



# Outpost

Magazine

December 2004

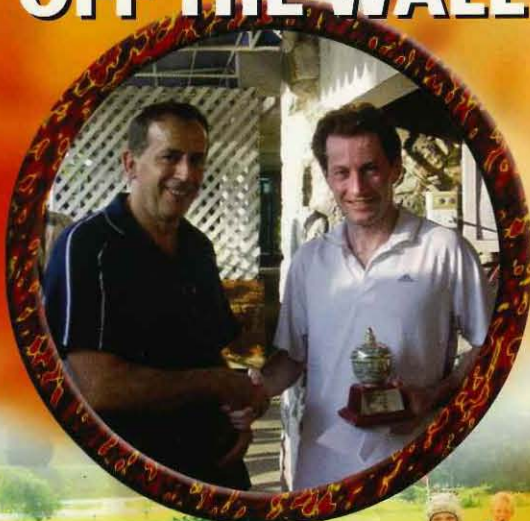
NEWS FROM THE TOUCHLINE

BREATHING LIFE INTO THE BC!

NOVEMBER'S BIG BANG

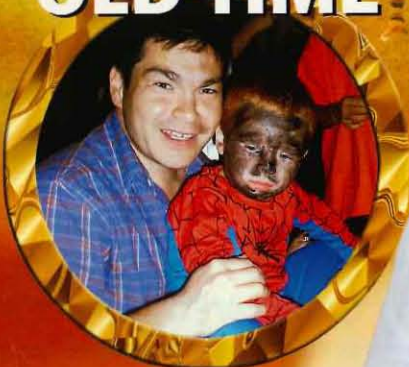
TENNIS SOS

**OFF THE WALL**



**BANGKOK LIONS**

**A SPOOKY  
OLD TIME**



**SEARCHING  
THE "FORE" CORNERS**





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## Editor's farewell



*As we put our final issue of Outpost to bed, the publishing team at T&P wishes BC members, management and staff an exceedingly Merry Christmas, and a new year brimming with laughter, adventure and other good stuff.*



*Sherry Conisbee - Ed.*



**5TH DECEMBER 2004**

Wishing His Majesty, the King, a very happy birthday and many more to come!

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

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# BARRY'S CHRISTMAS BANTER

*Dear Members,*

What a great Bonfire Party we had last month to celebrate Guy Fawkes night with well over 400 members turning up. That's almost double the numbers we had last year which proves that the BC is becoming the hottest venue in town! Next year we will add a few more activities and it will be even MORE fun.

I'm pretty confident at the time of writing that our Christmas Ball on December 11th will be a sell out. Hardly surprising as it's the best Ball in Bangkok and the only one to be held under the stars!! This year the catering will be handled by the Shangrila hotel with entertainment from the Thai Royal Navy Band and DJ Mr Paul Jackson.

The Children's xmas party is on the 15th this year from 2pm onwards on the back lawn. There is stacks to do for the kids including pony rides, bouncers, magic shows, puppet shows and of course a visit by Santa.

On Dec 16th we are putting on an evening for the whole family to enjoy. Kids from Khun Suzie's Family Care Organisation will be there to provide some singing and

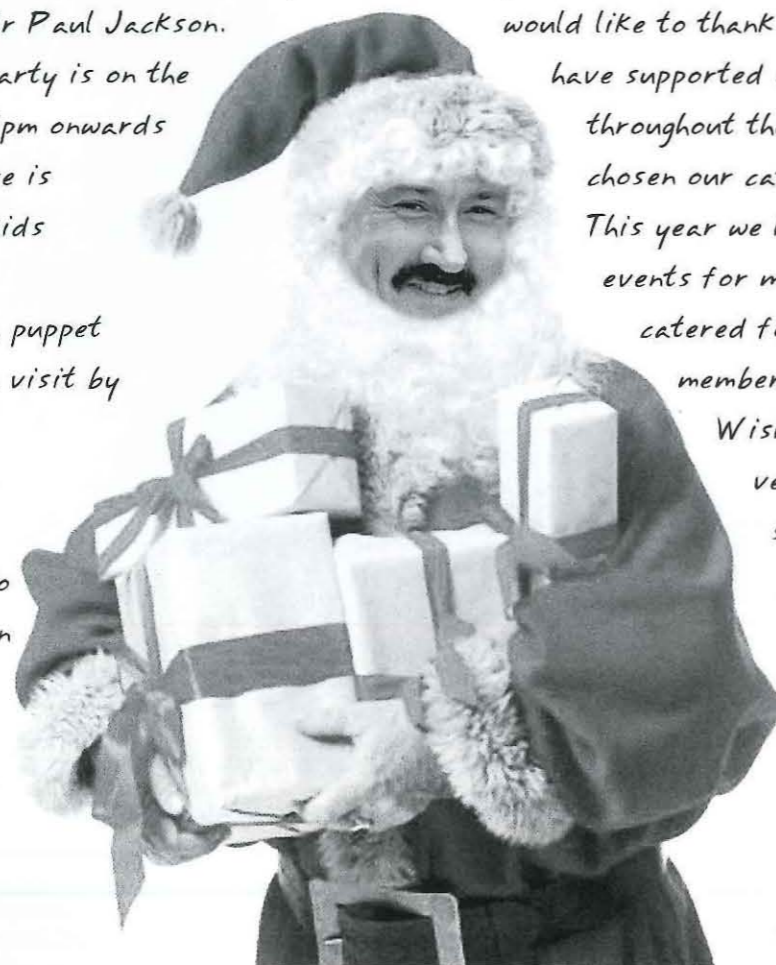
entertainment and while the children are enjoying their own activities, mums and dads can settle back and enjoy mulled wine, egg nog and mincepies - homemade of course. Lords is already fully booked for Christmas lunch but we have a few places left in the Churchill bar. Don't be lonely this Christmas... just phone Khun Aeh and make a reservation.

I do hope you will be joining us aboard the "Queen Vic" this New Year's eve for a night of fun and spectacular fireworks. I'm looking forward to celebrating the start of 2005 with members,

As this year draws to an exciting close, I would like to thank all of you who have supported our events throughout the year and chosen our catering services. This year we held over 60 events for members and catered for over 400 member functions.

Wishing all of you a very happy and safe festive season.  
Merry Christmas from all of us at the Club,

Barry Osborne  
General Manager



## GOLF

# SEARCHING THE "FORE" CORNERS

Since last month's Outpost, the British Club Golf section has been traversing the nation in search of courses to play and events to compete in. It has been a very busy month with our travels to the far flung edges of the Kingdom. We have been south & west to the Burmese border and then east to within a pitching wedge of Cambodia. Even our not so glamorous destinations (Bangkok) have provided some fun & entertainment.. Read on and find out where we have been...



October medal winners

### OCTOBER MEDAL - ROYAL LAT KRABANG

Good company, good competition and a good golf course always make for an enjoyable monthly medal with the British Club Golf section, though in the famous words of Meatloaf, "2 out of 3 ain't bad". Suffice to say that Royal GC had decided that as it had just got its greens into perfect condition, it was time to do some more maintenance work on them again...

though the rest of the course was in fine condition. 30 members ventured forth into the midday sun and battle commenced in the customary 3 flights. As a medal event, the name of the game is that you must play your ball from tee to green, counting all of your shots and there are no gimme putts, which at Royal can mean higher scores than normal. It would seem that the conditions of the course (read greens!!), obviously suited our very own Putting Queen, Karen '4 putt' Carter as she recorded a winning score in flight B of gross 90 nett 71 and according to our very own Putting Queen, this was her first medal win in over 2 years. So well done to the green's keeper at Royal for the major assist..... Other notable events : the welcome return for a brief visit of Tom Magarry, though it would appear that he was so overwhelmed with his return, that he forgot to bring his 'A' game with him but it was good to see him back again, even if only briefly.

	FLIGHT A	FLIGHT B	FLIGHT C
1st	Andy Flynn	Karen Carter	Edwin Ferner
2nd	Mike Staples	Bridget Snow	Mam Suphanee
3rd	'Grumpy' Tissera	Gaew	Peter Bond

Technicals went to: Brian Brook, Mam, Gareth, Andy for the near pins, Karen Holloway & Brian Brook were the big hitters on the long drives with Barry 'one putt' Ashman picking up the longest putt on the 18th hole.

### DUNLOP CUP - SPRINGFIELD, HUA HIN

In the annual calendar of the golf section, one of the most eagerly waited events of the year is the Dunlop Cup which is kindly and generously sponsored by David Lamb & and his Dunlop company. The reason why we look forward to this competition is because we have 3 days away together and this year for the second year running, David had managed to secure Springfield Golf Course near Hua Hin for the 3 days at very reasonable rates. What David had failed to mention was, that for the reasonable price of the green fee, we were expected to get up to wake the birds in advance of the sun-rise to secure our 7.20am tee-times... and for



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## GOLF

some, that was never going to be an issue, but for those that like to enjoy the fine food and late opening bars of Hua Hin, this just adds to the stresses of hitting that little white ball all day, with a thumping head ache from sleep deprivation.

Being a social section of the British Club, this event encourages friendship, camaraderie and team work as it is a pairs event over a 3 day competition. The first day, is spent slogging your way around trying to create the best score using best ball stableford points. This is where the team work comes in, as you have to rely on your partner to help you out when you are not having such a good day. In years gone by in this event, to achieve a team score of 45 points would hopefully get you into the top 4 places, so you can imagine the shock in the clubhouse, when we learned that Pat Dean & Mike Staples walked in and had scored a mammoth FIFTY points over 18 holes. That meant an average of 2.777 points per hole. What was even more remarkable was that Mike had injured his back whilst carrying Pat around the course.. Mike had scored 47 of the 50 points, though to be fair to Pat, Mike had shot the round of his life with a gross 73... so a worthy score.

**After day 1**, the 4 teams with the highest stableford scores progress into the knockout stages of the Dunlop Cup and the "also rans" move into the Dunlop Plate or to use English football parlance, the Championship Dunlop Fizzy Plate competition.

Day 2 - 1st placed vs. 4th placed and 2nd placed vs. 3rd place in a 2 ball better ball matchplay event for the right to play in the final on day 3. Suffice to say that Mike & Pat carried on their winning ways and defeated Harland & Dianne whilst the late pairing of Pete (Captain) Gale and Brian Brook eased their way past the in-form team of Adrian O'Brien and Gaew Khongyoo.

Meanwhile in the fizzy plate event, the remaining pairs continued with the ongoing task of accumulating stableford points.

**Day 2 - part 2:** Unknown to the mere mortals of the golf section, Mr Lamb had secured the early time on Sunday so that he & Barry Ashman could be awake bright and early, so that these neighbours could enjoy all of the waking hours on their jointly held 60th birthday. Problem was no-one had told Val about the new arrangements, so after the days events at the golf course, we were all invited back to the Ashman residence (earlier than expected) to enjoy the hospitality of the Ashman family to help



Dunlop Cup winners

celebrate the 120th birthday of Barry & David. This was a great chance to discuss the day's events and lie about the misfortune you had endured when in reality, you know you just played badly.

**Day 3 - Dawn is breaking.** Off we head again. Today is the final between Pat & Mike against Pete & Brian, with a 3rd / 4th place playoff involving Adrian & Gaew against Harland & Dianne. The rest of us are still competing for the fizzy plate and this turns out to be much closer result than the main event. It was obvious to most of us, that messrs. Staples & Dean were on a roll and there was little that anyone of us could

have done to have stopped them. This showed in the final, with a clear and comfortable victory over Pete & Brian. In the fizzy

plate competition, the winners were Bryan Dodd and sponsor, David Lamb with a victory over Charmaine & Bernie on a countback.

Other notables were : Andy (scribe) managed an eagle 2 on the 3rd hole, which is a 400 yard par 4 hole. Some would call it skill others perhaps great judgement, but I am smart enough to know that I got very lucky and rode that luck from 170 yards out with a 5 iron...It would appear that I am in good company, as the course advised that to their knowledge only 1 other person has eagled that hole and that is SIMON YATES.

Over the weekend, all the normal technical prizes were played for and paid for by Dunlop. Without listing every winner, most notable was that Bryan Dodd won 5 of out of a possible 12 near pins.

Many thanks to the David & Cheryl Lamb for their sponsorship and also to Val Ashman for putting on a fine spread at 'short' notice to help the twins celebrate. A short note of thanks to Cheryl for all the time & effort she puts in to ensuring that the prize winners receive her uniquely handcrafted Dunlop golf ball holders.



## GOLF

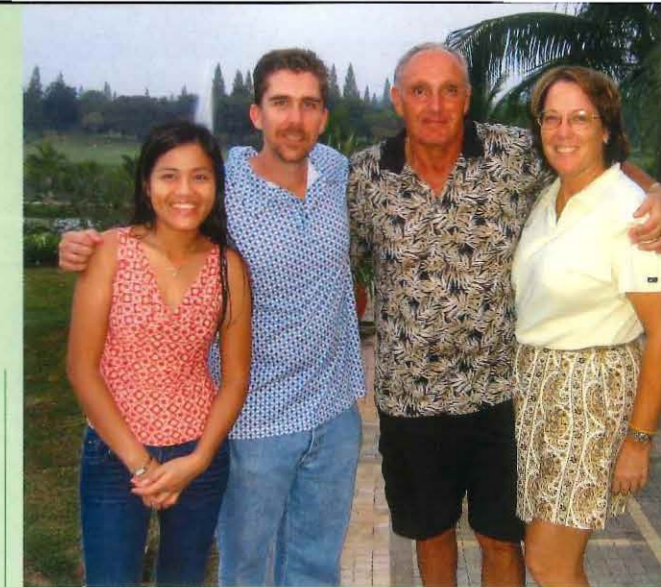
### GOLDEN BALLS - CAPTAINS DAY AT LEGACY RAM INTRA

As you will have noted in last month's edition of Outpost (if you managed to find us at the back) the golf section allowed Kevin & Vicky to depart Thailand for their latest adventure in chewing gum free Singapore. Before their final departure and in between Kevin's global travels with his new position, the Jones' found time to host the annual event that the captain is expected to endure. CAPTAIN'S DAY. This is the event where the captain is able to select a format of his choice and invoke his will on the assembled masses. The format selected will hence forth be known as Kevin's Golden Balls (KGB).

The venue for this outing is the recently re-named Legacy Ram Intra, close to Safari World in the northern suburbs of Bangkok. This Jack Nicklaus course was in the throes of being prepared for the upcoming Bangkok Airways open and this meant that the rough had been allowed to grow and the green were being primed for an international professional tournament. You can imagine how we fared! Back to the fun. Obviously Kevin had had way too much time on his hands, whilst travelling back & forth across the oceans in business class and he conjured up a devious format for us. Firstly, he had carefully selected his groupings, with a balance, of youth, experience, high and low handicappers in each 4 ball. The only thing missing, just like his beloved Man City, was someone to score in each group (sorry Kevin, couldn't help myself there!!!). Then each group was given one of Kevin's many Golden



KGB...



Balls, much to the dismay of Vicky. The idea being that we had to take it in turns to play with KGB and receive double points for the player that finished the hole with KGB. Way too complicated to explain here as it seemed very complicated to those of us that were expected to play it... In the end there was a victor and as is the tradition of the Captain's day, the prizes were carefully selected and paid for by the host. You can imagine

the fun that was had, when Kevin started giving away the prizes as being the items left in the apartment after the packers had been in to pack & ship their belongings.. The highlight being the inflatable bed given to Gaew, as she is always complaining about how tired she is. Now she can have a snooze between holes, especially when following a beloved 5 or 6 ball group. Thanks to Team Jones and KGB.

Andy Flynn

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## RUGBY

# NEWS FROM THE TOUCHLINE

After a very active couple of months, below is a summary of recent events at British Club Rugby.

### BC STARDS RETURN

Despite not playing for almost eighteen months, BC Stards our vets team, made a welcome return to action in September playing against the Contemptibles of HKFC's Rugby Section. Despite being billed as a vets match, our opponents had an enormous squad of players many of whom must have just qualified in this age category. The teams played for the usual Cup & Saucer trophy at the RBSC on 11th September and after rounding up some elderly scrotes from around town, the BC Stards just about managed to field a team against the visiting Hongkies. This was not assisted by the fact that the kick off was brought forward by fifteen minutes and some of our players were caught in traffic.

What started so well for the BC Stards quickly turned to disaster as first the Contemps ran in a couple of quick tries and then our star performer Nigel Wixcey retired hurt due to a shoulder injury. After completing the first two periods of twenty minutes, and with deep breathing from the most of the team, the BC Stards were saved not be the bell or the whistle but by the fact that the floodlights failed! "Right, that's us then chaps!" uttered Rugby Section Chairman Jon Prichard barely able to breathe after a spirited run around.

The floodlight failure had been a comedy of errors as Scribe and Jimmy "The Ratcatcher" Howard, were standing on the touchline. "Scribe, dear boy, are they welding over there?" said The Ratcatcher, "well if they are they've buggedgered it now" responded Scribe as the electrical panel for the floodlights descended from sparks to fire.

Following the match, we joined both RBSC and HKFC for post match dinner during which we realised that the Cup and Saucer trophy was still in the boot of Vince Swift's car so another trophy was acquired and a further feast was held at Timbevati together with a few beers and presentation ceremony.

### RUGBY SECTION AGM

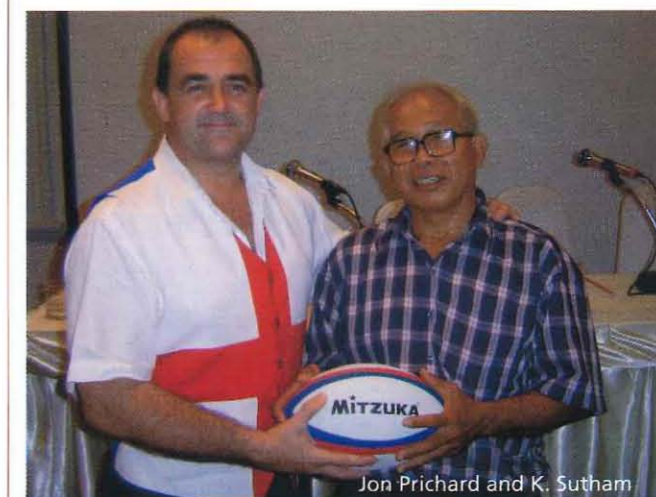
Khun Sutham Boonyapaluk, TRU Committee Member responsible for upcountry development was invited to the British Club on 23rd September to receive from the Rugby Section 100 imported rugby balls for distribution in upcountry areas to assist in the Kingdom's rugby

development. This was held as part of the Rugby Section AGM during which the following Committee was elected:

- Jon Prichard - Chairman
- Keith Rowley - Treasurer
- Bob Merrigan - Secretary / Youth Development
- Keith Cronshaw - Sponsorship
- Angus McKernan - Membership
- Eddie Evans - Captain, First Fifteen
- Morcar McConnell - Vice Captain / Sevens Captain
- Khun Dakorn - Recruitment
- Khun Wai - TRU Liaison
- Rob Milson - Social

You will note that after a period of ten years, the list does not contain Bruce Hill who decided that after such a long period "someone else should step up!" Bruce is extremely active with the Bangkok Lions junior rugby in which he will be channelling his energy and which the British Club will continue to support. He retains the honorary title of "Counselary" and from time to time will be consulted on a wide range of topics associated with youth development, tours and balls. Thanks to Bruce for all your effort from 1995 to 2004.

Planning for 2005 has already commenced for the 2005 season including a number of tours so watch this space.



Jon Prichard and K. Sutham



BC Team

BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

DECEMBER 2004

9



On tour in Cambodia

### THE KINGS CUP / TRU NATIONAL LEAGUE

As Outpost goes to press, the British Club remains unbeaten after five games of the seven to be played in this fifteens event which the British Club last won in 1994. To date we have beaten The Royal Thai Airforce, The Southerners, RBSC, Royal Thai Navy and Old Boys Vajiravuth. Remaining games are against The Royal Thai Police and The Royal Thai Army.

### PINK & BLACK BALL

The 14th Annual Pink and Black Ball was held on Saturday 16th October 2004 at The Grand Hyatt Erawan. Over 430 people attended the event, which is simply one of the best social nights of the year. The marvellous idea of erecting a set of rugby posts for women to kick for the opportunity to win a bottle of wine actually worked and played a focal point during dinner and everyone was a winner! More to follow with a separate write up once we have tracked down the photographer to hold of some photos.

### THE GLITTER BAND TOUR TO CAMBODIA

Less than a week after the Pink and Black Ball, Rugby Section members old and new assembled from the four corners of the globe to celebrate Bruce Hill's 40th Birthday the best way we know how, on tour! Bruce got a wonderful early birthday gift with "Glitter Band" winning the Angkor 10's tournament in Phnom Penn on 23rd October. A brilliant tour enjoyed by all the 28 tourists and once we have retrieved the proposed article from a censorship review at the Cambodian Ministry of Information, a full tour report will be published.

### AN EVENING WITH GLEN ELLA

On Thursday 28th October, BC Rugby Section members joined the Champion Bangkok Sevens organisers and sponsors as two of our own, Paul Bawden and Jon Prichard, were to MC the event and take turns to ask Glen Ella a number of questions. Glen talked about his background, upbringing, brothers Mark and Gary, his coaching career including RWC 2003 with the Wallabies and his recent stint with Italy. Added to this was a number of stories relating to touring, the usual thefts by Antipodeans at

Buck House and his involvement with rugby development in the Aboriginal community in Australia. A fine evening was had by all as the function also served as a welcoming party to many for many of the overseas tourists.

### CHAMPION BANGKOK SEVENS

Whilst still suffering from Tour Flu and in deep recovery, many of the Cambodian tourists remained in town to watch or participate in the 10th Champion Bangkok 7's. Very well done to David Duvall and his team for organizing such a splendid event which saw the BC lose in the quarter final of the Cup to the eventual runners-up The Royal Thai Police who lost to the UK's White Hot Marauders 62-0 in the final.

With Aussie tourists Meggo, Ramsey and Paddy still in town, the weekend went from bad to worse but was best remembered in the wee small hours of Sunday as the assembled quartet of Davies, Meggo, Merrigan and Prichard did a fine rendition of one liners from Blazing Saddles whilst watching a game of English football at Timbevati!

That's all for now folks!

Scribe



BC Boys with Glen Ella

## SCUBA

# BREATHING LIFE INTO THE BC!

The BCB is upgrading its first-aid kits, adding latex gloves and pocket masks for rescue breathing to provide better performance and protection. A spine board with head immobilizer is also being installed poolside to assist in safely removing a person from the water and moving them to hospital.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF CPR & FIRST AID IN THE HOME

A Short Story by Peter Gary

**8:31pm:** the children are doing their homework and you and your husband finally have a quiet moment to watch TV. You decide to get a drink and head for the kitchen. Not noticing the abandoned toy on the floor, you trip on it and start to fall. You try to catch your balance, then see stars as your head hits the corner of a table and you pass out.

You don't hear your husband shout your name and ask if you are OK, as he shakes you to wake up. You revive momentarily to hear his scared voice and the children running out of their rooms before you pass out again. Your injury is serious. You take one last desperate gasp of air - and then stop breathing.

Your husband panics as he thinks what to do next. Get some water? Pick you up and lay you on the couch? Call an ambulance? Yes! Call the ambulance! Where's the number? Didn't you post it on the wall by the phone or perhaps it was on the refrigerator? Next to the phone, right where you put it after taking the recent CPR/First Aid course.

**8:36pm:** It has now been over five minutes. Your heartbeat has decreased rapidly and finally stops. Legally, you are now dead. There is still a chance if proper CPR can be started immediately and continued. You have only four minutes without breathing before permanent brain damage occurs. Your husband's hands shake badly as he dials the hospital; time seems to pass in slow motion as he awaits an answer. Traffic is heavy as usual and the ambulance cannot get through. The hospital estimates it will be at least 20 minutes (8:54pm) before the ambulance will reach you.

The kids are hysterical, crying and screaming for you to wake up. Your husband tries vainly to comfort and hold you while waiting for the ambulance. He feels a flash of guilt as he remembers you asked him to



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take the CPR/First Aid course too. It is now 8:39pm. Your family don't know what else to do as they wait and pray next to you on the living room floor.

Brain damage has been progressing steadily as no-one is administering proper CPR. 10 minutes has now passed and you are probably beyond help. Even if the ambulance arrives now with oxygen and a defibrillator you will probably be permanently bed-ridden and may not recover enough to recognize your own loved ones.

Your breathing and heart never start again. The ambulance took over 20 minutes to reach you; even then, there was oxygen but no defibrillator or a person on board trained to use it.

Your family misses you and wishes they could have done more to save you. As time passes, the traumatic images and guilty feelings may subside a bit but your husband now has to deal with both his busy work schedule and the daily household routine involved in rearing your children alone.

The above scenario is not an unrealistic one - and I hope it never happens to you or your loved ones.

The outcome may have been different if both spouses and all children over 12 years old had been trained in CPR/First Aid. The mother in this story might then have had a chance of recovery by receiving life-giving oxygen and blood circulation immediately after the fall and until arriving at the hospital.

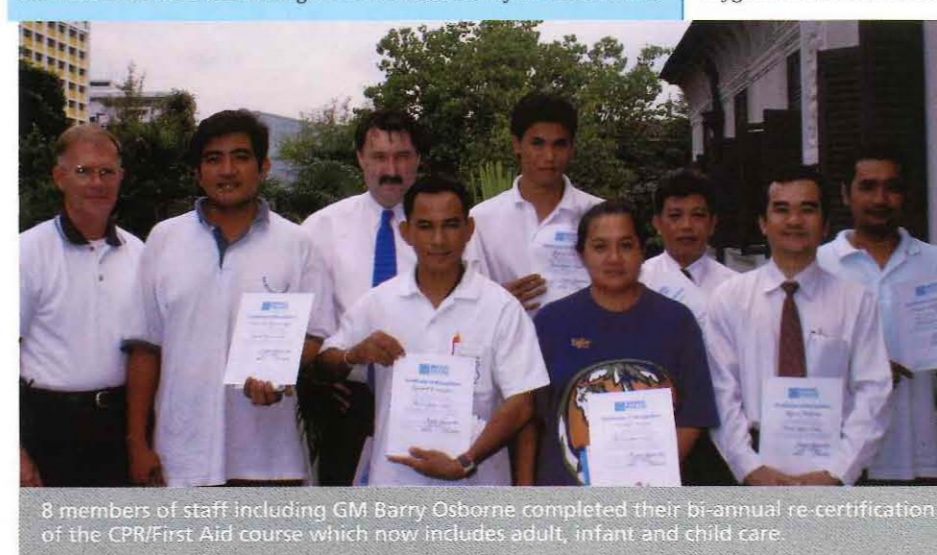
Yes, it takes time and some effort - 10 hours - to learn basic CPR/First Aid skills but they are important, life-giving skills. Give it some thought. Ten hours of instruction might not seem so burdensome when you consider the alternative.

**Peter C. Gary**

Medic First Aid Instructor 40822 / Master Scuba Diver Trainer #1575

Mobile: 09-117-5889

Email: Masterlifeguards@hotmail.com



8 members of staff including GM Barry Osborne completed their bi-annual re-certification of the CPR/First Aid course which now includes adult, infant and child care.

# HALLOWEEN

## A SPOOKY OLD TIME

Packed with witches and wizards, ghosts and ghouls, the Suriwongse Room was the in-place to be for little horrors at Halloween!



SUNDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 2004

# GUY FAWKES

## NOVEMBER'S BIG BANG

What better way to spark the interest of members than an evening of spectacular pyrotechnics for the whole family. And it wasn't just fireworks... there was feasting, fun and a roaring bonfire to make this event truly explosive!



## OFF THE WALL

## ROD CARTER OPEN

The Rod Carter Open commenced on 5th October with the finals being played on Sunday 24th October. This year ACA Pacific Group sponsored it with total prize money of 24,000 baht. There were 36 entries, making it the most popular event on the Thai squash calendar. Nine separate clubs were represented with Vajiravuth College sending nine competitors. There were 13 entries from the BCB. There were some great matches and this year BCB had James Quinn reach the finals. David Eastgate is back to his best and reached the semi finals against Poowis, the number 2 Thai player. David only scored one point but played well against a young fit player. James Quinn played Ben Edney in his semi final in a highly entertaining game that he won 9-4, 9-6, 3-9, 9-7.

In the plate event Kittirak defeated Nattakit 3-2 in the first semi final and Chataporn had an easy win over Jompol in the second semi. Jompol progressed because Akom was unavailable for this match. In the final of the plate the young Chataporn from Vajiravuth College won the first game 9-1 against the favorite, Kittirak. Kittirak then won the next game 9-0 after a long break where he had to go back to his car to

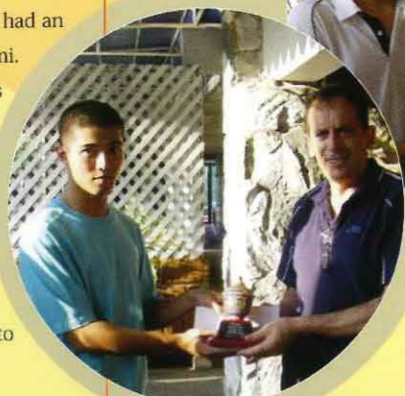
get his spare racquet. This seemed to break Chataporn's concentration. Kittirak went on to win 3-1 after a very entertaining and skillful match, the final scores being 1-9, 9-0, 9-4, 9-5. Kittirak received 6,000 baht and a trophy with Chataporn receiving 3,000 baht plus a trophy. In the final of the main event James Quinn put up a great fight and gave Poowis a bit of a surprise. James let himself get a bit upset from some of the tight play from Poowis who is very experienced at positioning himself so as to just hamper

his opponent's flight to the ball. Poowis eventually won 9-4, 9-0, 9-6 in another great match. If James could get more court time with the best Thai players he would be very competitive with them. Poowis received 10,000 baht and a trophy, James 5,000 baht and a trophy.

After the finals the spectators and participants enjoyed eats and drinks as they discussed their training for next years event. This was the best Rod Carter since I have been involved with the club and many thanks to the fitness staff, David Lines, Steve Tostevin, David Eastgate and Phil Hall who assisted with organizing and marking and refereeing.

## SOFITEL SUNDAY MIX-IN

We had 9 players for the November mix-in. The winner of Group A was David Eastgate and Group B was Steve Thomas.



## Group A

David Eastgate	60
Mark Smith	54
Colin Piperell	46
Pim	54
Da	45

## Group B

Steve Thomas	45
Jayne Mellor	44
Sara	41
Jaquita Thomas	37

In the play-off David beat Steve 15-9.

## OCTOBER LEAGUE WINNERS

Division 1	Ja
Division 2	Charles Whiteley
Division 3	Brian Brook
Division 4	Steve Thomas
Division 5	No winner.
	Not enough games played.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't forget in January 2005 the annual joint venture pilgrimage to Chiang Mai with Jack "boy" Dunford's cliketers. Even if you don't want to play squash or cliket, come along, it's a great weekend.

## LADIES SQUASH

In December Jayne will start a monthly ladies league and ladder. By the time you read this hopefully it will have started. If you wish to join in for the January league please call Jayne on 06 161 0868 or email mellbkk@asianet.co.th

Marvyn Lewis

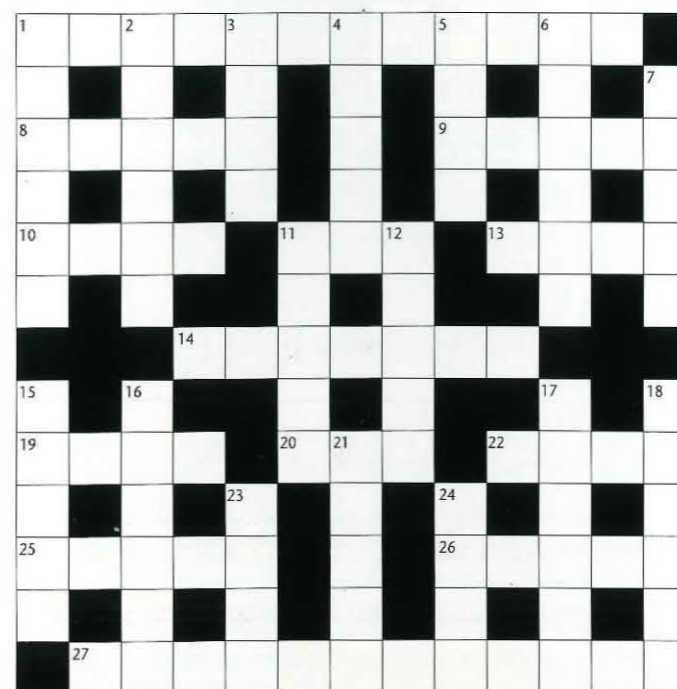
## CRIMBLE CRUNCHER

Hoping this is the only "cross word" you have this Christmas!

With grateful thanks to BC member and crossword compiler, Margaret Miller, who has never let us down.

Sherry Conisbee, Ed.

P.S. The answer to this Christmas Crossword is included on page 21 - no peeking!



## Across

- 1 Sink N E France to make a Christmas Gift brought by 13 Across.
- 8 Nero's Lingo.
- 9 Satan around at Christmas? Yes, kids love him!
- 10 A house where all are welcome.
- 11 There was one in the Stable at the first Christmas.
- 13 Men of wisdom.
- 14 Nail dad somehow - he's a chap with a lamp!
- 19 Most people celebrate a new one.
- 20 We all hope that no-one gets this call during the festive season.
- 22 He's reputed to give voice as he expires.
- 25 Do it with your glass - not your voice!
- 26 May have to do this before you open your present.
- 27 His Feast Day is on 26th December (5, 7)

## Down

- 1 13 Across decided to do this when they saw the Star.
- 2 The man around for a Song of Praise.
- 3 Wenceslas was a good one.
- 4 Dress up to them for the party!
- 5 Where 13 Across came from.
- 6 Time when 2 Down is performed.
- 7 Sin at this clue - rich stuff!
- 11 This ale won't put you in the Christmas spirit ...
- 12 ... but many of these will go into spirits!
- 15 Another Gift from 13 Across.
- 16 Pat in a spin? Yes - what a shine!
- 17 It must be on if you want the Christmas tree lit up.
- 18 "Faith ... is the evidence of things \_\_\_\_." (The Bible)
- 21 Stones for the October girl.
- 23 Leash - put it in front of deer to get Rudolph
- 24 Seasonal log.

Compiled by Margaret Miller

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## MINI RUGBY

# BANGKOK LIONS

Earlier this year British Club Rugby put its considerable weight behind a mini rugby initiative that was the brainchild of a certain Mr. Bruce Robert Hill.

On 9th October 2004 the Inaugural Season of the Bangkok Lions RFC concluded with a Sevens Competition held at Bangkok Patana Sports Complex. Held as always in a family orientated environment, all participating children received yet another one of Uncle Bruce's famed t-shirts, a trophy, a medal, a free BBQ thrown in by the Lions Committee, and lashings of free Pimms No.1... Oh, and Metropolis 107's DJ Russell Jay provided the music!

### WEEKS 11 - 13

Weeks 11 to 13 were predominantly used to prepare the children of all age groups for the tour to Singapore and they again benefited from some fantastic coaching led by Paul Clifton and Eddie Evans. Despite some rustiness after the summer break, increased abilities across all age groups were there for every one to see unlike several of the Committee who were by now suffering from the midweek fatigue from President Hill's tortuous committee meeting schedule. Three of the five Committee Members were continually on business travel so as to avoid further bruising of livers. All plead guilty as charged when our esteemed FB said "You are all deliberately travelling to clash with my meetings you useless pr#\$s!" Week 12 was particularly tough as Scribe and FB had a rather late Friday evening, Scribe having fallen for the famed "you've been away all bloody week, I need to brief you" trick, and despite arriving early on Saturday was rightly described by Seamstress Sue Hill as being "absolutely useless - but here in spirit, literally!"

Weeks 12 and 13 were quite hectic in terms of collecting funds for the tour to Singapore and on week 13 over 100 tour kits were handed at before pre departure photos were taken for the benefit of tour sponsors Land Rover, Chubb, Diethelm, Old Bangkok Bangers, DTC Travel and Food by Phone. Scribe would be absent on the Singapore so cannot take credit for the words below which have been provided by fellow Lions Committee member Dean "Reg" Robinson. "Reg" is his committee name, but will leave that storey for another day.....

### WEEK 14

#### The Singapore tour

On Friday, 24 September, a pride of 106 DHL Bangkok Lions set off to



Pre-tour departure

Singapore with parents and coaches on their inaugural rugby tour. This was a "first tour" not only for the Lions, but also for virtually all the children.

Everybody arrived at the airport on time to be greeted by a 90-minute flight delay. The children took this in their stride and decided that a flight delay is obviously the ideal juncture for a game of rugby, as one does! Mayhem then ensued as an impromptu game was played in the check-in area, with the substitutes keeping their muscles warm by practicing gymnastic routines on those bars thoughtfully provided by the airport authorities. It is, however, rumoured that the authorities had an altogether different use in mind for the bars - surely not!



Airport delays

Eventually, when the airline ground crew could stand it no longer, the plane was boarded and a good flight was had by all. The younger ones ensured maintaining their optimum fitness levels by performing interval runs in the aircraft aisles. This created the added benefit of keeping the aisles clear of useless objects, such as hostesses who refused to serve more alcohol.

Our arrival at the hotel caused conflicting emotions amongst the adults, chiefly shock amongst the ladies and delight amongst the chaps. It was marvellous accommodation, full of local colour, mostly of the mini-skirted female kind. We later learnt that this was the centre of the Chinese red light district, although most of chaps seemed to take this in their stride holding the view of what difference does it make if you want to use a coloured light bulb!

That evening's entertainment was pursued according to normal civilized rugby tradition. As soon as the children were in bed, many of the parents and coaches investigated the output of the local brewing industry. In one hostelry a member of the party was heard to say, "don't be ridiculous, you can't just order one of those beers, get in 6". When the beers arrived and were found to be below standard, and 8.8 % proof, it was decided that he should drink the lot, quickly, which he duly accomplished. Another party member appeared to manage avoiding sleep altogether that night and when his brain eventually started registering on Saturday, he

## MINI RUGBY



realized he had also completely avoided having any hair on his head. It seemed to have been stolen overnight, with the probable accomplice being a razor. There is a suspect - and you know who you are Madam!

The big day, Saturday, arrived and we set off to the Singapore Centaurs Club with anticipation of some interesting rugby ahead. It transpired that our two heroes above exhibited outstanding stamina but this paled into insignificance next to the absolutely extraordinary performance put in by the children.

Every single Bangkok Lion played with such heart, personal commitment, teamwork and spirit that they could only come out on top.

And so it was. In 9 games, the Lions recorded 6 wins, 1 narrow loss and 2 exciting draws. Clearly the last few months of training and coaching had produced not only scoreboard results but also a keen sense of pride. Both clubs were well supported by hundreds of spectators who were in turn entertained by a high level of junior rugby skills and sportsmanship.

Fleet footed under 9's Captain Ian Ramsay led his team in scoring 4 tries while Max McSherry took the ball and most of both teams over the opposition line for a memorable try. Matt Ingram and his under 10's attacked and defended with effort belying their ages, producing some tremendous flowing rugby to overcome the more experienced Centaurs.

It was the under 12's who combined to produce the tournaments highest winning margin in scoring a total of 14 tries to nil. Eric Moss, surely one of the regions most talented juniors, and Dan Buttling being players of

**"Every single Bangkok Lion played with such heart, personal commitment, teamwork and spirit that they could only come out on top."**

particular note in a great side of very strong junior players. Club Captain Michael Conrad's under 18's, many of whom were playing above their ages, entertained and prevailed through a combination of skill and grit. The ever-present Joe Louche was well supported by Robert Hill soaring in the lineouts while the spectators, as well as the opposition, were in awe of Josh Jones' covering tackles.

At the ground the Centaurs provided great hospitality, food and beverages, along with willing opposition across all teams on the pitch. Between games and at the conclusion, players, coaches and supporters from both sides were able to meet in a family day atmosphere to discuss rugby in their respective regions. Centaurs' President Tim Lambert congratulated both clubs and commented that the

Bangkok Lions had made tremendous progress since being formed only in April. He said the Centaurs would be honoured to make a tour next season to Bangkok for a return tournament. In turn Lions Dictator Bruce



## MINI RUGBY



Hill thanked the Centaurs, all coaches and players for the opportunity to compete in Singapore. However rumours of an impending knighthood were strongly denied by Sir Bruce.

After a sumptuous buffet, Saturday evening saw the entire party head to the Singapore Zoo's night safari. This safari is, in principle, a quiet affair conducted on trams through the zoo, however, when one of the trams had to stop for pedestrians crossing, a couple of South Africans in the party decided it was time to go off into 'the Bush'. One would have thought South Africans would know better on a safari but one assumes they were off to cull a rampaging bull elephant or Tiger (beer!).

Sunday was a free day, with a few parents visiting old friends in Singapore and some keeping in training with an extensive shopping work out. Most people headed for Sentosa Island for a relaxing spell of brain recovery, although it was a little disconcerting to see our intrepid South Africans arriving with complete swimming togs. We feared for the safety of the local Great White sharks but it appears our friends couldn't be bothered with any animal pacifying that day.

Before heading to the airport a tour trial was conducted, where two members of the tour were found guilty of extreme enjoyment, well beyond the call of duty, and three members were found guilty of being altogether too American and successful at their rugby. Clearly there were no mitigating circumstances, as the world is extremely hopeful that America does not find rugby in a big way, as that will be the end of anybody else holding the Webb Ellis Trophy (World Cup).

The tour was made possible through the support of tour sponsors: **Chubb, DTC Travel, Diethelm, Food by Phone, Land Rover and the Old Bangkok Bangers.** Many thanks to them, also to Bruce Hill and his Committee for organising a magnificent tour.

We all returned to Bangkok, in the middle of the night, from where a pride of Lions had departed 48 hours earlier but an immensely proud pride returned. This was a weekend to remember, when all the touring players of the Bangkok Lions rose to the occasion, to an extent far beyond

all expectation, and played their hearts out, returning victorious from their inaugural rugby tour.

### WEEK 14

#### Those that were left behind!

With a business trip having been rescheduled, Scribe decided that the Lions Committee should be represented as training continued for those not involved with the Singapore tour. Most of the 9 year olds and over were on tour which left to 4 to 8 year olds to be coached. The dutiful Dads and coaches arrived as usual, some slightly worse for wear than others! The morning ended earlier than usual at around 11:30am which left time for Scribe to join an assembly of the Mutton Club luncheon and an afternoon on the lash!

### WEEK 15

#### Gloating, big time

On return to Bangkok our beloved Dictator, decided that there was no longer anything mini about Lions Rugby and immediately renamed the club Bangkok Lions RFC and further resolved that the club would join the Thai Rugby Union to truly be part of youth development within the rugby community of Thailand. After this he was to commission a small banner - 32 metres long and 2.2 m high! The talk was of a great tour and there was gloating to be heard "We came, we saw, we slaughtered Singapore". There was also talk amongst the Committee of the need to spend the remaining club funds and to challenge ourselves in raising

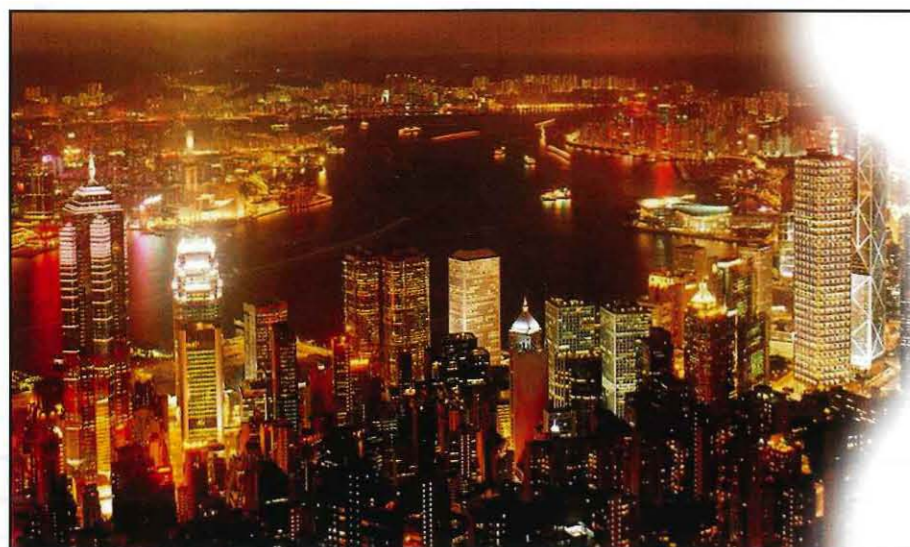


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## TENNIS

# SOS - SAVE OUR SUNDAY SESSIONS

With the rainy season now over, we hope more tennis section members will take part in our Sunday mix-ins. Attendance at the club's Wednesday and Friday mix-ins remains healthy but the number of members coming along for our 4-7 pm Sunday sessions has fallen alarmingly in recent months. The Sunday October 31 mix-in only attracted two players (surely not everyone could have been preparing for Halloween parties!)

At the moment, the Tennis Section Committee is not recovering the cost of Sunday mix-ins. Unless attendance picks up, we may have to reduce the number of courts available to one only or even scrap the idea of Sunday mix-ins altogether. Such a step would only be taken as a last resort and after careful consideration at a future committee meeting.

Do remember that the Sunday mix-in, like those of Wednesdays and Fridays, is a social event open to all levels. Unlike Wednesdays and Fridays, Sunday is also open to junior players.

We would also like to remind members that Monday night is for the "Team Practice" Mix-in session. That night will have 4 courts reserved from 7 to 10 pm for "official" (paid up) tennis team players. On Monday nights we will monitor the turnout by the "best" players in the club to determine how many courts are reserved for this training session.

The two hard courts will be 'reserved' for the top tennis players and the two "grass" courts will be used by beginner or intermediate level club players who would like to practice for tournaments. The club's best players (i.e. top 15 men and top 10 lady players) will be determined by the position on the Club's Tennis Ladder position. Full set matches will be played on Monday nights.

### UPCOMING INTER-CLUB MATCH

12 December 2004 (Sunday) 08:00 - 12:00 hrs.

At the British Club against the German-Thai Chamber of Commerce  
A full lunch will be provided after the game.

### BRITISH CLUB TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

19 March 2005 (Saturday) - get your registration forms will be in the Fitness Centre and sign up.

### NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Everyone is encouraged to take full advantage of the tennis facilities offered by the Club. While any member can casually use the courts by booking through the Fitness Centre, there are also many organized events arranged by the Tennis Section Committee. If you are interested, free to talk to any of committee.

### NEW WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

- Monday:** 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Team Practise Mix-In  
("Official" Tennis Team Players. 1 hard court for men & 1 carpet for women)
- Wednesday:** 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Mix-In  
(All Grades of Players)
- Friday:** 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm Mix-In  
(All Grades of Players)
- Sunday:** 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Captain's Choice/Team Training session  
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Mix-In  
(All Grades of Players and now including Juniors)

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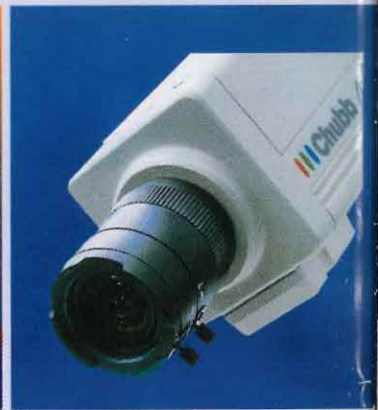
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