite Joe Grunwell.

Orin was in stunning form on the practice Oche and gave Joe a lesson he won't forget for a long time with an impromptu exhibition of her darting skills. News of Orin's form obviously filtered back to the opposition who sensed a thrashing at the hands of Orin and the rest of her team and only 2 of them bravely showed up.

Very charitably we let them win the first 2 games, then took them apart, winning all the remaining games and finished 15-2 victors - our first, but not last, win of the season. Congratulations to El Capitano Frank who, during the match, joined the elite 180 club.

So, October ended on a winning note and the BC deservedly moving up the league table and now looking forward with confidence to the November and December fixtures.

SCORES ON THE BOARD

TONS Frank*12, Paul3, Roger D.3, Bryan 2, Roger H. 2, Pat 2, Ott 2, Orin 1 (* includes one 180)

CHECK-OUTS Frank 6, Paul 5, Bryan 4, Pat 3, Roger H. 2, Orin 2, Ott 2, Brian 1, Carol 1

ROGUES GALLERY Roger H. 5, Orin 4, Bryan 3, Roger D. 3, Frank 2, Paul 2, Ott 2, Pat 1, Jaap 1

BRITISH CLUB DARTS TEAM - BANGKOK DARTS LEAGUE

FIXTURES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

DIVISION 4

WK	DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE
11	2 Dec 1993	Domino Swiss	BC
12	9 Dec 1993	Midnight Cowboys "B"	Midnight Cowboy
13	6 Dec 1993	The Wall	BC
14	23 Dec 1993	Dixie Land	BC
15	30 Dec 1993	Domino Swiss	Domino Pub
16	6 Jan 1994	Square One II	BC
17	13 Jan 1994	Bourbon Street Jazz	Bourbon Street
18	20 Jan 1994	Bad News Bear	No Problem Bar
19	27 Jan 1994	Moonshine-DHL	BC

Anyone interested in playing for the BC Darts Team on Thursday evenings in the social 4th Division of the Bangkok Darts League are most welcome, so please contact Frank 642-1500 Ext. 1217 or Orin 235-7225 or if you just fancy turning up and watching us play or joining in, look out for match reports and fixtures in each Thursday's edition of Bangkok Post or Nation newspapers.

Joche

TUG OF WAR REPORT



Girls against...



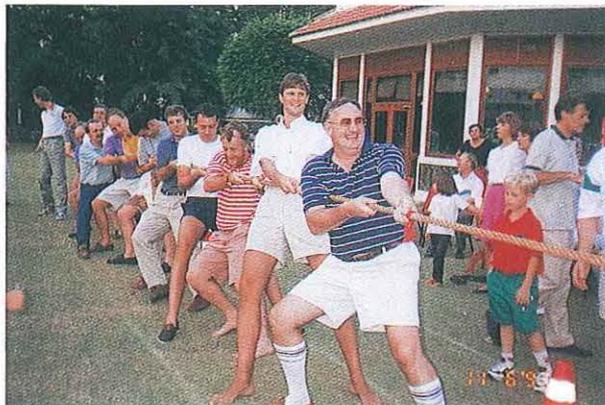
Boys...the girls won



Dads against...



Mums...the mums won



Boys against...



Men. The men won



It's not fair dad.
The rugby boys cheated!!

GUY FAWKES BONFIRE & FIREWORKS

6th November



Safely behind the nets



Comfortable on a table



Dads are watching out



Mums are worrying



Kids are under the table



And in the bar

RICK SCOTT



Rick Scott entertains



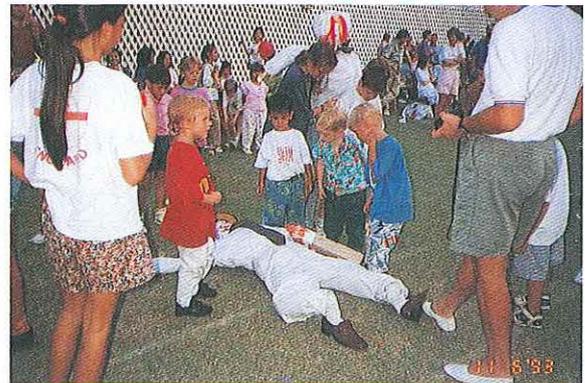
All enjoyed Yo Mo and Sneakers



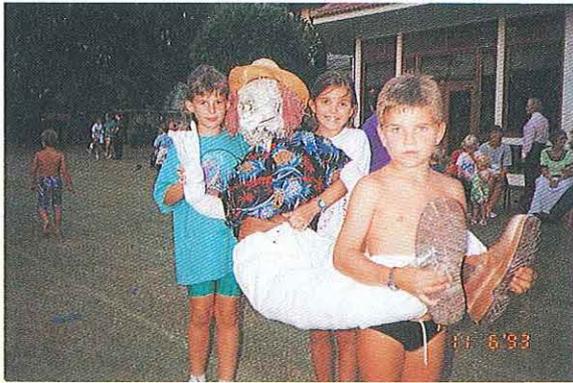
THE GUY FAWKES COMPETITION



Attractive pick up!!



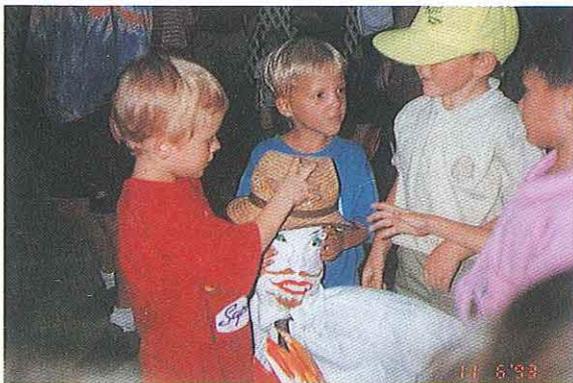
I think he's dead



It's serious business



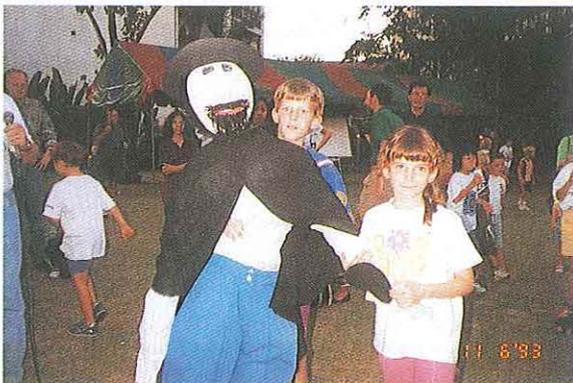
Guy in pyama's



1st Prize



2nd Prize



3rd Prize



4th Prize

AND THEY WERE ALL GREAT !!

RIVER KWAI WEEKEND

The recent long weekend (23rd - 25th October) saw the British Club Golf Section encounter their first away trip to the new golf area of the River Kwai. There were individual day prizes (many) and the Veterans' Cup ran over the three days.

When organising such a tour, one learns a great deal about the people and their preferences. For Tommy Barrett, it was 72 hours of solid "Sponsor" guzzling, interspersed with a Le Mans performance on the golf cart. For Shirley Stewart, it was endless ice cream and waterfalls. For our more venerable members (for whom this weekend celebrates - or is it commemorates?), it was steady but high quality sipping with people of like minds. Instantly, one detects a slight age difference (of some 60 years) in the group, but not enough to damage the party spirit. There were many varied demands (all denied out of hand) such as from guests claiming that they were eligible for a prize after three days of graft (plus B300). The non-Scottish contingent whereas, were quite content in stopping the organising committee (Alistair McManus, Peter Ingram and Eric Hudson) at lunch in mid-fork, with such vital serves as "I say, any chance of my bed facing Allah tonight, should we ever arrive at the hotel?"

But back to golf. The clear winner was Liz Southcombe who excelled herself over the three beautiful courses that we were lucky enough to find and play. Patrick Windeler, the donor of the Veterans' Cup would have been pleased, as Liz was one of the few players actually over 50 years young (the competition format was changed to 45+ due to low numbers the first year).

On the first day, River Kwai Golf and Country Club provided a lively opener, with several super holes interspersed with a mammoth hill and stunning hill vistas all around. A novel car pontoon over River Kwai Noi added to the fun. 20 Players teed-off, with Mike Howard adding to the pack three holes late after a slight detour. (It was only when the Burmese border police stopped him and Janelle for passports that he realised his directional error). Liz cleaned-up the day prize and led Veteran Cup fellow-qualifiers Lynda Hunt, Ron Sparks and David Copp. Hotel arrangements were a little awry, with most heading back to Kanchanaburi for din-



Liz Southcombe - Winner of the "Veterans Cup". Having beaten Lynda Hunt in the final.

ner and bed. Mike Baker was unable to get his steak and kidney pie at the local floating pontoon restaurant, despite many requests, but successfully ordered a dozen orange juices for Sue (she only wanted one). Definitely a "Man of the East"...

The second day was special for all. A lovely "holiday" course, again over the river (with a transport link of horse and trap), at the delightful Home Phu Toey Resort. Guest John Archibald was joined by Alex Steilo, whilst Peter and Dixie Ingram also played on the second day. We were made most welcome (again, as per the first day) and had hoped to stay at the resort. Unfortunately, they were fully booked on the Saturday night, leaving a trek to Mission Hills after a delightful lunch in a sala perched over the river. Philanthropist owner and host, Khun Kanit, presided over the lunch, ensuring all had delicious pork steaks, a wide variety of Thai cuisine and a fruit spread that would make a Covet Garden fruitier green with envy. Kanit continued to top all glasses with ale and then bought the drinks himself. Perhaps the ale found its mark, as confusion reigned over prizes, with poor Lynda initially being left-out after a good

round. She had disposed of sponsor Sahasin-QBE's Ronald Sparks three and two, whilst Liz did the same to David Copp, making it an all Ladies final on the Sunday. Eric happily departed to a wedding in Bangkok, unknowingly complete with the balance of the weekend's golf ball prizes. People set-off to Mission Hills in various convoys, with Graham and Linda taking over from the Howards in exploring possible, but actually impossible, alternative routes.

Again at Mission Hills resort, for some, the dinner was confused and irritable, but the comfortable rooms and hidden bottles of scotch, made up. Waking to a vista of a world-class golf course and cool skies uplifted fragile bodies. Robbie and Chris Selwyn arrived, as did new member Des Keane, playing his first game in Thailand. Chris made a valid suggestion to allow the ladies to play off the White Tees, but the majority opted for the generally easy Red ones. The men were happy off the mid Blues. Liz kept her head on the course, shooting a remarkable net 67, giving Lynda no chance of the Cup. Chris Selwyn won the day's honours. Semi-finalists David Copp and sponsor Ron Sparks shared their spoils, making



Dugal Forrest being Presented with "Deemed Trophy" after the AMCHAM match



The Golf section at "Home Phu Toey Resort"

sure that there were two men in the top three.

Peter took over the final scoring, even producing a magnificent score sheet, as Alistair completed his photographic assignment and got into his "thank goodness that's over" mode.

All in all, a golfing treat and hopefully, a solid start to more adventurous touring around Thailand's magnificent countryside by the golf section and their friends. Thanks to Stuart Davy for tour inception and to Roy Barret for sorting-out prizes and accommodation.

Dave Stewart looks forward to participating as a Vet. in 1994, with Tommy Barrett likewise in 2035, with Shirley Stewart following hum in 2039.

Alistair McManus

DEEMED TROPHY - BCGS VS AMCHAM

Our annual match against the American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand was held on 10th October 1993 at Ekachai Golf Course. A good turnout ensured another competitive day. Fortunately the BC Golf Section held up against the AMCHAM this year by some 30 cumulative points. This meant that the BC Golf Section retained the 'DEEMED TROPHY' for 1993. Thanks to Dugal Forrest for being on hand to present the trophy and pick up a personal prize.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Mike Corey	37 Points
Peter Bond	36 Points
Chris Gething	36 Points
D. Selden (AMCHAM)	35 Points
Low Gross Peter Ingram	77

VETERANS CUP

A great long weekend was had by all in the Kanchanaburi area over the Chulalongkorn holiday weekend. Three very interesting courses were sampled and enjoyed by all competitors. Our special thanks to Khun Kanit, owner of Home Phu Toey Resort, for hosting us at this fine complex.

RESULTS

The major event for the weekend was "The Veterans Cup" and it was good to see the finals contested by two of our Lady members.

VETERANS CUP RESULTS

Mrs. Liz Southcombe from Mrs. Lynda Hunt 6/5

Congratulations to both ladies for reaching the finals against stiff competition and a great show Liz, for your win.

DAILY COMPETITIONS

Saturday - RIVER KWAI GOLF COURSE

Liz Southcombe	37 Points
Ron Sparks	33 Points
Lynda Hunt	32 Points
Neville Bayliss	32 Points
David Copp	32 Points

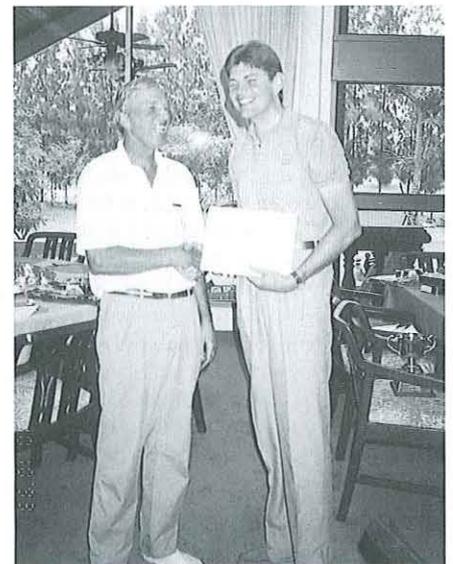
Nearest to Pins - Sue Baker, Alistair McManus, Ron Sparks, Eric Hudson.

Long Drive - Men: Eric Hudson, Ladies: Lynda Hunt

Sunday - Home Phu Toey Resort

Lynda Hunt	+5
Mike Baker	+5
Liz Southcombe	+5
Brian Dodd	+4
David Copp	+4

Near Pins - Ron Sparks, Mike Baker, Lynda Hunt, Alex Southcombe



Mike Corey first in "Individual" competition at "AMCHAM"

Long Drive - Men: Eric Hudson, Ladies: Lynda Hunt

Monday - Mission Hills Country Club

Christine Selwyn	86/73
Peter Ingram	82/74
Alistair McManus	89/76
Mike Baker	98/76
David Stewart	88/78

Near Pins - David Stewart, Alex Stielow, Alistair McManus, Mike Baker

Long Drive - Men : Alex Stielow, Ladies: Sue Baker

It was a pleasure to have as guests for the weekend - Alex Stielow and John Archibald.

I would like to welcome as new members to the golf section, Des and Jo Keane. Welcome to the section and I hope you can join us regularly.

Happy Golfing

Football

Hi gang,

Phew, even a kettle while up to its neck in boiling water can still find tie to whistle but if you are a member of the BC football section there has hardly been time to draw breath. The last month has seen a plethora of activity and Club milestones. When last did a BC player score three hat-tricks in two games, when last did the BC win by nine goals, when last did Norman Bright have a shut-out - the list goes on, so straight to the action.

MATCH REPORT:

The First team opened their league campaign during the month and to say it has been the most successful opening of the nineties is no exaggeration. We were heartened to learn the League was going home to the old Soi 15 Campus pitch, now the New International School of Thailand and the usual buzz surrounded opening night when we played our first game against the Young Thai Sikh Association (YTSA). Matches against them are usual open, sporting encounters and this was no exception. The first ten minutes were fairly even but a spectacular opener from Steve Casteldine set us up for a night of champagne soccer. Goal number two from Casteldine also had class written all over it when he volleyed a magnificent shot from twenty five yards. Frank Hough and Howard Neville added further counters to make the half time score four nil and leave us on easy street. The rout continued in the second half with Casteldine scoring another four for a double hat-trick and Howard Neville adding one to complete his brace. The amazing factor was that each goal was excellent. They were well created and well taken with no simple tap-in or real defensive error. Indeed the YTSA goalkeeper was a deserving candidate for Man of the Match, after our own Stevie Wonder that is. Special mention must go to the whole BC midfield who played out of their skins. They harried, chased and generally orchestrated a memorable win. We were on the way.

Game two was to present a much sterner test when we were to face last season's runners up and this season's favourites, Shell, who regular readers will remember had defeated us by large margins three times in the past two months. In the opening quarter Shell came at us and we defended staunchly. Casuals goalkeeper and Captain Norman Bright was making a rare first team appearance and was well protected by his back four and a mid field who closed down everything taking up where they left off against the YTSA. It was then a case of leaving them "Shell Shocked" when double hat-trick man Casteldine opened the scoring - talk about being on a roll. Houghman got his customary goal from some great lead up work by Chris Davin to make it two nil at half time.

We knew the younger Shell team would hit us with everything at the start of the second half and were not mistaken. We survived a torrid ten minutes and then on the break won a free kick twenty five yards out. Up strode the man of the moment Steve Casteldine to squeeze a well struck shot past the wall and inside the keeper's left hand post to make it three nil and take the wind out of Shell's sails. They realised there was no way back and so did we. We went into overdrive and goals from Casteldine to complete another hat-trick and a double from Howard Neville who had threatened to score all night made it six nil.

We then experienced one of those nice moments in football when young Roger Hough who had been solid at the back since returning to Bangkok from the US, picked up the ball midway inside our half and raced over the half way line. He hit the ball wide to father Frank midway inside the Shell half and from Frank's controlled wall pass was on hand to accept the ball and rifle a shot past the Shell keeper to make it seven nil. A real "made in Manchester" goal and it was hard to know whether it was a case of "that's my boy" or "that's my Dad"



The BC Ladies enjoy the game



Casuals & Firsts in friendly pose. Jimmy Heward celebrates his tenth Chiang Mai tour.

The action was not yet over as Stormin Norman Bright was eulogising about how a good goalie makes all the difference when the ball was centred and from the kick-off Shell took a speculative we shot from the halfway line that sailed over his head. "What was that you said" Norman quipped the back four. It is possibly unfair to mention this as until then he had been having a tremendous game but who says reporting has to be fair. The result finished seven one and after two games we were top of the league with two wins and a goals for 16, against 1 tally.

The next league game against the French was rained out and so that's where the league action ended this month.

The only other first team game apart from Chiang-mai, which I will get to, was a friendly against RBSC. In this match a much weakened team went behind one nil before debutante Stewart Edwards shot home from close in, Frank Hough scored with a header and Willie Carruthers made it three one. A period of sustained pressure saw us hit the woodwork three times before the RBSC rallied to score two late goals and make it three all.



The BC Kids on tour

CHIANG-MAI TOUR 1993:

We keep thinking we have reached saturation on this one but again '93 was the biggest touring party yet. The mega tour saw twenty nine players and a total tour of sixty four people from young Sam Crooks through senior citizens Jim Howard and Arthur Ruttley take the trail north. Jan Crooks and Sharon Freakly had done a superlative job organising a dedicated sleeper carriage on the train and it was therefore a relatively fresh party that checked into the Chiang-mai Novotel early Saturday morning. Mention here must be made of the fine reception they gave us and we can recommend this hotel for any BC member visiting the Northern capital. Anyway, enough of the advertising, back to the football. The tournament is a round robin involving the two BC teams, Chiang-mai Gymkhana Club (CGC) and Chiang-mai University Staff (CUS) and in the week preceding the tour the two Chiang-mai Clubs fought out a two all draw. The BC Firsts played the Casuals and in a fiercely contested match the score finished one all. The Casuals had a point to prove living in the shadow of the Firsts and they almost did it with a vengeance. Midway through the second half the Casuals broke swiftly on the counter attack and Andy Maynard was on hand to volley a great twenty yard shot past Paul Barber. Although the Firsts applied sustained pressure after that it looked like it was to be the Casuals day until with two minutes to go, man of the match Steve Casteldine scored direct from a corner to equalise. Best for the Casuals that day were Norman Bright, Andy Maynard and Vaughan Elias whilst the Firsts never really found their YTSA/Shell form.

The first game in Chiang-mai was the Casuals versus CGC and the morning after syndrome hit the Casuals in a big way. The earlier 2:30 kick-off has a big effect on aging leg and hang-over bodies and despite there not being much to choose between the two teams that extra half yard and a sweeper who went AWOL left the Casuals three nil down at the break. They rallied in the second half but CGC held on to their three goal win.



Peter Smith eulogising over the wife's fish pie.



Big will presents Bow Crusher with the BC player of the tour award



Birthday boy Howard Neville sips a small ale among friends.

It was the Firsts turn next and they went on against the Uni Staff. The pattern was much the same as the previous week's Casuals' game with the BC having most of the pressure but failing to capitalise on it. The Uni. then latched onto a headed clearance and had three people on two on the break which they didn't really need as the man in possession unleashed a great 25 yard drive past Paul Barber. Justice was done however when we equalised midway through the second half when Captain Carruthers headed home from a corner. The action was not yet over as Davin was brought down in the box. Up strode Steve Casteldine with a ten goal in three game record and untypically hit the ball straight. The keeper still had to make a good save but it was a crucial miss and the match finished a draw. This left the CGC heading the table on 3 points with the BC Firsts and CMU on 2 and the Casuals on one but who cared. It was party time and on to the Hofbrau Haus for der pork leg mitt schnapps and a birthday celebration for Howard Neville. Girls of the tennis section, the truth is out. He is 35. The Ladies of the tour then repaired to the Night Bazaar whilst the boys went looking for a Thai Cultural show or two.

Day two and it was golfing and touring in the morning and before we knew it, the Casuals were trotting out to meet the Uni. Now the calculators were out and the permutations for finishing were endless but the favoured scenario was for the Casuals to hold out for a draw or at least lose narrowly and the Firsts to "cream" the Gymkhana boys. The more optimistic could hope for a big Casuals win and a First team draw which would see the wee team come out as Champions and win the magnificent Elephant Trophy for the first time. Well, in fact the Casuals did the British Club proud. In a magnificent rearguard action showing an abundance of the Dunkirk spirit they held out for a nil nil draw with Andy Maynard superb at the back and everyone else playing their part. This made things very clear. A First team win against CGC meant the Chiang-mai Elephant would head back to Bangkok whilst a draw was to be enough for the Gymkhana team. In yet another tight game the Northern lads held out for a draw and their first ever tournament win. It was something no one would begrudge them as they have been great hosts over the years and they really put in very workmanlike and spirited performances over the weekend. All in all they were popular winners and we congratulate them.

The proceedings moved inside the excellent Club House for the Awards Dinner excellently MC'd by host Bob Malloy and after the award of the Elephant and exchange of souvenirs Willie Carruthers announced the eagerly anticipated BC player of the tournament award which went to the Casual's Bonecrusher Maynard for a goal against the Firsts and two sterling performances on tour. He did alright on the pitch also. Thanks must go to the Ladies of the tour, specifically Jane Rogers, Sharon Freakly and Sue Edwards for donating the magnificent trophy.

The Monday passed all too quickly with many of us golfing. A mini-tournament was arranged by Gill Hough and won by husband Frank.

Continued to page 23

MOTHER GOOSE PANTO



Don't miss
"MOTHER GOOSE"
the funniest Panto this
side of Christmas.
A whacky, colourful,
musical entertainment for
children from 3 to 93!
At the AUA AUDITORIUM
179, Rajadmri Road,
December 10th, 11th,
and 12th

Tickets Available at Asia Books (Sukhumvit Road, Soi 15 and Penninsula Plaza),
The British Club, AUA Room 107 and at the door. Adults - 200 Baht. Children - 150 Baht.

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CUMBRIA CUP

MUANG AKE 5TH OCTOBER 1993

Tuesday 5th October saw the **CUMBRIA CUP** played for the second time. This competition was again made possible by **GRAHAM HUNT**, he called it the Cumbria Cup because that is the part of the UK where he is born. He was unable to join us for the competition this year, but all the girls hope he can make it next year.

The competition was a great success, with beautiful prizes greatly appreciated by the winners.

A big thanks goes to Graham for supporting the Ladies Golf and for this great competition.

Winner	Pat Copp	76 Net
Runner Up	Penny Whalley	77 Net on c/b from Diana
3rd	Diana Taylor	77 Net
4th	Ade	79 Net on c/b from Lavita

Near Pins #6 Magda, #8 Livia, #12 Lavita, #17 Pat

Long Drives: Silver: Magda, Bronze I: Ade, Bronze II: Sally

Happy golfing

Will Agerbeek



Cumbria Cup, 5th Oct. '93, 4 Near Pin Winner, Livia - Pat - Lavita - Magda



Wil presenting the Cumbria Cup on behalf of Graham Hunt to the happy Winner - Pat Copp



Runner Up - Penny

Football, from page 21

CASUALS CORNER:

Geez, I think I am coming down with writer's cramp. In their warm up for Chiang-mai the Casuals played a team from Schenkers Forwarders. In a one all draw defences were definitely not to the fore. Our goals came from Norman Bright (playing outfield for a change), Greg Watkins from the penalty spot, Mark Adams and Martin Dawson. Interest has definitely picked up in the Casuals team since last month and it is hoped the momentum will keep going. New club members are welcome.

POST-SCRIPTS:

Farewell Chiang-mai, look out Manila. Thanks again to Jan Crooks and Sharon Freakly for the arrangements for Chiang-Mai and to Bob Malloy of the Gymkhana Club for all the work at his end. Next month we'll report on the Manila Sixes and more Farang League action which should help digest the turkey. Thanks also to Khun Nutta for all her help on the Manila tour and hotel arrangements.

FINALLY

There was this Bishop doing a tour of his diocese. One evening he was having a meal with this young Curate. They started to talk about sermons. The young Curate said, "You know, it must be really

difficult for somebody to give a good sermon on an unprepared subject." The Bishop said, "Nonsense, I can give a sermon on any subject anybody cares to give me." The Curate said, "I bet you can't." The Bishop said, "I certainly can." "Right," said the Curate, "PDS. 5 on the nose. I'll give you a sealed envelope tonight, and you will have to stand up and give a sermon on the contents of the envelope." "Done!..." said the Bishop.

Just before he was due to begin his sermon the Curate gave him an envelope. The Bishop opened it and took out a slip of paper, on which was written the one word "Constipation". Without even faltering he carried straight on into his sermon - "And Moses took two tablets and went out into the wilderness."

* * * *

There were three polar bears sitting on the ice. Daddy bear said: "I've got a tale to tell" and he told it. Mummy bear said: "I've got a tale to tell" and she told it. Little Baby bear said: "My tails told"

* * * *

Before we close, on behalf of everyone at the Football Section may we be the first to wish all Club members and other readers a very very Merry Christmas. Thanks for your interest throughout the year.

C.U. Scoop

Calendar

BRITISH CLUB – SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME, DECEMBER 1993

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
		1 6- 8 am Early Bird Tennis Mix-In 5- 8 pm Squash Coaching 6- 9 pm Tennis Mix-In	2 7 pm Farang Football League Match 7- 9 pm Rugby Training 7- 9 pm Badminton 6- 9 pm Squash Mix-In
6 8-10 am Ladies Tennis 9 am BWG Mahjong 2 pm Childrens Sports Day 5- 8 pm Squash Coaching 5.30-9 pm Happy Hour 7- 9 pm Badminton 7- 9 pm Tennis Practice	7 7 am Ladies Golf 7 pm Farang Football League Match 8 pm Bridge 9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof	8 6- 8 am Early Bird Tennis Mix-In 7 am Ligit Ladies Golf 5- 8 pm Squash Coaching 6- 9 pm Tennis Mix-In	9 7-9 pm rugby Training 7-9 pm Badminton 6- 9 pm Squash Mix-In
13 8-10 am Ladies Tennis 9 am BWG Mahjong 5- 8 pm Squash Coaching 5.30-9 pm Happy Hour 7- 9 pm Badminton 7- 9 pm Tennis Practice Scottish Dancing 8 pm New Members Night	14 7 am Ladies Golf 8 pm Bridge 7-9 pm Football Training 9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof	15 6- 8 am Early Bird Tennis Mix-In 3-6 pm Teenagers Tennis Mix-In 5- 8 pm Squash Coaching 7 am Ligit Ladies Golf 6- 9 pm Tennis Mix-In Tennis Section X'mas Party	16 7-9 pm rugby Training 7-9 pm Badminton 6- 9 pm Squash Mix-In
20 8-10 am Ladies Tennis 9 am BWG Mahjong 5- 8 pm Squash Coaching 5.30-9 pm Happy Hour 7- 9 pm Badminton 7- 9 pm Tennis Practice	21 7 am Ladies Golf 8 pm Bridge 7-9 pm Football Training 9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof	22 6- 8 am Early Bird Tennis Mix-In Teenagers Day Out 5- 8 pm Squash Coaching 7 am Ligit Ladies Golf 3-6 pm Teenagers Tennis Mix-In 6- 9 pm Tennis Mix-In	23 Childrens Party Day 7-9 pm rugby Training 7-9 pm Badminton 6- 9 pm Squash Mix-In Carols Evening.
27 8-10 am Ladies Tennis 9 am BWG Mahjong 5- 8 pm Squash Coaching 5.30-9 pm Happy Hour 7- 9 pm Badminton 7- 9 pm Tennis Practice Childrens Camp Out	28 7 am Ladies Golf 8 pm Bridge 7-9 pm Football Training 9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof Childrens Camp Out	29 6- 8 am Early Bird Tennis Mix-In 5- 8 pm Squash Coaching 7 am Ligit Ladies Golf 6- 9 pm Tennis Mix-In Childrens Camp Out	30 7-9 pm rugby Training 7-9 pm Badminton 6- 9 pm Squash Mix-In Childrens Camp Out

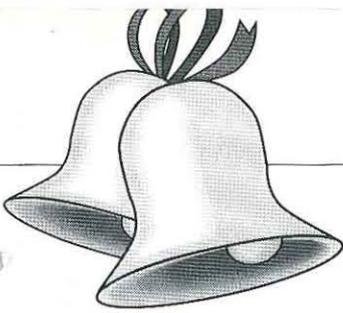
OPENING TIMES

CHURCHILL BAR	10 am-11 pm
LORD'S RESTAURANT	11.30 am-2 pm 6 pm-11 pm
POOLSIDE BAR	7.30 am-10 pm
FITNESS CENTRE	Mon-Sat 6 am-9 pm Sun + Hols 9 am-9 pm
THAI MASSAGE	Tues-Sun 9 am-5 pm

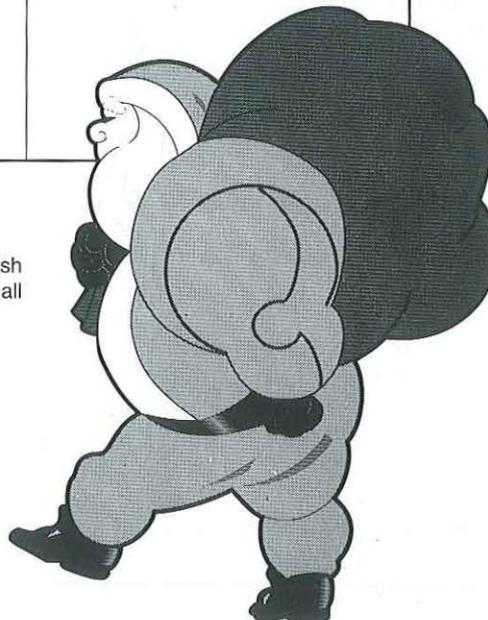
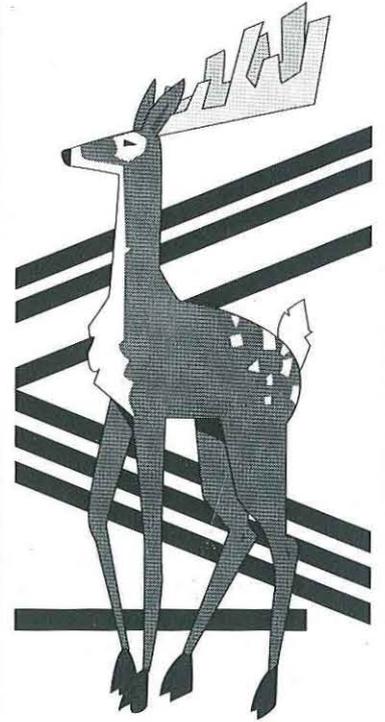
VENUES

ALL EVENTS ARE AT BRITISH CLUB EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING:-

CASUALS FOOTBALL	- BANGKOK PATANA SCHOOL
BADMINTON (SUNDAYS)	- NEAR BANGRAK POLICE STATION
BADMINTON (MONS-THURS)	- SOI KLANG RACKET CENTRE
LADIES GOLF	- AS ADVERTISED



FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
3 6-9 pm Tennis Coaching 8.30 pm T.G.I.F. – Pianist 9 pm Accumulator Lucky Draw	4 8-10 am Childrens Tennis 10-12 noon Tennis Coaching 4.30 pm Casuals Football	5 11 am-1 pm Badminton 1 pm Squash Handicap Mix-In 3-6 pm Tennis Mix-In
10 6-9 pm Tennis Coaching 8.30 pm T.G.I.F. – Bogong Folk Group 9 pm Accumulator Lucky Draw	11 8-10 am Childrens Tennis 10-12 noon Tennis Coaching 4.30 pm Casuals Football	12 11 am-1 pm Badminton 2-6 pm Tennis Tournament Jazz Concert
17 6-9 pm Tennis Coaching 8.30 pm T.G.I.F. – Bar Quiz 9 pm Accumulator Lucky Draw	18 8-10 am Childrens Tennis 10-12 noon Tennis Coaching 4.30 pm Casuals Football British Club Ball	19 11 am-1 pm Badminton 3-6 pm Tennis Mix-In
24 6-9 pm Tennis Coaching 8.30 pm T.G.I.F. 9 pm Accumulator Lucky Draw	25 8-10 am Childrens Tennis 10-12 noon Tennis Coaching 4.30 pm Casuals Football	26 11 am-1 pm Badminton 3-6 pm Tennis Mix-In
31 6-9 pm Tennis Coaching 8.30 pm T.G.I.F. 9 pm Accumulator Lucky Draw New Years Party River Cruise and Fireworks	ALSO THIS MONTH Tennis Singles League	



SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS

If you are interested in joining one or more of the Sports Sections of the British Club, please contact the following person(s), they will be happy to tell you all about their particular sports!

BADMINTON	Pauline Dalton	391 3948
CRICKET	Peter Young	314 2520
DARTS	Frank Hough	642 1500
GOLF	Stuart Davy	367 1000 (F)
RUGBY	Joe Grunwell	541 1970
SNOOKER	Mike Brann	385 8794
SQUASH	Barbara Overington	258 7306
SOCCER	Peter Rodgers	258 8499
TENNIS	Maurice Lamb	272 4530

NON BRITISH CLUB SPORTS:

LADIES GOLF BCLG	Wil Agerbeek	259 7019
LIGHT LADIES GOLF	Eileen Cook	287 3606

Squash

BC vs CHIANGMAI GYMKHANA

Following the Black Wednesday Soi Klaeng fiasco in which the BC lost for 4-1, Team Captain Gullible Anwar proceeded to organise a stronger team to play Gymkhana on Sunday the 10th of October. The BC won 6-1.

The match results were as follows:-

BRITISH CLUB		GYMKHANA
Dick Anwar	3-2	Bob Molloy
Colin Hastings	2-3	Sunchai
David Bryant	3-1	Hagen
Rob Nottingham	3-0	Bruce
Neville Downer	3-0	David
Marvyn Lewis	3-0	Oliver
Barbara Overington	3-0	Noi

One match worthy of mention would be Marvyn's match against Oliver. So swift was Marvyn's victory that it was 7-1 in the 3rd game when the referee came back with a pencil to score the game. David Bryant (the pilot who wants to be a squash player has a squash player for a son who wants to be a pilot) beat his opponent quite easily with only a little turbulence in the 3rd game, Rob managed to thieve his way to a 3 nil win and Neville proceeded to correct the grammatical errors in his opponents backhand.

After the game our guests were treated to a lunch buffet. It was mentioned that the BC vs Gymkhana used to be a biannual event and a cup played for. Nobody seems to recall who had the cup last. Colin, probably in a fit of post match guilt depression, offered to donate a cup to revive this fixture. Note: if there are no pictures accompanying this write up, then Scoop Overington has forgotten to put film in her camera.

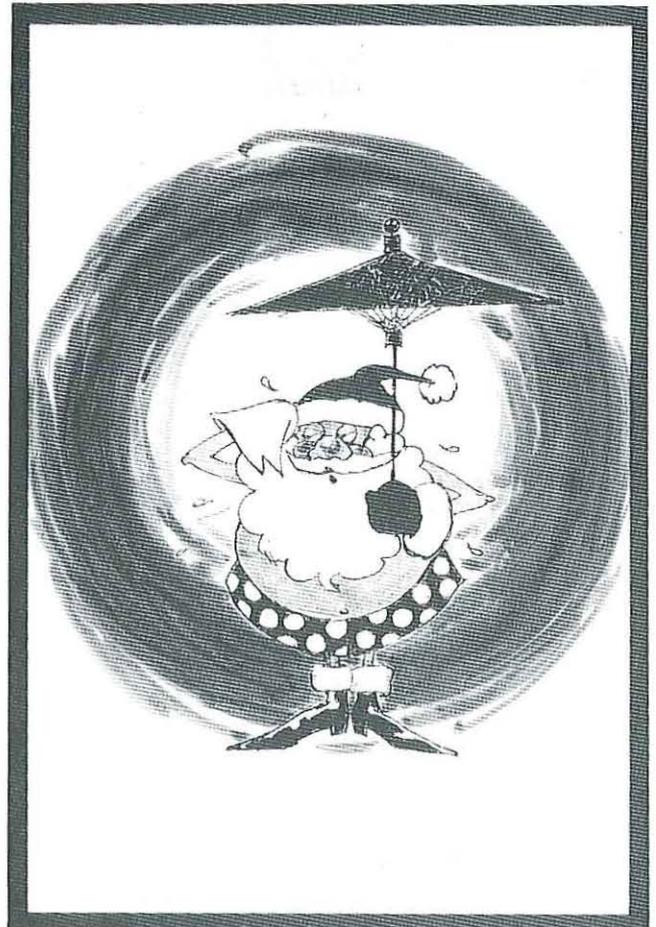
BC vs SOI KLAENG RACQUET CLUB

On Wednesday 6th October, we played the Soi Klaeng Racquet Club in a friendly. Prior to the match, their team captain had advised us that their Club's squash standard was not very high. They had a ladder of about 6 players and the ladder had not moved since July 1962. Would we be willing to field opponents that could also advise their players on the finer points of the game, like where to stand when serving and which end of the racquet to hold and which wall was the front wall.

The match results were as follows:

BRITISH CLUB		SOI KLAENG RACQUET CLUB
Dick Anwar	3-0	Rod Turner
Howard Randall	0-3	Paul Jensen
Mike Weekes	1-3	Patrick Stirland
Jack Dunford	0-3	Marcus Carling
Mike O'Connor	0-3	David Lamb

Live and learn, oh, they did invite us for a return match as long as we give them advance notice so they can clean out the cobwebs and sweep out the cigarette butts from the corners.



Dick

The 20th Anniversary September League was sponsored by Christiani & Nielsen. The winners were:

Division 1	Dick Anwar	Division 8	Peter Miller
Division 2	Nick White	Division 9	Mike Jackson
Division 3	David Bryant	Division 10	Tom Livingston
Division 4	No winner	Division 11	Steven Egglehofer
Division 5	Nigel Oakins	Division 12	M. Overington
Division 6	Mahmood Masood	Division 13	Kamal Sandarusi
Division 7	Jim Howard	Division 14	Christian Rasmussen

The ladder draw winners for August and September are:

August	Dick Souter	- 1,000 Baht
	Mike Bain	- 500 Baht
September	Dick Anwar	- 1,000 Baht
	Kamal Sandarusi	- 500 Baht

Alexis

We'll organise your mortgage and

PAY YOU for the privilege

Now is the time astute investors go bargain hunting as the squeeze on property sellers over the last few years is still near rock bottom.

Good deals abound. In fact it is possible to purchase property now and realise up to 10% p.a. return on the purchase price over the next two years through guaranteed rentals on desirable places in London.

Terms like these don't come along very often.

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What's more, on completion, we will pay you 1% of the loan value, in cash, to help offset your legal fees.

If you'd like more details about what we can do for you, at absolutely no obligation, with no unsolicited phone calls or unexpected visits, you can fax your business card to 258-9038. Or give Peter Downs a call on 258-9037 or 258-0571.

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163 Soi Asoke, Sukhumvit 21,
Bangkok 10110. Thailand.

Tennis

The silly season is well and truly upon us, and Saint Nikolaas (the forerunner of Santa Claus; try saying it quickly) will be heading this way soon - earlier for the Northern Continentals, end of the month for the rest of you - and here's a snippet of what he'll be bringing on his dashing white sleigh/steamboat/tuktuk...

First out of the sack of goodies in December are the Pennant International Women's League Finals, starting on the 5th, then the tribal team tournament on the 12th followed shortly after by the Tennis-section-knees-up on the 15th and the Club Xmas Ball on the 18th. We are also holding out for the possible visitations by a couple if not all the clubs we invaded in Singapore in May, i.e. the American, the Tanglin and the Singapore Swimming Clubs. The kids events (mix-ins, etc) will recommence as the little horrors head this way for their Christmas tan, and last but certainly not least, there's another singles league for the competitive among you to run off 4 prosets-worth of foodie/boozy excesses this crazy month. Oh aye, and don't forget to put your stockings out!

Anyway, here's the latest bag of booty from October's diary:

American Tournament - 10th October

Unbelievably reasonable weather for this event, given the generally yuck rainy season conditions throughout this month. There were twelve couples competing in the end, some having turned up late, divided into two sections. Time was cut a tad fine towards the end in the race to get all matches played, sort of well done to Maurice who was convinced we could play them all and was right.. just. After some deliberation, during which one of the division winner partners showered and demolished a beer, the winners of both sections went back on to play a final set to decide the winners of the highly desirable BCB sports bags. Crumbs, I don't know how to write this, but my wonderful partner Clive and I actually managed to pull it off against a net-charging Pat and Gisi in an exhausting final huff and puff around the court (we'd been playing from 2 till 7). Jeepers, we were shattered (see photo)! The only explanation I can offer as to the result is that it makes such a difference playing with a good partner!

Paradise Sports Coaching - First session ending 15th October

Three years after the original Paradise Sports 'adult clinic'(his words), the latest course of six coaching lessons conducted by Matthijs van den Broek (dig



Winners and runners-up in the American Tournament L to R: Clive, Gaynor, Gisi, Pat. Hot but happy!

that name) ended on the 15th with the two Friday groups overlapping for a mighty mix-in, followed by a slap-up in the bar (see photo). Most of the participants (Patients? - G) will be taking a further course with this adept and amusing chap; as I scribble I believe a New Year course is on the books, as well as another Pre-Tennis programme for the little 'uns early in the year. The only other point to mention is that I have strong suspicions that Matthijs has influence or connections "up there": not once, not in 6 Friday nights surrounded by the full brunt of seasonal squalls, did the coaching sessions experience one drop of rain from 6 - 9pm, not even the tiniest driplet. Obviously a man to keep in with!!

ANZACS Men v. BC - 18th October

This is going to be a report with a difference - it follows an interview with a member of the opposition, a defector!

An early start at 6pm, coupled with hideous traffic (knock-on from aforementioned ghastly weather), caused several of the opposition to be nearly 2 hours late... and that was the first excuse given to explain their total thrashing at the hands of a strong BC team (At last, a win!!! - G). The second excuse was even feebler: that it was raining so hard and visibility was so bad that several of their number wandered onto the wrong courts coz you couldn't see the players at the other end. Yes, I thought both of those were pathetic as well.



The Tennis section failed this particular literacy test...

But apart from that, my insider source begrudgingly admitted that the ANZACS might have just been outplayed. Indeed, the only game they won was when our defector, Clive Tilbey, played with a ringer, Chris Taggart (Welsh, no less! Can't trust the Welsh..). Widely acclaimed as the match of the night, the ANZAC (-ish) two-some beat Surin and Howard in a close 6-4. However, Pat had organised a mix'n'match such that a good partnership weren't allowed to stick together (This may be a biased version of the story - G), so sadly the triumph was short-lived, and the BC stormed to a tremendous and highly uncharacteristic WIN!!!! Serves 'em right for trying to abolish the monarchy!

Personally, I'm still not sure whether

presenting the scoreline as 76 games to 16 was more for flattering the BC or cushioning the blow to them Antipodeans, but mai pen rai, a cracking victory for our men. I was starting to suspect that the BC had been tacitly declared a trophy-free zone.

An interesting point was that despite the severe squalls which lasted for most of the evening, the all-weather courts proved their name and stood up to the beating. Pat Dean, the organiser of this match, magnanimously suggested that we had a homecourt advantage what with the heavy courts and the awful weather - we're Brits after all, right? (except it was Pat who said that) Another BC player, David Ingham, compared the courts to playing on pure sand, nay, playing on a beach before the tide comes in.. which made the beach-wear worn by some of the opposition more excusable, I suppose.

In finishing, Clive assured me that the ANZACS are already planning for next year's encounter, having booked their training camp for next summer, 6 months of preparation and a one heck of a lot of practice; and who knows, they might improve that score to 18 next time?!

Pennant Update

In the on-going Pennant Women's league, we're doing pretty well for ourselves, having won ___ and only lost ___ so far, although these results don't include all of the away matches. Keep going, girls, we're nearly there! The finals will start next month, although who's ever heard of a league with finals at the end I don't know, but mine is not to reason why...

Graded Championships

Not much to report on this one, most matches are due to be played during November and are therefore out of the jurisdiction of this report, with the finals to be played over the weekend of the 27th and 28th of November. Maurice promised me that he would try to schedule as many finals as possible on the 27th featuring those who had dosey-dosed the previous night away at the St Andrews Ball!!

On the subject of balls, this was much in evidence at the Rugby Ball held on the 16th October, with several prophetic (and pathetic) declarations that the rainy season ends on 16th October every year. How wrong they were...

Finally, the September mixed league results, more commendations for couples braving the weather and the traffic to finish most of the matches. The winners of the leagues were as follows:

League 1: Joy and Mahmood Masood
League 2: Judy and Jeff Kestenbaum



▲ Matthijs and pupils at the end-of-course slap-up.



▶ "And with these knives I'll teach you all how to slice..." The long-awaited photo of Andrew with leaving present!

League 3: Gaynor de Wit and Howard Neville

League 4: Haube and Kiyoshi Ueno
Big Chief League Running Bear Chris divulged some insider information at time of calling that he had in fact won his singles league, but I'm not sure if I should mention that so I won't.

Committee Bumlings

Three items of earth-shattering importance to report to you, oh faithful readers:

Firstly, that league participation is now on a rolling membership basis - that it will be assumed that you are playing unless you opt out; kind of like the organ donor system they have in Sweden. So if you know you are going to be away/are leaving the country, inform Chris asap.

Secondly, it is good to report a boost in new members joining the section, this is to be encouraged and is all sterling stuff.

Thirdly and most controversially, the Sunday afternoon mix-in is being extended from 2 - 7pm. The thought behind this is to encourage the better players to come down by reserving the first and/or last hour for the 'better' players (first 20 men, first 10 ladies), in the hope that they join the main mix-in. However, in the event of these courts not being filled by said 'better' players, the plebs among us are al-

lowed to use the vacant courts as the start of the mix-in. Upon reading this, the new system will have been in place for a month. Any comments/thoughts, please direct them at the committee, that's what we're there for.

Looking ahead, the annual tour to Club Aldiana is pencilled in for the weekend of the 22nd/23rd January. The sign-up sheet for this fun-packed regular will be up on the board shortly if not already, sign up quickly as places are limited.

The monthly tournament will be a handicap tournament, possibly taking place over two days on 8th/9th January, and this will kick off the Club Championships which will go through until mid-March. I tell you, it's all action here. You daren't blink. By the way, regarding the Championships, I have been asked to inform you that if you know or strongly suspect that you will not be available to play in the finals, that you please decline to enter. It's bad manners and bad sportspersonship:

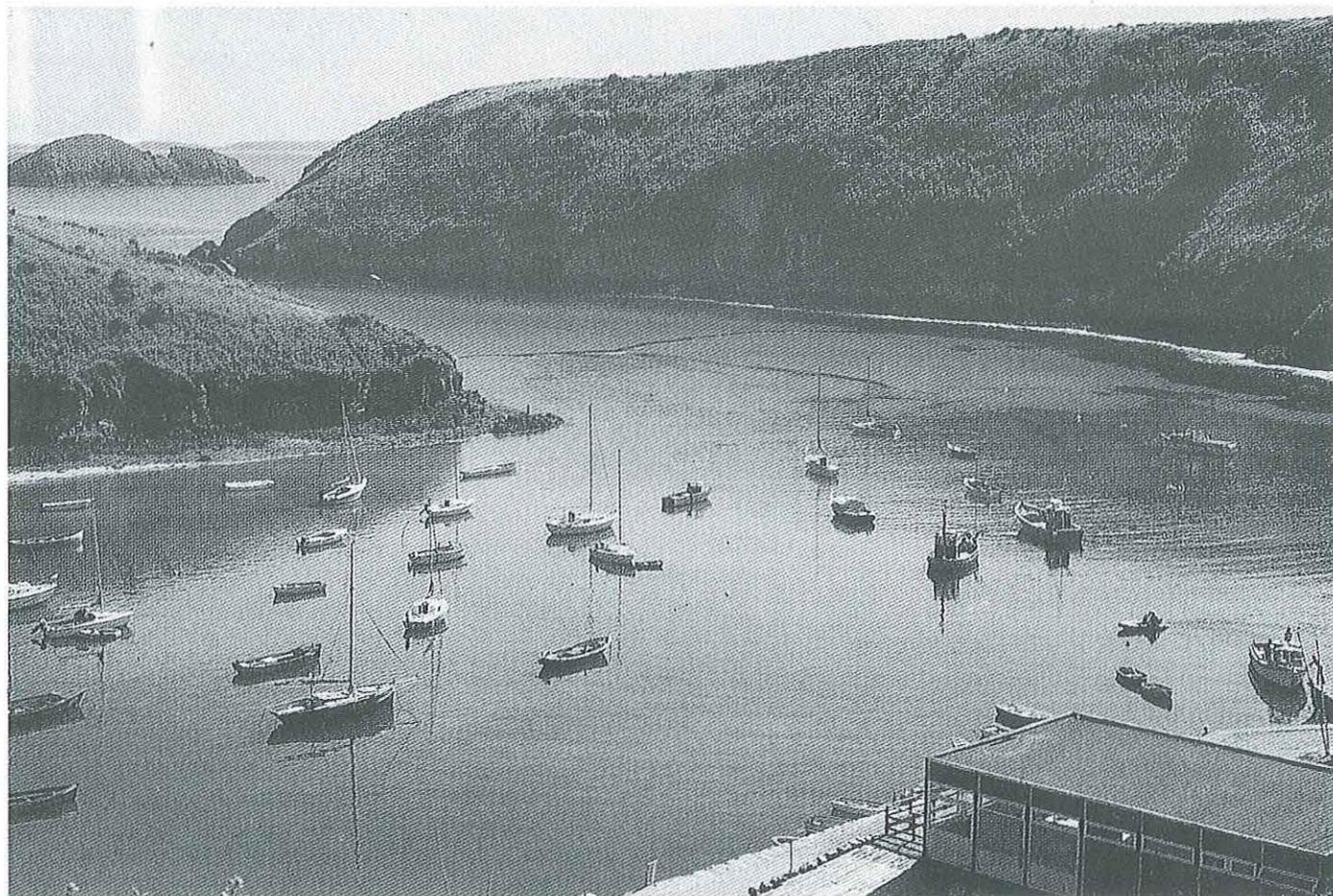
And that about rounds off 1993! We're all looking forward to the Tennis section party on the 15th, there'll be loadsagrub and some great silly games, many of which are being plotted while I write. Among tight huddles in the sala discussing 'games', I've heard mention of long balloons in association with kilts (I think, but don't quote me on that), and games with cucumbers, squash balls and raw eggs... Now if that lot don't grab you, you must be a few ginger creams short of a full packet!

Have a Cool Yule, y'all, and see yuz in the New Year!!

Me
XXX

Our man in Spalding

OUR MAN IN SPALDING



This month our Man in Spalding reports on the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Remember the cabbages and kings and tulip bulbs? Well, here's another one for you. Roosevelt, Shipwrecks and Careers. My latest victim is Theodore Stibbons, a six foot teacher in Spalding. As with our friend Woodhead, not just an ordinary man! Theo, as he is known to his friends, is the Head of Lower School and Head of Careers at a Secondary School in Spalding. Along with being a Governor of the Girls High School and a prominent figure on the Parish Church Council, he is also Chairman of the RNLI local branch. (OK he's a Spalding gentleman, has an attractive wife, expensive daughters and yes!! a Volvo estate). It is his links with the Royal national Lifeboat Institution

that particularly drew me to him, and his wife Melanie, branch secretary, on a dismal Monday night.

In the true Anton style, dining room and table were transformed and the flavour of the evening was Italian, with Tagliatelli, Rossi Verdi, tossed salad with ginger and orange.

For 169 years, the volunteer crews of the RNLI have been saving lives at sea. Since the RNLI's founding in 1824, nearly 124,000 lives have been saved and the Institution today is recognised as the most effective lifeboat service in the world.

Stations range from Kirkwall in the Orkneys to St. Mary's off Lands End with Valentia being the most westerly station on the coast of

Southern Ireland. These stations house one of 12 different types of craft with two more in their prototype stages. These range from the mighty Arun class with a speed of 18.2 knots to the baby but effective D class coming in at 20 knots.

Hearing of all the different classes of boats and types of operations which the crews are involved in, I was strangely curious as to where the lifeboat station was in Spalding! I'd never heard the maroons and certainly never heard of any mishaps on the Coronation Channel or one of the many dykes which dissect the surrounding fen land. Why Spalding? There was no sea yet the RNLI was a thriving Institution with many fund

Our man in Spalding

raising events and a strong voice throughout the year. "Come on Theo, why Spalding?" pressed and eager Melanie. "Why not!" came the reply. Theo went on to explain that the RNLI existed in its entirety wholly on voluntary contributions. Individual stations could not possibly fund and maintain their own lifeboats as the costs are so terribly high to maintain this kind of service. Certain stations such as Cromer can go a long way, because of its tradition, to fund itself. It's a popular seaside resort with a big influx of visitors every year. Theo was quick to mention that the local fund raising is possibly one of the best RNLI examples in the area - Tulip weekend (which all you expats know about) boost the funds a great deal. Certainly coastal branches will possibly raise more but Spalding supports the RNLI in a big way, even though it's not by the sea.

Theo comes from Cromer and Melanie from Wisbech so the link and interest with the RNLI was not difficult to spot. Their original meeting with RNLI fund raising is interesting though I doubt that Valerie Singleton and John Noakes (Blue Peter) would have raised money with a Sequence Dance (Blue Peter, the children's programme has raised thousands of pounds for RNLI). It was in Spalding in 1977 - since then Theo has been Chairman. The sequence dances went on for two or three more years and today one of the most enjoyable events must be the Race Evening (Anton had a horse running in this for the past two years and in November Anton's Sauce makes its first appearance).

Theo has been an active member of Cromer Crew. It was in 1966 that he first took up as a lifeguard and in 1970 became a crew member. Indeed on 20/7/71 Theo is pictured carrying a young girl up the beach after he and a colleague rescued her and her family using the ILB (Inshore Lifeboat). Two years later he became a force to be reckoned with as he was at the centre of a row about lifeguarding equipment. Although he had been on duty for two weeks he was still without stretchers and blankets and had to use his own equipment. The importance

and dedication the RNLI crews attach to their voluntary jobs is beyond question and their attitude is representative of all members and not just one.

As with many organisations one must always try to look forward and constantly strive to better oneself and improve the service which they are sponsoring. I was interested to hear how Theo saw the RNLI developing. I was surprised to hear that all inshore boats are capable of being righted and in November of this year all offshore boats will be self righting and with a capability of 20 knots. It was stressed that it is very important, and indeed a major task, to re-site some lifeboats to practical launching positions, positions which would reduce time in getting the boats into the water. There is also a great need for more launching stations on the west coast of Ireland - at present there are only six! All this costs money but rest assured the RNLI and its stations will never close through financial reasons, more chance operative reasons.

Theo is an experienced sailor both inland and on the sea. Having landlegs it's often difficult for people to imagine how people can get into difficulty in such a vast open space. Not wishing to dwell on tragedies, I was interested in the professionals' view of people being "caught out". Both Melanie and Theo agreed that to be caught out with the weather was almost certainly human error and often could have been avoided. Daily shipping forecasts are available to everybody and so too is the Coastguard Information Service.

Thinking of Thailand and the Far East I wondered what his opinions were of what we hear in Britain about boating disasters in the South China Seas and such like. "Poor management and inexperienced crew" - my mind was strongly drawn back to the concerto for Whistle on the Chao Phya (Vol 2 issue Des 92). Was I really there?

Stopping for a moment to grind the beans - Sainsbury's Best, and top the trifle with freshly whipped cream - I pulled Melanie into the kitchen (really? ED) and asked how she would feel if Spalding was "next to the sea"

and Theo was constantly at the ready. Support came back straight away, a proud satisfaction of her husband's capabilities and dedication to life. Amongst the women folk there was a wonderful kind of camaraderie which oozed enthusiasm for the RNLI and its cause. An attractive, strong and determined woman, I felt I knew the answer to the question I dare not ask...! Maybe you'll ask that when you turn and find her standing in the bar at Easter.

After saying goodnight to Theo and Melanie, I fear Anton must make a move too but not before I bring this to a close. The Royal Yachting Association governs all seaman awards but the RNLI is held in highest esteem in an advising capacity and is respected throughout our waters. Some crews do make mistakes though; after listening to Theo's tale of the dark night, raging seas and thrashing wind and rain!... "there, in the distance, and object ... hauntingly motionless as we battled towards the black body in the sea..." a fisherman's tale it was a seal! I bid you farewell!

Anton



EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE SAINT

In the Middle Ages, St. Nicholas was everyone's favourite saint. He was patron saint of all kinds of people, including merchants, sailors and small boys. Few facts are known about Nicholas, who was bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor, during the fourth century, but there are some very far fetched legends about him. This one, the best known of all, may be true.

In Nicholas' home town, it is said, lived a family so poor that the father could not afford dowries for his three daughters. Nicholas determined to rescue them from starvation and distress, but without making his generosity known. So, when the eldest daughter was old enough to marry, he dropped bag of gold in at her window at night. (Some say he dropped it down the chimney, where it fell into the shoe or stocking she had left on the hearth to keep warm. And *that's* why children hang up their stockings or leave a shoe ready for presents).

Nicholas did the same for the second and



BISCUITS TO MAKE

On Sinterklaas, 5th December, Dutch children are given Sinterklaas letter biscuits to eat. This is how to make them.

You will need:
 400g pastry, double crust
 pastry
 200g/8oz pack marzipan
 a little milk
Also have ready:
 A greased baking sheet
 rolling pin
 knife
 pastry brush



1

Set the oven to 425 degrees (Gas 7)

2

Roll the pastry out thinly. It is best to flour the board and rolling pin lightly, to stop it sticking. Cut the pastry into strips about 10cms by 4cms.

3

Put a little sugar in your hands, then roll the marzipan into 'worms' about the thickness of your finger. Wrap each marzipan worm in a strip of pastry, gently pressing edges together with a dab of milk to join them.

4

Now gently form each roll into the shape of a letter. Some letter such as I, S or U are easy, so start with these. Other, like E, M or B will have to be made by using strips of different lengths and joining them (with milk for glue!).

5

Carefully place the completed letters on a baking sheet, leaving space between each one. Bake 10 to 15 minutes in the centre of the oven. Be very careful as you lift them off the tray. Don't worry if your letters don't look perfect - they'll taste good!

third daughter, but on the last occasion he was discovered by the grateful father. Nicholas swore him to secrecy, And that is why in some countries today, presents are given to the children on 5th December, which is St. Nicholas' Eve.

ST. NICHOLAS AND BLACK PETER IN HOLLAND

Every year, on the last Saturday in November, St. Nicholas, dressed in bishop's robes and mitre, arrives by steamer at the port in Amsterdam, in Holland. With him is Black Peter (Zwarte Piet), dressed in the costume of a Spaniard of the sixteenth century. St. Nicholas disembarks, mounts a waiting white horse and rides off, accompanied by a jostling procession of children, first to the town hall where he is formally welcomed, then to his chosen headquarters for the season. Black Peter is supposed to be the devil, now St. Nicholas' servant, come to punish any naughty children and do the dirty work of taking presents down the chimneys. Everyone in Holland gives presents on 5th December, Sinterklaas Avond, and every present should come as a surprise. Sometimes a tiny gift is wrapped in a huge box, or the parcel is hidden in an unexpected place - anything that makes it as much of a happy surprise as St. Nicholas' first present were said to be.

FATHER CHRISTMAS AND SANTA CLAUS

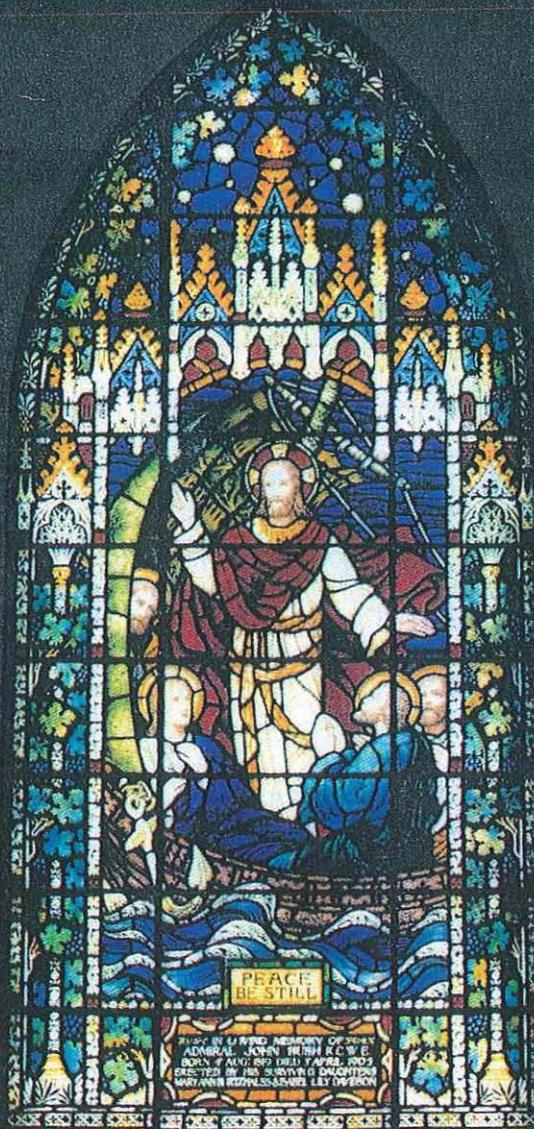
In the sixteenth century, after the Reformation, saints went out of favour in Europe. But someone was needed to take the place of St. Nicholas and give presents at Christmas. In England, a merry old character from children's plays, known as Father Christmas, took over the job. France has Pere Noel, and in Germany the Christkind or Christ Child, gave gifts. In the United States his name became Kris Kringle. But Dutch settlers in America took St. Nicholas with them. They shortened his name to Klaas and called him Sinterklaas, which soon became Santa Claus in English. He became popular with everyone and American writers and artists gradually transformed the bishop in his robes and mitre into the familiar figure with white beard and robes and hat. No one is sure how St. Nicholas' white horse turned into a pack of reindeer. A nineteenth century book, shows a picture of him with just one reindeer and in 1882 Dr. Clement Clarke Moore, wrote a poem for his children about Santa Claus in which he described eight reindeer and gave them all names. But in Sweden he is still pictured drawn by mountain goats. The English Father Christmas came to look more and more like his American counterpart, and now Father Christmas and Santa Claus have become one and the same person.

This Christmas, take your family window-shopping

The real story of Christmas isn't told in store windows but in church windows.
Come and celebrate Christmas with us in the worship and wonder of God's love.



Christ Church
11 Convent Road

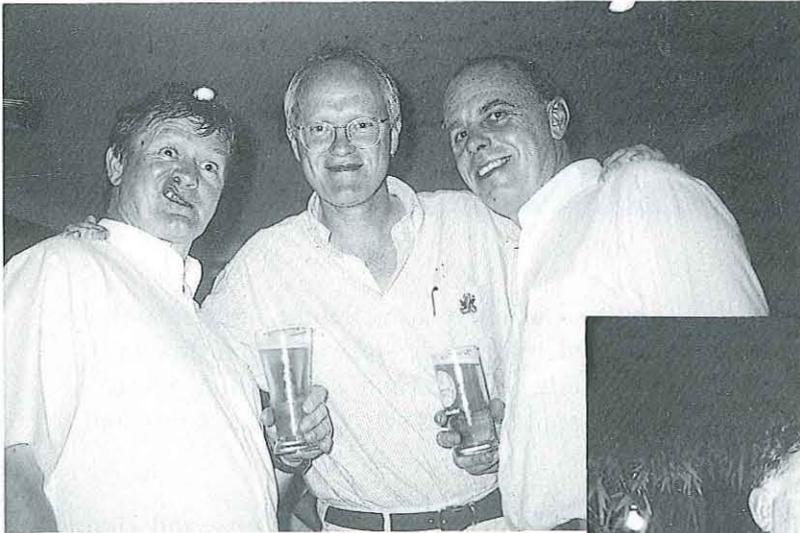


Christ Church
For All People

The Admiral John Bush Memorial Window
in Christ Church

*In fact, join us every Sunday as
we worship in the faith and
fellowship of Jesus Christ*

Club Roundup



Nigel Oakins and Joe Grunwell bid farewell to Keith Bell 5 November



Maurice Lamb and Nigel Dakins welcome the new manager David Vickers 5 November



Enjoying the Lords Restaurant - 1 November



All joined in for a sing song - 5 November

The Magical, Mysterious World of Gems...

Sauntering up Silom Road, every sense is assaulted at each turn. Bright, vibrant colours jostle for our attention. Likewise, our noses are penetrated by an awesome and improbable selection of smells, destined to shock our brains into a state of abnormal dipsomania, while already feverishly working overtime to avoid low-flying stalls, kamikaze Tuk-Tuks, touts and the deadly Green buses.

It seems strange, almost impossible, that behind this kaleidoscope of activity and riotous confusion is one of the largest global centers of the gem and jewellery industry. The myriad of jewellery shops in this area are testament to the enormous selection and variety of gemstones and jewellery styles spawned by Thailand's 3rd largest export industry.

Spurred on by the Royal Thai Government's drive to increase export earnings, the gem and jewellery industry has been growing at a tremendous rate. According to latest statistics, the total export value of the gem and jewellery industry for 1991 totalled nearly thirty eight thousand million baht*. There is a dizzying selection of gems and jewellery and the most compatible costs available - as compared to most western nations - for those people wishing to take advantage of the possibilities.

Sexy Sapphires? Dazzling Diamonds? Enchanting Emeralds? Or Romantic Rubies? Each gemstone has it's own little magic, it's own special personality. The variety of gems available here in Bangkok is overwhelming. Most coloured gemstones that originate in Asia, Africa or the Middle East pass through Bangkok at some stage on their way to grace jewellery stores around the world. This means that for the individual shopper on the lookout for loose gemstones or a piece of jewellery, there is right here at your doorstep a prolific array of beautiful and seductive stones just waiting to be taken advantage of... and not only amongst the "Top Four" gemstones (Diamonds, Rubies, Sapphires and Emeralds). Ebullient and mischievous stones such as Tanzanite (an intense violet/blue) from Tanzania and Tsavorite (a lively sparkling green stone also from Africa) are readily available, and at real bargain prices for those wishing to shop around...

An appreciation of gemstone *quality* takes years of practice and a comprehensive understanding the science of gemology, and can therefore vary considerably from jeweller to jeweller. Unlike diamonds, there is no formal internationally recognised grading scale for coloured stones, so buying coloured gemstones can be a rather touch-and-go affair for the layman, who, generally speaking, relies almost entirely on what he/she is told by the jeweller. A veritable plethora of factors determine the quality of a gemstone, which in turn directly affects the price you pay. Only a qualified gemologist or somebody in daily touch with the gem trade (such as a gem buyer) could give a reasonably accurate estimate of the value of any particular gemstone. The gem and jewellery industry is such a fluid and dynamic business that prices can fluctuate daily as sources are discovered or dry up, or as demand increases or drops.

* Source: Dept. of Customs Gems & Jewellery Exporting Volume Statistics

Choosing who will be your jeweller is therefore of prime importance. *Trust* is possibly more important than price in this game. Ideally, you should be able to trust a jeweller in the same way you could trust other professionals such as Doctors or Lawyers.

During your stay in Bangkok, you will probably be approached by touts who will attempt to persuade you to visit stores or factories where you are assured that will get unbelievable bargains. It is suggested you politely decline all offers of this type of "help". If you find yourself in such a situation the general rule is:

If it is too good to be true, then it is probably just that.

Never buy gems or jewellery from touts or from the stores or factories they may bring to you. You *will* be sold low quality gems, and charged outrageous prices. You will not be amongst the people that will benefit from this type of transaction.

Gemstones and jewellery are precious and valuable items. Tragically, Bangkok is the easiest city in the world in which to be sucked into buying low quality or synthetic gemstones. The best synthetics even frighten professional gemologists! How therefore is the layman to know what is a natural or untreated gemstone given the vast range of possible alternatives?

When making a major gem purchase, if you have any doubts whatsoever, get a Gem Identification Report from a laboratory. Luckily, there are several excellent independent Gem Testing Laboratories or experts in Bangkok who will, for a small fee, identify and describe your (loose unmounted) gemstone on a Gem Identification Report. This should be a standard practice for any gem purchase over US\$ 500.

Make your gem and jewellery purchases a *pleasure* you can *treasure*; not a costly mistake. Do **not** trust intuition, unqualified sales people or persons who claim to have "been in the business for 30 years". There is no substitute for gemological training and up-to-date knowledge and equipment when dealing with modern synthetic gems and treatments.

Next issue I'll cover the most important factors to consider whilst assessing a gemstone's quality. In the meantime should you have any questions about purchasing gems or jewellery please don't hesitate to contact me.

Richard McGregor is a Graduate Gemologist who gives many lectures on the subject of gemstones and jewellery and has recently published a short guidebook directed specifically at foreigners wishing to buy gems and jewellery in Thailand titled "*Your indispensable Guide to Buying Gems and Jewellery in Thailand*".

Graduate Gemologist

RUGBY BALL 1993 - LANDMARK HOTEL - 16TH OCTOBER 1993

The British Club Rugby Section would like to thank all their sponsors for their great support on the night and their support during the season.

Many thanks must also go to Jon Prichard for an excellent job at comparing, Andrew Mudie for choosing "Best Pink & Black Person(s)", Jane, Suzanne and Bea for organising the evening, Miquel Sousa of the Landmark Hotel for doing an excellent job, Tim, Kevin and Andrew for sorting the girls out and keeping them on the straight and narrow, the Rugby Quire that for once sang in tune, and of course to Holly, Sam, Nicole and James for helping out on the night. Also everybody who came to join the Rugby Section at the Landmark Hotel and all of you who have been great supporters during the past season.

Some people did not quite make it, the Bangkok Sports Club got lost and thought the Ball was at the Oriental, too many places to stop off on the way, Mai Pen Rai next year. Jose almost did not make it but managed to finally turn up at 1pm, well better late than never I suppose. Jane and Bea managed to totally confuse the staff at the Landmark Hotel, but Miquel sorted everything out perfectly, we hope he will enjoy his massage at the Oriental Hotel. Lots of original entries in the Best Pink and Black dressed person, black underwear (male), first time ever in a dress (Jan), spotted pink (Peter and Jackie), prizes were the newly acquired (first time on the market) pink and black rugby watches - now available from Andrew McDowell/Joe Grunwell and Tim Martin.

How come the amount of champagne given to the "girls" is more every year. How many of them will be there next year? Come on ladies, we need your help, appreciation in liquid form. The last people were seen leav-

ing the Landmark Hotel at 6am, after having breakfast at the coffee shop. Judging by the amount of red eyes and pale faces the next day, we must assume that most of us had a good time. On to 1994 and another great Rugby Years.

All the following people need special thanks, without them the Rugby Ball would not be the success it has been over the past years;

Pepsi Cola for supplying all soft drinks, British Airways - Return Flight to New Zealand, Hagemeyer Thailand for donating the champagne and supplying the wines for the evening, Carlsberg Brewery for unlimited amounts of beer, AMI for once again donating the cocktails, Hoechst Thailand for their generous sponsoring of one bottle of whisky per table.

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Intercontinental Hotel ** Siam Exclusive Tours ** Sika Thailand * Sun Alliance Insurance ** TDP Industry ** Thai Shell Exploration & Production ** Thai Shell Company of Thailand ** Tawana Ramada, to all of you thank you very much

*** A LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS IS AVAILABLE AT THE BRITISH CLUB RUGBY SECTION NOTICE BOARD - PRIZES CAN BE COLLECTED FROM THE BC ***

Next month the BC Rugby will announce the charities they are supporting with the help of the above sponsors and proceeds from the Third Annual Rugby Ball.

RUGBY BALL 1993 – PHOTO REPORT



Members of the Committee



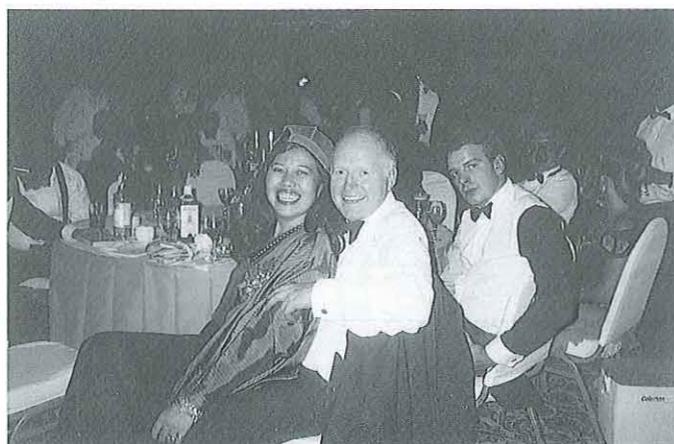
Peter Hutton won the British Airways ticket to Australia



The Mermaid's Resort offered accommodation and a SCUBA course



Thanks to the girls with traditional bubbly



Andrew & Wendi cheek to cheek



Jane Prichard and Jose singing "Better late than never"

RUGBY INTERNATIONAL IV vs BC

The International IV were organised and captained by Paul Meggison. The BC was captained by Jon Prichard. The BC won 19-7. Below a photo report.



British Club



Internationals – 12 nationalities



Simon Dakers and Yoshi Okuni



Julian Olds stops Fijian Bula Tui



Graham Carson escapes the clutches of Alf Hodges



Swift and Rees combine to stop Carling



*Best wishes
to all members
from Outpost!*

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are written by Members, the Outpost would like to invite the relevant Members of the General Committee to answer where necessary in next months Outpost. Outpost will publish all letters from Members, unless their contents are damaging to other Members or Companies or contain obscene or abusive language.

Bangkok 1st November 1993

Dear Madam,

Only one "Letter to the Editor" in the November "Outpost". strange, because in a club such as ours, you only have to sit in the Churchill Bar, and bring up the subject of Club Management and wham! You will hear some very strong points of view being bantered about.

Mr. Daryll R. Hennig tells us about some club down in Brisbane. Good for him, as we never know when some of us might be down that way. Remembering the old platitude, "To be forewarned is to be forearmed". You know, back in the old days as it were, the British Club was very similar to that club down in Brisbane. Women were not allowed in our bar at any time, not just before 6.00pm. There was no pool in those days, and it was not a family club, as we are trying to keep it today, but a "Men Only" drinking club. Go in the bar at 4.00pm on a Saturday and it would be thick with cigarette smoke and drunk men, still thinking that they were only there for a quick before lunch drink.

Times have changed since those gloomy old days, and we now have a pool and a club that caters for the whole family, which is nice!

In the "Final Countdown", Mr. Nigel Oakins, our current Chairman, made mention of the recent E.G.M. held a month ago. I was there, and the idea of increasing the number of signatures calling for an E.G.M. from the current "Seven" to "Thirty" caused such an uproar, the Committee had to withdraw the motion, before it was even called for a vote. A lot of us are still wondering what was behind the idea in the first place. Was the Committee seeking ways to protect itself from Club Members. Surely not, it was an outrageous proposal anyway.

I am not trying to attack the Committee, and certainly not Nigel. Being the Managing Editor of the Bangkok Post, I think he has the toughest job of any of us Farangs in Thailand.

Our Good Chairman then goes on to warn that without the lifeblood of new members, our Club will soon run into real financial difficulties. We all agree with him, and that was exactly the main purpose of the recent E.G.M. in the first place. To try and find ways to make it easier, for British and Commonwealth Expatriates to join the Club. There are many here in Thailand who just cannot afford it. We are too expensive, especially for those only here for a couple of years or so, or even less. What has already been done, as a result of this last E.G.M., could be too little too late.

The reason the motion to increase the number of Associate Members was voted down, was nothing against Associate Members. It was just the wrong way to go. We should re-think, update, our membership rules, and make it easier to become a member. We have to "Sell" the British Club in a way that is compatible to current market conditions.

Perhaps I have heard wrong, but how many members of the British Club are aware that out of every new members entrance fee, Baht 5,000 goes to the "Rugby Section". This was voted in, as I understand it, at an E.G.M. last year, loaded with Rugby players! Again, I am not trying to attack our Rugby players. I only weigh one hundred and forty five pounds, "fine bunch of chaps", but it is not in keeping with a "Family Club" such as ours, that any one section should receive such special treatment, out of the pockets of all members. It was even suggested at this same E.G.M. last year, that every member of the British Club, be required to pay Baht 5,000 cash to the Rugby Section. It did

not go through, but if it had done so, I for one would have refused to pay it! Any wonder we will soon be running into real financial difficulties.

Surely we should be trimming our sails to suit the wind. Stop spending money to start new projects. Consolidate, maintain what we already have, even cut back a bit.

If anybody wants to turn the British Club into a Sports Club, a complete change of direction, then it should be by a full blown referendum, involving all members, not just the few that turn up to E.G.M. and A.G.M.'s. We note that the new Club Manager is a Rugby Coach, or something along those lines. No comment just now, we must wait and see. Give the Gentleman a chance!

In your "From the Editor" column you mentioned that you had been accused by one of the members, of censoring members letter to the Editor. Could that have been me? In a note that I sent to you last month, on the subject of advertising, I did mention that in a Private Club such as ours Letters to the Editor should not be edited. I was only expressing an opinion, and I am delighted that you agree with it. I was not accusing you of doing so, and apologise if it appeared that way. I think you are doing a fine job with our magazine, and encourage all members to give you all the help, with articles and letters, they can ... But - Bea, please, that article by Claire Rayner, it denies all human dignity. As Samuel Johnson (I think) wrote, "There is no humour in vulgarity". That Claire Rayner woman will never be welcome in my house, I would have to keep my eye on her, lest she would pee on my carpet!

T.T.F.N.
Sincerely,

James A. Reid
R11

Another Letter to the Editor this month, on a rather painful subject for the people involved. I did feel this letter (before publication) should be read by the General Committee who advised Outpost to delete the names of the insurance companies involved. Outpost would like to extend their best wishes to all families involved

SO YOU THINK YOU ARE INSURED

On September 26th, 1993 Danielle, my 15 year old grand-daughter, was seriously injured, along with two other teenagers, in a traffic accident. She was the passenger in a car that was hit by a speeding truck. The truck hit the car with such force that it spun the vehicle around, tearing off a door; Danielle was thrown into the road sustaining multiple injuries. Ruam Katanyoo Foundation workers took the children to the nearest hospital. Danielle was almost dead having only 20% of her blood remaining.

As she was unconscious and unable to give her name and telephone number, we were not informed until 4 hours later, after she had undergone surgery to remove her spleen. Danielle was unconscious for five days and remained in the first hospital for nine days on a respirator with tubes draining fluids from her lungs. Although the surgeon who operated in her to remove her spleen was marvelous, the ICU in that hospital was unhygienic. She contracted infections of the lungs and blood. So we moved her to the ICU at Samitivej Hospital. She was moved in an ambulance with the respirator operated by hand, and was still in a life threatening situation when she entered Samitivej.

She stayed in the ICU for 5 more days during which she was found to have a broken left shoulder, elbow and right wrist, necessitating two more operations. She came home on October 27, 1993 able to walk but unable to use her left arm and in pain from a fractured pelvis. She must return to the hospital daily for physiotherapy for three months and in two years will

have metal plates removed from her shoulder and wrist.

The suffering caused to Danielle and the shock and horror experienced by her mother and family has not in the least been alleviated by the treatment we received at the hands of the insurance company and police.

The driver of the vehicle in which Danielle was riding has an insurance policy giving coverage up to Baht 1,000,000 per passenger with a maximum of Baht 5,000,000 per accident. To date the insurance company has refused to pay anything, even the Baht 10,000 that I believe is mandatory by law. The reasons given are as follows:

1. If the driver had been the sole driver involved, i.e. not involving another vehicle, thereby making the driver solely liable for the accident, payment would be forthcoming at once. But because another vehicle is involved, blame must be apportioned by the police and/or the Courts. No payment will be made until then.
2. Samitivej Hospital is too expensive, Danielle should have received treatment at a government hospital. We should sympathise with the insurance company and not expect them to pay bills at an expensive private hospital.
3. If the insurance company pays now and the truck driver is found to be the guilty party or; both drivers are found to be equally at fault, the insurance company cannot claim reimbursement from the truck's insurance company.

I asked the Managing Director of the insurance company (1) where the policy states that an injured person must be treated in a government hospital and (2) where would he seek treatment for his dying child? Wouldn't he want the best treatment available? Why extend coverage of Baht 1,000,000 per passenger and ac-

cept a premium based on that amount, if they do not intend to pay that much if necessary.

In brief the answer was that the insurance company will eventually have to pay but only upon a Court Judgement as they are only liable for legal liability. The exact meaning of "legal liability" is open to interpretation. Do insurance sales people explain this to new policy holders? I doubt it. Once an insurance company has our premiums in their pocket we are at their mercy, they can interpret their policies in any way they see fit.

The procedures at the police station have been even more painful. The driver of the truck fled the scene, which is surely an admission of guilt. This coward left three children to die. Two weeks later the police informed us that the driver had turned himself in, and in fact had been trying to do so ever since the accident but could not find a policeman to arrest him! He came to the police station accompanied by his employer, the owner of the truck, together with Baht 30,000 to bail himself out from a charge of fleeing the scene of an accident. Obviously arrangements had been made with the police beforehand otherwise how would he know how much cash to take to the police station to pay for bail?

The police were on the scene of the incident within a few minutes, and yet only on 28th October 1993, more than one month later, were any arrests made. Surely the police should have been able to determine the cause of the accident at once.

One reason for the delay was, as told to me by the Police Captain in charge of the case, that the insurance adjusters told him that neither of their insureds were the guilty party and asked him not to make any decision for a while, so the police have waffled for more than a month at the behest of the insurance companies. Do insurance adjusters have the authority to decide who the guilty parties are in an accident? It is in the interests of the insurance companies that such decisions are delayed.

We have paid hospital bills of Baht 550,000 and treatment will con-

Letters to the Editor

tinue for another two years at least. The surgeon cannot promise that Danielle will ever recover normal use of her left arm. What happens to people without the means to pay such bills? The administrator of the first hospital told us that normally they are reluctant to take X-rays and give intensive, emergency, treatment to accident cases because it is the policy of the insurance companies in Thailand to claim that hospital do too much. They refuse to pay for what in their opinion is excessive treatment.

If this is true, then it is a sad reflection upon the ethics of the Thai insurance industry. What right has a insurance company to decide what treatment an accident victim should receive? We were lucky, the hospital where Danielle was taken had a doctor who cared for the life of a child. He did not wait for a down payment or authorisation from an insurance company before he saved our child's life.

To recover the medical costs from the insurance company we now must sue the driver of the car in which Danielle was riding, the insurance company itself, the driver of the truck, the owner of the truck, and their insurance company. The case could take 5 years to reach conclusion if there are Appeals. There will be both criminal and civil suits. Lawyer's fees must be paid and we must deposit 2.5% of the amount claimed as Court costs in the Civil and Appeal Courts.

I always believed that insurance was intended to help people, to provide a feeling of comfort and assurance that accident victims can receive prompt, expert medical attention. This is definitely not the case in Thailand, where insurance companies regard internal procedures and penny-pinching more important than human life. You might think that members of your family are unlikely to be involved in a serious accident, either as victim, driver or the owner of a vehicle driven by somebody else that is involved in an accident. Don't we all think that this kind of thing happens to other people. Well, it happened to us.

I advise anyone reading this article to check their vehicle insurance policies and talk to their insurance agents. Ensure that you are prepared for what will happen if you are ever involved in a serious accident. What you find out will probably shock you.

Leone Vejjajiva
V20

This is amazing, yet another "Letter to the Editor", this is the first month since I have been doing Outpost there has been so much mail. Maybe all my dreams come through now and there will be a regular correspondence in Outpost which can include all sorts of subjects ranging from Club policies, safety, general comments, life in Bangkok etc. Please keep them coming.

Bea
XX

2 October 1993,

Madam,

Today, 2 October 1993, I learned with a fair measure of outrage that Baroness Thatcher visited the British Club on 5th September. Now it matter little whether we admire or despise this lady (I count myself in the former category) but surely all members of the Club should have had an equal opportunity to meet her. The Editorial page plus three pages of pictures in the October issue of Outpost indicate that members of the Club were present. How were they selected? Or do we have some new and unspecified classes of membership?

Frankly, it will not do. We all pay the same dues and are thus entitled to the same facilities. Obviously all members could not be invited to this occasion but it is deplorable that only selected members were even informed of Lady Thatcher's visit to the British Club.

I may add that I have been a member from 1974-1976 inclusive and

again from 1984 to the present. Traffic conditions now make more than an occasional visit (perhaps 4-5 per annum) impractical and I must seriously question whether there is any longer any purpose in membership of such an elitist and undemocratic club.

I request an explanation, published in Outpost, of the manner in which those members present on 5 September were selected. On the basis of that reply I shall decide whether or not I consider the British Club worthy of continued membership.

Yours in disgust,

Peter Rodgers
R60

P.S. This is in response to your request for further letters for publication.

Reply from the Club Chairman Nigel Oakins

Dear Peter,

The General Committee were given instructions by Lady Thatcher's staff that her visit to the Club was to be very low key and for security reasons the number of Members invited had to be less than fifty. In complying with Lady Thatcher's wishes the Committee had a very difficult task in deciding who should be invited. The Club Manager was asked therefore to draft a list that included current Committee Members, previous Club Chairmen, current Club Section Chairmen or their representatives and others that might be appropriate. A difficult task indeed, and apologies to the very many members who would have wished to join Lady Thatcher on this occasion.

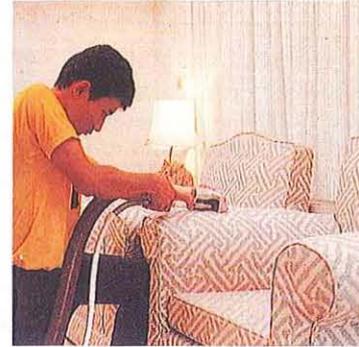
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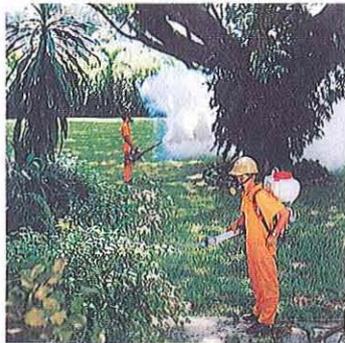
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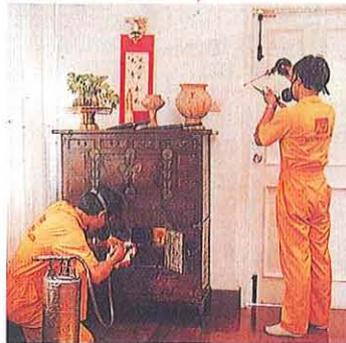
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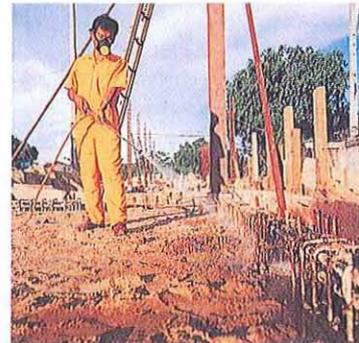
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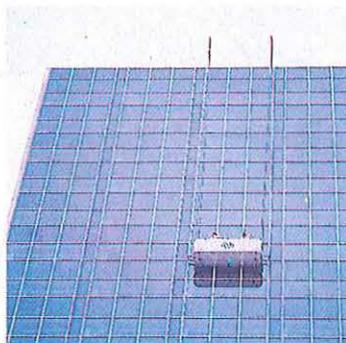
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The Final Countdown

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A few weeks ago I and a dozen colleagues sat in a two-day executive health management and stress avoidance seminar. In terms of a lengthy life, smoking was a definite minus. I am pleased to report, however that drinking in moderation (no more than 3 a day) and maintaining a regular exercise programme were high on the list of things that help to keep you alive. So what does that have to do with the British Club you may well ask.

Well, one further thing the doctor told us was that in all his years of attending his patients during their last hours, not one had ever said :“Doctor, I sure wish I had spent more time in the office while I was alive.”



The moral, I guess, was that life should be lived to the full and hopefully that is where the British Club comes in. Why not bring the family for tennis, swimming, or any other of the weekend activities on offer. Or perhaps pop in for

a quick drink or a meal after work one night a week. Badminton, Bridge, Squash and Tennis, all have weekly “mix-ins” and it is a great way to keep the body and mind active and more important perhaps to make new friends. That’s what your club is for and now you know you will be adding years to your life, there can be no excuses.

As this is the last issue of Outpost for 1993, let me take this opportunity on behalf of the General Committee to wish all members and their families a super Xmas and New Year season.

Nigel Oakins
Chairman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mike O'Connor

Finance
235-1560 (O)

Joe Grunwell

Sport
541-1970 (O)
541-1436 (F)
258-9509 (H + Fax)

Alex Forbes

Personnel
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541-1436 (F)

Nigel Oakins

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240-3679 (F)
258-8228 (H)

Des Keane

(Hon/Treasurer/Personnel)
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256-7473 (F)

Dugal Forrest

(Vice Chairman)
398-3807 (O)
399-1564 (F)
312-5656 (H)



Maurice Lamb

(Entertainment/Sport)
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277-9003 (H)
272-4538 (F)

Jack Dunford

(Personnel/House & Grounds)
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