

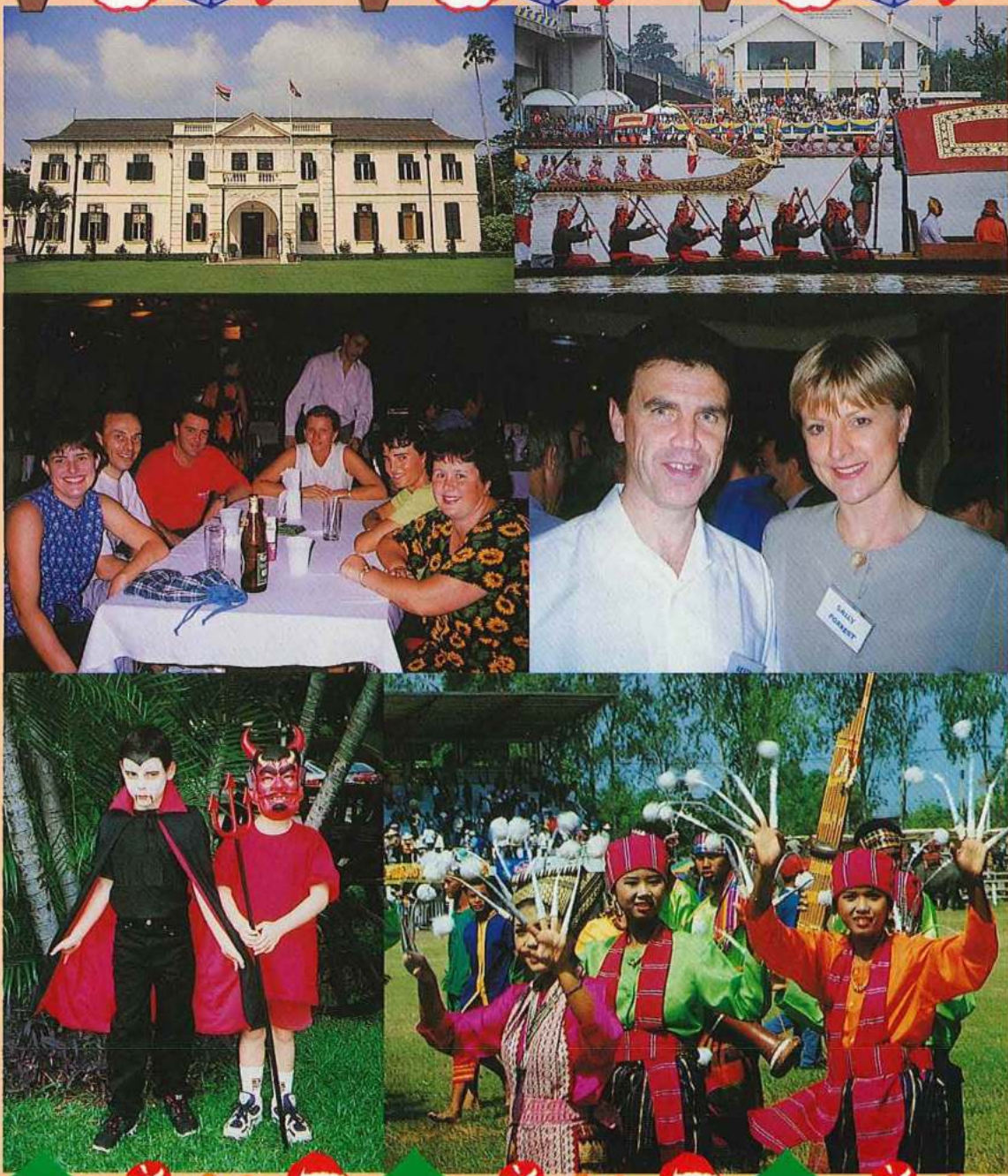


Outpost

December

M A G A Z I N E

1999



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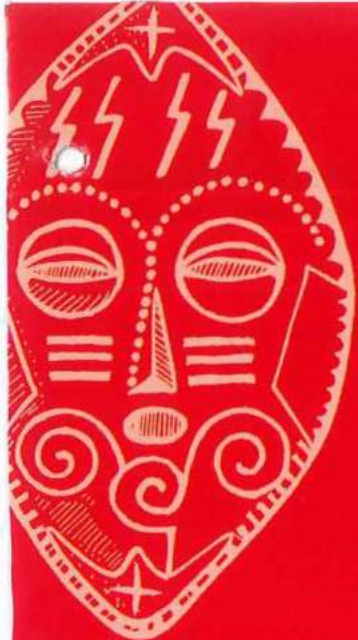
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The British Club

is a family, sporting and social club with an international membership.

For details about the Club contact the Membership Marketing Manager at 189 Surawong Road, Bangkok 10500
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Contributions

If you would like to Contribute to Outpost please contact the Editor, Sherry Conisbee, on Tel: 285 4721-2, Fax: 285 4723



Outpost Magazine

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



On the Front Cover:

Sitting out at the first Scottish dance practice
Halloween horrors, Christopher Hughes and Billy Hill
Surin dancers at the Elephant Round-up
New members Keith Sargison and Sally Forrest
Spectacular Royal Barge Procession



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Just back from one short holiday and already I'm packing for the next, with just enough time in between to put this, my twelfth edition of *Outpost*, to bed! What an exciting year it's been and I'm delighted to be taking the magazine out of one century and into the next as Editor.

Despite my constant nagging for contributions throughout 1999, it's only now when I'm full of festive spirit - dark rum usually - that I realise a great deal of time and effort has been given each month by a great many people to make *Outpost* a creditable Club magazine and I feel a quick roll call of names is deserved.

Firstly to all my colleagues at **The Creative Partnership**, particularly Gaynor de Wit, without whose guidance a great many more editorial bloomers would appear. A huge thank you also to our main **contributors** for their considerable efforts in filling the pages with photos, write-ups and other entertaining stuff. This includes all those members who regularly pen the sport section reports, Margaret Miller for her crossword wizardry and Major Goodface for his alternative views. To the occasional contributors, like Nick Kosmatos for his travelogues and Bob Wilde for his interesting dips into the past, I also say thanks and keep 'em coming.

I am hugely grateful to all of the **advertisers** without whom the magazine would be a mere shadow of what it is today - a colourful 40-pager of above-average standard. If your company would like to take advantage of this great advertising medium while at the same time supporting the Club and its magazine, why not get hold of David here at The Creative Partnership (tel. 285 4721-3).

Other than to say a swift cheers to the Committee, management and staff for doing their bit to increase our enjoyment of the Club, I think that's enough thanks for this year.

This month's Christmas edition is a bumper issue. I never thought I'd say it, but I received so many contributions that a few of them had to be kept over for next month. Getting into the spirit this month is our GM who has been uncharacteristically prolific in submitting no less than three articles. On the Letters page the sticky subject of the sala floor is raised, and if you're one of the many members wanting a breakdown of the sala renovation costs, then the Chairman reveals all in his page. Inside are also some great photographs of the memorable Royal Barge Procession, courtesy of Gaynor, and the Puzzle is definitely worth attempting this month as you stand a chance of winning a bottle of wine. Good luck.

Finally, His Majesty the King of Thailand celebrates his sixth cycle birthday on the 5th of this month and I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing him a particularly happy and healthy one.

Sherry

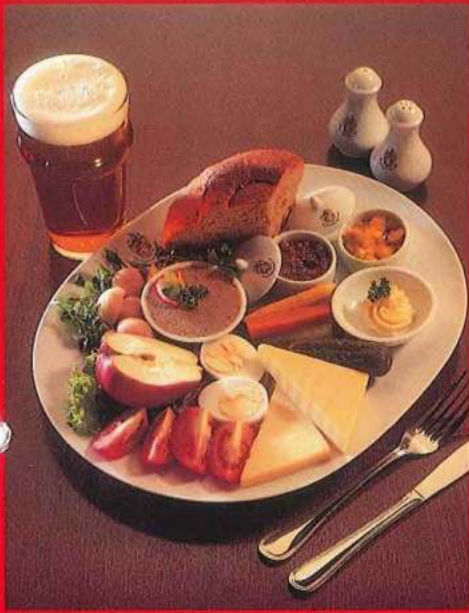
Sherry Conisbee
Editor



Season's greetings from all at The Creative Partnership



There's Something For Everyone at The Londoner Brew Pub.



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Sports fans gather here!



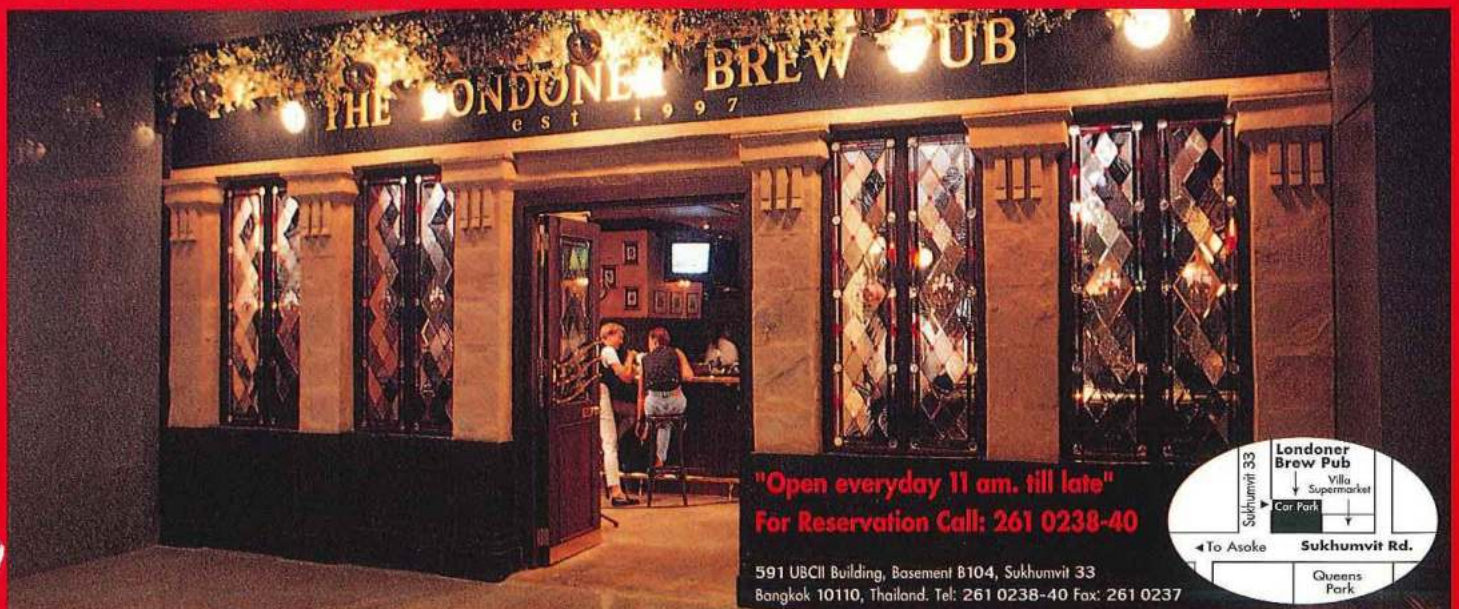
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Here we are in the last month of this century with Christmas 1999 and New Year 2000 just around the corner. Doesn't the time fly by so quickly. I would like to wish all members a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. If you are in Bangkok over the festive season, I hope you will come along and enjoy some of the many events taking place at the Club.

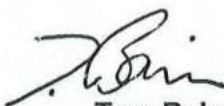
We have now reached the magical number of ONE THOUSAND members! This is the first time in the Club's history that membership has reached this number and it is a credit to the hard work of the membership sales team.

As I write this, the matter of the sandstone tiles has still not been resolved satisfactorily. However, the contractors are working on finding a sealant which will stop the staining but not be slippery. As last month, I apologise to the members for the inconvenience this has caused and hope the matter is concluded soon.

Merry Christmas



Tom Bain - General Manager


Tom Bain
General Manager

*Wishing His Majesty the King of Thailand a
Very Happy Sixth Cycle Birthday Anniversary
on Sunday, 5th December 1999*



Christmas Cards

The Club has produced its own special memento Christmas Card (see right) which is on sale now to members. Ideal for sending to family and friends 'back home'. Available from Reception.

Hansel & Gretel

4-6 December

Bangkok Community Theatre presents Hansel & Gretel, an interactive children's play for the young and young at heart! The show will be performed in the Surawong Room twice daily at 2.00pm and 4.30pm and refreshments (not included in the ticket price) will be available before and after the show. Tickets are B200 for adults and B150 for children.

British Club Christmas Ball

11 December

Mark your diaries now for a sensational night under the stars. This BC Christmas Ball, the last of the century, should really not be missed. Tickets at B1,250 per head are on sale at Reception now.

Children's Christmas Party

21 December

Sign up the kids for an afternoon packed with games and filled with excitement with a special guest appearance by the kids' favourite character, Santa Claus.

Carols by Candle Light

22 December

Enjoy a memorable and traditional evening on the front lawn singing Christmas carols and tucking into mince pies, shortbread and mulled wine. The evening starts at 7.00pm. Tickets B290 for adults and B200 for children under 12.

Christmas at Lords

Bookings are now being taken for Christmas Day dinner (lunch already fully booked). Seats are filling up fast so hurry and book, either at Reception or Lords Restaurant. Remember, you can enjoy traditional Christmas fare in Lords starting on 7 December.

New Year's Eve River Cruise

All aboard Tubtim 1 and Tubtim 2 for our traditional cruise along the river. If you are



in Bangkok, it's the best place to view the spectacular firework displays. Tickets are strictly limited so book early. Contact Reception for further details. Tickets are on sale now. Over 14s only for safety reasons.

New Year's Eve Family Affair

If you wish to enjoy a family celebration at New Year, why not join us at the Club for a family barbecue and disco by the pool from 8.00pm until late. Adults B950 and children under 12 B700. Book early at Reception for this one!



Looking good - the new Sala furniture

Guy Fawkes Night

The BC's Big Bang

Definitely the best ever! At this year's Guy Fawkes Night about 500 members and guests enjoyed the festivities and there seemed to be millions of kids running about enjoying themselves.

With a record number of entries in the 'Best Guy Competition', David and Linda Eastgate had a difficult time judging the winner. But they finally made their choice and we all moved to the bonfire to watch the Guys go up in smoke.

The fireworks on the front lawn were a spectacular grand finale. This year the

display was truly magnificent and many people remarked it was the BC's best performance ever. Special attention was of course paid to safety and I'm glad to say there were no injuries of any kind.

As we have all come to expect, the barbecue laid on by the catering department was delicious - many thanks

to Barry and his team. The maintenance crew did a great job in setting everything up for the evening - special thanks to the new maintenance manager, Khun Sutin and his staff, for working so hard.

Last but not least, many thanks to all the members for coming along and making the event such a great success.

Tom Bain

(See over for photographs.)



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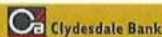
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Guy Fawkes Night



The Guy fashion show



Mmmmm... the BBQ's great!



The Bain Ladies



Tom points the way to the bonfire



Enjoying the Guy competition



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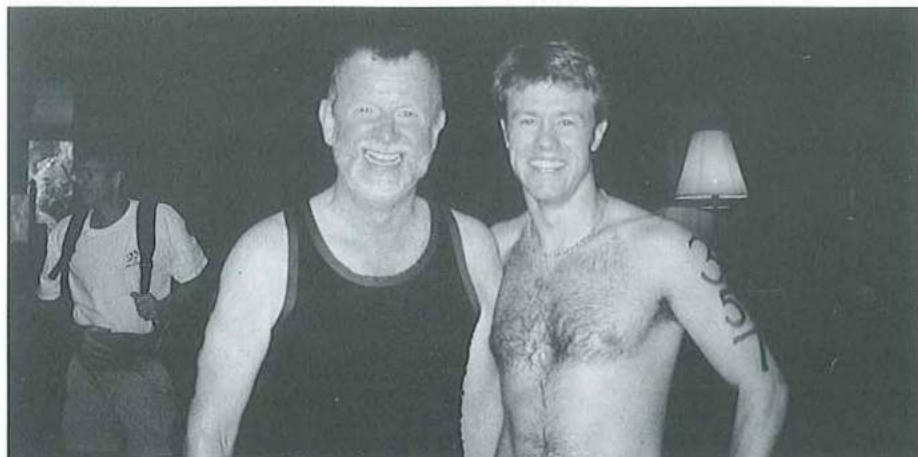
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A Family Affair

This month I would like to tell you a tale about one member in particular - and his family in general - which embodies the message of fitness, training and health that I have been attempting to send your way in previous articles.



Student and mentor - Phuket here we come! We're only smiling because we haven't done the race yet.

The member to whom I refer is Peter Bond, together with his wife June and their two daughters, Tabitha and Rebecca. I first met Peter through his daughters when we were doing triathlons together. I gave the girls training programs to improve their performance and to help stay healthy while doing so. Tabitha called me one day and said that her dad was also interested in getting fitter and needed some help. I think Peter caught the Triathlon bug from his girls and he was religious in doing what I told him to do. It was not much to start with but over time the volume of work grew. It should be noted that all the training fitted nicely into Peter's daily schedule of work, play and family commitments.

Training pays off

I continued to send Peter training programs and to speak to him on the phone, but did not see him for 4-5 months. When I did, I hardly recognized him - he had lost 20 pounds! This is almost too much weight to lose in that short space of time, but he looked great and felt great too. His clothes were all far too baggy and he was in dire need of a trip to the tailor!

Peter began to tell me about all of his new skills and how his golf game had mysteriously improved during this time! I

was happy to see his progress and to know that he was feeling good about himself. During this time June Bond also caught the exercise bug and decided it would be better to run in the mornings instead of walking every day. We started her off on a program of running every other day. She began with a 5 minute run followed by walking until she was able to run for 30 minutes at one go (she is currently on the rise to almost 60 minutes of continuous running).

Anything's possible

Before I go too far and people start wondering if this is an advert for my training programs, I would like to clarify a few things. I have chosen to write about Peter and June because of the following reasons:

- Neither had done any real serious exercise before this foray into triathlon/running. Just because you have never done something doesn't mean that you can't start anytime you like.
- My training programs rely on the person doing the work him or herself. I only advise them what to do and the motivation has to come from within to actually do the training.
- Peter and June are not spring chickens any more which only proves that you are

never too old to start. (Their exact ages are withheld to protect my backside!) There are 75+ year old men and women who complete Ironman distance triathlons every year. Just for your information 'Ironman' comprises a 3.9km swim, 180km bike ride and a 41.2km run - in succession, all in one day and it must be completed in under 17 hours. If people over 75 can do this, well you can do just about anything.

Family bonding!

With all this training, are the Bonds the next great thing in Triathlon? Probably not because they are all very recreational in their thinking. Although Tabitha and Rebecca are young enough to give it a go, they are still very 'social' about sport. People should note that extreme training for any sport is unhealthy while moderation is best. Know how hard and how far you want to go and plan for such. I am still waiting for the call from Tabitha and Rebecca to say that they want to take the next step... but if it never comes, I will be just as happy. They enjoy what they are doing, and watching the family go off to a triathlon together is good to see. (Yes June is also now doing triathlons with the rest of the family).

The moral of this story is, 'It comes from inside and all the information or quality help you receive will be for nothing unless your heart is in it.'

Damon Nemish SRC



Swim 1.8km, bike 55km and run 12 km.
After... time to celebrate!

Calendar

British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - December 1999

Sundays



11 am - 1 pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12 noon - 2 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3 - 6 pm Tennis Mix-in
5.30 pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour

Mondays



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

Tuesdays



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

Wednesdays



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

Thursdays



8 - 10 am Ladies Tennis
10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
3.30 - 5 pm BC Swimming Instruction
6 - 7 pm Masters (Adult) Swim
Training
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour
6 - 9 pm Squash Mix-in
7 - 9 pm Rugby Training
9 - 10 pm Hockey

Fridays



9.30 am Step Aerobics
3.30 - 6 pm BC Tennis Coaching for
Children
5.30 pm Swimming - Junior
Squad Training
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour
6.30 - 7.30 pm Aerobics

Saturdays



9 am - 12 noon Squash Coaching
9 am - 1 pm BC Swimming Instruction
4.00 pm Casuals Football
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour

MAKE A NOTE!

- On sale at the Club now, special BC memento Christmas Cards.
- Last call to reserve your place for the Christmas Ball on 11 December.
- Join in the Bangkok Community Theatre Club Night on 16 December at 7.30pm in the Suriwong Room.
- Give the kids a treat and sign them up for the Christmas Party on 21 December.
- Christmas wouldn't be the same without carols. Join us for an evening of song on the 22nd. There'll be plenty of other entertainment too!
- Fancy some traditional Christmas fare? Then book a table at Lords - we're serving the Christmas menu from the 7th.
- Take your choice! Celebrate New Year with us on the river or join us for a family barbecue at the Club. Both will be great fun and a tremendous way to see in the New Year 2000! Book at Reception.
- Get ready for the excesses of Christmas. Join one of the Club's aerobic classes, in or out of the water.
- The squash and football sections are always looking for new players from the membership as well as sponsors. See below for contact details and give them a ring if you're interested.

For more special events and further details on the above, check out Management News on page 9.

Sports - Contact

Aquatics	Michele Law	295 4595
Badminton	Anant Leighrahathorn	654 0002-29
Bridge	Ernest Lee	612-3580 ext 503
Cricket	Nick White	246 0832
Football	Martin Conisbee	366 0432
Golf	Bernie Adams	675 6123
Rugby	Jon Prichard	662 6376
Scuba Diving	Peter Gary	634 7792
Squash	Peter Corney	381 7240
Tennis	David Blowers	285 4721-2

Venues

Badminton	Soi Nares, behind Bangrak Police Station
Aerobics	Squash Court 3
Casuals Football	Colgate Ground, Rama III
Massage	Near the BC Squash Courts

Opening Times

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



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Two Friendly Defeats

Of course, there have been several others, but these are two that I either played in or have photos for (courtesy of Zandra), which therefore guarantee them *Outpost* exposure.



Some of them and some of us: stragglers after the Thonbury Club match, October 99

The RBSC match was as usual less of a match than a lesson in consistent play by their RBships; speaking to those who played in the match it is believed that we scraped perhaps a couple of matches but no more. What is it about that lot? Anyway, Zandra caught some fine moments on film here — love the close working partnership of Oud and Anita, for instance, or that desperate look on Bruce's face during his annual few minutes' grope of that mighty fine cup. We need more photos like this please!

The Thonbury (*sic*) Club was another great loss for us, in part because many of our regular team players were off on some Mixed Doubles tourney and because they were quite good, though in which order these two factors came into play I wouldn't know, not having been on the team when this club visited earlier this year.

That notwithstanding, a pleasant group of people crossed the Chao Phraya (with voracious appetites for the running barbecue!), and several good games were played. Overall score was 22-6. Our team comprised the two Johns (H&P), Lip, Henry, Dean, Bob, Olivier, Simon, Tom, Sebastian, Merin and Napa, Yubharet, Eileen, Gisi, Florence, Kate, Wandee and, er, me, ably captained by Chairman Blowers. A good day of tennis generally, with our ladies doing marginally better than our men. Sadly few spotted the humour of Lip

(Laurence) paired with Olivier. For me it was a day of firsts: first time I'd played in months, first pair to win a game and first pair to get whitewashed, not sure what sort of a record that leaves me with. At around 6.30pm our team suddenly swelled in number when the Mixed Doubles crowd returned from doing battle at one venue and, hungry for more, proceeded to invade the courts at ours to play with those they had met at the original fixture a few months before. I was less than chuffed to see several lined-up matches bumped and to see above-listed players ordered off court in favour of the incoming players, but there you go, seems some people *can* play two events on one day.

Hopefully one day soon either someone will hand me or I'll find on our noticeboard — wherever it is these days since its forced eviction from the Surawong Sala, from whence it neatly sheltered sala-sitters from westerly rains — a listing of all the events we've played this year and, where applicable/printable/not too embarrassing, the scores. In the meantime, anyone who would like to contribute photos from recent events and just as good a brief write-up I'll be more than happy to relieve you of them.

Lotsaluv
Me



Moments from the RBSC match



Partners Oud and Anita contemplate the last volley he netted



So near and yet so far



Play like the pros - step away from the ball

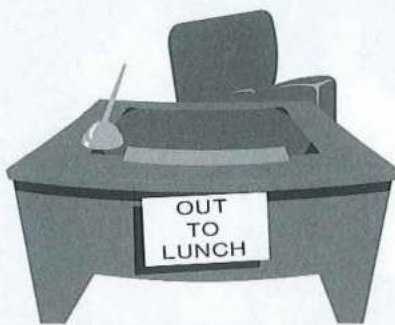
Goodface has a Bad Day at the Office

DISCLAIMER: Maj. Henry Goodface (retired) is a pedantic, misogynistic, chauvinistic old fool and the views expressed in his column are his and his alone and do not represent the views of the editor or any other reasonable thinking individual.

As a gentleman of the old school I've always been of the mind that indulging in any kind of commercial activity is something to be avoided at all costs. It doesn't befit an Englishman to be involved in unseemly trading and haggling. That kind of thing should be left to foreigners. The only respectable way to become rich is to inherit everything from pater and then lord it up at the manor while your lackeys are slaving away on your behalf. Actual involvement in day to business would be restricted to an occasional stroll round the estate to root out any malingerers amongst the peasants and give them a good clip round the ear. And of course, there would be the usual directorships on the boards of various banks and insurance companies, where you'd have to turn up once a year, waffle on about rising interest rates, productivity and other such nonsense to impress the junior members of staff before retiring to your club for a well deserved brandy and a conversation about something important, such as how the trout are biting that season.

From 'old boy' network...

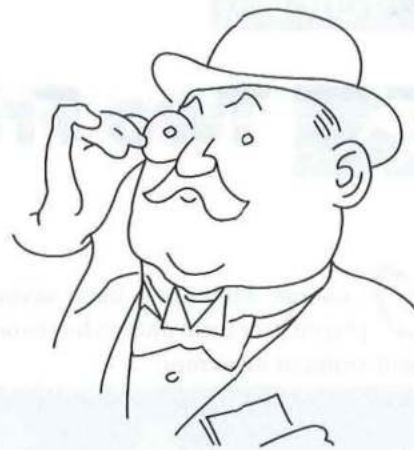
To be sure though, not everyone is born with a silver spoon in his mouth. But for anyone with the right school tie and a couple of strings to pull the very least you could expect was a plum position as a manager in one of your chum's father's companies. You would get a spacious office with a leather topped desk and a large, comfortable chair, a grovelling personal assistant and a secretary or two, and a staff of eager young fools, all dreaming of the day when they would be shining the seat of their pants in your chair, unaware that you were going to do everything possible to prevent them ever



having the chance. All you had to do was occasionally roar out, "Gladys take a letter to Messrs. Bean and Co... Dear whoever it is, regarding the whatever it is they do, we will be sure to... well whatever it is we should be doing, and... well you know what it's about, Gladys, just finish it off." Gladys would scurry off and stay up all night trying to find out what she was supposed to be writing about.

The next morning you'd breeze into the office at ten thirty as usual muttering about the bloody fools running the transport system and demand to see the letter. After scrutinising it minutely you'd give Gladys a damn good dressing down for some obscure grammatical error that'd you'd dreamed up just to keep her in her place. "This sentence contains a superlative pluperfect absolute after a double subjunctive indicative! Are you trying to make me look like an illiterate fool? Do it again and do it properly this time or you'll be out on your ear girl!" After she'd run weeping to her desk you'd then spend the next hour or so sending the minions to the far flung corners of the city running your personal errands before exiting to the George and Dragon for an urgent lunch appointment (with the barman).

Returning from a relaxing lunch and a few pints at 3:00pm, you'd come rushing into the office looking all hot and flustered complaining about these damned lawyers

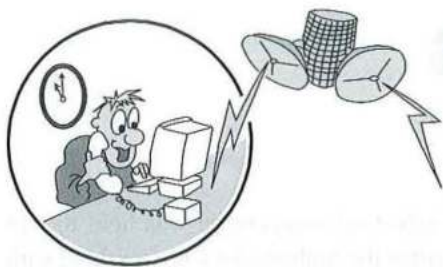


and politicians who keep a man away from his work and scream for one of the underlings. The luckless youth is not there of course, you having despatched him to Harrods to pick up a hat for your aunt, but you take the excuse of his absence to rant and rave about incompetent idiots and having to do everything yourself before suddenly exclaiming, "Gladys! It's almost 3:30pm! What about my meeting with Sir John? You didn't know? I didn't tell you? What do you think I employ you for you foolish wench! Am I supposed to remember everything? Oh for god's sake girl, stop blubbing and call me a cab this instant!"

After seizing a stack of important looking papers you keep lying around to impress any visitors, you go rushing down to the cab, papers flying, the flunkies rushing around in a panic picking things up after you, screaming, "Driver, driver, quickly! To Westminster and don't spare the horses!" Once the cab has gone screeching round the corner and disappeared from view in a cloud of smoke, you tap the driver on the shoulder and say, "Whoa, my man, slow down there! Did I say Westminster? How forgetful of me. I really meant Shepherd's Market, Mayfair."

... to new age Net

Ah yes, those were the days. But of course things have changed horribly. Nothing but cost cutting and staff reductions so even the Managing Director has to make his own tea. And then there are the disastrous consequences of modern technology. How is one to disappear for a few days deer hunting in Scotland with all these bloody computers and faxes and mobile phones? No matter where you go they can track you



down and the more the technology improves the harder it is to dream up plausible excuses for even a few hours absence. Worst of all, it gives the young whippersnappers who grew up with all this rubbish the upper hand because they know the jargon. "Carruthers, where the bloody hell are you and why didn't you answer your mobile phone." "Oh, dreadfully sorry sir, did you call? I did warn you that there were reports of solar flares this week which caused a reverse flux in the earth's

magnetic field so the geostationary satellites got out of sync with the land based stations and the knock on effect of the fluctuations in the upper atmosphere caused distortion on the 1800MHz frequency and... crackle... fizz..... pop..... oh sorry, I'm losing you again..... goodbye sir...." Blast! And you know perfectly well he's on a yacht in the Solent with the Chairman of the Board discussing taking over your position. Even worse, if he calls you and you don't answer, the best excuse you can come up with is that you'd hurt your finger and couldn't turn on your

phone which doesn't cut much ice needless to say.

Yes, the days when position and rank were synonymous with privilege and power and gave you an automatic right to throw your weight around, abuse the staff and live the life of Riley are long since gone in Old Blighty. But then we're not all over here for nothing, are we?

Maj. Henry Goodface (Rtd)

Written and contributed by
Damian Jaume (J79)

Duang Prateep Foundation

Recognising the value of education as a key to escaping the poverty trap of life in Bangkok's slums, Foundation founder Prateep Ungsongtham Hata established a 'one-baht-a-day' school at her family home in Klong Toey slum. From these humble beginnings she became involved in the broader issues of slum life, including the provision of healthcare, social welfare, legal assistance, emergency aid and human development.

Today the Duang Prateep Foundation is an umbrella organisation for a number of projects covering most of these concerns. There are 11 kindergartens in Klong Toey and other slum communities, which provide parents with a safe place to leave their pre-schoolers while offering a basic education in social and academic skills;



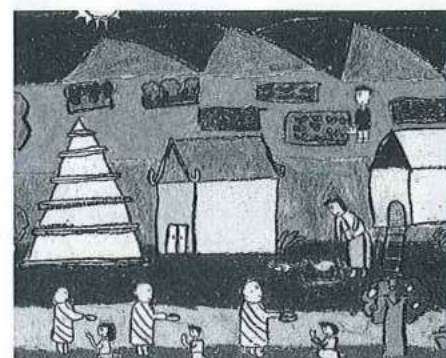
educational sponsorship covering over 3,000 children a year to attend primary school without imposing financial burden on their parents; a school for the hearing impaired offering medical as well as educational assistance to children aged between 3 and 8 years; a comprehensive lunch programme at all Foundation schools and soy bean milk supplements providing nutritious and affordable sustenance; and social workers dealing with a wide range of community issues such as AIDS prevention and home care, medical and social care for senior citizens, and fire prevention and fire-fighting, among others. There's also a credit union to encourage financial self-sufficiency.

The Children's Art Programme provides a creative outlet for slum children. Seen on this page are two of the cards showing pictures created on this programme, all of which are available from the Foundation for just 5 baht each. There's also a "Bangkok A-Z" poster (or postcard), which shows 26 sites in the capital in alphabetical order and makes a lovely present for children.



To buy these cards or poster, or simply to find out more about the Duang Prateep Foundation, please call 671 4045-8 and ask for Khun Kanokporn (ext 116) or Khun Suwanee (ext 109), or visit their website at www.capcat.ksc.net/org/duang.html. If you would like to make a donation, here are the bank account details:

Bank: Thai Farmers Bank, Klong Toey branch
A/C No: 017-2-06336-5





The Best Laid Plans

What a soggy month! It's bad enough wading through water but fear strikes the heart of a golfer every time he swings back his lightning conductor and there is a simultaneous clap of thunder and a flash in the field next door.



Mike with the Scandas



Alexis with Bob and James

Many a golfer was heard to say "I'm not hanging around here." That's exactly what I should have done when it was suggested we go to Hua Hin...

We won... twice

There was a good turnout for the match against the Scandinavians played at Supraprueck. A closely fought stableford matchplay competition was won by the BC. Victory was also secured against the British Embassy. Our best 15 players managed to outscore their best 15 at Panya Park near Minburi. Well done to Mike Staples and Jamie Woodford for achieving the highest stableford points. The rest would have also made a contribution but unfortunately they were unable to see their balls! With over 60 players and a late tee off, night fell before everyone managed to finish. However, everyone made it back to the British Embassy for drinks and a barbecue. Thanks to the Embassy for a great social day and for looking after us so well.



Accepting the Volvo Cup

Whose idea was this?

It seemed a brilliant idea to spend Chulalongkorn weekend at Sawang Resort. Close to Bangkok, the Resort boasted outstanding facilities including tennis courts, boating, riding and swimming, as well as a beautiful golf course in mountainous surroundings. Well they weren't wrong about the golf course but there was definitely a touch of the lizard in the bidet. Well at least the lizard couldn't drown as there was no water. The food was good though and on the Saturday evening we found another dining place in Khao Yai where we ate and drank like kings all for 200 baht a head.

The accompanying families put a brave face on it all and forsook the polo field for a walk around the course. Many a lad was inspired by his father's prowess and will hopefully be taking up the game soon. Mums also had a go and I have a sneaking feeling that there is big rivalry to come in the Dodd household. The two-day



Inaugural runner-up Pat Dean

stableford competition was held to win either the Ambassador Cup (for those with handicaps 24 and above) and the Inaugural Cup (for those with handicaps 23 and below). Alexis Welsh stormed into the lead on the first day with an 11 point lead but on the Sunday her wheels fell off and she was pipped by 1 point by Jamie Woodford. Mike Staples saw off Patrick Dean to win the Inaugural Cup. Just for fun on the second day there was a mixed pairs competition and Jamie and Irene Cameron once again carried off the honours. This is their third win together.

The original plan was to play over three days but some decided that civilisation beckoned and accordingly they left Sunday for Bangkok. In hindsight that was the most sensible thing to do. The remaining fourteen of us thought it would be a good wheeze to go to Hua Hin to watch the rugby and then to Dragon Hills the next day. That was an incredibly stupid thing to do. Firstly we had to spend a humiliating couple of hours watching England getting thrashed by the Springboks. Then the rains came down. Hua Hin was awash. Roger Fitzgerald decided that he wanted to stay under cover and drown his sorrows. I thoughtfully offered to give him a lift back to Sawang whereas all the others left. 8 kms outside of Hua Hin I noticed that the engine was overheating and pulled into a garage. It's 11.30pm and the rain is coming down in torrents. There is nothing more disconcerting than 8 men surrounding a woman's car scratching their heads and tutting. They all have an opinion but no diagnosis. They then turn to you and say, "It's your car, you decide what to do." I did... head for civilisation. To cut a long story short, Roger, after leaving Judy at 5.00pm to go for a drink in Hua Hin, was finally reunited with her at 8.00pm the following day. The whole weekend cost me more than two nights at the Baan Taling Nam on Samui including flights and a bottle of champagne. As I write the car is still in Phetburi and destined to remain there for another two weeks. As a



consolation I later learned that James Young also spent most of Monday in a garage trying to unlock his central locking to get into his car and only two players made it to Dragon Hills. They bravely waded down the fairways and eventually gave up on the 14th.

And the moral of this tale is play golf with the British Club Golf section and enjoy the unexpected!

Next Outings

Sat, 4 Dec - Match vs Cocktail Lounge at Majestic Creek

Sun, 5 Dec - DeeMed Trophy at Springfield

Sun, 12 Dec - Medal Final at Royal, Lad Krabang

Fri, 31 Dec - Scramble to be confirmed.

Karen Carter



Jamie and Irene



Winning the Embassy Cup



Winner of the day Mike Staples



Jamie... again

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- ◆ Misunderstanding the new Self-Assessment system.
- ◆ Failing to plan for a return to the UK.

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Losing Out to Youth

League 138

This was completed on 22 October and the winners were:

1. David Eastgate
2. Glen Pendry
3. Simon Davies
4. Ken Mouldey
5. Barry Daniel
6. Dave Parks
7. Charlotte Parks

Congratulations to leagues 1 and 4 who managed to complete all of their games. Marvyn Lewis only played one game in his division; he said he was sick but more likely he was in mourning for the Welsh rugby team who didn't do very well in the World Cup!

Rod Carter Open and Plate

We managed to attract 32 entries for this tournament. A few players didn't turn up on the day but the decision to have a plate event for the first time was certainly worthwhile.

Unfortunately we only had Nick Thwaites get through to the semi final in the main event and he lost 3-0 to Poowis, the sixteen year old son of Peerapon who has won this event 10 times. Poowis has been training with the Thailand team and has a great future if he can control his emotions.

A game of note was David Eastgate against Charnchai in the quarter finals. David lost in a close 5 set match against another young Thai who is close to being in the National team. I have no doubt that if David played this standard of player on a regular basis he would be winning a few matches against them.

John Vivian was the only BC member to make it to the semis in the plate and he lost 3-1 to Pratpatpong in a hard fought game. John played very well to win the first game but couldn't match his eighteen year old opponent who played better and better as the game went on.

In the final of the Plate, Pratpatpong won in five against Sarun 9-0, 0-9, 9-4, 2-9, 9-6. Both players were only eighteen years old and very fit and fast.

In the final of the main event Apirom, the defending champion, was always in

control defeating Poowis 9-4, 9-1, 9-2. Apirom is also eighteen years old and in the National team, he is very fit and has a great on court temperament.

BC vs Gymkhana Club

On Sunday, 23 October, the BC was the venue for our clash against the Gymkhana Chiangmai Club.

Initially the idea was a triangular match between teams from Ambassador Jomtien, Gymkhana and British Club but unfortunately the Ambassador had to pull out because they were unable to put a team together. So the usual format was played with 7 players, and the match worthy of mention was 4th seeded Tom Livingston against Bob Molloy. A feisty match with Tom hassling every rally but going down 3-1. All in all a well balanced competition with the BC winning 4 games to 3, and with everyone commenting on how good the after-match curry buffet was. The final results were:

David Eastgate	3-0	Air
Dick Anwar	0-3	Gai
Charles Whitely	2-3	Derek
Tom Livingston	1-3	Bob
Peter Corney	3-0	Mike
John Vivian	3-0	Maikeed
Bill Randall	3-0	Ellis

Play better Squash

The rules of squash change every 4 years, not by much but changes are introduced and unless you keep in touch with the latest version you can find yourself on the wrong side of an argument (discussion!). The latest rules are available above the desk outside court one. Watching squash matches at the BC is like watching a coming together of cultures and generations. We have players from many countries and many learned their squash (and the rules) at different times and in different places, so may be running on different versions.

One example is the rule on "turning", where a player allows the ball to go behind him, turns around and takes the ball off the wall. The rule which allowed a player

to shout "turning" and play was removed at least 2 versions or 8 years ago, but we still have some older players who do this. If you are "turning" you can choose to play the shot or ask for a "let". Only play the shot if it is safe to do so, and you will not hit the other player - modern squash players will not dive for cover when someone shouts "turning" as people used to!

Kids' Squash

A ladder has now been established for Junior Squash. It can be found on the wall between courts 1 and 2 with the other ladders. Results from games should be placed in the results box, marked "Junior Squash". There will be squash coaching and organized games for BC members' children at 11am on the first Sunday of every month. Children from 4 years up are catered for. There are also sponge balls and undersize racquets suitable for 4-7 year olds available on loan from the gym. If you would like to assist in the coaching or lend a hand in any way, contact David Eastgate or leave a note in the box.

Squash on the Internet

The squash section web page is www.britclub.com

If you wish to keep updated on world squash, check out the Internet Squash Federation on www.squash.org or squash in Thailand on www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/656/

Sponsorship

We are currently looking for sponsors for leagues and competitions throughout the year. Any interested members should contact Peter Corney on acapacth@samart.co.th or telephone 714 2426.

Contributions to Outpost Squash Section

All members are encouraged to submit any comments or gossip etc for inclusion in Outpost. If you have anything at all, fax it to Philip Hall (226 6500) or Email to philhall@postmaster.co.uk

Philip Hall

Neutering - The Pawfect Gift



In Thailand, thousands and thousands of unwanted puppies and kittens are born every year. Most will spend a couple of miserable years on the streets before succumbing to disease, starvation or the wheels of a car.

If every pet owner would assume a responsible attitude and not allow their animal to breed, then the present appalling number of strays would inevitably fall.

Although your family puss or pooch may not actually thank you for it, why not have him or her neutered as the ideal Christmas gift? Not much of a treat you may say, but really it's better for everyone, including your pet!

Before you decide, you may want to know what the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) in the UK has to say about it. For starters, unless there are very strong reasons for wanting your cat or dog to have a litter, they say the kind and sensible thing to do is to have it neutered. The operation is simple, painless and safe if carried out by a qualified vet, and it will make your own life easier. Amorous cats and dogs can be a real handful and no-one enjoys having to confine their pets. Besides, there are already too many unwanted animals, especially in Thailand, so why add to their number. Neutering is kinder to the animal itself as the necessary frustration of hormone activity in a pet often leads to mental and physical ailments. Neutering removes the source and hence the problem.

What if your male dog is not neutered?

Well, male dogs cannot resist going courting and in the process all sorts of disasters can befall them. They get into fights with other dogs and they wander about in the traffic and either hurt themselves or cause nasty accidents. If you keep a hot-blooded dog indoors, he can turn his amorous attentions to pieces of furniture, or even people. Barking and ill-temper are other symptoms of frustration.

Or your female dog?

A female dog comes on heat twice yearly, each time for a period of 3 weeks. This is likely to continue for as long as she lives. This not only makes her somewhat messy, it also means scores of howling dogs clustering around your door! What's more, she's likely to escape and become pregnant no matter how much care is taken. Finding good homes for a whole litter of cross-bred puppies is almost impossible in Thailand. Left unneutered, a bitch can go through a phantom pregnancy, which can lead to all sorts of odd behaviour and possibly require expensive veterinary attention to correct it.

Problems with an unneutered tom-cat?

Yes? Not surprising as tom-cats have one of the most unpleasant habits of all - that of 'spraying'. They mark out their territory by urinating upon it, and the unpleasant smell can be extremely difficult to get rid of. Male cats are also some of the greatest wanderers and almost impossible to keep indoors. Their constant escapades nearly always lead to cat fights and these in turn can produce infected wounds, abscesses and serious illness.

And a female cat?

As with a female dog, a female cat in season will attract a continual host of admirers. Romantic cat-calls in the middle of the night, which even the most dedicated

sleeper would be hard pushed to ignore, are a prelude to almost inevitable pregnancy. A cat can have three pregnancies a year and up to 5 or 6 kittens in each litter.

The operation explained

In a female animal, 'spaying' consists of removing the womb and the ovaries. The technical term is ovari-hysterectomy. For a male, just the testicles are removed, and this is known as 'castration'. The surgery is carried out under general anaesthetic and is therefore completely painless. It's a simple process and your pet will recover quickly, experiencing just some mild discomfort.

When to do it

A pet can be successfully neutered at any time in its life. However, to remove the risk of unwanted pregnancies, it should be done as early as possible. Your vet is best placed to advise on the ideal age in individual circumstances.

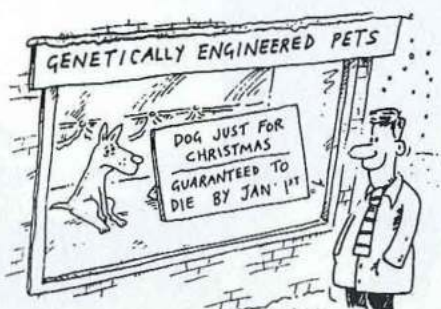
Better to have one litter first?

Like many outdated theories, this one is nothing more than an old wives' tale. There is no good reason for letting a female dog or cat produce a litter, and the normal health risks involved in birth and pregnancy means that it can actually be harmful.

Hoping the above information from the RSPCA will convince you about the advantages of neutering. There's certainly nothing cruel about being sensible!

Merry Christmas to all four-legged friends.

Sherry Conisbee



A Night with an Expat Wife

How long does it take the average expat to go from a strong moral stance against exploiting the local population as house servants to complaining about their maid's performance?



According to the Singapore-based Hot Currie Theatre Group, who brought the hilarious play "The Expat Wife" to the BC last month, no more than a couple of months tops! In a comic portrayal of expat life in Singapore - not far removed of course from life in the Big Mango except perhaps that chauffeurs are more commonplace here - this well-cast group

evoked the passions and considerable humour involved in finding friends, schools, homes and decent hairdressers (and for the menfolk, discovering the nightlife) in a cosmopolitan city out east. Using strong individual performances with an audience-facing delivery and minimal backdrop and props, the Hot Currie Theatre Group successfully covered many of the

social and cultural adjustments required in the first year of expat society and raised many chuckles around the Surawong Room, some no doubt in self-recognition! The main character, Felicity Edwards-Scott, was played by the versatile Audrey Currie, who also wrote and directed the play, interacting well with her group of new-found friends.

The 96 and 87 theatregoers who attended the Friday and Saturday night performances (and the latter despite the Scotland vs England footie match!) respectively were also treated to a delicious curry dinner, an uns subtle play on words there by our Barry yet which several failed to spot. And it wasn't just the audiences who left satisfied by a good evening's entertainment - the Club recently heard from Louise Coady, the Stage Manager and, until her recent move to Singapore, a member of the BC, that the Hot Curries were pleased with how it all went.

More of this sort of entertainment, please!

Gaynor



I promised myself several months ago that I would not write about the millennium or Y2K, at least in *Outpost*! Sorry, but I cannot help but be in awe of the fact that this is my last report of the year, decade, century and millennium. Will the world change irrevocably at 0000hrs in the year 2000? Anyway, Nostradamus I am not, so I'll leave the predictions to others.

This is what the management and staff of the British Club call the "silly season". There are many, many functions on a daily basis, often involving hundreds of people. Please be a little more patient with the staff at this time of the year. What really counts when you have been working all sorts of anti-social hours are a few words of appreciation for a job well done. So if you have enjoyed yourself, let it be known.

We are counting down the days to Christmas and the New Year holidays! I will take a break from the more mundane reporting of what is happening in the Committee rooms, as I too need a break.

A great deal of time and effort has been spent on the renovation of the Surawongse Sala. In order to clarify the financial position and to scotch a few rumours, I have asked Nick Bellamy, our Treasurer, to produce a Fact Sheet. I thought that in the interests of transparency it ought to be published for general interest. Here it is:

Surawongse Sala Project Fact Sheet

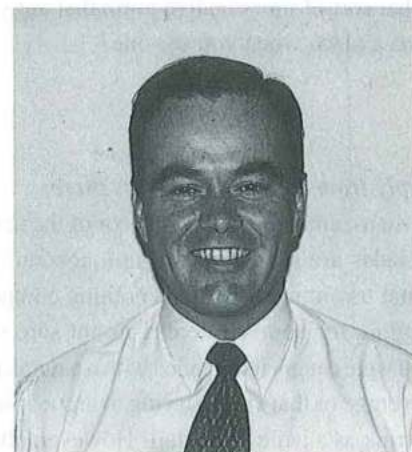
There have been a number of enquiries from Club members regarding the costs of the Sala redevelopment. Set out below is a summary of the various costs involved in the project. A fact sheet will be made available for future significant capital expenditures, either through *Outpost* or via the Club noticeboard.

Surawongse Sala redevelopment	Baht '000
Main contract – Ozcon	940 + 2 Club memberships
Teak tables and chairs	374
Ceiling fans and controls	69
Lighting and controls	95
Roof strengthening	81
Other (structural engineer, cake display, sign)	104
Architect – design and project management	10% of project costs

Notes:

* Ozcon were awarded the contract in a competitive tender process with 2 other constructors – Living Creations and Hemarrach Development. Ozcon were the lowest bidders and were also willing to accept part payment in the form of 2 Club memberships.

* The main contract included demolition and removal of the existing floor and balustrades, extension of the sala floor towards the swimming pool, purchase and laying of the floor stone, erection of teak balustrades at both ends of the sala, erection of roof extension, manufacture and installation of new service bar, replacement of wall tiles and blackboard in service area, infilling of roof lining tiles, electrical wiring for lighting and ceiling fans, painting of roof lining and support beams.



James Young - Chairman of the General Committee

* Roof strengthening: During the course of the work a significant structural weakness in the support beams for the sala roof was discovered. This has now been reinforced by a doubling of the size of the cross beams and the introduction of steel support brackets. This work was also performed by Ozcon.

* Baht of the main contract and the architect's fees have currently been withheld pending a satisfactory solution to the sala floor problems. This is in addition to the normal 10% retention.

Finally a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members, staff and friends of the British Club. I think we will have to ask Damon to work overtime to help us get rid of the extra kilos after this very special celebration!

James Young

10 November 1999

Dear Editor,

I am deeply hurt by the caption under my photograph in the November *Outpost* "Steve Eaton, in a rare moment, drinking something non-alcoholic".

What sort of investigative journalist are you? Don't you know a Pina Colada when you see one?

Steve Eaton (E44)

Reply from someone who was there:

Perhaps, amid the winebar decor of the new Surawong Sala, Pina Coladas are indeed served in a coconut sans umbrella and the usual trimmings, but that's nothing compared to the hole you're digging for yourself here: I'm not sure whether it's worse that you were caught red-handed with a natural, healthful, non-alcoholic beverage or that you're trying to argue it was as un-spoofmanlike a drink as a ladies' cocktail! However, always the conciliatory, I shall stand you a Pina Colada at the next spoof night and shall have my camera on hand to record its consumption for posterity...

Lotsaluv
Gaynor

If you read the 'Letters' page in the November issue of Outpost, you will know that I made an editorial gaffe by omitting a clue in the previous month's crossword. Here Margaret Miller, our puzzle compiler, owns up to a bloomer of her own and wants to put the record straight.-Sherry

11 November 1999

Dear Sherry

Further to the missing clue No. 24 down in the October crossword, I fear that I too made a boner in the same puzzle, but you will be pleased to know that it is further evidence that people really do have a go at the crosswords!

I had a letter from dear old Dick Woods - a long time British Club member resident in Chiangmai. He is now well into his eighties and has been not too fit but likes to keep in touch via *Outpost*. He pointed out that clue 10 Across "He was known as the Red Dean" was not in fact INGE, who was known as the Gloomy Dean. The Red Dean was a Dean Johnson, so called as he was very left-wing, appointed by Ramsay MacDonald. Dick says he was a 'Bolshie'! Sorry for the error, but I think many people still think of Inge as the Red Dean. We can now put them right!

Yours 'aye,
Margaret Miller (M37)

10 November 1999

Dear Sirs,

Although I am absolutely in favour of club renovations and try to support as many of the club's events as possible, I would like to make the following observations:

Suriwongse Sala Floor

London and Rome may well, as you pointed out in last month's *Outpost*, have been built from sandstone, but nobody in their right mind would install a porous sandstone surface in a catering/recreation area that will be constantly subjected to chemical/grease/food spillage. The designers and contractors should be required to replace this surface with one that is more suited to this area.

From experience I can assure you that a "final clean and seal" will look pretty in the short term but will look grubby and be impossible to keep clean in the years to come.

Pool Hygiene

I think it is a serious error to scrap the dividing wall and footbath/shower areas between the sala and the swimming pool. If you allow members to walk directly into the pool area wearing shoes, the poolside surrounds and more importantly the pool itself will quickly become dirty and unhygienic causing an even higher incidence of illness and skin disease amongst BC swimmers, especially children, than we have at present.

Guy Fawkes Day

The fireworks display this year was undoubtedly the best and safest I have seen in the last sixteen years. I do believe however that the management and General Committee have completely lost the plot with this event. In the past it was the biggest day of the year in the club, both in terms of numbers of members and profitability because it was a children's sports/fun day, all day, followed by the fireworks in the evening. Now, most members only arrive at 5:00pm and the club is empty for the rest of the day. I would surmise that the revenue lost during the day is only just covered by the tickets sold for the BBQ/fireworks and once the direct costs have been settled the day probably makes an operating loss.

Please consider turning back the clocks and making this event a proper family day again.

Regards,
D.C. Williamson (W1)

Chairman's reply

Dear David,

Thanks for your comments. This particular General Committee has broad experience in many areas but obviously cannot be expert in all things. It is our practice to obtain expert opinion before engaging in any activity. I believe it is unreasonable for an individual, either from Management or the Committee, to shoulder the whole responsibility for a project. It is better to get the opinion from and employ experts to provide services. These people are then accountable to us.



A critical look at the floor

Letters from Members

With regard to the specific points you raise, I have asked the individuals who made these recommendations for their comments on your opinion.

Sala Floor

The architects have advised that it is not the intention to install a sandstone floor which is porous. It is intended to have the floor surface sealed such that it is impervious to spillages of food and drink, etc.

Unfortunately, the original material selected (and tested) was not successful in use and after investigating several alternatives, we are now in the position of finalising selection and procurement of a specialist sealing material which we believe will provide a long term solution. Now the rains seems to have stopped and the floor is having a chance to dry out, we hope that the floor can be cleaned and the surface treated in the near future.

Source: Peter Harper, Architect

Pool Hygiene

Opinion has been obtained from the City of Wanneroo in Australia which indicates that there are no hygiene problems associated with wearing shoes beside the pool. The General Manager has recently returned from Australia where he visited a major aquatic venue with visitor numbers in the thousands daily. There were no restrictions on where shoes could be worn and even the pool attendants were wearing black plastic sandals.

Source: Linsay Delahaunty, City Manager, City of Wanneroo
Guy Fawkes Day

I agree that the fireworks display was probably the best held at the Club so far.

This year the Club was open all day until 4:00pm for general use by Club members. It was not until after this that only those wishing to watch the fireworks were allowed to stay. There seemed to be a record number of children in attendance and they appeared to enjoy the Guy competition, watching the bonfire and the display itself. I did not feel additional entertainment was necessary. However, I will ask Barry to canvass the opinion of members and if the event can be further improved by the addition of more entertainment, this can be included in next year's programme.

Source: Tom Bain, General Manager

James Young



Good Lord! Look what's happened to the turkeys.

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Down at the Club

On a wet and, by Bangkok standards, wintery Monday evening in early November, the first Scottish dancing practice took place on the front lawn of the Club.

Quite an eventful occasion, as despite the best efforts of Club staff to mop up the excess water, the wooden dance floor remained wet and slippery and caused more than a few members to land bottom-side down. Painful, particularly so for new

St. Andrew's committee member, Pauline Hopkins, whose skirmish with the wooden floor resulted in a broken wrist and hence the loss of her place in the Society's demonstration team. Commiserations Pauline!



Before the fateful fall



Always a good spread at the dance practice



ENGLISH CONSTITUTION FREEMASONS

Over the past 120 years, a number of attempts have been made to establish a Masonic lodge in Bangkok under the English Constitution. A further attempt is now being considered and any brethren who have been initiated in a lodge under the English Constitution are asked to contact the undersigned as soon as possible.

David Sims

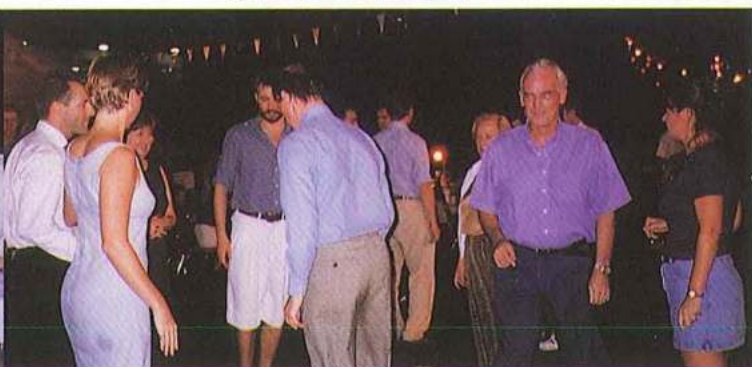
Fax: 260 0242 Email: jefa2000@ksc.th.com



Simple Simon says... Put your hands in the air



...and put them down by your side!



The Scottish rugby team fans - all 4 of them!



British Chamber grand raffle draw at the Ploenchit Fair with Ambassador and Lady Hodge, Carolyn Tarrant, Greg Watkins and the man with the mike



President Andy Pickup, Committee Member Angela Stafford and Vice President Jill Maconochie at the St. George's 40th Anniversary celebrations in October



At the Halloween Party, Merlin and his helpers

Yuletide Teaser

Solve this special Christmas double-gridder and the first correct entry pulled from a hat will be the lucky recipient of a bottle of wine courtesy of the BC. There's also a handy booby(!) for the second correct entry, kindly donated by puzzle compiler Margaret Miller. So get puzzling and send your entry in to Outpost.

Solve the clues A to O and enter in the spaces. Each letter is numbered - enter the letter in the correspondingly numbered space in the big square and reading straight through you will find a quotation from a famous book. Reading down, the initial letters of the solved clues A to O will give you the name of the author.

- A Supplementary material
- B He teach? What a wild cat!
- C Gave an ear to
- D My word is confused - disgraceful behaviour
- E Iceland and St. Helena
- F Lower lash - it is less profound
- G Reflective
- H Epistles
- I The sisters' head
- J LXVII to Caesar!
- K Neat homes?
- L Came to in an old fashioned way
- M Opened up roughly
- N Ripe coat - and musical!
- O It comes to us - good or bad

1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
15	16	17	18	19	20				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30	31	32	33	34	35			
36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62		
63	64	65	66	67	68				
69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86		
87	88	89	90	91	92				
93	94	95	96	97	98				
99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106		
107	108	109	110						

Solution to November's Double Grid Puzzle:

- A Overcoat
- B SeeK
- C Continual
- D Abacus
- E Rout
- F Wrought
- G Imaginable
- H Lochs
- I Dole
- J Equate

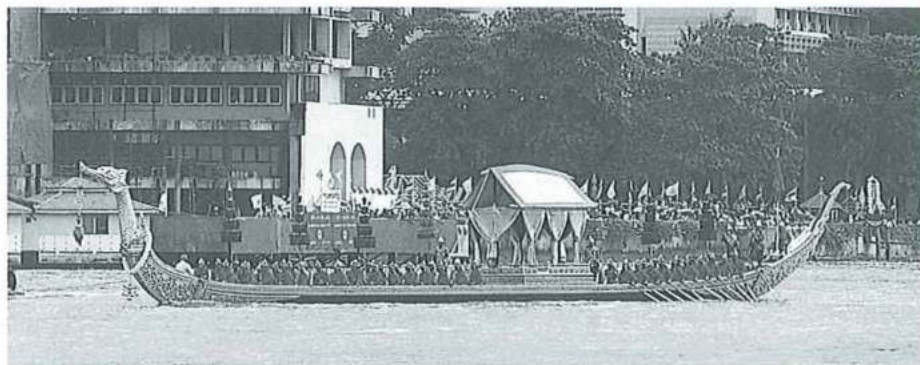
The quotation reads: "No woman should ever be quite accurate about her age - it looks so calculating." This is from "The Importance of Being Earnest" and reading down, the initial letters of the solved clues give you the author - Oscar Wilde.

	72	83	43		106	50	13	26	78		46	84	
		98	93	4	23			88	103	35			
109	39	89	30	100	75	20			59	65	47	53	45
		9	105	82		55	70	2	6	107	77		
	94	12		42	1	68		28	87	34	16		
22	52			8	63	86	37	64	80	71	19	36	
	90	11	73	57		95	7	85	31	99	79	110	67
	40	56	18	49	10	102	74		3	91	61	24	69
		32	5	92			14	101	38	76	25		
96	48	44	62	17	58		81	21	41	108	60	15	51
		29	33			27	104	66	97	54			



A Unique Experience

An occasion as special as the last Royal Barge Procession of the millennium called for a really special BC event. And so it was that 134 members and friends,



The 'Supannahongse' royal barge heading up-river

the largest group outing in recent memory (excluding the New Year cruise), made the short hop over Pinklao Bridge to watch the grand spectacle on Thursday 4th November.

Considering the fun of getting 140 people onto - and staying on - the three coaches, it seemed no time at all before we were tucking into the extensive buffet at the Rim Nam restaurant beside Pinklao Bridge on the Thonburi side, and camped out on the terrace in our allotted seats watching the barges leave the boathouse just down-river of the restaurant and be towed up-river to the starting point.

Then the interminable wait for the procession to appear around the river bend,

with people packing in on every square inch of the Thonburi bank, craning necks to ensure a view up-river. Mercifully the weather cheered up a little over the afternoon, from threatening rain to simply overcast.

The tension really started to build when at last Pinklao Bridge was closed to traffic at around 4pm, and within minutes the bows of the leading escort barges surged under the bridge, with the amplified strains of the Kathin verses originating from the *Supannahongse*, the fabulous dragon boat carrying His Majesty the King, echoing loudly from the bows of every craft.

And suddenly the river seemed full of barges of all sizes and degrees of

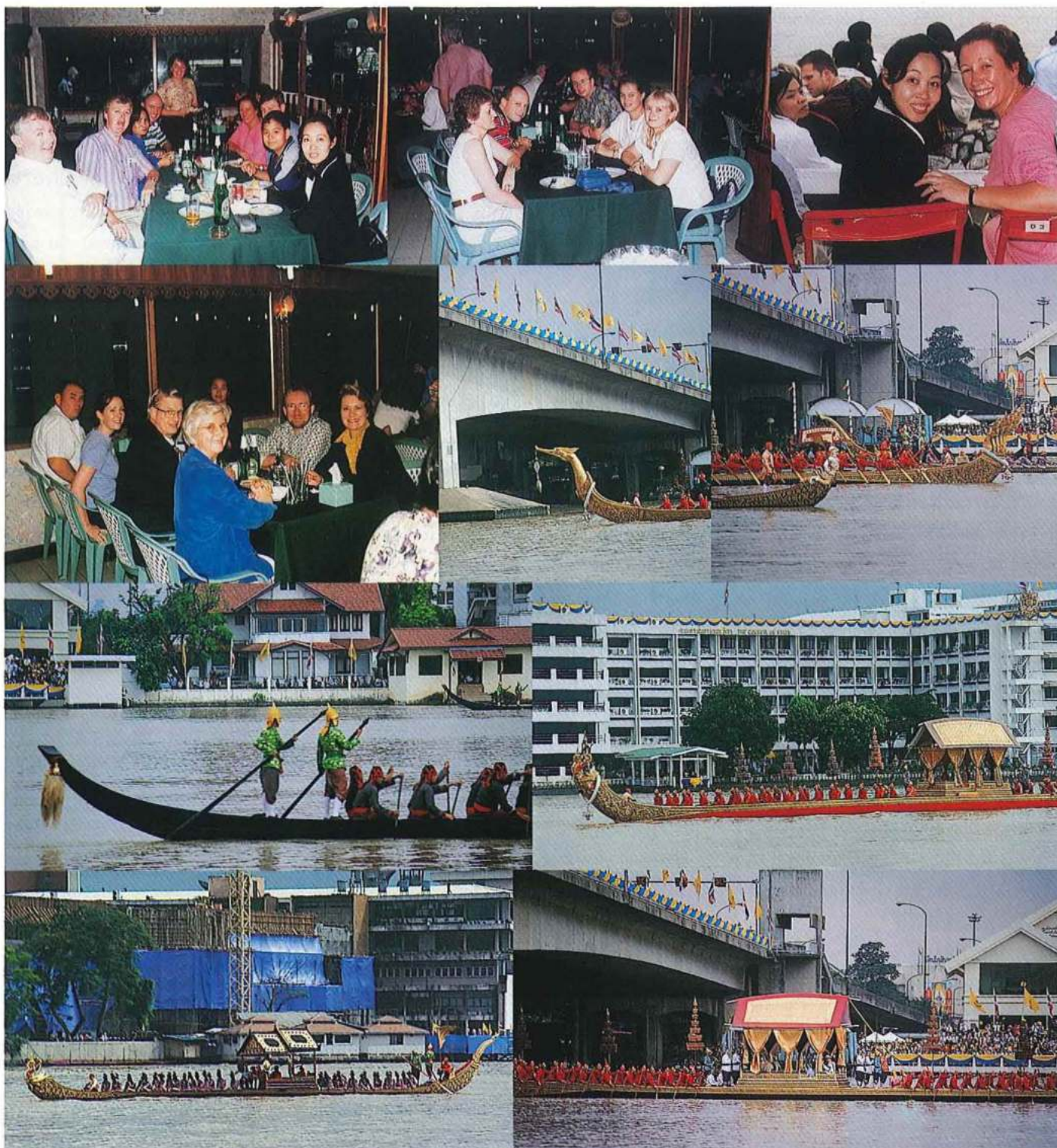
ornamentation. Escort vessels passing within a few metres of the riverbanks and the mighty gilded royal barges gliding majestically down the centre. Hundreds of oarsmen performing a dance-like rowing motion to a rhythm drummed out with an ornate pole on each boat. Thousands of people gazing in awe, or clicking away on cameras, or straining their eyes to catch a glimpse of His Majesty or of Their Royal Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess in one of the following royal barges.

And then they had all passed by, in a matter of minutes, leaving the sight of a riverful of low-profile, slim craft wending their way down-river to Wat Arun, where His Majesty was to present new robes to the temple monks as part of the royal Kathin ceremony marking the end of the 3-month Rains Retreat.

If it felt like a long day for just a few minutes of splendour, it was definitely worth it to capture the atmosphere of this quite unique and very regal event. Many thanks to BC staff Tom, Barry, O, Awe, Patch and Goi who ensured that the whole day was a success and one to remember.

Gaynor de Wit



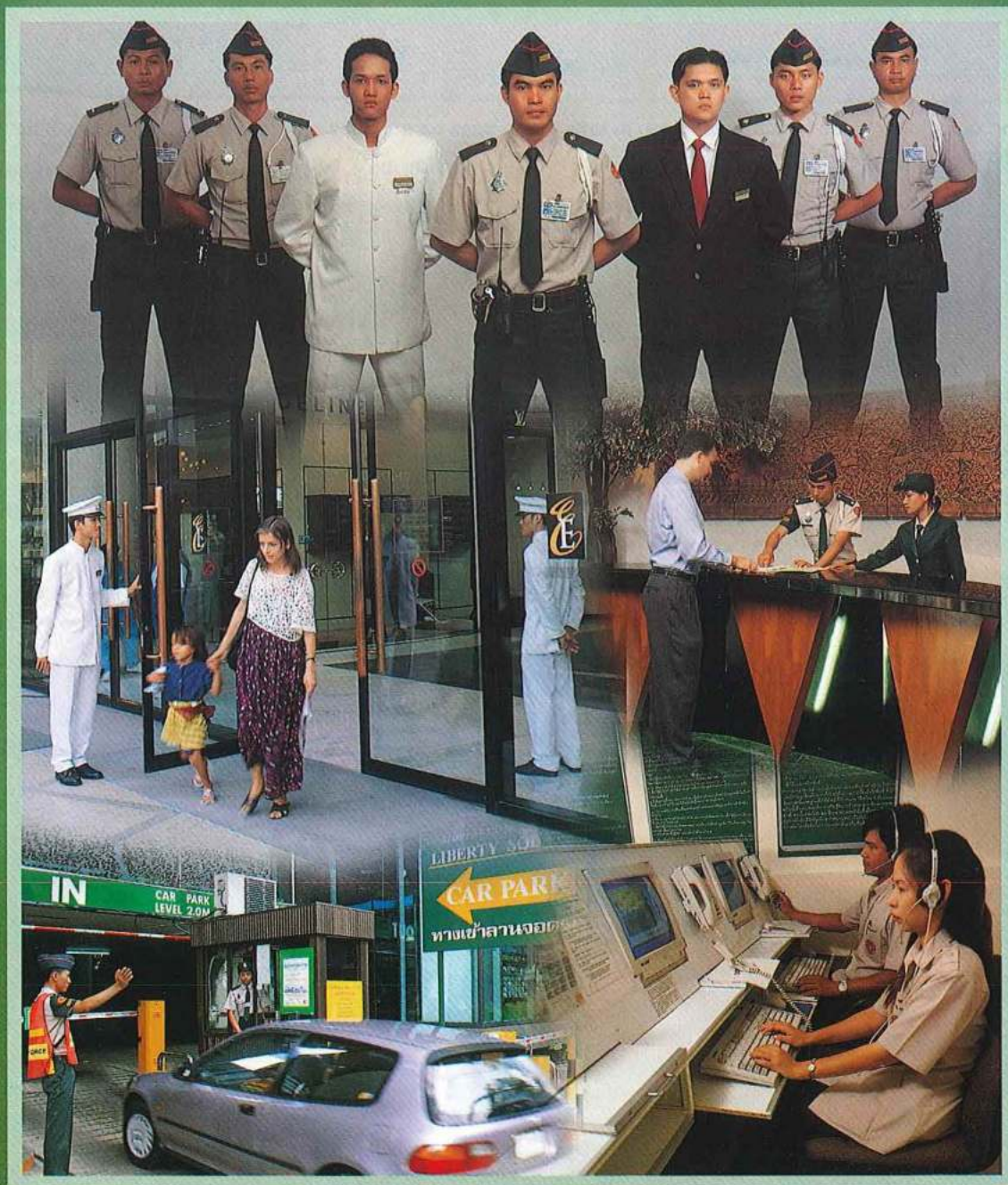


Farewells

Farewell to Alex Little who left the Club in October and a few au revoirs to the following who became 'absent' members in October:

John Connor, Roger Willson, David Collet, David 'Fish' Salmon, Graham Mattison, Polapatr Suvarnazorn and Gary Dahl.

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To Vietnam in Style

At the end of October I was fortunate enough to take to the seas on a stylish weekend cruise to Vietnam aboard the luxury Star cruise ship 'Europe'.



As stylish outside as in



Colonial flair on the lunch terrace

The ship was truly splendid and I was delighted at the level of comfort and range of facilities on board. Certainly my 18

months in the merchant navy when I first left school hadn't prepared me for this! We sailed to an island called Lou Quoc

where we were taken ashore in a tender boat for a few hours of sightseeing. The pouring rain dampened the spirits of even the most hardy of us, but it didn't spoil the experience of the cruise itself and at least I can now tick Vietnam off the list!

The cabins were spacious, the food excellent and the staff very well trained and courteous (almost as good as at the BC!). If you're looking for a stylish break for a weekend or longer, I thoroughly recommend you try one of these cruises.

Tom Bain



The welcome reception



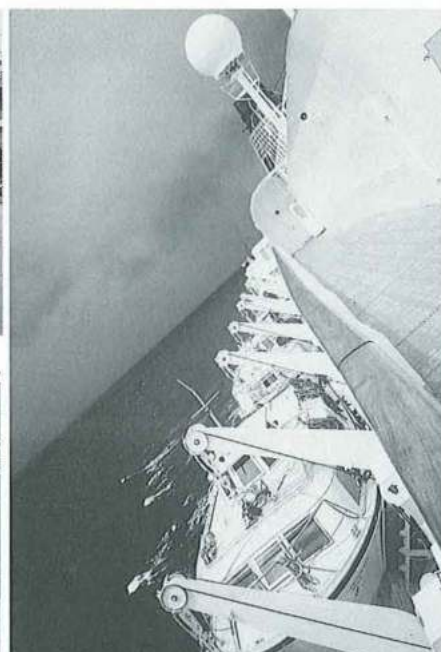
Our destination; the rain-washed main street of Que Poo



The enticing Chiva Health Centre



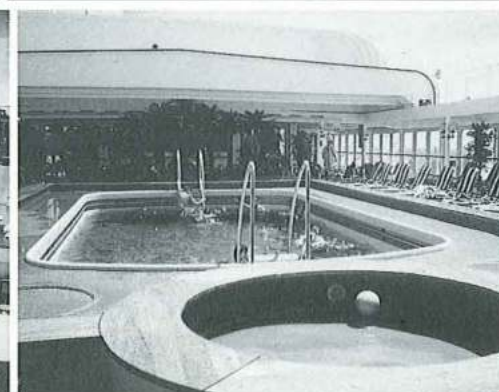
A fabulous feast in the main dining room



A few more than Titanic had!



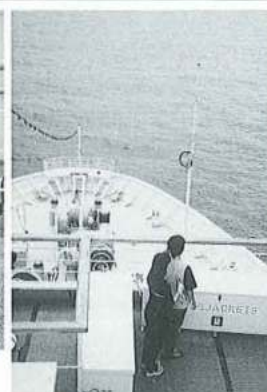
Bunk down in a spacious standard room



The main pool



Slobbering out! (I've ordered some of these recliners for the BC)



Where's DiCaprio and Winslet?

History Repeats Itself - YOK

Translated from a Latin scroll dated 2BC

Dear Cassius,

Are you still working on the Y zero K' problem? This change from BC to AD is giving us a lot of headaches and we haven't much time left. I don't know how people will cope with working the wrong way around. Having been working happily downwards forever, now we have to start thinking upwards. You would think that someone would have thought of it earlier and not left it to us to sort it all out at this last minute.

I spoke to Caesar the other evening. He was livid that Julius hadn't done something about it when he was sorting out the calendar. He said he could see why Brutus turned nasty. We called in Consultus, but he simply said that continuing downwards using minus BC won't work and as usual charged a fortune for doing nothing useful. Surely we will not have to throw out all our hardware and start again? Macrohard will make yet another fortune out of this I suppose.

The money lenders are paranoid of course! They have been told that all usury rates will invert and they will have to pay their clients to take out loans. It's an ill wind...

As for myself, I just can't see the sand in an hourglass flowing upwards. We have heard that there are three wise men in the East who have been working on the problem, but unfortunately they won't arrive until it's all over. I have heard that there are plans to stable all horses at midnight at the turn of the year as there are fears they will stop and try to run backwards, causing immense damage to chariots and possible loss of life. Some say the world will cease to exist at the moment of transition. Anyway, we are still continuing to work on this blasted Y zero K' problem. I will send a parchment to you if anything further develops.

If you have any ideas, please let me know.

Plutonius

The British Club General Committee 1999/2000

Name		Tel.	Fax.
James Young	Chairman	712 5407-9	712 5410
Nick Bellamy	Vice Chairman	286 9999	236 5226
Bernie Adams		675 6123	675 6120
Alex Blackwood		682 5745	682 5745
Peter Corney		714 2426	714 2430
David Eastgate		672 0123-5	672 0127
Dugal Forrest		398 3807	399 1564
Chris Moore		747 9633	747 9677
David Turner		618 6516	279 1234
James Woodford		326 0660	326 1123

Club Staff

Tom Bain
General Manager

Barry Osborne
Operations Manager

If you have any questions about the British Club or if you have any suggestions, please call any of the Committee Members above or the General Manager on 234 0247, 266 4734 or 266 0597 or email us on <britclub@loxinfo.co.th>

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Lars and Marie-Anne (Maja) Werner



Swedes Lars and Maja have 3 children; Patrick who is doing his military service in Stockholm, Kim who is at boarding school in Stockholm and 14 year old Beatrice who is studying at ISB in Bangkok. Lars is MD at Lux Royal Thailand and Maja is a sports teacher and both enjoy tennis, golf, scubadiving and snow skiing. Maja also likes aerobics, playing bridge and mahjong and hopes that she and Lars will get a chance to explore the culture and geography of Thailand during their time here.

Jon and Benjawan Clarke



Jon and Benjawan

A banker at HongkongBank, Jon and his Thai wife Benjawan are proud parents of a baby daughter of 9 months. They have lived previously in Hong Kong and moved to Thailand in May of this year. Jon and Benjawan are both keen swimmers.

Susan Ferguson and Walter Kreutzner



Susan and Walter

New Scottish member Susan works for MKS Jewelry International and her German husband Walter is a consultant. They have 3 children, 8 month old Alexander, Joel (6) and Yannick (8). Newly arrived in Bangkok, they say they will be here 3 years, so plenty of time to enjoy their hobbies of walking, trekking, swimming and water ski-ing.

Kraisorn and Anchalee Suntiasvaraporn



Kraisorn and Anchalee

Keen travellers Kraisorn and Anchalee are Thai and have two daughters both studying at Harrow International in Bangkok. Kraisorn's work days are spent at Mason Jewelry Co. but his free time is spent on the golf course playing tennis, or exercising in the pool.

Kevin Sargison and Sally Forrest

Kevin, Managing Director of Boots Retail and his wife, Sally, who also works for Boots, are newcomers to Bangkok on a 3-5 year posting, and they have two children.

Kevin says he likes to play tennis and squash, and particularly wants to learn to play golf whilst he's here. Sally also likes tennis, as well as aerobics and horse riding. This

British couple both enjoy skiing - but there's not much opportunity for downhill slalom around here.

James Vessey



James

American James, who has lived previously in Sweden and Singapore, now works for Solcorp Insurance and has been in Thailand 5 years already with the intention of staying for many

more. He has a wide range of sporting interests from football, tennis and golf to squash, hockey and weight training. He also enjoys music and adventure travel and lends his support to AIDS charities.

Michael Murphy

Comedian Michael, who lived briefly in Zambia in '93, is now serving 3 to 5 years at GAB Robins as a loss adjuster. A bit on the wild side, he has scuba dived the Great Barrier Reef, white water rafted on the Zambezi



Michael

and bungee jumped in a rain forest. He also went to Millwall and lived to tell the tale! An almost-great sportsman, he could have made the grade (*blah blah!*) at football if injuries and illness hadn't prevailed; tennis if it weren't for the elbow; cricket (deprived childhood, no bat), golf (rotten swing, great in the sand) and Rugby (his chariot swung so low the wheels came off). As for athletics... (see all the above). When his adventures get too much, Michael kicks back with a good book, some light music or an old movie.



Kevin and Sally

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New Members

Roger and Wandee Johns



Wandee and Roger

at hockey, these days he prefers the more gentle pursuits of Bridge and Snooker.

Parents of two young sons of 6 and 4, Roger is Non-Executive Chairman of 'Roger Johns Assocs' and Wandee shares her time between looking after the home and children, and developing property. Roger first visited Thailand in 1991 and relocated here permanently from England in 1998. A keen sportsman in former days, playing squash and tennis and representing Wales

James Revell



James

England enjoys golf, squash, running, skiing, tennis and scuba diving, and is keen to find out where he can continue bungee jumping here in Thailand. (*Suggest you get together with Michael 'Dull' Murphy, see p.35 - S*)

James is a solicitor with Allen & Overy, a newcomer who's expecting to be here for about 6 months. This sociable sporting all-rounder from

Mikael Wahrn



Mikael

A chequered career as international banker, actor, prison warder and photographer in such places as Stockholm, Luxembourg and Singapore finally brought Finnish Mikael to Bangkok as MD of RMP International where he's been for two years. He has a 17 year old daughter who is studying in Finland. Mikael is passionate about swimming and also enjoys cycling and weightlifting.



So is there a Mrs. Santa?

Meet the Staff

Oi Remember the Days!

Met Khun Arpha Anjanbutra (Oi) who has worked at the Club since she was 17 years old - that's 32 years ago! Asked why she has devoted most of her life to the BC, Khun Oi replied that she enjoys the family atmosphere that working at the Club offers.

Khun Oi now works as assistant to the poolside supervisor but when not busy here, she happily helps out with various other functions, especially the children's birthday parties and BAMBI events where she particularly enjoys working with the children.

Born in Bangkok and married to Khun Apichart, she has 3 children, Khun Tae who is 22 and doing computer studies at Sripatum Universtiy; Khun Ta, 19 years

old, who is studying accountancy also at Sripatum; and Khun Tak, 17, who is at Santiraj Commercial College. They live in Ngam Wong Wan district.

Her free time is spent as a freelance sales consultant for cosmetics and women's underwear. She owns up to not making much money doing this, but it provides the opportunity for plenty of contact with people and making new friends which she feels makes up for this.

Say hello when you see her at the pool and wish her many more happy years at the Club.

Interviewed by
Ratchanida Tippayalert
Administration Officer



Khun Oi

Elephantasia!

On the evening of 19 November, eighty intrepid members set out from Hua Lumphong station for the overnight train trip to Surin in Northeast Thailand. The purpose of this adventure...? To see the world famous Surin Elephant show of course!



The stars of the Show

Arriving in Surin just before 5:00am, the half-asleep members were whisked off to a local school for a full cooked breakfast prepared by British Club staff who had arrived in Surin the day before to make all the necessary preparations.

Next, a short coach ride to the Surin showground to see the elephants - 300 of them on one field which was a spectacular sight. The varied programme really showed how smart the elephants are, but I won't go into details because if you haven't been on one of these trips, I want to encourage you to go next year to see for yourself.

After the show we moved to Prasat Pan Plung, a small Khmer temple in a very peaceful setting and an ideal spot for a picnic lunch.

Last stop of the day was the very impressive Khmer "Castle" on top of an extinct volcano at Prasat Hin Phnom Rung. The ruins and views over the surrounding plains are spectacular.

The weary wanderers returned to the school for a Thai buffet dinner, again prepared by BC staff, and feeling satisfied after a full day's programme returned to the station, tired but at least not hungry, for a good sleep on the overnight train back to Bangkok. I would like to thank all members and their guests for coming along, supporting the Club and being great sports during the long and eventful day. My thanks also to the Club staff who worked really hard to ensure the catering was top notch.

Tom Bain



Dumbo and friend



Lap of honour



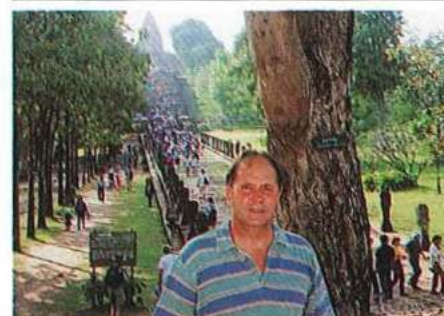
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