



# *utpost*

**December**

A G A Z I N E 2000





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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 staff at 189 Surawong Road, Bangkok 10500  
Tel: 234 0247 Fax: 235 1560  
Email: britclub@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.britclub.com



### Contributions

If you would like to contribute to Outpost please contact the Editor, Gaynor de Wit, on tel: 285 4721-3, fax: 678 1292 or email: creativ@loxinfo.co.th



### Outpost Magazine

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



### Front Cover

Nang Noppamas - Olivia, Queen of Loy Krathong

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Outpost Magazine



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### From the Editor

## Happy Festivities!

**D**espite all warnings, Christmas has sneaked up on a very unprepared me yet again; at the time of writing just the thought of scribbling fifty-odd cards and addressing envelopes is a nightmare I'd rather not contemplate... at least, not before a drink or two.

So here it is, the last issue of *Outpost* for 2000, and a bumper issue of photo-reports covering a busy month of activities in this, the Silly Season. There are lots of cute pics of kids in traditional Thai gear at the Loy Krathong night and in spooky get-up for Halloween, there are adults dressed up to the nines on the E&O Express dinner journey, adults in somewhat more casual gear racking their brains during the October bar quiz, and much more. The reason for several pages of photos from the elephant round-up in Surin is because *I* was there...

### Thanks All Round

We're coming up to New Year and it's time for the roll-call of thanks to all the people who make *Outpost* possible. On the editorial side, kudos must go to Karen Carter for her regular and humorous golf reports and great pics – hint for the other sections: golf pics often make the front cover because they're GOOD; Phil Hall for his squash scribbles and my full sympathies with him in his attempts to extract digital pictures of higher resolution out of members which can be printed larger than 3cm x 4cm; and the scribes covering other sports, it is appreciated when we receive their input however infrequently! Also I can't escape without thanking the Club staff for taking photos – when they can find the Club camera, when it's working and when there's film in it – and especially Barry for putting up with my frequent nagging for details and write-ups on events.

Putting on my commercial hat, we all owe a huge debt of gratitude



The 'upstairs' staff at The Creative Partnership would like to wish you all the best for this season and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2001!

to the ADVERTISERS, especially the regulars, for making the production of a good quality magazine feasible. We believe the *Outpost* reaches a good market, and obviously they – and hopefully more of them – think so too!

Last but not least, muchas gracias to the whole team at The Creative Partnership, not just Sherry who helps me compile the contents when I'm going ga-ga and David who generates the advertising, but everyone, including the design studio who put the magazine together in an attractive way, the production bods in the middle who do the technical stuff with repro and plates, and the printing, folding, stitching, cutting and finishing team downstairs.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Christmas and New Year festivities, but if I don't see you, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gaynor de Wit  
Editor

The front cover of this month's issue was designed by Chris Wright, a student at Bangkok Patana School, during his work experience at The Creative Partnership this summer.

### Cakes Anonymous

There has been much humming and hahhing about the cakes for sale in the Surawong Sala, so much so that I thought I'd make it the subject of this month's members' mutterings. On the food front, the greatest howls of protest were registered when the BC withdrew its highly popular apple pie from the shelves, the replacement apple pie – on the few occasions it is available – is considered not nearly as moist or tasty.

The new cakes are supplied by the Grand Hyatt Erawan, and certainly the range of cakes on offer is more numerous and more colourful than that supplied by the BC. The recent mango cake (seen by me only the once, sadly) was delicious, and quite different to anything the Club kitchen has made in the past.

The most obvious difference with the supply of cakes from outside is the cost – while cakes the Club doesn't make can't be compared, cakes the Club *can* supply are significantly more expensive from the hotel. Some examples: the BC muffin was 30 baht, the hotel muffin is 55 baht; BC carrot cake (one of my favourites) was 45 baht, the hotel version 80 baht. And back to that apple pie, the BC's was 60 baht and the hotel's 80 baht. The question is whether members consider the quality increase justifies the price increase. On this I have received varying replies, some in favour and others most definitely not. Several complained that the whole point of their Club was lower food prices, even if at the expense of a smaller range.

It is also clear that some prefer the variety of cakes available with this hotel deal while others prefer to see BC staples on the shelf every week, with comments like, "I *always* have a muffin and tea after aerobics". What do *you* think? Don't forget, it's your club.



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## From the Manager

**D**ear Members,

The festive season is just around the corner and we are planning a wide range of activities for children and adults. More details about these can be found in "What's On" in this issue of *Outpost*.

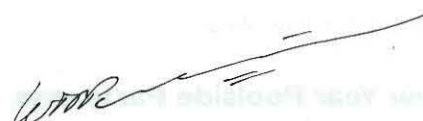
We finished a great November month with a record attendance at our activities and events, and we really appreciate the continuous support from our Members and their families.

On the development side, we are continuing to upgrade our facilities. The Snooker Room will be closed for the first two weeks of December as the floor will be repaired and revarnished. The children's play area will also be renovated and this area will be unavailable for use from 1-18 December 2000. The electric works have been completed but took three weeks longer than originally planned because of a delay caused by the Electricity Board. We do apologise that some Members encountered inconvenience because of the power interruptions.

Barry Osborne and his team have prepared a mouth-watering Christmas goodies list which is placed in this issue. Orders should be placed before 13 December. In case you have any queries or specific requests, please do not hesitate to contact Barry.

On behalf of all staff and management of the British Club we would like to wish our Members a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous 2001.

Yours sincerely,



**Willem T.P. Pentermann**  
General Manager



Willem T.P. Pentermann - General Manager

## The British Club General Committee 2000/2001

Name		Tel	Fax	Email
James Young	Chairman	712 5407-9	712 5410	asiapac@mozart.inet.co.th
Nick Bellamy	Vice-Chairman	955 0099 x 713	955 0300	nbellamy@th.mweb.com
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Leonie Vejjajiva		258 5560	261 0925	warft@loxinfo.co.th

If you have any suggestions or queries about the British Club and its activities please contact any member of the General Committee, or contact the management at:

Tel: 234 0247 Fax: 235 1560 Email: britclub@loxinfo.co.th



# Yule Love It

To help us with catering and seating arrangements, please remember to book in advance if you wish to join any of these events.

## BC Christmas Ball

Friday 15 December

No-one wants to miss this one so sign up now at Reception for the highlight of the Club's calendar - the Christmas Ball. Get into the spirit by enjoying an aperitif or three during the one-hour open bar on the front lawn, followed by a mouth-watering 3-course Christmas roastie on the back lawn including a half-bottle of wine... then dance the rest of the night away!



## Kids' Christmas Party

Tuesday 19 December

An afternoon of excitement and fun for the kids starting at 2.30pm, with pony rides, a balloon typhoon, Derek Rutt's magic show, face painting, games and much more. And of course, Santa will be making an early appearance! The price of Bt 360 per child includes a delicious Christmas supper and a present.



## Christmas Carols

Wednesday 20 December

Warm up those vocal chords with a hearty carol singing session on the lawn of the Club; starting at 7pm the price of Bt 290 for adults and Bt 200 for children includes the usual festive goodies of glühwein, mince pies and shortbread. Recall those Christmas classics with a jolly good sing-song!

## Christmas Eve Dinner

Sunday 24 December

Enter into the spirit of things on Christmas Eve with a fine 4-course festive dinner, a half bottle of wine to help the evening flow and some songs from a choir of carol singers to create just the right mood for Christmas. The menu is on display in Lords and the cost per person is Bt 1,200.



## Christmas Day Lunch

Monday 25 December

Traditional Christmas lunch (Table d'hôte) served from 12.30-3pm in Lords Dining Room. Santa will come along with his Ho! Ho! Ho! and Derek Rutt will be there to provide a touch of Christmas magic for the children. Book quickly as tables are filling fast.

## Christmas Day Dinner

Monday 25 December

A candle-lit 4-course Christmas Dinner (Table d'hôte), a glass of mulled wine, and



a visit from Santa. What better way to round off a perfect Christmas Day. Please book early.

## New Year River Cruise

Sunday 31 December

Yes, the ever-popular New Year's River Cruise is back again, setting sail at 8.30pm and culminating with an excellent boat-side view of the major hotel fireworks on the Chao Phraya to welcome in the new year. Price of Bt 1,350 includes a buffet dinner and a disco on board. Book at Reception early, as this always fills up quickly! But for those who aren't happy on the water, how about...

## New Year Poolside Party

Sunday 31 December

This year we have an alternative to the cruise - this family BBQ will be held at the poolside, with games, a disco and a moderate fireworks display at midnight to welcome in 2001. Kicking off at 7.30pm, the price is Bt 950/Bt 500 for adults and children respectively. Please sign up at Reception.



## Movie Night - "Scrooge"

Wednesday 6 December

The extremely ungenerous Ebenezer gets some unexpected visitors in this 1951 film adaptation of Dickens' novel 'A Christmas Carol', starring Alastair Sim. The evening starts at 7.30pm with a light supper buffet. Don't be a Scrooge - treat the whole family to this excellent evening of old-fashioned entertainment for just Bt 250 per head.

## Bar Quiz

Friday 19 January

Plenty of time over the Christmas holidays to research the history books, study the world map, and generally stoke up the memory in readiness for the first Bar Quiz of the new year. As usual, the evening starts at 7.30pm in the Churchill Bar. Teams of 6. Sign up at Reception.

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Churchill Bar Cocktails

Try our Cocktail of the Month for just B95 per glass!

### No Fixed Abode in the Bar

Friday nights

'No Fixed Abode', Bangkok's Celtic, Antipodean and folk band, play every Friday in the Churchill Bar from 8.00pm until midnight!

### Poolside BBQ

Friday nights

"All You Can Eat" at the barbecue at the poolside every Friday from 6.30-9pm at just B295 for adults and B185 for kids under 12 - and the kids get free Coke too!

### Kids Corner

Every weekend there are activities for kids, including games and movies. For details, please contact Khun Aey.

## Wine Tasting

Friday 8 December

For those wanting a free tippie or wishing to stock up for Christmas then join Tom Westbury of PTK for the final wine tasting of the year in the Silom Sala from 7.00-8.30pm. Special rates available for your Xmas wines. There's no charge for members and a cocktail buffet will be available.



## SPORTS UPDATE

### Tennis Camp with Paul Ho

Mon-Thur 18-21 December

**Beginner tennis** (age 5-8 approx) Bt 1500  
For those beginning to learn how to play tennis and strike the ball

**Intermediate Technique** (age 8-12 approx) Bt 1500

For those who can play and need to work on technique and game play.

### Swimming Camp

Tues-Fri 19-22 December

After the Christmas break, Damon Nemish will continue his swimming lessons with the kids but meanwhile over the holiday period he is holding a special swimming camp for ages 3-12.

**9-9.30am Water Confidence** (age 3-5 approx) Bt 1000

For those beginning to feel comfortable in the water without mom and dad, but unfamiliar with strokes and not happy swimming alone.

**9.30-10.25am Stroke Introduction** (age 5-7 approx) Bt 1400

For those comfortable in the water without mom and dad, starting to learn strokes and swimming without assistance.

**10.30-11.25 Junior Stroke** (age 7-12 approx) Bt 1400

For those able to front-crawl, backstroke and breaststroke but who need improvement.

### Aqua Aerobics

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Join Elizabeth Van Den Broecke poolside for her 1 hour aqua aerobic classes starting at 10.30am. Course fee is Bt 850 and you can sign up at the Fitness Centre.

### Aerobics

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

Aerobics with K. Joom - Wednesday is step aerobics and Monday and Friday normal aerobics. Sign up at the Fitness Centre.

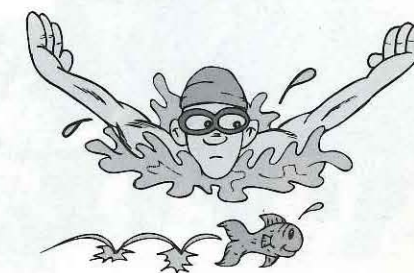
### Snooker Mix-In

8 & 22 December

Take this cue and turn up in the Snooker Room for a sociable evening of snooker, held every second and fourth Friday of the month.

### Sport Accessories

A reminder that we have HEAD tennis and squash accessories along with rackets for sale in the Fitness Centre. Prices are 10% less than retail - a great deal for members!





# Trunk and Disorderly

Surin Round-up 2000 Saturday dawned overcast and perhaps a mite cooler than expected as 60 BC'ers and guests, including 21 kids and three babies, piled off the train at 5am and onto waiting coaches for the momentary journey around the corner to the Petchkasem Hotel in the heart of town. There members were welcomed by breakfast, a comfy seat to sink into and a real European shower – a far cry from the canteen seating and Thai-style showers of the school used in previous years.

Yes, the millennium round-up saw a new approach to this popular trip, with the hiring of a functions room in a hotel as a place to relax as well as eat, and a few guestrooms so that members could enjoy a "real" shower (and "real" toilets!), freshen up and safely deposit excess belongings. This arrangement avoided shipping half of the Club's catering equipment and a horde of staff upcountry; the downside was a few teething problems (the baked beans were cold!) but I think the pros far outweighed the cons.

## Tusk Tusk!

Onto those elephants. The nearby showfield was crawling with tourists and elephants and mahouts and touts selling sugarcane and bananas as elephant treats. Sitting just a couple of tents down from the Governor of Surin's plush sala, members had a good view of the

proceedings and a clear channel of the informative if a little inane English commentary

First on were the totos to be presented to the Governor, this year's bumper crop of



five baby elephants with their mothers, the youngest just six weeks old and still covered in baby bristles.

And then they came – dozens and dozens of elephants, big and small, their devoted mahouts astride. Slowly, majestically, they crossed the length of the field, and you realise it's the sheer number of elephants that distinguishes this show from others in Thailand.

This welcome parade was followed by a programme of ceremonies, stunts, dancing and a spectacular battle scene – I tell you, if I saw an impressively bedecked elephant

armed with spears and all sorts charging me at that speed, I'd be intimidated! The varied shows were made as much realistic by the cast of hundreds, including dozens of traditionally-dressed dancing schoolkids, loinclothed warriors, serene monks and novices, and many more, as by the elephants, including the towering Thongbai, the 2-ton elephant with major tusks made famous in countless shows, films and the commercials for a certain beer.

At three and a half hours it's a long time to perch on the wooden stands, but it's a



unique show and certainly great value for money.

After the show some members had a wobble on a howdah around the grounds while others had a look around the stalls, keeping an eye out for those hefty 'deposits' now dotted everywhere. Then it was back to the hotel for a quick loo-stop and to pick up our lunch boxes.

## What a Wat

The rearrangement of this trip meant that we had longer to spend at Wat Phnom Rung, the stunning Khmer temple atop an extinct volcano in Buriram overlooking the hills beyond which lies Cambodia (though

possibly not in the direction Barry was pointing...!). This is my favourite part of the trip.

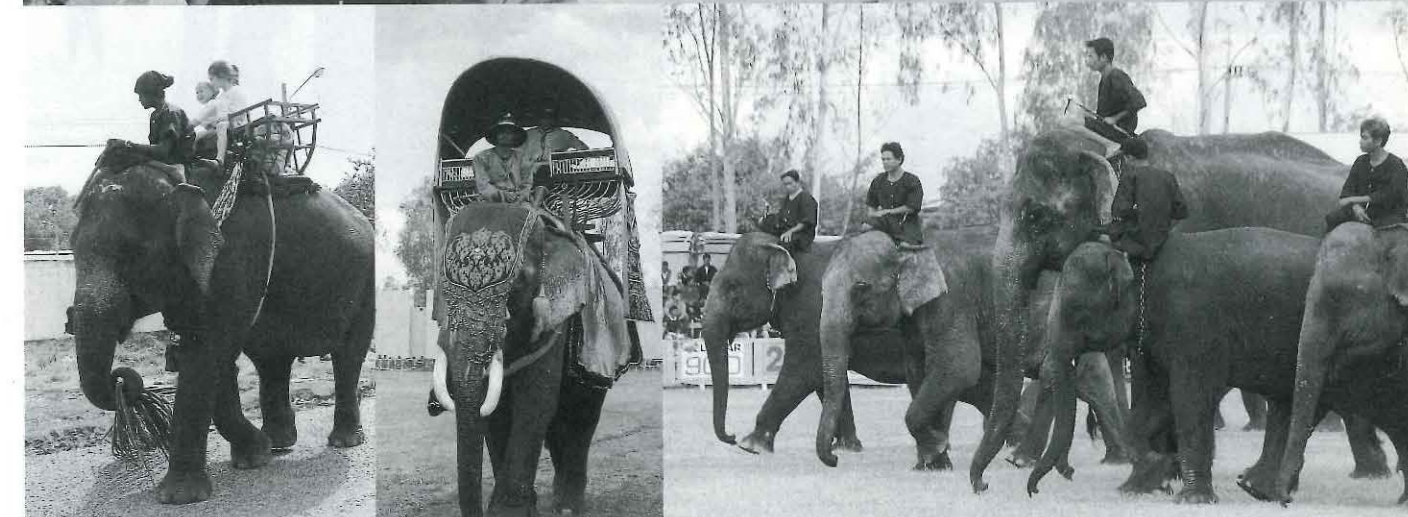
From midday it had started warming up, so the 40-odd steep stone steps were a struggle for some but definitely worth the effort as you are treated to one of the finest examples of Khmer architecture and reliefs outside of Siem Reap, tranquil hilltop scenery and a great view of the surrounding plateau and hills.

By evening we were tucking into a Thai dinner at the hotel, then several kids and parents took advantage of the complimentary rides arranged on a couple of the elephants in the hotel forecourt,

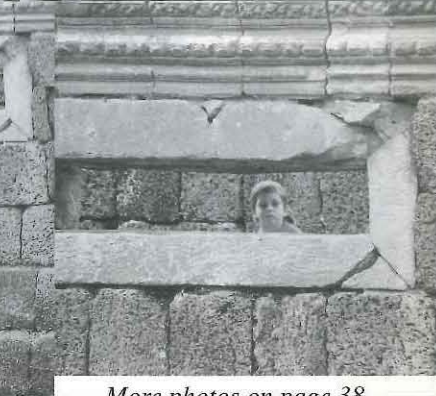
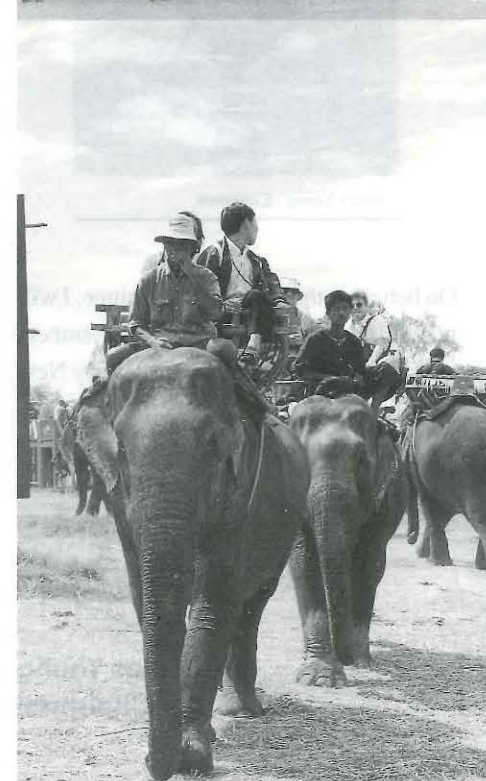
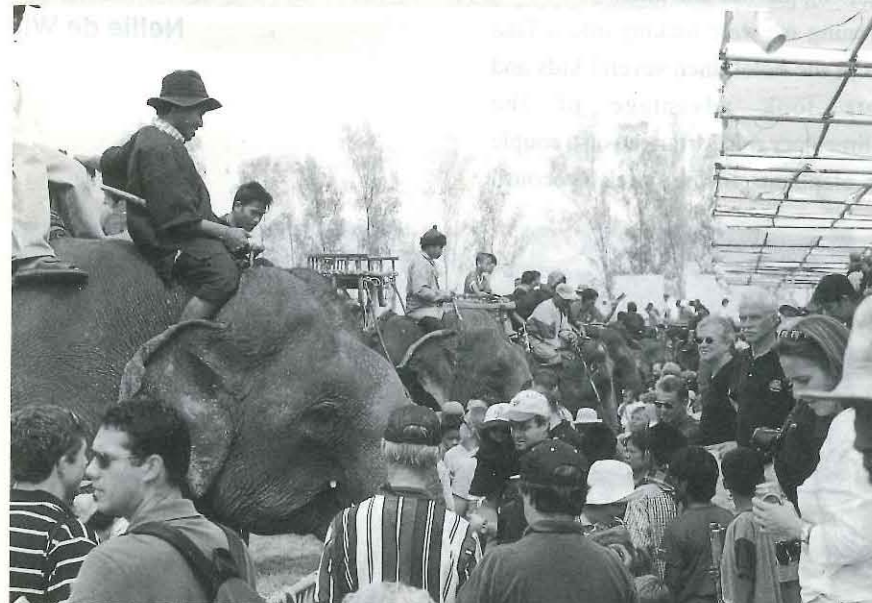
while others relaxed in the hotel, knocking back tea refills – or something a mite stronger – until it was time to board the train back to Bangkok.

Another successful trip; thanks to the BC staff who smoothed the way as ever: Awe, O, Ning and of course Barry, and to the 60 members who supported this event. Hopefully these pictures will make you smile as you remember a good day out!

Nellie de Wit







More photos on page 38



**C**hristmas is almost upon us and the Club's financial year once again comes to an end. I know I have mentioned this in the past but the years seem to pass by at an ever accelerating rate. How does this happen?

The Club's social activities reach their highlight on the 15th December, a Friday this year, with the Christmas Ball. This is just one of the many events held at the BC over the holiday period. If you are not sure what is happening and when, all the activities are laid out in the magazine under "What's On". Alternatively give the Club a call and speak to Barry who can let you know exactly what's going on.

In keeping with this season of goodwill, I would like to ask all members to demonstrate a greater degree of flexibility and consideration for the needs and desires of other members. Sadly there has been a marked increase in the complaints received by the General Committee, both written and verbal, with regard to the behaviour of other members and/or guests. As the Club gets busier there is obviously what is perceived by some as disruption to their normal activities. Hopefully, we can all co-exist happily albeit with the occasional bit of interference.

On a more positive note, I trust that by the time you read this the new power supply will be fully installed and at long last the BC will have a safe and consistent electrical supply to match our present and future needs. My apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused through the lack of air conditioning in the Clubhouse, fans in the Sala or lights on the Tennis courts. I hope I'm not tempting fate by saying these inconveniences should be things of the past.

There have been quite a few changes at the Club this year, many behind the scenes, but also some of direct benefit. The General Committee is committed to this policy of renovation, and further refurbishment will be evident in the New Year. Change can be difficult to accept at times particularly where one's personal routines or habits are affected. I would welcome any feedback as we are a member's Club and the Management and General Committee are attempting to provide improved facilities for you all to enjoy.



James Young - Chairman

On behalf of the General Committee, I will take this opportunity to wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With best regards,

*James Young*

**James Young  
Chairman**

## Out in the Community



**National Museum Volunteers:** On Thursday, 14 December, at the National Museum Auditorium, Walter Unger, noted author and photographer, will speak about his experiences in the picturesque town of Luang Prabang, Laos. Mr. Unger and his wife, Anne, have travelled extensively throughout Southeast Asia and have co-authored 4 books highlighting their experiences. Starting at 10.00 am, admission to this slide and lecture show is free.

## Platform for Pleasure

**A**ssembling at the Club for their moveable feast aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express, our elegantly-attired diners enjoyed pre-journey cocktails and canapes in the Suriwongse Room before heading off to the hustle and bustle of Hua Lumphong Station.

Avoiding the stares as best they could of the hawkers and noodle sellers lining the platform, our group jumped aboard the train and into a different world – one of unrivalled luxury.

Settling into either the dining car or one of the elegant bars on board for the five-and-a-half hour journey north to Ayudhaya, members travelled through

Bangkok and on into the countryside and, when darkness fell, they turned their attention to their fellow guests, the on-board entertainment and the gourmet 4-course dinner.

The service on board is as exquisite as the food and decor, and the atmosphere is unique. As for it being expensive, well.... this thought was dismissed by the end of

the journey as no-one failed to enjoy this marvellous experience. Its obvious appeal to members has prompted us to look at organising another trip on the E&O next year, but this time with a very special theme. Keep an eye out for details. Someone once said something like, "The pleasure of travel is not in the arriving but in the getting there". How very true for this trip.

**Choo Choo Osborne**





# Honouring the Water Spirits

**A**lmost 200 BC members and guests joined us at the Club on 11 November for a glittering gala evening to honour the water spirits, wash away their previous year's sins and generally have a darn good time.

This is always a spectacular occasion, not only the ceremony itself when candlelit 'kratongs' are set adrift on the water (the swimming pool in our case), but also all the dressing up that goes on! Many guests and staff really go to town and turn up in their finest, both men and women. Distinguishing between them is not always easy as the photographs prove!

The difficult task of judging who was the fairest of them all was left this year to Patrick and Jane Broxham, who finally awarded 'best-dressed in Thai traditional costume' to young Olivia Daniel, dressed stunningly in pink. Her prize - two tickets to Dreamworld. And while mentioning Jane Broxham, only one person's candle turned upside down and sank that night.

Yes, Jane's, but we're reading nothing ominous into that!

This year the entertainment was provided by the Baan Mahermaak Orphanage - quite the highlight for the evening, or was it the members joining in the with staff to dance the Thai Rumwong. Both were excellent fun!

I can't sign off without mentioning the lavish Thai buffet catered by K. Boonlert and his team of chefs here at the BC. Absolutely delicious, especially those barbecued duck beaks with sticky rice and sauce. They sound gruesome but were finger licking good!

And finally, apologies to any members who experienced a delay in finding a table I hope this didn't spoil your evening but we were only expecting 120 - and 191 showed up! Remember - book in advance to avoid inconvenience.

Buoyant Osborne



Olivia Daniel (left), winner of the "best-dressed in Thai traditional costume" competition for the children.



A night of tradition and interesting costumes and make-up

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APB-OUTPOST



# Calendar

British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - December 2000

## Sundays



11 am - 1 pm Badminton - Soi Nares  
12 noon - 2 pm Poolside BBQ  
3 - 6 pm Tennis Mix-in  
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  
3 - 5pm BC Swimming Instruction  
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 Step Aerobics  
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  
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 Training

## Fridays



9.30 am Aerobics  
3.30 - 6 pm BC Tennis Coaching for  
Children  
4.30 - 5.30 pm BC Swimming Instruction  
5.30 pm Swimming - Junior  
Squad Training  
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour  
6 - 7 pm Adult Tennis  
6.30 - 9 pm Poolside BBQ  
8 pm 'No Fixed Abode' in the  
Churchill Bar

## Saturdays



9 am - 12 noon Squash Coaching  
9 am - 1.30 pm BC Swimming Instruction  
12 noon - 2 pm Poolside BBQ  
4.00 pm Casuals Football  
6 - 8 pm Happy Hour

### MAKE A NOTE!

#### DECEMBER

Wednesday 6th: Movie Night - "Scrooge"  
Friday 8th: Wine Tasting Snooker  
Mix-In  
Friday 15th: Christmas Ball  
Mon-Thur 18-21: Kids Tennis Camp  
Tuesday 19th: Kids' Christmas Party  
Tue-Fri 19-22: Kids Swimming Camp  
Wednesday 20th: Christmas Carols  
Friday 22nd: Snooker Mix-In  
Sunday 24th: Christmas Eve Dinner  
Monday 25th: Happy Christmas!  
Lunch & Dinner in Lords  
Sunday 31st: New Year's River Cruise  
New Year Poolside Party

#### JANUARY

Friday 19th: Bar Quiz

For more details, check out "What's On" in this issue of *Outpost*.

### 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	01 627 1324
Rugby	Jon Prichard	662 6376
Sailing	Damon Nemish	266 0597
Scuba Diving	Peter Gary	634 7792
Snooker	Kittisak	01 633 9490
Squash	Peter Corney	714 2426
Tennis	David Blowers	285 4721-2

### Loyal Societies

St George's	Gillian Maconochie	287 2680 ext 4851
St Andrew's	Rosemary Imlah	437 9693
St Patrick's	Jerome Kelly	682 7526
St David's	Gareth Hughes	01 859 6140

### 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)

## Your Reciprocal Club

# The American Club, Singapore

Established in 1948, The American Club is one of Singapore's premier private clubs with a well-deserved reputation for its ambience and friendly service. With entrances on Scotts Road and Claymore Hill, the Club is in the main shopping and entertainment district and offers a good range of dining, sporting and recreational facilities.

### Dining

Overlooking the swimming pool, the casual Eagle's Nest restaurant offers everything from a cup of coffee to a full breakfast, lunch or dinner for the whole family, while the poolside terrace provides a relaxed outdoor dining area serving local cuisine, burgers and pizzas - a hit with the kids.

The wood-panelled, cosy watering hole known as the Union Bar is where members enjoy drinks and nibbles, and catch up on the CNN news, while pre-dinner cocktails are served in the more refined atmosphere of the Presidential Lounge. In the adjacent Presidential Room, fine western cuisine and superior quality service are provided, complemented by background music from the Club's resident pianist.

### Sport and recreation

Fitness enthusiasts can work out in a well-equipped gym, golfers can practice their swing on the golf simulator, and for those enjoying a game of chance, the Jackpot Room offers the latest in slot machines. The Club also boasts a library, an eight lane bowling centre, two pools, tennis, squash and racquetball courts where regular competitions are held, as well as a well-stocked Pro Shop.

For further information on this or any of the reciprocal clubs, please contact the GM on 234 0247.



The American Club  
21 Scotts Road  
Singapore 0922

Tel: +65 737 3411 Fax: +65 732 8308



# Winning by a Hair



Scenes of brains being racked as Willem casts the questions at the October bar quiz – crumbs, you can hear the wheels turning from here... As you can see from the scoreboard the result couldn't have been closer as the Spoofers edged in front by a nose, with everything riding on the last set of questions! So the Spoofers regain their prominent position at this popular event as we see out the year 2000 – but remember, those on top make easier targets, so see you at the next quiz in the New Year!



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Berlin/Frankfurt/Milan/Paris/Rome/Stockholm/Zurich	THB10,000	THB20,000	01 Jan – 31 Jan 01**
London	THB11,000	THB22,000	01 Jan – 31 Jan 01**

\*\* A peak surcharge of THB5,000 for one way travel and THB10,000 for return travel is applicable for travel during the peak period from 01 Jan - 31 Jan 2001  
 - The fare for children is 75% of the above fares  
 - The above fares do not include taxes

**Business Class Fares valid from 01 November 2000 - 31 March 2001**

CITY	ONE WAY	RETURN	PEAK PERIOD
Berlin/Frankfurt/Milan/Paris/Rome/Stockholm/Zurich	THB23,930	THB46,855	No peak period
London	THB28,430	THB55,855	No peak period

- The fare for children is 75% of the above fares  
 - The above fares do not include taxes



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# Deserving a Standing Ovation

## Rod Carter Open and Plate event

The final of both of these events was held at the BCB on the afternoon of Sunday 29 October, 2000. At least this year we had a BCB member in both finals; last year we did not have any representatives in the finals.

Colin Hastings from the BCB and Tossapol from the Muscle and Muscle club played the final of the plate event first. The first two games were played at a fast pace and Colin won both 9-4, 9-4. Both players played some excellent shots and retrieved very well. Colin came out fighting in the third to get to a lead of 7-4 but then he started to tire and lost 9-7 to the very fit and young Tossapol (28 years old). As Colin (50 years old) became more tired, Tossapol seem to become quicker and

end of the match as they had been treated to a high standard and entertaining final.

The men's final was a one-sided affair as David Eastgate at 47 years of age had to play the 18 year old Poowis Poonsiri who is the current number 2 in Thailand. Poowis is the son of Peerapon who dominated Thai squash for 15 years. David had to defeat Peerapon to reach the semi finals. Perhaps Poowis was trying to avenge his father's defeat as he appeared to be trying to win 27-0 as he never relaxed on any points. David fought his heart out but could not match the youth and ability of his younger opponent who eventually won 9-0, 9-1, 9-2.

## Looking to the Future

As a matter of interest our new member, Karim Dhanani, played Poowis later and



Poowis, the Rod Carter Open winner

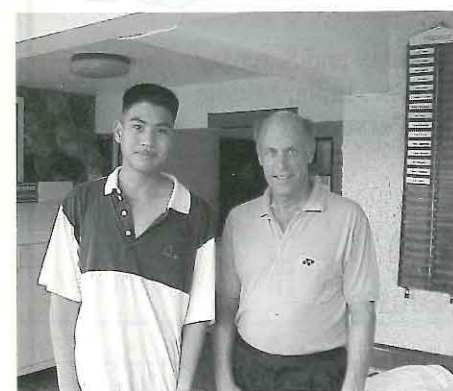
## Yes Let! - Play Better Squash

We will give the rules a break this month, but pay attention as there will be a test at the end of the year!

Tony Austin - the Old Boys are at it again November is traditionally the month for

Player	H'cap							Total	Place
Colin Hastings	-30	-	6	4	15	15	14	15	69
Tom Livingstone	-25	15	-	15	15	15	14	15	89 1
Charles Whitely	-23	15	6	-	9	15	15	14	74
Bill Randall	-18	14	10	15	-	15	13	15	82 3
David Parks	-13	11	9	14	10	-	10	15	69
Andy Talling	-5	14	15	12	15	15	-	15	86 2
Phil Hall	-18	7	12	15	2	9	-2	-	43

retrieved some remarkable shots in the last two games to win those 9-3, 9-2. Tossapol won 3-2 in a well fought match played in excellent spirit. The players received a standing ovation from the spectators at the



defeated him 3-0. It looks like we have that elusive number one who will be competitive against the Polo Club. If Karim wants to make it to the club's number one slot, though he will have to find Nick White first. Rumour has it that Nick left the country as soon as he had beaten David Eastgate for the coveted position!

## Central Plaza Sunday Mix-in - 5 November

No fireworks, but a lot of good close squash and a lot of upsets, with Tom Livingstone coming out on top of the seven players who contested this month's mix-in.

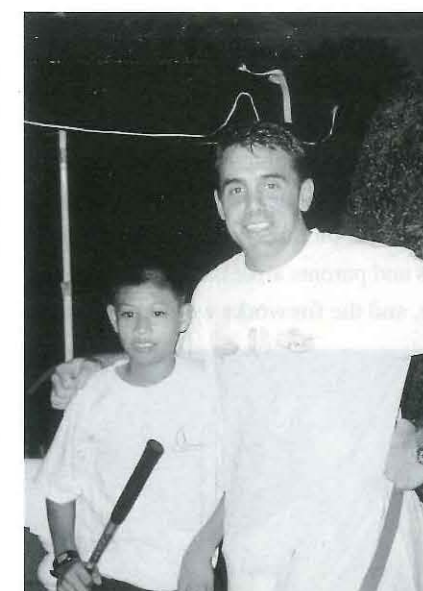
the Tony Austin, the club open championship for over 45s. Yours truly was this year's youngest entrant at 45 and one month, but as most of the BC's top players fit this category, youth (or comparative youth) is not an advantage! Full results next month, but expect to see top seeds David Eastgate and Peerapol featuring heavily.

## It's that time of year again!

As we have done for the past 2 years we will hold an Xmas mix-in and get-together on Sunday 3 December. To add to the atmosphere there will be a presentation to the best players - selected by the members

under the following categories, some serious and some not so serious - well OK none of it is serious! Full details of the winners next month. See you at the party.

- Most gentlemanly player • Apart from Tom, most difficult player to play • Apart from David Eastgate, the fittest player • Best volleyer • Best server • Best boast • Best dressed player • Worst dressed player • Most improved player in the last year • Most handsome player • The ugliest player (in terms of playing style) • Fastest player around the court • Loudest player • Most enthusiastic player • Best all round technique



Bill with his handicap opponent



Colin, runner-up Rod Carter Plate

## Happy Squashing Phil Hall



Bill in his other clothes



David, Rod Carter Open runner-up

## Hellos and Goodbyes

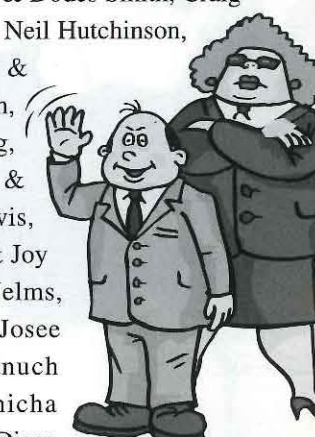
### Welcome to those who joined in October:

Freddy Karlsson, Vanessa Christian, Jake Gale, Francis Harrey, Roger Corney, Keith Meadmore, Jiraporn Heath, Sally Bonckeley, Raymund Doi, Philip Thompson, Fraser Dinnis, Peter Ian, Andries Bolding, Christopher Watt, Marc Sculthorpe, Gerard Courcouse, Graham Murrell, David Nerin, Karin Dhamani, Paul Caputo, Ronald Lane, Hans Jensen, Robert Merrigan, Martyn Webster, Peter Warbanoff, and Tom Williams. Rejoining the Club were Gill and Frank Hough, Jennifer Wright and Merin Waite.



### And farewell to those who resigned:

Derek & Tracy Talbott, Steven & Dodes Smith, Craig & Ann Stuart, Sabine Haefner, Neil Hutchinson, Nisakorn Sukthuan, Andrew & Alison Furness, Robert Godson, Kelvin & Sharyn Ashby King, James & Bernice Davis, Colin & Melanie Gellatly, Finola Lewis, William & Janette Kay, John & Joy Forsyth, Thomas & Viang Nelms, Sakorn Thavisin, Gerald & Josee Hanisch, Khanchit & Piyanuch Likittanasombat, Pornicha Chanchaichooowong, Wilfred & Diane Ring, Colin Snow, Marie-Christie Dhaneswongse.





# An Explosive Fifth of November

The BC premises were overflowing with more than 500 members and guests of all ages who showed up, more than a few unexpectedly, to join in the fun of Guy Fawkes' Night and to watch the spectacular fireworks display and burning of the 'guys' on the bonfire. Such a weird English tradition...

Not only a huge number of guests but also a record number of 'guys'! Rather a shame to see such a good-looking bunch land up as fodder for the flames after such a lot of work had gone into making them appear so lifelike. One was unmistakably an infamous Middle Eastern leader, and another that the staff said looked just like me, not sure why!

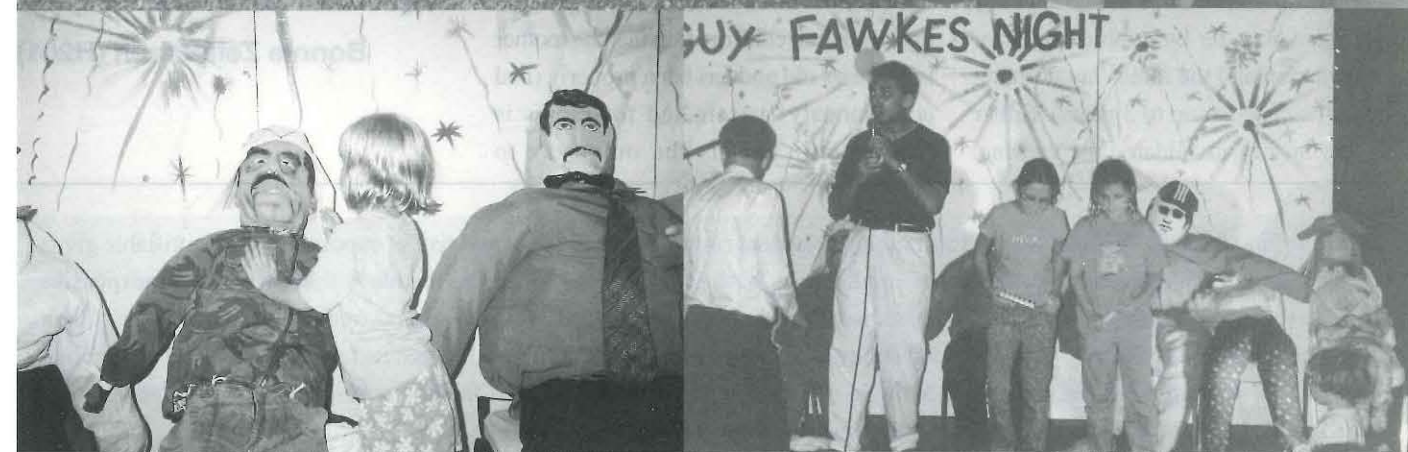
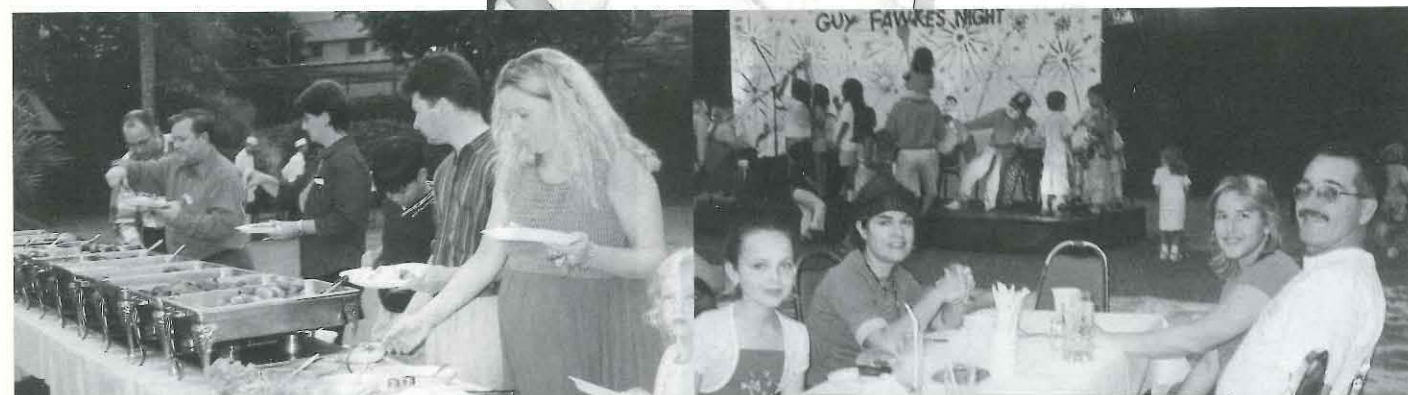
Khun Boonlert and our team of BC chefs worked wonders in providing a filling and delicious barbecue - and making it stretch from the 390 people who booked to the 513 who turned up. Great going team! I think the pictures tell the whole story. Kids and parents alike had an entertaining time, and the fireworks were undoubtedly



a dazzling display. Yes, the evening went with a bang!

With so many fireworks around, Guy Fawkes' Night can be a hazardous affair so all credit goes to the BC ground, office and service staff who worked so hard to ensure the absolute safety of our members and guests.


Gunpowder Baz



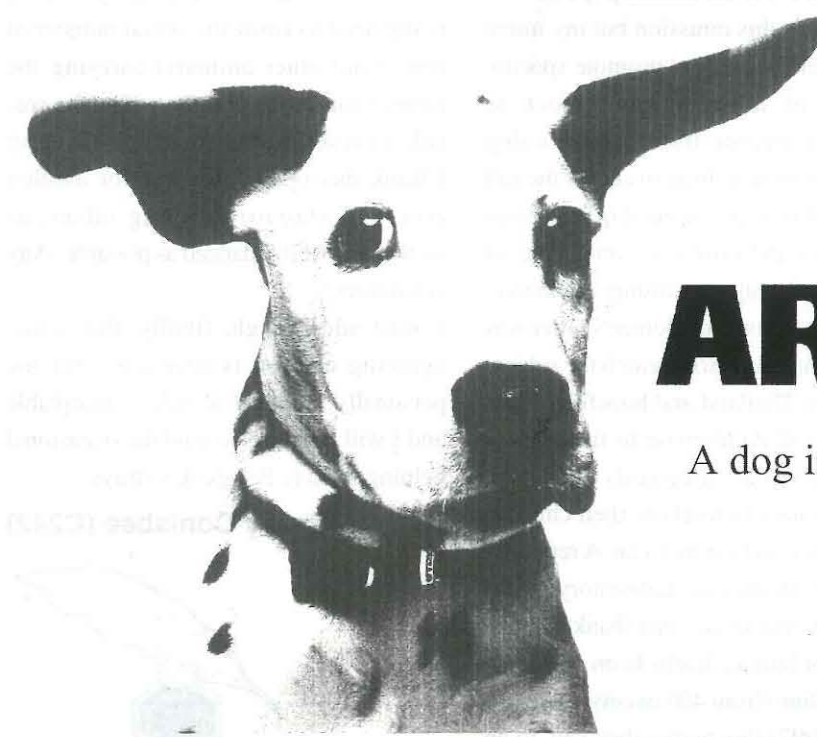
Remarkably life-like guys on display, including Saddam Hussein and our Barry... but it's Saddam who gets the ladies' vote!

# TOYS AREN'T US.

A dog is for life, not just for Christmas.



National Canine Defence League





# Ruff Warning

Though I applaud Sherry Conisbee's charitable intentions in last month's article regarding finding a dog, I strongly disagree with her suggestion that people contact her to get unwanted street dogs and/or to participate in the "Adopt a Dog" program. This past March, our beautiful dog, Greta, who had originally been a street dog, died of rabies. Greta was still quite young when we adopted her some 15 months before, and we immediately had her vaccinated for rabies. What we learned after the fact is that she might have had rabies in her system prior to the vaccine. Her mother might have passed it on to the litter or she might have been bit by a rabid dog prior to vaccination and the rabies lay dormant (which it can do for up to 3 years). Either way, her history invalidated the vaccine.

There are other possibilities as to how she contracted the disease, but since she rarely came in contact with other dogs and never showed signs of a dog fight, the Vet believed she was already a carrier and that it had lain dormant in her system. In the end, she died a horrible death of rabies, killed one of our other dogs, and bit my husband which resulted in the entire family being treated for rabies – a scenario I wouldn't wish on anyone. We contacted several different Vets and the Red Cross at the time and were advised to never adopt any dog whose parentage could not be checked. Pedigree is irrelevant, but confirmation that the mother is 3+ years old and has been properly (and continuously) vaccinated for rabies is tantamount. That is the only way to

confirm that the puppy you want to adopt is rabies free. Obviously, there is no way of checking a street animal's history, so you should never adopt a street dog. I don't know if they claim a bill of good health in the "Adopt a dog" program, but I'd be wary of any guarantees.

I am sorry not to be able to recommend a more positive attitude towards adopting street animals – after all, they are in desperate need of a home. But our family was traumatized by doing just that, and I now know how very foolhardy the adoption was. Rabies is alive and well in Bangkok; don't take any unnecessary risk.

**Bonnie Zellerbach (H201)**

*Editor's Note:* Indeed, Thailand is noted as a rabies-prevalent country, though the actual risk of exposure is unquantifiable given the lack of data on affected dogs and other animals, e.g. bats. It may be of interest to members that there is an inexpensive vaccine for rabies available, Verorab, that costs just 70 baht plus doctor's fee, which is similar to the tetanus vaccine in that it gives the body some antibody protection, but if bitten a booster jab is required. Indeed, given its low cost and good availability it should be recommended for any family living in one of Bangkok's many sois inhabited by semi-stray dogs – better safe than sorry. I asked Sherry to comment on this matter, and her response follows below.—G.

What a harrowing experience and Bonnie's words of caution should indeed be considered carefully. As far as the BMA "Adopt A Puppy" scheme goes, as I mentioned in my article, it **IS** a risky business and to my knowledge the BMA gives no guarantees concerning the health and life expectancy of the puppies. However, I also mentioned that all puppies in the programme are neutered and vaccinated and as these are two of the most effective ways, I believe, of preventing the spread of disease, top marks to the BMA for at least trying!

I was remiss in my article for not mentioning that adopting any dog in Thailand – whether a pedigree from a pet shop, friend or breeder or a mutt from the street – is not entirely without risk as it is almost impossible to guarantee that it has not been exposed to one of the diseases that kill dogs. Rabies, of course, is by far

the worst of these as it carries such dire consequences for the human population. I apologise for this omission but my intent in the article was not to promote specific methods of adoption, but more to discourage anyone from getting a dog unless they were willing to accept the full responsibility of pet ownership which can be onerous and costly at times (but of course wonderfully rewarding at others). A positive outcome of Bonnie's letter was that it prompted me to research the subject of rabies in Thailand and hopefully other members will do likewise to find out for themselves what safeguards should be taken to protect themselves, their children and their pets as best they can. A report by the Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory of the Thai Red Cross shows that thankfully the numbers of human deaths from rabies are on the decline (from 400 twenty years ago to 70 in 1997) due partly, they say, to an

intensive education programme. This statistic in itself is encouraging but we really need to know the actual number of dogs (and other animals) carrying the rabies virus to be able to assess the real risk of exposure. Probably impossible, but I think this opens the door for another article in *Outpost* covering rabies, as factual and well-balanced as possible. Any volunteers?

I must add though, finally, that while agreeing caution is necessary, for me personally the level of risk is acceptable and I will continue to lend the occasional helping hand to Bangkok's strays.

**Sherry Conisbee (C242)**



# Celebrating 41 Years the English way

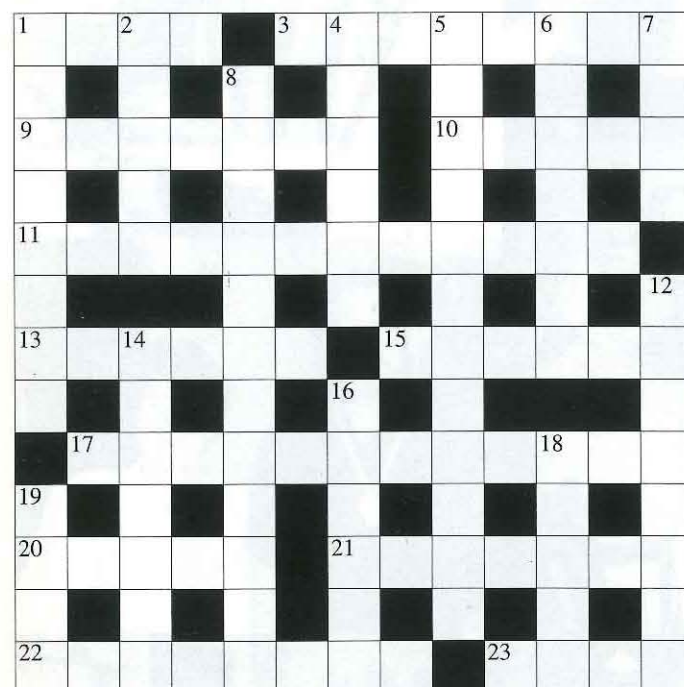


The Bangkok St. George's Society celebrated their 41st Anniversary in style at Lords Restaurant in October. Traditional English fayre included Barry's Lancashire hotpot among other tasty dishes, and of course the requisite puddings. After dinner President Gill Maconochie presented Roger Fitzgerald with the Vice-President's gong, for which he looks thrilled...



# One for Christmas

While away those post-prandial bloated afternoons with this Christmas-oriented teaser conjured up by *Outpost's* crossword maestro, Margaret Miller!



## Solution to the November puzzle



### Across

- 1 The first spectre to visit Scrooge was the Ghost of Christmas \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Press ten somehow and hope you get lots of them!
- 9 What the Virgin Mary became in Bethlehem. (1,6)
- 10 How the stable is described in "Once in Royal David's City".
- 11 No fresh title for what we celebrate - and maybe sing. (3,5,4)
- 13 "On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of Christmas my true love sent me eight maids a-milking".
- 15 First thing to do with your 3 Across...
- 17 ...and hope you find this! (8,4)
- 20 Too much Christmas fare might make you this ...
- 21 ... and will certainly do this.
- 22 Edward Lear was famous for writing these rhymes.
- 23 Many will be downed over the holiday season.

### Down

- 1 My true love's gift was in here on the first day of Christmas. (4,4)
- 2 "Brightly \_\_\_\_\_ the 19 Down that night". (Good King Wenceslas)
- 4 The hardest to find
- 5 We all hope to have these carols! (6,6)
- 6 You might greet it with resolution. (3,4)
- 7 Porkers' pads.
- 8 His cream vest? No, no! Change for this festive day! (9,3)
- 12 They express quality or attributes.
- 14 "In the wit-combat they resembled a Spanish great \_\_\_\_\_ and an English man-of-war". (Ben Jonson)
- 16 Enjoyed under the mistletoe.
- 18 Just the total. (2,3)
- 19 See 2 Down.

# Mixed Fortunes

**T**hree matches were held during October and early November.

The Section suffered a 7-4 defeat against the Scandinavians at Subhaprueck. We also lost the Niblick competition against the Gee Gees although some may argue that the Number 2 British Club team took the honours. One Gee Gee did lose his match



Scandinavian sandwich

though. Neil Lavery struggled to the 8 o'clock tee time at Khao Keow having only left the bar at 7.30am. His game definitely went off as he sobered up. British Club pride was eventually restored in the match against the Embassy team at Chuan Chuen. There were some stunning performances notably from our resident "bandage" Joom who scored 39 gross on the front 9 with a 26 handicap. She was last seen being held down in the water by Les Mowat and John Sarginson. Barry put on a fine celebratory barbecue in the evening.

## Water Rules (Rule 26)

Due to the watery nature of the Bangkok courses our balls will inevitably "tok nam." There usually follows some confusion as to what to do next. So the following may help!

## Water Hazards

A water hazard is any sea, lake, pond, river, ditch or other open water course across the line of play and is usually defined by yellow stakes or lines. If you are in one your ball may be a) played as it lies without penalty; b) picked up and cleaned and dropped behind the hazard in a line running from the hole to the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard. You can drop any place on the course on an extension of that line for a penalty of one stroke; c) played from where the ball was last struck for a penalty of one stroke.

## Lateral Water Hazards

A lateral water hazard is usually adjacent to the fairway or green and is defined by red posts. In the event that your ball falls in a lateral water hazard, you may employ options a), b) or c) above. In addition you



Day winner Nick



The Embassy Cup



Runner up Carol-Ann



Handing over the Niblick



I don't feel well



Beaten by a bandage





No photos please



Barbie time

may d) drop your ball within two club lengths of where the ball entered the hazard, no nearer the hole or e) drop your ball two club lengths, no nearer the whole on the opposite side of the hazard. That's right, swim across! Both options d) and e) also incur a one stroke penalty. When using your club to measure it should be the club that you will use for the next shot.

And don't forget the penalty for breach of the rule is loss of hole in match play and two strokes in stroke play.

#### Stop Press

Pat Dean wins TRAFALGAR hole-in-one.

#### Next Outings

Sat 9 December - Deemed Trophy at Majestic Creek

Sun 10 December - Match against the Cocktail Lounge at Majestic Creek

Mon 11 December - Match against the Hua Hin Golf Society at Milford Golf Course

Sun 17 December - Medal Final at Subhaprueck

Karen Carter

## Through the Lens



The BC Rugby Section celebrating its 10th Annual Pink & Black Ball at the Grand Pacific Hotel, sponsored by Transpo International Ltd. From left to right: Jon Prichard, chairman of the Rugby Section; Arie Prichard; Lena Cheyne representing Transpo; and the Club's GM Willem Pentermann.

Graphite clubs aren't the only way to lower your handicap

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Website: www.searasports.com



# They keep coming...

## Laurance Earnshaw

Laurance, with dual Canadian and British nationality, is a professor of English at the International Studies Institute of Ramkhamhaeng Uni. He has been in Thailand for over 3 years and expects to stay a few more. Working for years at a time in many parts of England, he has also lived in a few places abroad - in Aden and Cyprus during his army service, 19 years in Montreal, another year in Taiwan, and for those jokers who consider North Wales a foreign country, a further 2 1/2 years in Towyn! One of the reasons he has joined the Club is to take up some sports again - tennis, squash and perhaps golf.



Laurance

## Peter and Julie Davey

For Aussies Peter and Julie, this is their first overseas posting and hopefully it'll be a great one. A watersport and tennis buff, Peter is also an aficionado of good food and wine and enjoys cooking, reading and gadgetry. Julie is more focused - she likes shopping, shopping and a bit more shopping... oh and craft and needlework. Peter (missing from New Members' Night) is a Director at the brake manufacturers Bendix and Julie, now in charge of their two young daughters Claudia and Eliza, was previously a University Lecturer in Graphic Design.



Julie

## Bill and Ann Paton

An Information Systems Consultant with British Gas, Bill and his wife Ann have lived in Singapore, Hong Kong and Germany before coming to Thailand for an expected two year stint. Bill (a Scottish thistle) and Ann (an English rose) are proof, if proof is needed, that cross-border differences can be overcome! They have two sons far too grown-up, says Bill, to mention their ages. Ann, her own boss at home, enjoys water aerobics, and both of them are badminton and bridge enthusiasts.



Bill and Ann

## Ian and Jane Johnson

Brits Ian and Jane arrived in Thailand in March after criss-crossing the globe on various contracts - Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Indonesia, Costa Rica and the Philippines. They have 3 daughters, probably all good at geography; Samantha (29) and Katie (23) back in the UK and youngster Suzanne (20) who is studying in Australia. Ian is MD at Textech Industries, Jane is a housewife, and they are expecting to stay in Thailand for about 5 years. Gym workouts, scuba diving, bridge and mahjong are their combined hobbies and interests - Hallelujah, the BC provides it all.



Ian

## Pierre and Saichol Boussard

Partners in and out of business, Pierre and his wife Saichol run SPB Pharma together, and have 2 daughters, Busara and Nayana, both at Bangkok Patana. Quite a significant joint venture! Pierre from Belgium has lived previously in Holland, Switzerland, Nigeria, Congo, Pakistan, Indonesia, Taiwan and Singapore. His hobby is car modelling while Saichol, a sporting all rounder, enjoys stamp collecting.



Saichol and Pierre

## Gerard & Karin Schut

Asset Director at Unocal Thailand, Gerard and his wife Karin have been based in Thailand for about 8 years and have no clue how much longer they'll stay. Thailand is their first overseas posting and they are obviously enjoying it. Their two eldest, Jelmer (9) and Carlijn (6) both go to Patana while Otteline (3) attends nursery. Gerard not only enjoys a variety of sports - squash, tennis, triathlon, golf, sailing, field hockey - but he also likes talking about them. In fact, along with work and coaching his son at soccer, he lists it as one of his favourite hobbies. Karin enjoys tennis, sailing, field hockey, reading - and talking about books. A pair of great talkers!



Karin and Gerard

# FROZEN PENSION IN THE U.K.? LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOUR OPTIONS ARE? IT'S SIMPLER THAN YOU THINK

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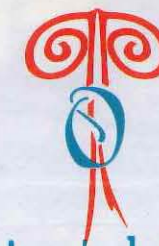
# Trick or Treat?

Definitely a treat, as every year this wickedly entertaining afternoon becomes more popular with the kids. This Halloween nearly 100 children dressed up

in their most devilish costume, turning the Club into a witches' tavern and scaring the living daylights out of most of the grown-ups.

A whole host of activities kept the little horrors occupied! Witches flew around the grounds on their annual hunt for orange and black eggs, vampires sunk their fangs into the nibbles, the whole spooky bunch lined up to be judged on their fancy dress and, for a moment, they even sat quietly while Heather Terison read them a ghostly story written by none other than... Gaynor de Witch of course!

Come and haunt me again next year,  
**Baron Wizborne**



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