



# OUTPOST

BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

DECEMBER 2006



**Christmas Issue**

**Changes to Thai Visa Regulations**

Pirates!, Phad a Thai eye, Kids' Halloween, Fiery Guy Fawkes, Christmas carols



# BNH Spine Centre

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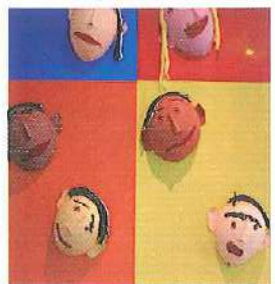
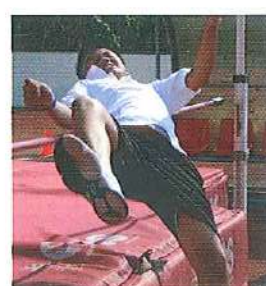
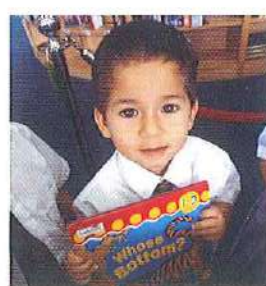
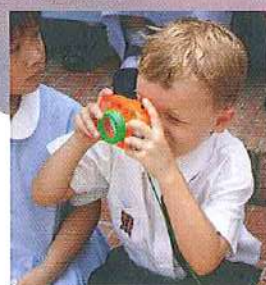
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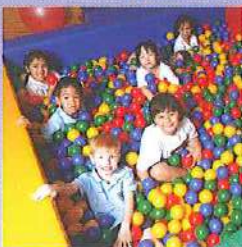
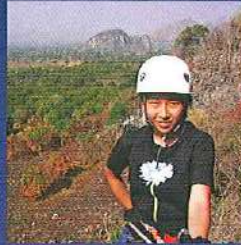
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*The ghost of Guy Fawkes - This must be the first time that a ghostly presence has been digitally captured at a British Club event. Despite being combined with Loy Krathong, Guy Fawkes at the Club was a magnificent fiery spectacle again this year! See pages 31-33.*

## The origins of Christmas Day

Christmas day takes its name from "Christ's Mass" and is supposed to mark the birth of Jesus Christ. How the 25<sup>th</sup> of December was chosen is an interesting story, because apparently those involved in actually setting that date hadn't a clue when Christ was born.

In pre-Christian times late December had long been a popular pagan festive season, centered around the winter solstice - the shortest day of the year when the sun begins to regain its strength. Yule festivities included the slaughtering of pigs and the burning of giant yule logs. The Celtic culture of the British Isles revered all evergreen plants, but particularly mistletoe and holly. Because they could flourish in harsh winter these plants became important symbols of fertility and healing, and were used for decorating homes and altars.

The Roman festival of Saturnalia, in honour of Saturn, their god of agriculture, lasted for seven days and also included the winter solstice, which usually occurred around December 25 on the ancient Julian calendar. During Saturnalia the Romans feasted lavishly, postponed all business and warfare, exchanged gifts, and temporarily freed their slaves. "The Birth of the Unconquerable Sun" was celebrated, as the days gradually lengthened and the sun began to regain its dominance.

Saturnalia was considered a fun and festive time for the Romans, but Christians believed it an abomination to honour such a pagan god. The early converts wanted to maintain the birthday of their Christ Child as a solemn and religious holiday...not one of merriment and Saturnelian debauchery...

So it seems that the first recorded observance of the 25<sup>th</sup> December as the birth of Christ, proclaimed by Pope Julius I in about 350AD, was primarily a political decision and an astute one at that. The 25<sup>th</sup> seems to have been chosen by the Church hierarchy to compete against the pagan festivals held in December. The 25<sup>th</sup> was an important date not only to the Romans, but also to the Persians whose religion of Mithraism was one of Christianity's contemporary rivals.

In time, the Christian Church would be successful in removing the merriment, lights and gifts from the pagan festivals and transferring them to the celebration of a Christian Christmas - but not without a few setbacks along the way. Cromwell banned Christmas, the puritans hated it, and the celebration as we know it never really took off in England until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, thanks in no small part to Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" (1843).

Congratulations to Kit Zellerbach, the winner of our Outpost Christmas Art competition, and thanks to all the artists who submitted work. We'll try to feature as many as possible in forthcoming issues. There's one work in particular that may have to wait until next October before it sees the light of day again...bruhahhhaa!

**Billy Beefeater**

## Merry Christmas

- This month we feature the winning entry in the Outpost Christmas Art Competition. Congratulations to the winning artist, Kit Zellerbach (9 yrs)



## OUTPOST MAGAZINE

The contents of this magazine are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor, the General Committee or the Club's management. Criticisms and suggestions are welcomed by the Club's management or by Veritas Enterprises.

OUTPOST is produced on behalf of the British Club by Veritas Enterprises. For advertising inquiries contact Jim Fowler (01-844-7015 or Jim@VeritasEnterprises.com); and for editorial matters contact the Editor at OutpostEditor@VeritasGraphics.com.

The British Club is a family, social and sporting club set in relaxing grounds, conveniently located between Silom and Surawongse Roads, with an ever-growing international membership.

## The British Club

189 Surawongse Road, Bangkok, Thailand 10500

Tel: 02 234 0247

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Entrance via Silom Soi 18



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**Northpoint**  
ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT LIVING

Project owner: Raimon Land Pte. Registered capital Baht 2,977,571,558 (Paid up capital Baht 12,136,370,871). Registered address at 22nd floor Unit 2201-3 The Millennium Tower, 42 Kasat Road (Road, Lumpini), Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330. Site location on title deed no. 1234, 1389 Lot no. 99, 100, Naklua sub-district, Banglamung district, Chonburi province. Project area: 12 Rai 0 Mean 84 Sq.Wak. The EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) report has been prepared and submitted to the DNCEP (Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning) on 23rd June 2005, receipt no. 4734. The construction permit has been issued on 23rd June 2005. Construction start date (approx) Q4 2005. It is a public notice that will be considered after project completion and commercial use shall be allowed for sale to the public. All project details are subject to the project, planning and zoning regulations in 53/105 and 53/106.



# Letter from **the Chair**



**Dear Members,**

It was a busy time 'behind the scenes' at the Club last month, with the awarding of the Project Management and Design and Construction tenders for the new Clubhouse facilities; the commencement of interior designs for the new facilities; and also a tender for some new Club branding and communication tools.

## **Club Image, Branding & Communication Materials**

Over the past 60 years or so, the Club has developed, independently of each other, a variety of logos, club colours, typefaces and promotional materials with no consistency in the approach. As examples, sometimes our logo appears with the name curved and sometimes straight; sometimes the name is given as 'British Club' sometimes 'The British Club', and often 'The British Club Bangkok'. Sometimes the logo appears with the 'shield' and sometimes without. As members are no doubt aware, there are also a variety of different typefaces being used for materials varying from brochures, application forms, menus, letterheads, business cards, advertisements etc; and often in a range of different colours and styles.

In short, there is no clear brand positioning for the Club (in fact it is inconsistent and confusing) or any design strategy or style guide and so the GC felt it was time to rectify this. We felt that our branding and communication tools do not help to sell the Club either to existing or prospective members. Last month therefore, having reviewed the Club's existing collateral, logo designs, ads, website, and emails etc, we put the 'communications' brief out to tender. The scope of work includes the establishment of a clear image and brand positioning for the Club, a harmonised design strategy and style guide (common branding for logo, colours, typeface etc) and designs and artwork for a wide range of literature and communication tools, including

electronic media.

The tender was awarded last month to Liquid Branding and requires all design work to be copyrighted to the club in a format that management can easily turn into promotional material, signage, etc. The new branding and communications tools will be launched to coincide with our new look Clubhouse facilities.

## **Club Development Phase 1**

Having awarded the interior design tender for our new Clubhouse facilities to Profile Interiors Co Ltd, members of the DRSC met with them last month along with our Project Manager, Tim Newth, from Thomson Brandtman, to agree on our working methodology; to review the design brief; and to discuss draft concepts for the new facilities. At the time of writing, the team from Profile were preparing concept & mood boards for each of the facilities for members to review. These should be on display in the Snooker Room by early December. Please take some time to look at the boards and communicate any views you may have directly to Simon Roberts at [CEO@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:CEO@britishclubbangkok.org). For ongoing information regarding the progress of the project please be sure to check the Development Notice board in the Clubhouse.

## **Membership Software programme**

The upgraded Club Membership programme is now up and running and has taken a large amount of time and effort by our supplier NSA, as well as Club Management and staff, in placing new data into the database and constantly testing and fine-tuning the upgraded programme. As a result, there is now a great deal of data available, which is already providing management with valuable information. The next step is the implementation of a Point of Sale system, which we hope will be in place early next year.

Finally, it seems impossible that we are now at the end of the year and already preparing for the festive season. I do hope you and your family will join in the many events organised by the Club this month and I wish you all a safe and very happy holiday.

Best regards,

**Angela Daniel**

*Chairman*

*BCB General Committee 2006/2007*

## Postscript by **the CEO**

**Dear Members,**

Another month has flown by and we are hurtling towards the busy festive season. I hope you have booked your Christmas parties and your Christmas orders with us at the BC.

If you haven't, why haven't you? The most important mechanism for us to utilise for continuous improvement is feedback from members. Whether verbally, electronically or written, we would love to hear from you. Even if it's not particularly complimentary, hopefully it will be constructive.

On that note, I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the Club often.

I wish you and your loved ones a very merry festive season.

**Simon Roberts**

[ceo@britishclubbangkok.com](mailto:ceo@britishclubbangkok.com)







# BANGKOK PREP

Bangkok International Preparatory & Secondary School

A British Curriculum School



**B**angkok Prep's philosophy is based on a simple conviction: it is that true education nurtures a life-long love of learning, a striving for the highest standards, not only in academic work, but also socially and spiritually. This empowers individuals to take their place as productive members of society at work, and in peace and harmony with themselves, the community and the environment in which they live.

Bangkok Prep's mission is to create a learning environment that enables students to realize their full potential through the application of the school's philosophy. Consequently, it is committed to offering a stimulating and challenging education which promotes a love of learning as well as spiritual and moral development of personal responsibility for one's own learning.

Maintenance of this learning environment requires high standards of behaviour, courtesy, tolerance, respect, an awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity. It is also rooted in the concept of the school as a community, actively involving parents and other community partners in school life.

## An International Outlook

Bangkok Prep is very like the Sukhumvit Community that surrounds it, in that the school is truly international, representing 25 different nationalities.

Such a diverse mix opens students up to other cultures and ideas and encourages them to speak English - Bangkok Prep School's main language of instruction, communication and interaction.

Bangkok Prep's enthusiastic teachers are native speakers, mainly from the UK but also from Australia, Canada and the USA. There are also specialist EAL (English as an Additional Language) teachers, who support students who may need support with their language skills, as well as native - speaking teachers of Thai and other modern languages.

## Location, Location, Location!

Bangkok Prep enjoys what is probably the best location in the city. Right on Sukhumvit Road itself and just a couple of minutes from Thong Lo BTS station, the school offers a welcome sight of greenery in the middle of the city. The expansive site shaded by mighty trees creates a wonderful atmosphere for children to work, play and interact.

As the area is also home to many of Bangkok's expatriate residents, and enjoys excellent transport links, travel time to and from the school is reduced considerably. This means that parents have more time to spend with their children and can become more involved with school life.

## Top-class facilities

The school boasts some wonderful facilities that challenge children, mentally and physically. As well as a 25-metre swimming pool, the facilities at the school provide for football, cricket and many other sports.

Inside the school is a large, airy and welcoming library, computer laboratories and specialised rooms for Science and CDT. Music also features strongly as both a curricular and extra-curricular activity.

Great care has been taken to ensure that all classrooms at Bangkok Prep School are bright and cheerful places where students are happy to create and learn. Outside, the lush grounds encourage students to meet and interact with each other in a safe and secure environment.





## Bazza's Banter

**and a Merry Christmas to All ...**

**Dear Members,**

Well, we are definitely in the thick of it here at the Club organizing all your private members functions and Club events. This is well and truly the best time at the Club – and we even have our Quality Street chocolates coming from the UK!

Don't forget – our blockbuster 'under the stars' Christmas Ball is on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December this year. This is the best bash in Bangkok and tickets are selling fast – 2,500 baht per person, so book now and don't procrastinate! Last year's party wrapped up at 6am after a visit from our friendly local constabulary, who left empty handed. The event starts at 7pm with complimentary canapes and an open bar of house drinks, wines and spirits, followed by a traditional Christmas dinner on the back lawn – music is provided by the Thai Army Band and a disco by Paul Jackson.

We'll have great prizes being given away throughout the evening, with our star prize being return tickets to London sponsored by Etihad Airways.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of December we will be hosting our annual Children's Christmas Party, unquestionably the highlight of the year for our younger members. There are magic shows, dog shows, puppet shows, pony rides, a giant slide and lots more; and the highlight ... a visit by Santa!

Lords is now fully booked for Christmas lunch but we still have a few places left for lunch in the Bar; apart from a great buffet lunch we will have pony rides, another visit from Santa and lots more to keep everybody entertained and bubbling along in the Christmas spirit.

For New Years Eve we are once again holding our annual Cruise up the mighty Chao Phraya. This year we have a new boat, the magnificent Chaophraya Cruise, which can take up to 250 members. The cost is 3,600 baht per person and includes a sumptuous international buffet, live music, an open bar of all house drinks for two hours and of course a spectacular view of the fireworks at midnight. We have sold over 100 tickets already so be quick. What better way to welcome in 2007? !!

Looking back on this year we've had quite a few wonderful events, but for myself the week I won't forget is the Royal Barge procession where we had over 400 members enjoy this historic occasion – and the same week we turned the grounds of the Club into a fun fair to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 80th Birthday. Not only did we survive the storm that threatened to destroy our Royal Barge pavilion, but we were also lucky enough to miss the rain at the Fun Fair.

It's still not too late to send in your Christmas order lists – but please, please get them into the Club before 15<sup>th</sup> of December – our elves are working around the clock in the kitchens to fulfil all the orders on time!

Well whether you're here in Thailand or going back home for the holidays I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas. Have a safe journey and I look forward to seeing you back here in 2007 when we will have even more events lined up to keep you entertained.

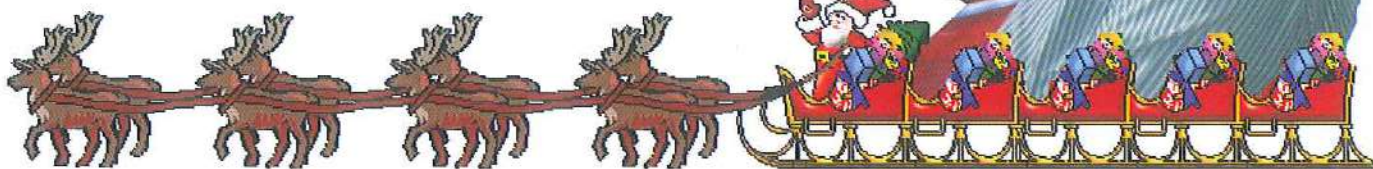
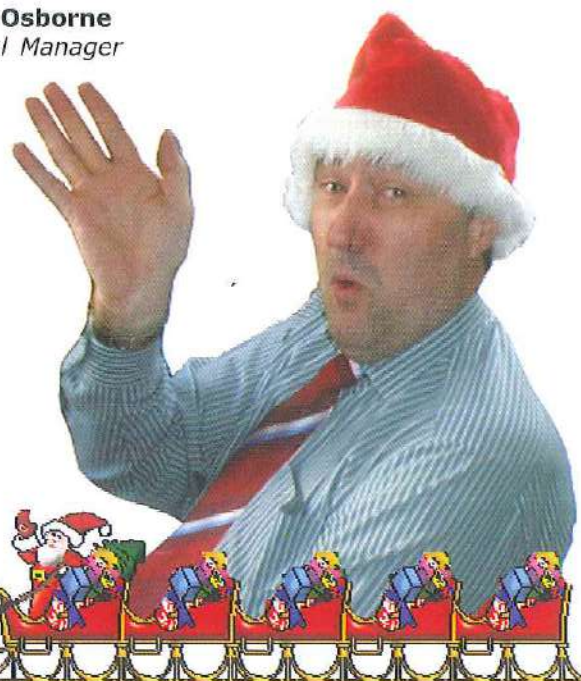
On Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January the Club and its outlets will be closed for our annual staff party. This year we are off to sunny Hua Hin!!! We'll be back open as usual on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

Last month we had a brilliant response to our request for donations for the deaf Children's Christmas Party and Dream World trip. So far we have been promised 125,000 baht. If you are free on December 19<sup>th</sup> why not come along to the party and help entertain the kids – all help greatly appreciated.

Hoo Hee Ho-Ho ,

Baz,

**Barry Osborne**  
*General Manager*





# WHAT'S GOING ON

## Special Events at the Club this month

### \*\* CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS BALL

**Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 6.30pm to 10.30pm**

Our second ever Christmas Ball for the Club's younger members with formal dress, pre-dinner "mocktails" in the Wordsworth lounge, a four-course Christmas dinner (no sprouts, honest !!!) and music provided by Santa's "jingle Bells" disco. Cost is 750 baht per person & includes a present from Santa. For further information, please contact Khun Ben or Barry in the office.

### \*\* BRITSTOCK 3

**Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1pm to 8pm, Back lawn**

We are celebrating the King's Birthday in style again this year with our 3rd Britstock party. So far Cannonball and Soi Dogs band have confirmed. Apart from excellent live music we have also arranged activities to keep the kids entertained.

The entrance fee is 350 baht for adults and 250 baht for children under 12 years old. The ticket price for the children includes all the activities. Food is not included in the ticket price but an optional BBQ and Thai food station will be available. To sign up for this event send a fax or email to the Club or sign up at Reception. For further information contact Khun Ben or Barry in the office.

### \*\* ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BALL

**Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm, Back lawn**

The Annual Christmas Ball is the highlight of the BC social calendar and the only ball in Bangkok to be held under the stars. The Ball is once again catered by the Shangri-la Hotel. Tickets are 2,500 baht each, tables of 10 or sharing. During the evening, one lucky ticket-holder will win the star prize - a return ticket to London for two sponsored by Etihad Airways!

For full information on the event please contact Khun Ben or Barry. Tickets are selling fast so book now.

### \*\* CHRISTMAS CAROLS at the BC

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm, Back lawn**

Come and enjoy a Carol Concert at the Club by the combined community and Shrewsbury School choirs. *For details, see opposite page.*

### \*\* CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm to 6pm, Back and front lawns**

Activities include children's crafts, the Club's bouncy castle, pony rides, a puppet show, a magic show and lots more. A picnic tea follows at 4.45pm on the front lawn and then everybody's favourite, Santa Clause, will make a special appearance bearing gifts for all the children. Event costs 450 baht (2 to 12 years) and 100 baht (under 2's and adults). Contact Khun Ben or Barry for further information.

### \*\* CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE CLUB

**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> December, 11:30am, Lord's Restaurant & Churchill Bar**

**Christmas Buffet Lunch:** Held in both the Lord's Restaurant and the Churchill Bar, the Buffet includes Christmas favourites such as roast turkey, baked hams, roast beef, pumpkin soup, sprouts, Christmas pudding & mince pies, and a whole host of Christmas goodies.

**Buffet Dinner:** The Christmas Buffet will continue in the Lord's Restaurant for dinner.

**Children:** As this is a family day, children are allowed in the Churchill Bar with their parents until 6pm. There's a host of entertainment for the children at lunch time, leaving Mum and Dad enough time to enjoy their Christmas also; activities include pony rides, walk around magic and a visit by Santa.

Book soon to avoid disappointment! For a copy of the Menu and full information please contact Khun Ben or Barry.

### \*\* NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER CRUISE

**Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> December, check-in 8.30pm**

Say goodbye 2006 and hello 2007 with all your friends from your Club. Welcome in the New Year in style aboard the Chaophraya Cruise luxury boat. Check in at river city pier one at 8.30pm and sail at 9.00pm. Tickets are 3,600 baht per person and include full Buffet and two hours open bar. Numbers are limited to 220 members so book now. For full information on this event please contact Khun Ben or Barry.



# THE 73<sup>rd</sup> ASHES SERIES – REVISED TIMES

The Ashes are back in Australia - but will they stay there? The First Test was concluded on 27<sup>th</sup> November so at the time of writing we do not have the score . . . The remaining Test series is:

<b>Second Test</b> Adelaide Oval	Friday 01.12.06 to Tuesday 05.12.06	7.30am to 3.00pm
<b>Third Test</b> W.A.C.A. Ground, Perth	Thursday 14.12.06 to Monday 18.12.06	9.30am to 5.30pm
<b>Fourth Test</b> Melbourne Cricket Ground	Tuesday 26.12.06 to Saturday 30.12.06	6.30am to 2.30pm
<b>Fifth Test</b> Sydney Cricket Ground	Tuesday 02.01.07 to Saturday 06.01.07	6.30am to 2.30pm



Please note the revised times of broadcasting.

HOWZTHAT!

## Christmas Carols under the stars

Come and enjoy a Carol Concert on the BC back lawn by the combined community and Shrewsbury School choirs.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

Starts 7pm

**Concert duration:** 45 minutes  
carols, followed by 45 minutes Big  
Band performance.



After the carols and during the Band performance, food and drinks will be served and there will be children's activities with Susie.

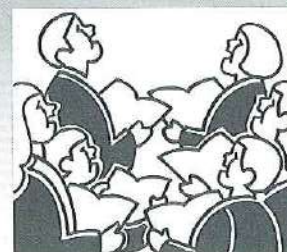
Enjoy Christmas spirits and mulled wine, mince pies and shortbread.

No charge for the event - food and drinks extra (charged individually to account).

- All congregational carols will be accompanied by a Wind Orchestra or Brass Group
- Big Band will play a 45-minute set after the carols

### PROGRAM

*Once in Royal David City*  
Reading – Head of Junior School  
*Junior Choir – two items*  
Reading – British Club GC  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
Reading – Head of Senior School  
*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*  
Reading – Chairman of the British Club  
*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*  
Reading – Headmaster  
*O Come All Ye Faithful*  
*We Wish You a Merry Christmas*



## "THE RUNAWAY BRIDE"

**Location:** Inside the TARDIS  
orbiting a Supernova hundreds  
of light-years from Earth  
**Dateline:** December 2007

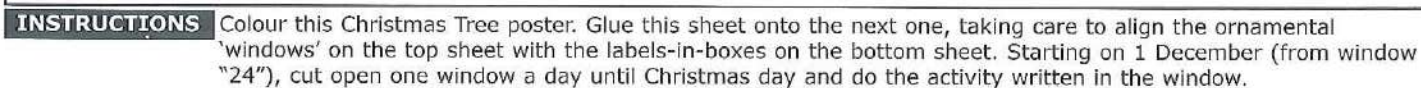


**GET YOUR DIARY READY ..... Catherine Tate . . . a Prima Donna?**  
**THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY ....**  
**7pm-8pm**

Children of all ages from 8 to 80 are invited.

Doctor: "What!"  
Donna: *\*High pitched squeak\**  
Doctor: "What!"  
Donna: "Who are you?"  
Doctor: "But..!"  
Donna: "Where am I?"  
Doctor: "What!"  
Donna: "WHAT THE HELL IS THIS PLACE?"  
Doctor: "WHAT?"







# CHRISTMAS ADVENT CALENDAR

Read a  
Christmas  
Story

Make a  
Manger  
Scene

Watch a  
Christmas  
Movie!

Chocolates!

Learn a  
Christmas  
Carol

Shop for a  
special gift  
for Mom

Bake  
Christmas  
Cookies

Make a  
Christmas  
Wreath

Make an  
ice-cream  
Snowman!

Make a card for  
Grannie &  
Grandpa

Sweets!

String popcorn  
for Tree  
decorating

Shop for a  
special Gift  
for Dad!

Hot Chocolate  
and a Movie!

Star-gazing with  
your favourite  
snack

Make 1  
Christmas Tree  
Ornament

Shop for a  
special gift  
for a friend!

Bake Gingerbread  
Men and Frost  
Them

Write a  
letter fo  
Santa!

OPEN  
YOUR  
PRESENTS!

Read or watch  
"A Christmas  
Carol"

Put old  
toys away  
for the poor!

Do a very good  
or kind deed.

Ice-Cream  
Party!

Make your  
wishlist for  
Santa!



# REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

## MONDAYS Wordsworth Lounge

9:00am-12:00noon

BWG Mahjong

## TUESDAYS Churchill Bar

8:30pm-late

Spoofing

## WEDNESDAYS Churchill Bar

Lunch & Dinner

(Noon-2:00pm & 5:30-9:00pm)

7:00pm and 8:00pm

7:30pm

CARVERY BUFFET Bt 250. Choose from 3 roast joints, 3 potato styles, 3 veggies. Also with fresh salad (Bt 280).

PERNOD RICARD ACCUMULATOR

Any member could win from Bt 5,000 to Bt 25,000 - prize increases each week.

CHIVAS REGAL BOTTLE DRAW - somebody present in the Bar will win a bottle of whisky, tequila, vodka or gin.

## THURSDAYS Churchill Bar

6:00-9:00pm

Chess

## FRIDAYS Churchill Bar

Lunch & Dinner

(Noon-2:00pm & 5:30-9:00pm)

THEME BUFFET - **1<sup>st</sup> December:** FISH n CHIPS BUFFET - Enjoy the best of Chip cuisine in the Churchill bar - fish and chips, battered sausages, pies, mushy peas, deep fried Mars bars, chip shop curry sauce and lots more; 250 baht per person.

**8<sup>th</sup> December:** T.G.I.F. CURRY BUFFET - with six assorted curries + breads, sambals, rice & dessert; 250 baht per person.

**15<sup>th</sup> December:** TEX-MEX BUFFET - with empenadas, quesilladas, fajitas, tacos, nachos and more; 250 baht per person.

**22<sup>nd</sup> December:** T.G.I.F. CURRY BUFFET - with six assorted curries + breads, sambals, rice & dessert; 250 baht per person.

**29<sup>th</sup> December:** MEDITERRANEAN BUFFET - with delicious classical dishes including risottos, polenta, Spanish tortilla, paella and pizza; 250 baht per person.

## Silom Sala

7:00pm and 9:00pm

Kids' VDO It's free. Includes free Nestle Sundaes for the kids.

## SUNDAYS Lord's Restaurant

Noon-3:00pm

FAMILY CARVERY - Choose from 2 soups, cold cuts, 3 roasts carvery, with potatoes and veggies, hot dishes, children's buffet, fresh salad bar and a range of desserts.

Adults Bt 350 and children Bt 200 (includes soft drink)

## Silom Room

1:30-3:30pm

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES. Games, videos, crafts, soft drinks and snacks with Khun Susie. Cost: FREE

## Suriwongse Room

3:00pm onwards

Bridge tournament

## Official Opening Times

10:00am - 11:00pm

11:30am - 2:00pm

6:00pm - 10:00pm

7:30am - 10:00pm

6:00am - 10:00pm

6:00am - 9:00pm

9:00am - 6:00pm

Churchill Bar

Lord's Restaurant (Lunch)

Lord's Restaurant (Dinner)

Poolside Bar (last food orders - 9:30pm)

Fitness Centre (Mon-Fri)

Fitness Centre (weekends)

Thai Massage (Tues-Sun)





# Children's Christmas Party

Monday, 18th December  
2 - 6 p.m.

Children 2 - 12 years  
@ Bt. 450



Under 2 years @ Bt. 100  
Adults @ Bt. 100



Santa appearance @ 5.15 p.m.



# DOGGIE DESTINY

## Capricorn (December 22-January 21)

**Keywords:** Serious, disciplined, hard working (+)  
Egotistical, status seeking, stubborn (-)



It is sometimes said that Capricorn dogs look old from the moment they are born but improve with age. Capricorn pets are serious, deliberate, cautious and do not like to take risks. Their goal is to improve their lot in life, by hard work if necessary. They will amuse themselves by watching other animals 'at play', which for them is a non-productive activity. They love to work and want to feel needed - fetching the Bangkok Post, finding your keys, or rounding up the kids makes him happy. They will patiently wait until you give them a task. They husband their resources frugally, and adroitly bury any tasty tit-bits that come their way, such as lamb leg-bones, in various discrete places around the garden - and never forget the places of interment. The Capricorn pet is not hard to train and has immense self-control. Unlike most other canines, this dog understands that there must be authority if life is to be smooth and comfortable. The Capricorn Dog will accept that humans rule the roost and quickly adopt the role of a most obedient pet. They don't need much physical affection and are quite content to fend for themselves while the family is away.

**Survival Tip:** Problems arise when the Capricorn dog's living standards fail to improve and their owner just slops around the house all day or indulges in endless frivolous activities. Once the realization sets in that there is no possible opportunity for social advancement, the Capricorn dog is liable to adopt a defeatist attitude and will no longer try to please. If pushed to the point of utter frustration they may well consider digging up their bones and moving to a new owner.

**Outlook for 2007:** With their ruling planet Saturn in Leo and trining Pluto for most of 2007, it's going to be a momentous year for Capricorn dogs. Owners will just have to bear with them. If you must take them for walkies, be prepared for a more than usually thorough examination of all olfactory landmarks (lamp posts, fire hydrants, smelly little corners, etc), for your Capricorn canine is assembling a mass of important data, which will be duly catalogued in the methodical canine brain and which undoubtedly will come in very useful at a later date. Try to look your best in 2007. Your canine companion will slowly come to the realisation that it can't be one of the Queen's corgis and will reluctantly settle for a lesser social position - but don't rub it in by looking too scruffy.

## This month's Adoptable Dog

### Deng Sam

*Female; Age estimated to be between 2-3 years old.*



Deng Sam is a happy-go-lucky girl in spite of her three-leg handicap. Injured by a little run-in with a car while being chased by other soi dogs in the area, Deng Sam doesn't seem to know she's any different from her four-legged friends. She's a delightful dog with beautiful pleading eyes.

If you have a home for Deng Sam, please contact Soi Dog Rescue at:

**Angela** 01-867-4952  
**Mot** 05-215-6962 (Thai speakers)  
Email: [adoptions@soidogrescue.org](mailto:adoptions@soidogrescue.org)  
Website: [www.soidogrescue.org](http://www.soidogrescue.org)



**Make a Difference,  
Sponsor a Soi Dog**

**A**lways wanted to help the less fortunate dogs of Bangkok but just can't take on the commitment of full time ownership? Then consider sponsoring a dog through Soi Dog Rescue. Whether you live in Thailand or overseas, for just a small amount of money you can make a real difference to a stray dog by contributing towards his or her keep and medical costs. Your sponsorship could help mend a broken leg, clear chronic mange, cure blood disorders, or cover the cost of sterilization and vaccination. Every dime makes a difference - especially to THAT dog!

Please contact [info@soidogrescue.org](mailto:info@soidogrescue.org) to find out more about the program and the dogs your sponsorship could help.

**You Can't Change a Dog's Past, But  
You Sure Can Change His Future!**





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**Millennium Hilton**  
Bangkok



## LOOKING BACK

# 'Pirates' a Rollicking Success

Photos by Jyrki Markkanen







**S**ix evening performances and two matinees from November 8th-14th – and still the waiting lists grew! The Bangkok Community Theatre's production of Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance" has been a marvellous success and a showcase for the remarkable talent living and performing right here in the Big Mango!

Right from the first rollicking number, you knew this was going to be special. The 'amateur' cast was extraordinary and their performances most professional. Behind the smooth delivery and timing undoubtedly lay a great deal of hard work. I don't know whether it was the 19th century setting, the cosy century-old venue, or one too many glasses of red wine, but this really did have the feel of a British Outpost in a far off land, where the locals can still put on a jolly good show!

A pity, yes, that more people couldn't have seen it, but the 'intimate' environment of the Suriwongse Room really did transform this from just another stage production with distant players, to a wonderfully atmospheric and intense experience – you could see the spots on the giggling spotty-faced ladies, you could hear the muttering of the plotting pirates as they sneaked through the audience, you could see the beads of sweat on the face of the Major-General as he wormed his way out of a tight situation and you could *hear* the marvellous voices and harmonies without artificial sound amplification . . . Although the band seemed to be more out of the room than in, the drummer's position in the

corridor definitely gave more punch to the bass drum!

Whether you're a frequent show-goer or a first-timer, the funnier and lighter 'Joseph Papp' version of 'Pirates' is appealing for its easy flow and comedic impetus. Sure, there'll always be a few purist opera buffs who will turn up their toffy noses at what they disparagingly term 'light opera', but there's no doubt about the wide ranging appeal not only of the Gilbert & Sullivan favourites, but also the intelligent 'modern' treatments they are receiving. The original G&S is enhanced – the clever lyrics are still clever, the catchy tunes (keep humming them interminably) and glorious silliness remain. Where can I go to get this silly smile removed – it's still there from the last performance!

There were many British Club members involved in the show, some recognisable, others not; but in addition to various members of the cast and crew, the Director, the Producer and the Musical Director are all British Club members. Well done to all those who worked so hard on making this production such a success.

If you're interested in getting involved in the Bangkok Community Theatre you can contact the BCT at [bct@sala.net](mailto:bct@sala.net) or visit their website [www.bct-th.org](http://www.bct-th.org) and if members would like to see more Gilbert & Sullivan, or shows of this nature, at the Club let the BCT know! I certainly shall!

**Billy Beefeater**



# The Phad Thai "Pad-a-Thai-Eye" Party

... another outside catering success by **the British Club**



American Ambassador HE Ralph Boyce presenting thank you certificates to Dr John Haines and his colleagues.

"**S**hoo-er - can do" ("Sure - can do" in anybody else's language) - this was Barry's somewhat predictable response when I asked if the British Club Outside Catering Team could organise the food and drinks for the Phad Thai "Pad-A-Thai-Eye" Party I was planning in the gardens of the Siam Society.

Over the years I have come to accept that Barry is completely unflappable and nothing is beyond him and his team. It was the same when we first talked about last year's Bed Push carnival parade ending at the British Club - he agreed without hesitation little realising that around 1,000 people and 45 decorated beds would descend upon the Club for the "Party of all Parties" ... and, of course, it was a brilliant night!

So I had no doubt that the Phad Thai Party would be a great success too. I did have a few unusual requests though ... I wanted the Phad Thai to be cooked in street vendor type carts, I wanted fairy lights around the carts and I wanted the chefs and serving staff to wear traditional country style Thai costumes - again Barry was unfazed.

After I had explained that the party would be a charitable event to raise funds for the People Eye Care Foundation (PECF) which provides cataract surgery for poor people in rural areas of Thailand, Barry's team offered to give their time free on the night and not charge overtime. Barry also offered to provide more than I'd asked for ... fried chicken, som

tam, sticky rice and Thai noodle soup ... in addition to three types of Phad Thai, and sticky rice and a selection of Thai deserts for a very reasonable price.

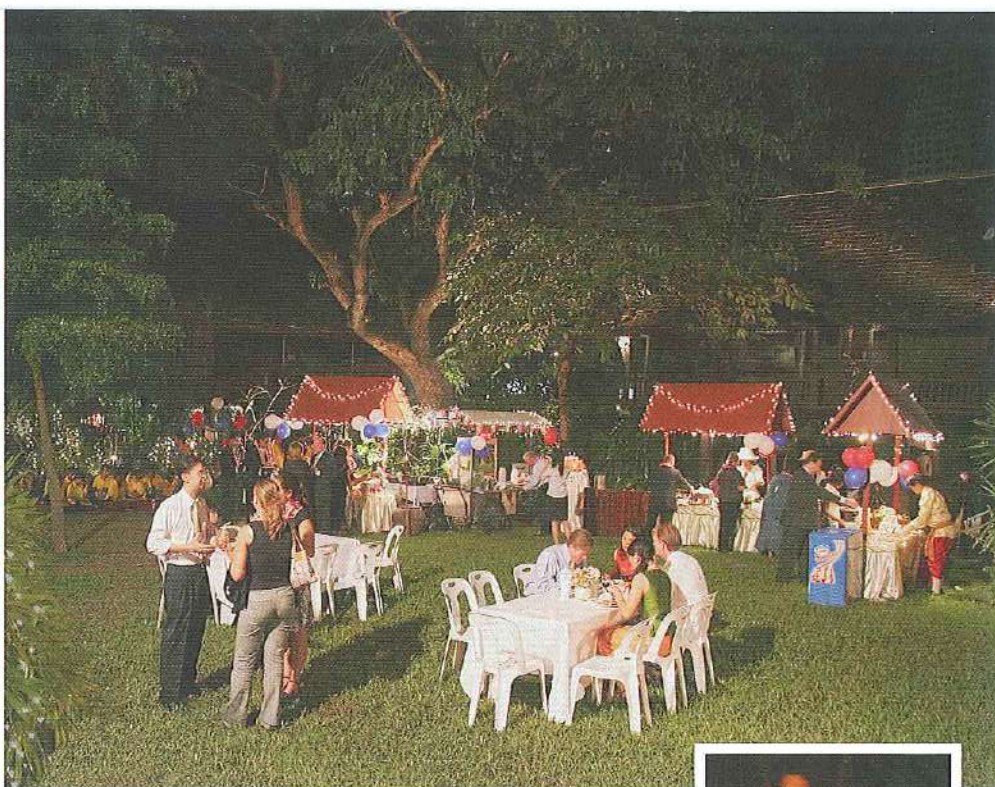
The British Club were not alone in their generous support - the BNH Hospital who I work for agreed to be a cash sponsor and to reserve 10 tickets and the Siam Society agreed to give a discount on their hire charge.

The event took place on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October and was a great success. As well as being a fund raising event it was a chance for PECF to thank an American ophthalmologist, Dr John Haines, and a group of his colleagues and friends who had travelled to Thailand to help the PECF with cataract surgeries on two of their eye clinic missions to Chiang Rai province and Samui earlier in the month.

134 people and 5 children came along to enjoy the special atmosphere that Barry and his team created. In the flyer the venue for the event was described as the 'enchanted gardens of the Siam Society' and these words came true thanks to the creative skills of the British Club - there were twinkley lights in abundance !

Entertainment throughout the evening was provided by musicians and signers from the School for the Blind and pretty girls put on a display of Thai classical and folk dancing. Two of the blind girls had beautiful solo voices and the band who played later





in the evening could turn out a good version of a range of latest pop songs and a few oldies specially requested by John Miller and his wife Ghazalah who had flown in from England earlier in the day. Khun Ting who organises the talented School for the Blind youngsters also brought 5 blind masseurs who were guided around by their helpers to give neck and shoulder massages to anyone who was sitting down. Looking around I could see their strong thumbs were greatly appreciated.

After the American team arrived Dr Somsran Watanachote, one of the founder members of the PECF and still a driving force behind the work the foundation does, stood up to introduce the team and then guest-of-honour, H.E. Mr Ralph Boyce, Ambassador for the United States of America, presented each volunteer with a thank-you certificate and small gift from the PECF.

Later in the evening Dr Somsran showed a short movie of two eye mission trips that Dr Haines and his team had joined. It was interesting to see the work these people do and moving to see the smiles of gratitude on the faces of the people they had helped to see again.

The evening had a very informal feeling to it with people sitting around chatting inside and outside – the weather was perfect – no rain and a slight breeze – it was a lovely balmy tropical evening. The food was delicious and plentiful, all the better for the

good beer and wine that accompanied it.

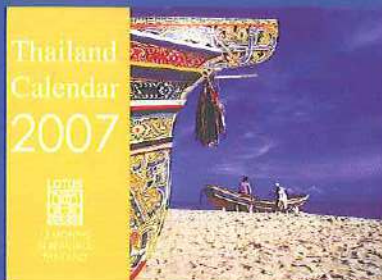
The Phad Thai "Pad-a-Thai-Eye-Party" was a lovely occasion for many of the Thai doctors, nurses and other volunteers of the PECF to get together and relax in a non-work situation and a chance for them to meet with members of the Thai and international communities who were interested in supporting their cause.



Thanks to the generosity of the British Club, the BNH Hospital and the Siam Society the event raised 130,000 baht, which has been donated to the PECF to help provide cataract operations in the future. Barry has agreed to join me on a trip in the New Year when the donation is formally handed over. I am sure he will have an exciting story to tell on his return!

If you are interested in knowing more about the work of the PECF or in being a volunteer on one of their eye clinics, please contact me on 02 686 2700 ext 3377 (work), mobile 086 003 7231 or by email [angelas@bnh.co.th](mailto:angelas@bnh.co.th) or contact the PECF directly on 02 310 3122.

**Angela Stafford**  
PECF Volunteer



The 2007 Lotus Design Thailand Calendar was on sale for the first time that evening. Hot off the press earlier in the afternoon, the calendar containing 12 beautiful photographs taken by Khun Damrong Juntawonsup and Hansjoerg Wiedmann which capture the beauty and charm of Thai culture, was a popular purchase by those attending the party. Having taken over the Lotus Design and Publishing Company from its previous owner, Susan Race, earlier this year, I have made a commitment with my printing partner Khun Wipa, to support the PECF whenever possible by helping to organise fund raising activities and making a contribution to the PECF each year from our profits.

The 2007 Thailand Calendar retails in the shops at 395 baht but is available to British Club members for 350 baht, along with a selection of specially priced Lotus Christmas cards and greeting cards at the Poolside Restaurant outlet.



enjoy your health



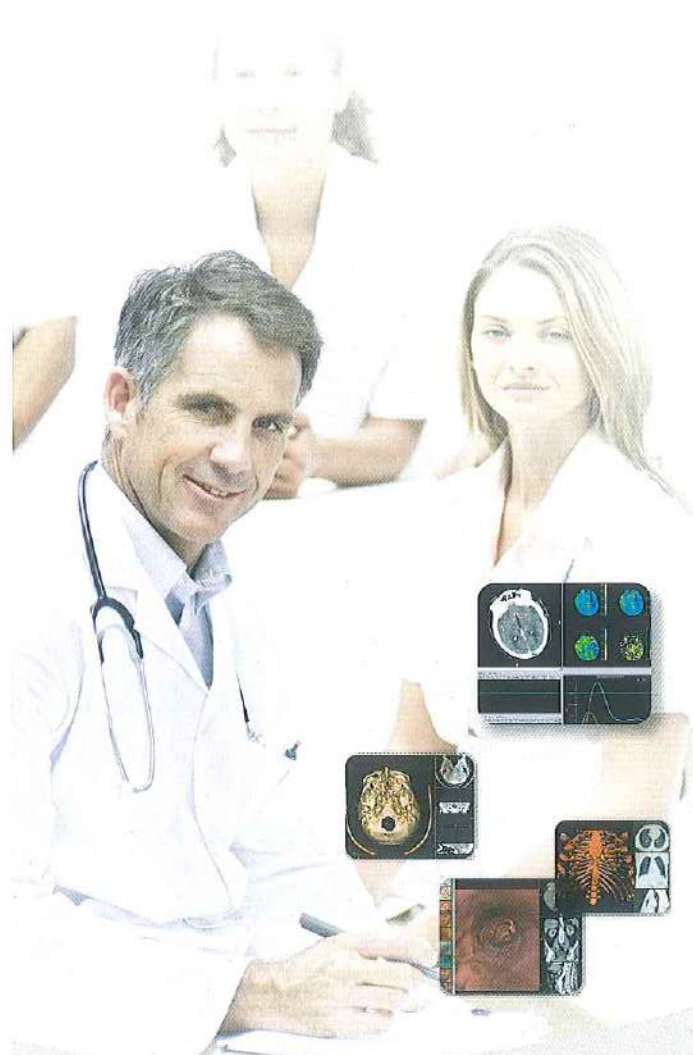
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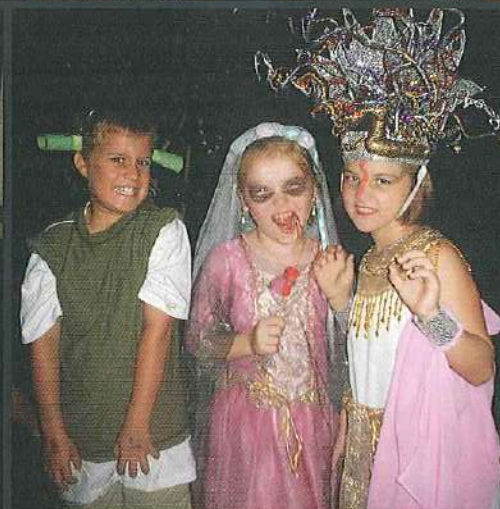
LOOKING BACK

# Spooky Sunday





# LOOKING BACK







**H**alloween came a day early here at the Club, on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October, with over 160 members and their children joining in the fun. The Suriwongse Room was brilliantly and spookily decorated by Khun Adisorn, Awe and Ben. Susie was once again MC as well as providing face painting and lots of creepy crafts for the kids. Costume-wise, witches hats and scarab beetles were in, and so was orange! There was the usual range of masculine characters from Shrek to Superman, along with Hiawatha and a couple of cowboys, heaps of witches, a smattering of Draculas, a few devils, an angel, and even a Cleopatra-like figure with spectacular headgear.

The event started with the egg-hunt on the back lawn. Although there was only one black egg, there were plenty of purple ones and prizes for everyone. Following the egg scavenge it was inside to watch a brilliant magic show that entertained all, not just the kids. Lunch was the normal organised chaos, with mini pizzas, bat ears, chicken nuggets, spaghetti, mini sausages and much more. After lunch came a most entertaining doughnut eating competition, with even the mums and dads taking part in the last round, followed by a fancy dress competition where once again there were prizes for everyone. After a short 'recovery' break and a quick clean-up of debris & detritus, the event wrapped up with a Halloween family movie.



# BC CALENDAR DECEMBER – The Month at a Glance

**Sunday**

**31** Lord's Restaurant  
12noon-3:00pm  
**Family Carvery**

**Silom Room**  
1:00-3:30pm  
Children's Activities

**Churchill Bar**  
3:00pm  
Bridge Tournament

3:00-6:00pm  
Cricket Practice

Check-in 8:30pm  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE  
DINNER CRUISE**



**3** 10:30am-2:15pm  
Squash Mix-in

**Lord's Restaurant**  
12noon-3:00pm  
**Family Carvery**

**Silom Room**  
1:00-3:30pm  
Children's Activities

**Churchill Bar**  
3:00pm  
Bridge Tournament

3:00-6:00pm  
Cricket Practice

**10** Lord's Restaurant  
12noon-3:00pm  
**Family Carvery**

**Silom Room**  
1:00-3:30pm  
Children's Activities

**Monday**

**4** 9:00am-12noon  
BWG Mahjong

6:00-10:00pm  
Tennis Match Play

**11** 9:00am-12noon  
BWG Mahjong

**Tuesday**

**5** 8:00-11:00am  
Tennis Ladies Mix-In  
  
9:00-10:30am  
Ladies Tennis Clinic

**Back lawn**  
1:00pm to 8:00pm  
**BRITSTOCK 3**  
  
7:00-9:00pm  
Football Practice

**Churchill Bar**  
8:30pm-late  
Spoofing

**12** 8:00-11:00am  
Tennis Ladies Mix-In  
  
9:00-10:30am  
Ladies Tennis Clinic

**Wednesday**

**6** 5:00-6:30pm  
Junior Tennis  
  
6:00-10:00pm  
Tennis Mix-In  
  
6:00-8:30pm  
Cricket Practice

**Churchill Bar**  
Lunch & Dinner  
**Carvery Buffet**  
  
7:00 & 8:00pm  
**PERNOD RICARD  
ACCUMULATOR**  
7:30pm Chivas Regal  
Bottle Draw  
**CHIVAS**

**13** 5:00-6:30pm  
Junior Tennis  
  
6:00-10:00pm  
Tennis Mix-In  
  
6:00-8:30pm  
Cricket Practice

**Thursday**

**7** 8:00-11:00am  
Tennis Ladies Mix-in  
  
5:15-9:00pm  
Squash Mix-in

7:00-9:00pm  
Rugby Practice  
  
9:00-11:00pm  
Hockey Practice

**Churchill Bar**  
6:00-9:00pm Chess

**14** 8:00-11:00am  
Tennis Ladies Mix-in  
  
5:15-9:00pm  
Squash Mix-in  
  
7:00-9:00pm  
Rugby Practice



**Friday**

**1** 2:00-5:30pm  
Junior Swimming  
Classes  
  
5:00-6:30pm  
Junior Tennis  
  
6:00-10:00pm  
Tennis Mix-in

**At the Club**  
6:30pm to 10:30pm  
**CHILDREN'S  
CHRISTMAS BALL**

**Churchill Bar**  
Lunch & Dinner  
**FISH n' CHIPS BUFFET**

**Silom Sala**  
7:00-9:00pm **Kid's VDO**

**8** 2:00-5:30pm  
Junior Swimming  
Classes  
  
5:00-6:30pm  
Junior Tennis  
  
6:00-10:00pm  
Tennis Mix-in

**Churchill Bar**  
Lunch & Dinner  
**T.G.I.F. CURRY BUFFET**

**Silom Sala**  
7:00-9:00pm **Kids' VDO**

**15** 2:00-5:30pm  
Junior Swimming  
Classes  
  
5:00-6:30pm  
Junior Tennis  
  
6:00-10:00pm  
Tennis Mix-in

**Saturday**

**2** 7:00-9:00am  
Adult Tennis Classes  
  
9:00am-1:30pm  
Junior Swimming  
Classes

9:30am-12noon  
Cricket Practice

**Wordsworth Lounge**  
1:00-2:00pm Yoga

**9** 7:00-9:00am  
Adult Tennis Classes  
  
9:00am-2:00pm  
Junior Swimming  
Classes  
  
9:30am-12noon  
Cricket Practice

**Wordsworth Lounge**  
1:00-2:00pm Yoga

**Back lawn**  
7:00pm  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS  
BALL**



**16** 7:00-9:00am  
Adult Tennis Classes  
  
9:00am-2:00pm  
Junior Swimming  
Classes



<p><b>Churchill Bar</b> 3:00pm Bridge Tournament</p> <p>3:00-6:00pm Cricket Practice</p>	<p><b>17</b> <b>Lord's Restaurant</b> 12noon-3:00pm <b>Family Carvery</b></p> <p><b>Silom Room</b> 1:00-3:30pm Children's Activities</p>	<p><b>Churchill Bar</b> 3:00pm Bridge Tournament</p> <p>3:00-6:00pm Cricket Practice</p>	<p><b>24</b> <b>Lord's Restaurant</b> 12noon-3:00pm <b>Family Carvery</b></p> <p><b>Silom Room</b> 1:00-3:30pm Children's Activities</p> <p>3:00-6:00pm Cricket Practice</p>
<p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Match Play</p>	<p><b>18</b> 9:00am-12noon BWG Mahjong</p> <p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Match Play</p>	<p><b>Back &amp; front lawns</b> 2:00pm to 6:00pm <b>CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY</b></p> 	<p><b>25</b> 9:00am-12noon BWG Mahjong</p> <p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Match Play</p> <p><b>Churchill Bar</b> Lunch <b>CHRISTMAS BUFFET</b></p> <p><b>Lord's Restaurant</b> Lunch &amp; Dinner <b>CHRISTMAS BUFFET</b></p> 
<p>7:00-9:00pm Football Practice</p> <p><b>Churchill Bar</b> 8:30pm-late Spoofing</p>	<p><b>19</b> 8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-In</p> <p>9:00-10:30am Ladies Tennis Clinic</p>	<p>7:00-9:00pm Football Practice</p> <p><b>Churchill Bar</b> 8:30pm-late Spoofing</p>	<p><b>26</b> 8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-In</p> <p>9:00-10:30am Ladies Tennis Clinic</p> <p>7:00-9:00pm Football Practice</p> <p><b>Churchill Bar</b> 8:30pm-late Spoofing</p>
<p><b>Churchill Bar</b> Lunch &amp; Dinner <b>Carvery Buffet</b></p> <p>7:00 &amp; 8:00pm <b>PERNOD RICARD ACCUMULATOR</b> 7:30pm Chivas Regal Bottle Draw <b>CHIVAS</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> 5:00-6:30pm Junior Tennis</p> <p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in</p> <p>6:00-8:30pm Cricket Practice</p>	<p><b>Churchill Bar</b> Lunch &amp; Dinner <b>Carvery Buffet</b></p> <p>7:00 &amp; 8:00pm <b>PERNOD RICARD ACCUMULATOR</b> 7:30pm Chivas Regal Bottle Draw <b>CHIVAS</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 5:00-6:30pm Junior Tennis</p> <p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in</p> <p>6:00-8:30pm Cricket Practice</p> <p><b>Churchill Bar</b> Lunch &amp; Dinner <b>Carvery Buffet</b></p> <p>7:00 &amp; 8:00pm <b>PERNOD RICARD ACCUMULATOR</b> 7:30pm Chivas Regal Bottle Draw <b>CHIVAS</b></p>
<p>9:00-11:00pm Hockey Practice</p> <p><b>Churchill Bar</b> 6:00-9:00pm Chess</p> <p><b>Back lawn</b> 7:00pm <b>CHRISTMAS CAROLS</b></p> 	<p><b>21</b> 8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-in</p> <p>5:15-9:00pm Squash Mix-in</p>	<p>7:00-9:00pm Rugby Practice</p> <p>9:00-11:00pm Hockey Practice</p> <p><b>Churchill Bar</b> 6:00-9:00pm Chess</p>	<p><b>28</b> 8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-in</p> <p>5:15-9:00pm Squash Mix-in</p> <p>7:00-9:00pm Rugby Practice</p> <p>9:00-11:00pm Hockey Practice</p> <p><b>Churchill Bar</b> 6:00-9:00pm Chess</p>
<p><b>Churchill Bar</b> Lunch &amp; Dinner <b>TEX-MEX BUFFET</b></p> <p><b>Silom Sala</b> 7.00-9.00pm <b>Kid's VDO</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> 2:00-5:30pm Junior Swimming Classes</p> <p>5:00-6:30pm Junior Tennis</p> <p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in</p>	<p><b>Churchill Bar</b> Lunch &amp; Dinner <b>T.G.I.F. CURRY BUFFET</b></p> <p><b>Silom Sala</b> 7.00-9.00pm <b>Kids' VDO</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> 2:00-5:30pm Junior Swimming Classes</p> <p>5:00-6:30pm Junior Tennis</p> <p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in</p> <p><b>Churchill Bar</b> Lunch &amp; Dinner <b>MEDITERRANEAN BUFFET</b></p> <p><b>Silom Sala</b> 7.00-9.00pm <b>Kids' VDO</b></p>
<p>9:30am-12noon Cricket Practice</p> <p><b>Wordsworth Lounge</b> 1:00-2:00pm Yoga</p>	<p><b>23</b> 7:00-9:00am Adult Tennis Classes</p> <p>9:00am-2:00pm Junior Swimming Classes</p>	<p>9:30am-12noon Cricket Practice</p> <p><b>Wordsworth Lounge</b> 1:00-2:00pm Yoga</p>	<p><b>30</b> 7:00-9:00am Adult Tennis Classes</p> <p>9:00am-2:00pm Junior Swimming Classes</p> <p>9:30am-12noon Cricket Practice</p> <p><b>Wordsworth Lounge</b> 1:00-2:00pm Yoga</p>



# On the menu . . .

## Irish Coffee



1 oz Jameson Irish Whiskey  
 1/2 oz Kahlua  
 2 bar spoons brown sugar  
 1 cup black hot coffee  
 whipped cream

Pour in Jameson Irish Whiskey, burn with brown sugar around rim of glass until sugar becomes caramel then pour in black coffee, top up with whipped cream and kahlua.

Irish Coffee has its origins in 1942, when the chef of the restaurant at Foynes Airport in the South West of Ireland, Joe Sheridan, served the first Irish Coffee to some passengers. Sheridan noticed that passengers would often come in cold and miserable after a grueling 18-hour trip across the Atlantic by flying boat. Sheridan's efforts to 'warm them up' led to the creation of the first Irish Coffee, the recipe for which is described by the inventor:

*"Cream as rich as an Irish brogue; coffee as strong as a friendly hand; sugar sweet as the tongue of a rogue; and whiskey smooth as the wit of the land."*

## Gaeng Kiew Wan Gai (Thai Green Chicken Curry)



### Ingredients:

Chicken meat or bone in, cut up	150 grms
Coconut milk (or Coconut Cream)	2 cup
Kiew Wan Curry Paste	1 Tbsp.
Palm Sugar	2 Tsp.
Fish sauce	1-3 Tsp.
Kaffir Lime Leaves, torn	3-4 leaves
Red chili peppers, sliced on a bias	3-4 each
Solanum torvum (Makua Pung),	
Crisp egg plant (Makua Proh), quatered	5 each
Thai basil leaves, picked	1/2 cup
Chicken stock, optional	as needed

### Directions:

1. Place a pot on the stove and bring coconut milk to a boil and reduce heat.
2. The coconut milk will start having sheen on the surface, which means that the coconut fat is beginning to separate from the coconut milk. At this time add the curry paste and spread and stir to cook over medium heat until the curry paste is cooked and fragrant. Do not use too high a heat.
3. Add the chicken pieces into the paste and stir to cook.
4. Bring the liquid to boil and boil until the chicken is cooked. Adjust seasoning of the cooked curry with fish sauce and palm sugar. Then add the eggplant, cook one more minute and add the sliced chili peppers and basil leaves. Stir and take the curry off heat. Serve with steamed rice.

### Tips:

- A. The difference between coconut milk and coconut cream is that coconut cream has more fat than coconut milk. Visually the cream will be thicker than the milk. If you bought coconut milk in a can or UHT carton, the coconut cream floats on top of the container and the milk is on the bottom of the container.
- B. If you use chicken with bones in, the curry will taste better and naturally sweeter from the blood in the bones.
- C. Chicken stock can be added if the curry is too rich but remember to adjust the seasonings accordingly.





## Cocktail of the Month - December

### Bloody Cranberry

1 oz	Vodka
1/2 oz	Peach liqueur
1 1/2 oz	Lime juice
2 oz	Cranberry Juice

Shake all ingredients, pour into fancy glass

## Cooking your Christmas turkey to perfection . . .

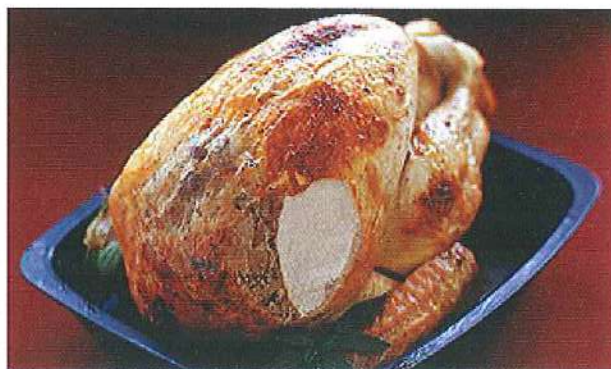
There's a lot of tears on Christmas Day because, quite frankly, turkey is the hardest meat to cook to perfection. All I can suggest is to do as much as possible the day before and try to get your timings right. It's worth taking 5 minutes to write a plan, working back from sitting down to the perfect Christmas meal, to what you can get done the day before.

Let's start with the stuffing. Fry the onions and bacon gently in the olive oil and butter for 4 minutes. Now add the fennel seeds, which I bash first in a tea towel with a rolling pin to crack them. Add the sage, crumble in the chestnuts, add a little seasoning and cook for a further 3 minutes, on a medium heat, until the ingredients have all flavoured each other. Season to taste. Pour it out onto a tray to cool quickly. Once it's at room temperature, pop it into the fridge until chilled. Put the stuffing mixture back in a bowl, add the sausage meat and egg and mix together. Add the bread crumbs to lighten and bind. The mixture should hold together but not be sloppy. Place the stuffing in an ovenproof dish and cook for about 45 minutes or until cooked thoroughly.

Preheat your oven to 190°C/375°F/gas 5. Now remove any giblets from the turkey. Rub the inside and outside of the turkey with salt, tucking the skin under to make it look nice.

Cover the turkey loosely in aluminium foil and place in the oven for 3 hours. Feel free to baste whenever you like after the first 30 minutes. For the final 50 minutes of cooking, remove the foil so the skin can crisp up nicely. At the same time, scatter your chipolatas, parboiled potatoes and bacon into another roasting tray and use some of the turkey fat to coat well. Once the turkey's done, take it out of the oven, put it onto a plate and, most importantly, let it rest for at least 30 minutes before carving. During resting, you have time to do your vegetables and make the gravy.

To make the gravy, skim off most of the fat, put the roasting tray onto the hob at a low heat to simmer, and stir in a good tablespoon of flour.



Keep stirring until thickened. After about a minute, add a pint of chicken or turkey stock, a little to start with, until it's all mixed together. Bring to the boil and simmer until it coats the back of a spoon.

Serve the turkey with the stuffing and the gravy, along with your choice of vegetables.

for the stuffing . . .

- 2 red onions, peeled and finely chopped
- 2 rashers streaky bacon, chopped
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 25g butter
- 1 tablespoon fennel seeds
- a small bunch of fresh sage, leaves picked and chopped
- 150g tin chestnuts, drained, or even better, 1 pack vacuum packed chestnuts
- 500g sausage meat
- 1 large free-range or organic egg, beaten
- around 200g fresh breadcrumbs
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper for seasoning

for the turkey

- 4.5kg fresh turkey
- 8 chipolata sausages
- parboiled potatoes, for roasting
- 8 rashers of streaky, smoked bacon



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**Christmas Carols, Seasonal Songs and  
Performances by International Schools,  
Community and Church Groups**



### Programme of Performances for December 2006

Sun. 3rd	2:00 pm	International Church of Bangkok
Mon. 4th	10:00 am	Harrow International School
Wed. 6th	10:00 am	Topsy Turvy International School
Thurs. 7th	9:30 am	Bangkok Patana School
Fri. 8th	10:30 am	Garden International School
Fri. 8th	5:30 pm	Swedish Church (Sancta Lucia Procession)
Tues. 12th	9:30 am	St. Andrews International School (Sathorn)
Tues. 12th	1:30 pm	Shrewsbury International School
Wed. 13th	10:00 am	School for the Blind
Wed. 13th	1:00 pm	Kesinee International School (theatrical skit)
Thurs. 14th	9:30 am	Noddy Play Group (preschool)
Fri. 15th	10:30 am	British Women's Group
Sat. 16th	10:30 am	The Bangkok Thistle Pipers
Mon. 18th	11:00 am	Japanese Choir
Tues. 19th	9:00 am	Lycée Français International de Bangkok
Wed. 20th	6:00 pm	AMA Studio Chorus
Sat. 23rd	11:00 am	Sisters of the Good Shepherd Fatima Centre Girls Choir

Performances will take place in the 4th floor garden area with a second performance in the lobby 30 - 45 minutes after the start of the 1st performance (on the 13th KIS will perform once in the lobby area). Donations will be collected and presented to the Fatima Centre on the 23rd, donations collected on the 7th and the morning of the 13th will be presented to the School for the Blind and donations during church choir performances will be presented to the church.

Dates are subject to change and times are approximate.

For more information please call Community Relations ext. 3393







## It's a record!



The Churchill Bar was filled to capacity for the last quiz night of the year on November 21<sup>st</sup>. A record ten teams competed for the glittering prizes: Dining vouchers for first, second, third and second-last place getters, and three table prizes of wine generously sponsored by Crown Relocations.

The special Tex-Mex menu went down a treat, with the very tasty Beef Tacos easily achieving a 5-star rating in Billy Beekeeper's offline gourmet food guide. But, alas, the questions seemed to get more and more difficult as the quiz progressed (or was it that extra beer . . . ?) with the occasional 'trap for young players' such as: "Who was the labour leader before Tony Blair". Oh well, that's easy, it was . . . it was . . . um . . . hmmm . . . Neil Kinnock, wasn't it? Well, actually, it was the unforgettable John Smith.

One would have thought it impossible for the common denominator questions to get any more difficult than the last quiz, but they did! It seemed that hardly anyone was cracking them, but nevertheless, fair to middling scores were being posted and it was an excitingly close quiz - never much between the first six teams. Eventually the Spoofers held on to clinch first place by a toenail from last month's winners Six No Trumps, with Jim's Junkies sneaking up to take third place yet again by a similarly narrow margin, pipping both the Southerners and new team the Pirates (fresh from their brilliantly successful run in the west end of the Clubhouse - see article page 16).

Well done to all the teams and we hope to see you at the first quiz for 2007 - on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. And finally, one of the more interesting questions answered on the night: What do the letters stand for in the BGGs' team name? Well it's "Bangkok Glamour Guys & Girls" - but "that's one too many Gs" pointed out our perspicacious quizmaster. That's because, apparently, one of the 'G's got lost in translation . . .

Oh, and the scores:

1. Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers	123.5	6. Some Other Team	109.9
2. Six No Trumps	123	7. Bookworms	91.5
3. Jim's Junkies	112	8. BGGs	86.5
4. Pirates	111	9. Textile Allstars	79
5. Southerners	111	10. Spent Boons	75

**REMEMBER — NEXT QUIZ — January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007**  
Teams of 4-6 — 100 Baht per player — 7.30pm kick off



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## LOOKING BACK

# A Fiery Night (and no rain)



**T**he good news . . . it didn't rain. In fact the weather was perfect. Was it really a year ago that we were swimming in mud on the back lawn?!!

This year Guy Fawkes and Loy Krathong fell on the same day so we decided to celebrate them together and a total of 380 members attended the combined event on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. The Delicious BBQ featured a spit-roasted suckling pig and many new dishes and salads created by Khun Laak and her team. Toffee apples were in abundance and proved popular with both kids and mums & dads. We also had delicious Thai desserts, like Kanom Krok, and there was even a vendor making ice creams. In fact many of the kids were helping him make them, whether he needed help or not! Susie and her team did a great job entertaining the kids with Krathong-making, face painting and Guy-making and there was also a football game, the stocks and darts to keep the younger set amused. The Guy-making competition was a dead heat with all the kids getting a goody bag – and no complaints!



# LOOKING BACK







*Can you see the ghost of Guy Fawkes? (Billy Beefeater certifies that this photo is exactly as taken by the camera & not tampered with in any way!)*



One of the highlights of the evening were the shows put on by the children of the Thungmahamek Orphanage, who performed traditional Loy Krathong dances as well as acrobatics and . . . later in the evening . . . fire dancing! The evening went off with a hiss and a roar when the fireworks started at 7pm, but after a crescendo of noise and colour, the display seemed to lose momentum and fizzled out at the end with a few disjointed pops. Hmmm. Maybe they need to work on their choreography! Although not as good as previous years, members still seemed to enjoy them. Next year's fireworks will be much better, and that's a promise!

After the Guy-burning (and the strange appearance of the ghost of Guy Fawkes in the flames - see photo) many members who had bought or brought krathongs made their way over to the baby pool for a peaceful floating session to round off an eventful night.

The evening officially finished at 7.15pm but at 10pm I'm sure I could make out a few 'hard core' members still drinking on the back lawn.

Thanks to Angela Stafford and her team of volunteers who provided medical assistance on the day, and I'm pleased to note that this year not one single person needed any treatment.

Looking forward to next year - Sunday 4th November 2007 is the next Guy Fawkes, and November 24th is Loy Krathong where we will once again be heading off to the wonderful Suan Thip riverside restaurant in Nonthaburi.



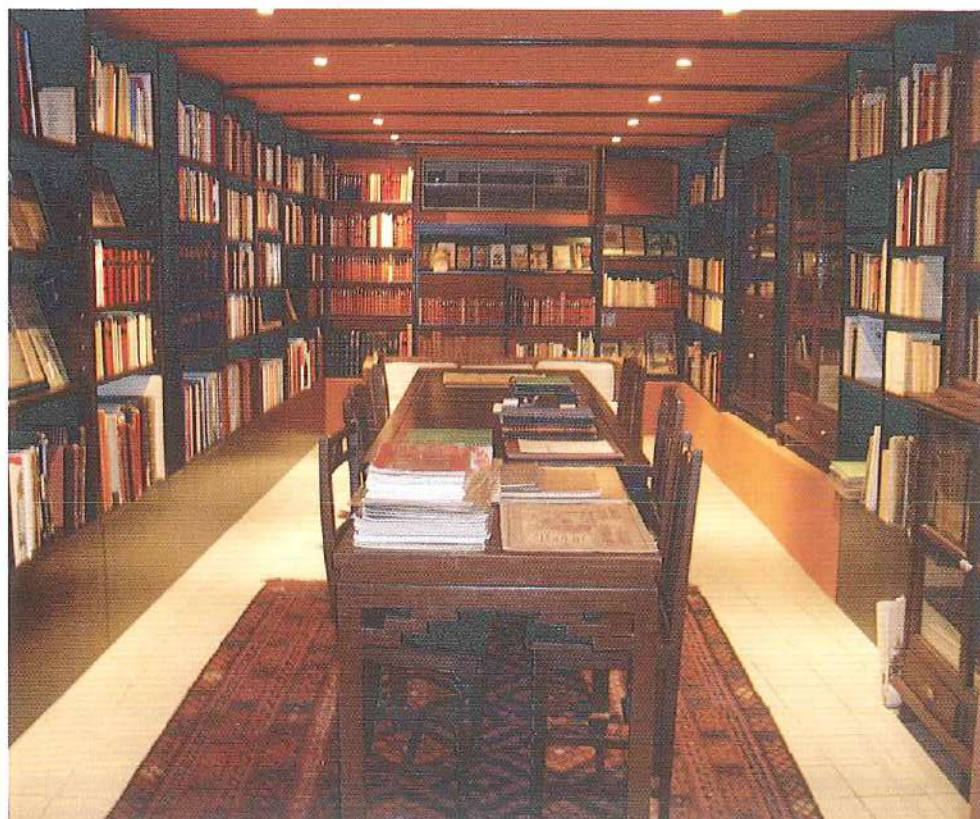
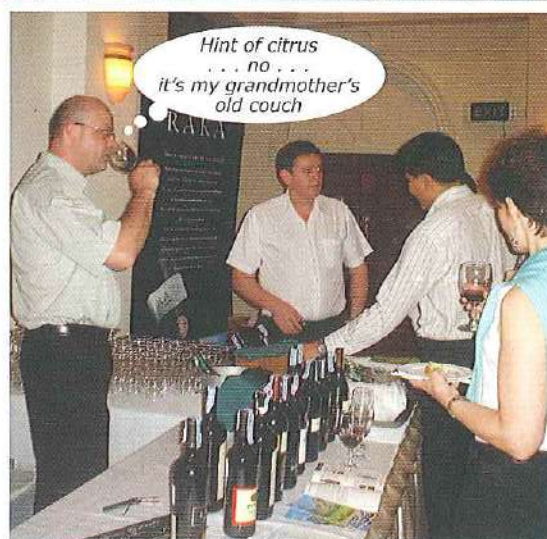
# LOOKING BACK



## Wine Tasting

There was another good turnout for the wine tasting in the Suriwongse Room on Friday 27th October and plenty of tasty canapes for members to nibble on while sampling the array of quality wines from California, South Africa, France, Australia and Chile. The wines were sponsored by Nicolas Wine Company, Farm Puthi Thai Wines, Festive Wine Company and Raka African Winery. Around 60 members attended the event and purchased the wines at specially discounted prices. Also in attendance was a company selling new wine openers with beautiful spreading 'wings' to effortlessly extract a cork - only 500 baht each!!

After the tasting there was the added bonus of the famous BC Curry Buffet awaiting in the Churchill Bar - all you can eat for just 250 baht - and a great way to relax after a hard week in the Big Mango.



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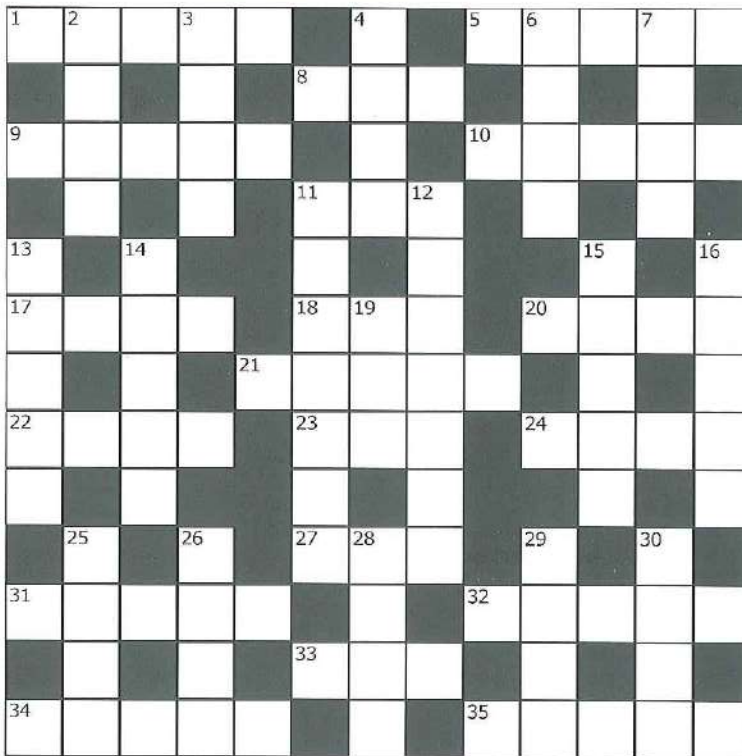
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# Crossword Competition

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## October Solution

**Across:** 1 Karachi, 5 Togo, 8 Basra, 9 Malacca, 11 Euro, 12 Pennines, 15 Clare, 16 Tonga, 19 Acapulco, 21 Iran, 23 Veryhot, 25 Black, 26 Siam, 27 Chinese.

**Down:** 2 Australia, 3 Arab, 4 Humber, 5 Tea, 6 Goche, 7 Abbey, 10 London, 13 Nigerians, 14 Brough, 17 Scotch, 18 Snake, 20 Cheri, 22 Oban, 24 Yam.



Be the first person to submit the correct entry for this month's puzzle to Barry or Khun Ben and receive a bottle of wine.

The winner of the November crossword competition is Mr. Roger Willbourn, pictured here receiving his prize. Congratulations Roger! You must have been very fast indeed to have gotten your entry in ahead of the crossword 'old hands'.

## Clues

### Across

- 1 According to R.L.Stevenson, there were fifteen men on the dead man's \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 He may be the Head of an Order.
- 8 Supplied the Inner Man.
- 9 Sounds a great amount . . . share out.
- 10 Somehow greet a white bird.
- 11 Familiar name of an African dictator.
- 17 Were around for a container of liquid.
- 18 One of sixteen in a boat.
- 20 Do twice for an old bird!
- 21 Alternative name.
- 22 A hot one smoothes things out.
- 23 Plural of 'is'.
- 24 The voice above 14 Down.
- 27 Old Testament Prophet.
- 31 Very small branch.
- 32 "Let the \_\_\_\_\_ pass, drink to the lass." (Sheridan)
- 33 He's an expert!
- 34 Stale and hackneyed.
- 35 One who is doing nothing.

### Down

- 2 "\_\_\_\_\_ is full of musical amateurs." (Bernard Shaw)
- 3 He really studies hard.
- 4 Where the horses go to mate.
- 6 Pleads or panhandles.
- 7 "Woman . . . she whom one must \_\_\_\_\_." (Old English saying)
- 11 Set apart.
- 12 Citizen of Tel Aviv.
- 13 In the 1 Across story, "Drink and the \_\_\_\_\_ had done for the rest."
- 14 The voice above Bass.
- 15 "He doth bestride the narrow \_\_\_\_\_ like a Colossus." (Julius Caesar)
- 16 Put N.Door right for a giver.
- 19 "When he speaks, the \_\_\_\_\_, a chartered libertine, is still." (Henry V)
- 25 A bit of rigging on a ship.
- 26 Measure in the pub.
- 28 Touch wood for it to be good.
- 29 "The rolling English drunkard made the rolling English \_\_\_\_\_." (G.K.Chesterton)
- 30 "Be not afeared, the \_\_\_\_\_ is full of noises." (The Tempest)



The British Club's

# New Year's Dinner & Disco Cruise

Good Bye 2006 & Hello! 2007

Sunday, 31st December



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Cruise Route





# A SLIGHT REVISION TO BYLAWS!

## Preamble

Following on from the General Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November, the General Committee give notice of the following by-law changes.



## BYLAWS

1, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 18, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 30 and 31.

## CHANGE

**That in all cases when a bylaw refers to 'the General Manager' or 'the General Manager of the Club', the bylaw is amended to read 'the Club Management'.**

## RATIONALE

When the current Bylaw review was undertaken in April/May of this year it was envisaged that the three tiers of Club Management would be Executive General Manager, General Manager Operations and Deputy General Manager - thus there was no need to update any bylaw reference to 'General Manager'. In fact we recruited a Chief Executive Officer thus warranting a change to the above bylaws.



If you wish to discuss the new Bylaws please feel free to use the BCB Forum or contact any member of the General Committee.

These changes to the Bylaws will be in full effect from mid-December 2006.

**Paul Cheesman**

Honorary Secretary

BCB General Committee 2006/07



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# Recent amendments to

**T**he Immigration Bureau has introduced a number of changes to the visa regulations with effect from 1 October 2006 which may potentially affect members of the British Club. Some of these amendments include: -

## **1. Tourist Visa Exemption.**

Passport holders from 39 exempted countries, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, are permitted to enter Thailand without a visa and to remain in the Kingdom for up to 30 days per visit. A number of visitors from these countries have lived in Thailand for several years by making a "visa run" to a border checkpoint at the end of each 30 day period, where they have crossed the border and re-entered Thailand for a further 30 days.

In accordance with the new regulations, passport holders from these 39 countries are now permitted to enter Thailand for no more than three visits or a total of 90 days within a six month period, calculated from the date of first entry, after which they will not be permitted to re-enter the Kingdom for a period of 90 days.

At this stage it is not clear as to how this regulation will be applied to foreigners from these 39 countries who visit Thailand for regular short visits i.e. as to whether these individuals will only be allowed to enter Thailand three times and then be unable to return for a further 90 days even if they have only remained in Thailand for one or two days per visit.

The Tourist Visa Exemption should not be confused with the 'Visa on Arrival' or 'Transit Visa', the rules for which have remained unchanged so far. Visa on Arrival applies to 20 countries (including China, India and Taiwan) whose nationals may be granted 15-day visas upon arrival in Thailand, on payment of a Visa fee. Transit Visas exist for on-bound travellers, sportsmen and those in charge of air/ship crews and are of 3, 15 or 30 days duration depending on the type of application.

## **2. Applications for Category B non-immigrant visas.**

Applicants for Non-Immigrant Category B visas at Royal Thai Embassies and Consulates overseas are now required to provide considerably more documentation to support their application. This includes all of the corporate documents of the corporate sponsor in Thailand (including business registration, affidavit, list of shareholders, audited financial statements, corporate income tax returns, list of foreigners employed by the company, company profile and map).

In addition, the applicant must provide a "Letter of Acceptance" from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Alien Occupational Control

Division, Department of Employment, a new document which was not previously required. This should be obtained by the employing company located in Thailand prior to the proposed employee submitting his/her application for a Non-Immigrant Category B visa.

In order to encourage holders of Non-Immigrant Category B visas to apply for a Thai work permit within 90 days of entering Thailand, Royal Thai embassies and consulates abroad have been instructed not to issue more than one single-entry visa of this category.

Since the requirements of specific embassies/consulates may vary and change at relatively short notice, applicants should check the detailed requirements of the embassy/consulate at which they intend to submit their visa application prior to travelling.

## **3. Extension of Non-Immigrant Category B visas.**

The Immigration Bureau has introduced new requirements for foreigners applying for an extension of their Non-Immigrant Category B visa, including: -

- The employing company must submit its most recent annual audited financial statements plus the annual corporate income tax return and the related Revenue Department receipt.
- The understanding is that this includes applicants who are employed by a newly established company, although this may currently be under review.
- The audited financial statements should indicate that the Company's revenues during the year were sufficient to pay the salaries and allowances of all its employees, including foreigners.
- The shareholder's equity in the balance sheet of the Company must not be less than THB 1 million.

## **4. Investment visas.**

The THB 3 million investment visa has been withdrawn for new applicants with effect from 1 October, 2006 onwards.

Existing extensions and those applications which are already "under consideration" will continue to be renewed.

## **5. Retirement visas.**

Applicants wishing to extend their retirement visas are now required to provide evidence of having at least THB 800,000 in their bank



# the Thai visa regulations

account for the previous ninety days prior to lodging their application. Prior to 1 October, 2006, applicants were only required to provide evidence of having at least THB 800,000 in their account as at the date of applying for the extension of their visa.

Applicants for a retirement visa who have a Thai spouse are required to provide evidence of having THB 400,000 in their account.

## **6. Visa extensions for foreigners working for Charities and Foundations.**

For foreigners wishing to apply for an extension of visa to work for a public charity, private foreign organization, foundation, association, Foreign Chamber of Commerce, Thailand Board of Trade or Thailand Federation of Industries, a confirmation letter is required from the chief government officer (Grade 10 or equivalent and higher) who deals with that organisation. In the absence of this confirmation letter, the visa may only be approved for a period of not more than 90 days at a time.

## **7. Three Year Non-Immigrant "B" Visa.**

Ministerial Regulation No. 28 (B.E. 2549) issued by the Ministry of Interior on 22 March, 2006, which has been implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from September 2006 has introduced a new three year Non-Immigrant B visa, which may be granted to foreigners who wish to conduct business (not to work) in Thailand. The applicants for this type of visa must be a businessman who runs a business in the country where the application is submitted and documents to verify the applicant's status are required.

The visa is valid for multiple entries during the three year period and the holder may therefore

visit Thailand as often as required during the three year validity period so long as they do not stay for more than 90 days during each visit. It is not possible to extend this visa at the Immigration Bureau and the holder is not permitted to obtain a work permit in Thailand. In the event that a work permit is issued by the Department of Employment, the Immigration Bureau may cancel the Three Year Non-Immigrant "B" Visa.

A fee of approximately THB 10,000 is payable (depending on exchange rates applied to local currency) and in addition to the evidence of the status of the applicant, the Royal Thai Embassy/Consulate will require a full set of the corporate documents of the associated partners/companies in Thailand and copies of correspondence with business partners in Thailand.

This type of visa is particularly relevant to non-resident directors who are required to visit their Thai subsidiaries/partners on a regular basis and full details are available on the websites of the Royal Thai Embassies in London and Vancouver.

The above represents an outline of the new regulations for guidance only and it is noted that the impact of the new regulations may be reviewed and revised on an ongoing basis. Members are advised to consult with their professional advisors or with Immigration prior to lodging their applications.

Useful websites include Immigration Bureau [www.immigration.go.th](http://www.immigration.go.th), Royal Thai Embassy in London [www.thaiembassyuk.org.uk](http://www.thaiembassyuk.org.uk)

### **Mark Butters**

Director

RSM Nelson Wheeler (Thailand) Limited

E-mail: [mark.butters@rsmthailand.com](mailto:mark.butters@rsmthailand.com)

## **CLARKE AND MCGINLEY SET FOR ROYAL SHOWDOWN**

*(See poster page 41)*

Ryder Cup heroes Darren Clarke and Paul McGinley will be re-united under the European banner when they line up for the Royal Trophy in January.

Both have confirmed their places in what is already shaping up to be a formidable team, with Captain Seve Ballesteros turning to some of Europe's biggest names to ensure Europe defends the Royal Trophy in the second 'Battle of the Continents'.

The four men named so far by Ballesteros are all members of the Ryder Cup team that helped rout the Americans at the K Club in September, as Swedish stars Henrik Stenson and Robert Karlsson will also be in action at Amata Spring Country Club in Bangkok on 12 - 14 January 2007.

Naomichi 'Joe' Ozaki, one of Asia's greatest ever players and brother of two more top professionals in Masashi and Taseo - otherwise known as Jumbo and Jet - will captain the Asian Team to take on the Seve Ballesteros-led Europeans.

The British Club is delighted to be an event partner for The Royal Trophy and we have a limited number of complimentary tickets for the event. If you would like to watch some of the stars in action please contact me.

**Simon Roberts**

[ceo@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:ceo@britishclubbangkok.org)





# Regular Sports, Games & Activities

## Bridge

Sunday 3:00 onwards - Churchill Bar  
(except last Sunday of every month)

## Chess

Thursday 6:00-9:00pm - Churchill Bar

## Cricket

Wednesday 6:00-8:30pm Practice - Back lawn  
Saturday 9:30-midday - Back lawn  
Sunday 3:00-6:00pm - Back lawn

## Football

Tuesday 7:00-9:00pm Practice on the Tennis Court

## Hockey

Thursday 9:00-11:00pm Practice on the Tennis Court

## Rugby

Thursday 7:00-9:00pm Practice on the Tennis court

## Spoofing

Tuesday 8:30pm until late - Churchill Bar

## Squash

Thursday 5.15-9.00pm Mix-in  
And 1st Sunday of every month 10:30am-2:15pm

## Swimming

Friday 2:00-5:30pm junior classes  
Saturday 9:00am-1:30pm junior classes

## Tennis

### Match Play

Monday 6:00-10:00pm

### Mix-in All Standards

Wednesday 6:00-10:00pm

Friday 6:00-10:00pm

### Ladies Mix-in

Tuesday 8:00-11:00am

Thursday 8:00-11:00am

## Tennis Coaching

With Nelson Thein . . .

Wednesday 5:00-6:30pm: Junior tennis

Friday 5:00-6:30pm: Junior tennis

Saturday 7:00-9:00am: Adult tennis

## Yoga

Saturday 1:00-2:00pm in Wordsworth Room

## Sports/Activities Price List

**Cricket**  
**Massage**  
**Squash**

**Squash courts**  
**Swimming**  
**Tennis**

**Adult Tennis**  
**Ladies Tennis**  
**Junior Tennis**  
**Tennis courts**  
**Tennis knockers**

**Yoga**

Use of cricket nets - Bt 300 day/Bt 500 evening if lights needed  
Thai massage/foot massage - Bt 250 per hourly session  
Private coaching with David Lines - Bt 700 per 45 min; group session  
Bt 1200 per 45 min  
Bt 30 per 45 min  
Classes with Bangkok Dolphins - Bt 3,500 for 10 lessons of 30 min  
Private coaching with Nelson Thein - Bt 800/hour  
Private coaching with Khun Jang - Bt 550/hour  
Bt 3,500 for 10 lessons (Saturday morning - beginner to advanced)  
Bt 3,500 for 10 lessons (Ladies clinic Tuesday mornings)  
Bt 3,000 for 10 lessons (Wednesday or Friday)  
Bt 30 per hour am/Bt 90 per hour pm  
Hourly knocking sessions with - Khun Kaew (Bt 500), Khun Tom (Bt 400),  
Khun Phon (Bt 300), Khun Champ (Bt 250)  
Bt 250 per lesson

All sporting activities can be booked through the Fitness Centre. For Churchill Bar games - just show up!

## Starting this Month . . .

## Little League Soccer at The British Club Bangkok

Come and join **Little League Soccer** and their professionally **qualified international coaches** to **learn and develop your soccer skill and techniques**. With **organized and fun practices** you will be able to **master all aspects of the game** from dribbling and passing to shooting and goal keeping. **Weekly matches** at the end of each session will enable you to practice what you have learnt in the session in **game and team situations**.

Also with **monthly Mini-tournaments** you will be able to compete against your peers for top honours. All players **will receive a FREE kit from Little League Soccer**.



**Dates:** 14/15, 21/22, 28/29 Jan; 4/5, 11/12, 18/19, 25/26 Feb; 4/5, 11/12 and 18/19 March 2007

**Times:** **Sunday** 4-6 years - 4-5pm; 7-9 years - 5-6pm  
**Monday** 4-6 years - 4-5pm; 7-9 years - 5-6pm

**Cost:** 300 baht for non-members  
250 baht for members of the British Club

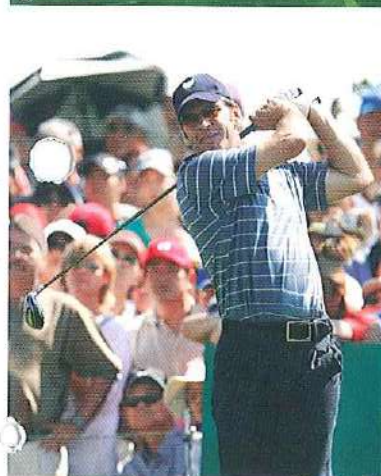




# THE ROYAL TROPHY

## EUROPE vs ASIA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

THE GREAT BATTLE OF TWO CONTINENTS



AMATA SPRING COUNTRY CLUB  
12-14 JANUARY, 2007

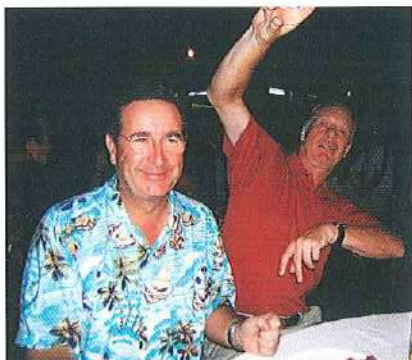
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[www.TheRoyalTrophy.com](http://www.TheRoyalTrophy.com)





Over the past month, we've had several memorable and exciting golf tournaments! The biggy was the famous yearly Intersocieties Golf Tournament held on the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> November 2006. Though this event was not part of our BCSG's programme, the get together of over 100 members of the 4 Saints - St. George; St. Andrew, St. Patrick and St. David - reminded us of our competitive British heritage and should have a mention!!! There was also the match against the Lighthouse, in which we were hoping to redeem ourselves, and our usual exciting monthly Medal and Hassell Stableford matches.

## Intersocieties - 4-5<sup>th</sup> November



*Its me not him - Intersocieties*



*The pipers - Intersocieties*

The explosion of a shotgun start was heard for miles as the Intersocieties Golf Tournament was launched at midday on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Hill Golf Course, Nakorn Nayok. I must have had a load of wax in my ears as I did not hear the shotgun, signaling us to start teeing off at 12pm sharp. Well, technically, they did not have a shotgun in the first place; we were supposed to imagine it!!!! What a fantastic weekend and what a turnout - this year the Irish was the organizer and the match's format for the two days was stableford points. Over 100 members of the 4 societies turned up with their families. As we discovered, the beautiful course was tough and the scores reflected it, not to mention our social and drinking performance over the weekend. From day 1, two societies - St. George and St. David - were

substantial leaders on the leader board with St. George sitting at the top comfortably. However, next morning, some players were looking rather dazed with crossed eyes as we had an early



*I give up*

7.30am shotgun start. Obviously, elbow-exercise on the course the day before and the heavy top-up during the BBQ dinner must have taken a toll, especially for the English team - no mentioned names!! This all resulted in a change of leader to St. David - leading by 9 points - followed by St. George, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to St. Patrick and 4<sup>th</sup> St. Andrew. However, St. George players who are our BCSG members won three individual trophies: Frank Fawkes with 75 points (best score for the whole weekend); Henry Brown, 40 highest points for any one player on 1 day, and Lek Williamson for Best Lady over 2 days - Bravo, Bravo . . . you have our salute and congratulations. There is a saying: "anything round - you usually never can predict the outcome until the closure of the event", so there is always next year folks.

## vs Lighthouse - Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. at Chuan Chuen Golf Course

Here was the chance to redeem ourselves and it had been our dream to bring the cup to our cabinet because of its long absence. You guessed right . . . our dream was shattered! I hate to say this but I must admit that the day belonged to the hosting team; the Lighthouse. The one and only excuse I could think of for playing "below par" was the fact that we were not a "morning team". Our tee times normally start at 11am or after but for this event it was 8am - some of us were still in bed! - hence the sketchy details of the match as I was still a bit goggely!! But hey . . . 24 members turned up,



*We thought the earth moved*





*We were sober*



*Who is he Mam?*



*Sorry love, are you comfy?*

to our captain's delight. The course was beautiful and challenging and the theme of the day was best pair stableford points. The crisp morning air nudged our sense of alertness but not our skill, as reflected by our score. Top 12 scores were counted: BC total 386; Lighthouse 416. Thanks to Bon Cassella who salvaged what was left of our dignity by winning a Caraway Golf Bag, the prize for "Best score of the day" with 39 points – well done Bon. Thanks to the Lighthouse; everyone who attended walked away with some prizes from the draws and the opportunity to do a good deed as we contributed some money towards their charitable events.

## Medal - 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. at the Royal Lad Krabang

We were pleased to see Angela and Mike Poustie with us after a long absence. Our course's condition was perfect for the day with a cool nice breeze and to our delight



*M1 Mike Poustie - Medal*

- no rain. Robert Grey put his new handicap to the test after moving into Flight A - not bad; he came in with a net score of 1 over par (73) and came 3<sup>rd</sup>. On count back, Gaew came . . . ummmm . . . Gaew scored net 73, her hip swings and usual calm charming self earned her a quick place in Flight A a while ago. Frank, winner of Flight A with a net 70, had a brilliant round with explosive and accurate driving. Mike Poustie, with a net 67, gloriously took the winner's trophy of Flight B . . . secretly spending most of his time at the Phoenix GCC!!!! In 2<sup>nd</sup> place Pete G, our ex-captain, at net 70. The most improved golfer of the year should go to Belinda whose drives I heard had been as long as Karen Holloway - she came in with a net 72. She frequently took technical prizes as her trophy for improvement. This time was no different. She was one of the near pin winners,

the others being Ed Ashman and yours truly, Orin, whose games (sad to say) have deteriorated faster than the electric train. Long drives went to Frank and Maureen and long putt to Pete Gale. Congratulations to all.

## Future fixtures for December & January 2007

### December:

- 17<sup>th</sup> Dec Monthly Medal at Royal Lat Krabang; Tee off at 11.30
- 31<sup>st</sup> Dec Special event; Three-Club competition to be organized at Bangpakong - details to follow

### January:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Jan Monthly Stableford - details to follow
- 14<sup>th</sup> Jan Club Day - details to follow
- 21<sup>st</sup> Jan Seara Sports Matchpaly Finals Day - details to follow
- 28<sup>th</sup> Jan Monthly Medal at Royal GCC, Lat Krabang - details to follow

Our Fixtures & Bookings Secretary, Karen Carter is working hard to confirm our fixtures for next year. Please look for details from our Website.

Great and fun events you should not miss so please sign up. **We also welcome new members to our fun and adventurous events** - just let our Captain, Brian Brook, or Vice Captain, Peter Skinner, know of your wishes to join or send an email to [bbrook@loxinfor.co.th](mailto:bbrook@loxinfor.co.th) or [bcgs2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bcgs2002@yahoo.co.uk) Please check our website for further details: <http://www.geocities.com/bcgolfsociety/>.

### Val Ashman Orin Baldwin



*Only man on the Island*



**“You’ve got to get to the stage in life where going for it is more important than winning or losing.” *Arthur Ashe***

**A**fter numerous cancellations due to the September military coup and unforgiving monsoon rains, the Tennis Section has been back in action with exciting events at home and away, planned for November and December. So get ready: check your strings, do plenty of stretches and warm-up exercises, try to stay fit and injury-free and there’ll be plenty of fun tennis for all!

*Unfortunately, our trip to Singapore scheduled for the weekend of the King’s birthday had to be scratched for lack of participants. Come on BC tennis players!! We need you to support all the events we work so hard to prepare!! Let’s hope the event can be rescheduled for 2007 and that we can turn out in good numbers to show the Singaporeans what kind of stuff BC tennis is made of!*

## BC/The Pilipino Club

## Enrique’s must-read



BC/Pilipino Club



Pilipino Team captain Weegee and Dion, and coach



Andrew in nail-biting action

On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, the British Club hosted its annual match against the Pilipino Club, snatching the championship trophy 8-7!! It was a glorious day weather-wise, greatly appreciated after such a soggy post-holiday season! The cool breezes and bright sunshine put everyone in the mood for the best tennis ever. Congratulations to our ladies who played especially well, edging some particularly experienced and dogged opponents. Eileen and Noi were on the court for nearly 2½ hours and managed to come back from 0-5 to win!! Partnering for the first time, Wane and Marilyn also won a close contest between Pilipino team captain Weegee and Indonesia’s Dion, who was called into action to support the Pilipino ladies, thanks to solid ground strokes, good volleying and finally, some very effective lobbing from the incomparable Wane!! The hard-hitting pair of Natasha and Tip was on top of their game, easily overpowering the top Pilipino pair. Natasha and Tip were on and off Center Court before some of us even had a chance to finish our cappuccino! In another tight match, Andrew and his partner lost a heart-breaker tie break. The event drew 24 British Club tennis players and 26 from the Pilipino club. We look forward to renewing our victory next year.

It is in the spirit of Arthur Ashe I write the tip of this month, mainly because it was 22 years ago that I met him and have never forgotten him. Reading about him should make us understand and reflect back on the game of tennis, and in many ways life . . . he was always a fighter, with so much finesse, and most of all, a whole lot of class.

Have you ever seen those old tennis matches they show on ESPN? You should, if possible, find a copy of the 1975 Wimbledon Tournament, Ashe’s finest year in the game. Watch the flawless movement of his serve. One element of a great serve is the continuous and uninterrupted flow of your body filled with energy to strike the ball. Practice your serve to be a single mechanical movement aiming to strike the ball at the zenith of the toss; fluidity of movement is what gives you consistency on the serve.

Oh, back to Arthur Ashe, what a guy! He believed in what he preached. I know that for a fact. I was lucky enough to meet him on November 1, 1984 when he came to Mexico to watch a juniors’ tennis tournament. He looked at the bunch of us and said “never underestimate your opponent, always respect the game, and always play as if it was the last point”; I have never forgotten those words and his presence on the court that day.

He stood for more than just flawless tennis and a fluid serve; he really did go for more than winning or losing, and in case you don’t know some of his accomplishments I found this in his Official Website:

- Arthur graduated 1st in his class in high school.
- Arthur is the only black male tennis player to win Wimbledon (1975) and the U.S. Open (1968).
- Ashe had over 800 wins in his amazing career on the tennis courts.
- Received honorary doctorates from numerous higher institutions during his lifetime - from Dartmouth College, LeMoyne-Owen College, Princeton University, Saint John’s University, Trinity University, Hartford College, and Virginia Union University.
- A total of 11,000 people attended his funeral in Richmond and his memorial service in New York City.





*BC's favourite tennis trio: Marc with daughters Natasha and Anaïs*



*Smiling champion Phairoj*

## Tip of the Month:

- Spotted the talents of Yannick Noah while on a three-week, goodwill tour of Africa in 1971, and arranged for Noah to be sent to France to further develop his game. Yannick Noah went on to win the French Open, a Grand Slam event.
- Served in the US Army from 1966-1968, during which time he became First Lieutenant.
- The centerpiece of a \$254 million expansion of the National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y., Arthur Ashe Stadium hosted its first U.S. Open in 1997. The U.S. Tennis Association announced the stadium's name at a February 1997 press conference. With 23,000 seats, the stadium towers over neighboring Louis Armstrong Stadium, the setting for the finals from 1978-96. Previously, the Open was played at the West Side Tennis Club in nearby Forest Hills, N.Y.
- First African-American ever picked for US Davis Cup team (1963)
- Received the 1964 Johnston Award, a prestigious honor awarded annually to the American tennis player who contributes the most to the growth of the sport while exhibiting good sportsmanship and character.
- Won NCAA individual and team (UCLA) championships (1965)
- Won three Grand Slam singles titles: 1968 US Open, 1970 Australian Open, and 1975 Wimbledon, during a 10-year playing career (1969-1979)
- Elected as President of ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) in 1974.
- First (and only) African-American to be ranked #1 tennis player in the world.
- Selected as captain of Davis Cup team in 1981.
- Inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame in 1985.
- Named *Sport Illustrated* 1992 Sportsman of the Year.
- Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipient.

**Watch some old tapes and you will know what I mean . . . he was more about winning in life than winning or losing a match.**

<http://www.cmgww.com/sports/ashe/index.php>

## BC/Polo Club

Saturday afternoon, 11th November, saw the BC Tennis Team visiting the Polo Club for some friendly competition – a long overdue return match that had been on the books for quite a few years.



*Tip in action*

Things kicked off with Kamol and Bruce storming to a quick 6-0 win, which they would pay for later with a correspondingly heavy 6-0 loss. From then on, things started to fall apart somewhat for the BC team, with a very consistent series of defeats chalked up by Adrian and Anton, Phairoj and Pat, Nut and Champ James Moss and Vatchara.

A further 3 matches followed this losing pattern in quick succession, until finally reversed by heroic efforts from Anton and James Moss who scraped home on a 7-5 win, being immediately followed with a further 6-2 win by Bruce and Vachara.

Of the remaining nine matches played, BC managed to garner just three with well deserved wins by Donna and Champ at 6-3, Tip and Mooky at 6-2, Ruedee and Mint at 6-0. Team Captains had agreed beforehand on the matches to be counted in determining the final outcome and, not surprisingly, Polo came out well ahead with a well-earned win by 13 matches to 6. Group photos were taken, speeches made and Polo Captain presented the BC with the Polo flag. BC invited Polo to a return fixture early in the New Year, an invite that was enthusiastically received.

After enjoying a typical Thai selection of deliciously spicy noodle and other culinary delights, many members stayed on to play a mixture of informal matches late on into the night. Although we lost on this occasion, we all had a very enjoyable afternoon of first-class tennis and quite a few of us will have gained valuable match experience which will stand us in good stead in future inter-club encounters.

**Marilyn August, Enrique Valero, and Bruce Gordon**



*BC/Polo Club*



# Reciprocal Club Benefits

**As an active British Club Member, you are entitled to enjoy the full use of other associated Club facilities around the world. This month we feature the reciprocal club . . .**



*Casino de Madrid  
Alcala, 15*

*The Casino de Madrid*

**T**he Casino de Madrid occupies a magnificent five-storey building in the city centre, very close to Madrid's best shops and theatres. At the Club's formation in 1837 the founding members chose the name 'Casino', used for the first time in Spain, 'to distance the group from any political connotation'.

The Club's purpose-built and architecturally distinguished building was completed in 1910 (the same year as the BC Clubhouse) and retains much of its early 20<sup>th</sup> century opulence.

In addition to its urban setting, the Casino de Madrid now includes a country club, just outside Madrid, which offers an 18-hole golf course and extensive sporting facilities.

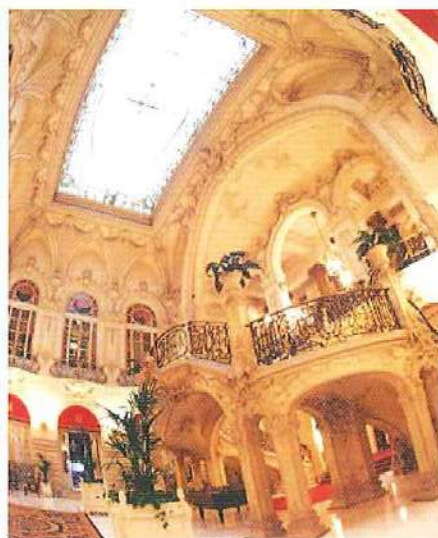
**Club amenities include:** Two restaurants, 2 bars, conference hall, 3 events halls (seat 150-500 people), 3 function rooms, 4 small private rooms, large 'neo-gothic' library, reading room, meeting room, games room, billiards room,

television room w/satellite TV, large gymnasium, heated indoor swimming pool, Turkish bath & sauna, hairdressers, masseurs, manicure/chiropodist and bootblack service. **Country Club:** Restaurant, snack bar, banquet halls, social lounge, meeting room, TV room, massage room, nursery, Sports Centre, gymnasium, sauna, adults & children's swimming pools, 18-hole golf course, 9-hole low par course, putting & practice courses, 6 tennis courts, 4 paddle courts, 2 squash courts.

**Website:** <http://www.casinodemadrid.es>



*Patio Central - stairway*



*Patio Central*



*Grand Salon Real*



*Room Alcala*



*Room la Glorieta*

For more information please contact the Membership Department at [membership@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:membership@britishclubbangkok.org)

If you regularly visit an overseas club that is not already reciprocal with the British Club, please do let the Club know and we will see if reciprocation can be arranged.



# HELLOS and GOODBYES

## Welcome Aboard!

*Please join us in welcoming the following new members and their families. We look forward to seeing them around the Club.*

1. Neil & Carol James
2. David & Rosalind Bate
3. Paul & Alexandra Masson
4. Jeremy & Sandra Hamilton
5. Robert & Rose McNair
6. Jill Love
7. Peter & Jiranan Twivey
8. Suporn Horner
9. Steve & Judith Mallon
10. Peter & Vernie Spencer
11. Johan Baselius
12. Pavi & Nidhi Gupta
13. Marcel Petit
14. Michael & Kesuda Muehleck
15. Vanita Thakral
16. Kent Nobbelin

## Farewell and best wishes to . . .

1. Bernie Llamzon
2. Ronald Sparks
3. Timothy Brett
4. Jun Tai Hsu
5. Aung Kuoy Hoa
6. Matthew & Anarat Duke
7. Bernhard & Fazilah Barth

Moving can conjure up all manner of expectations. But it's the best of Asian service that we admire. The politeness, the manner in which people tend to your every needs, the caring attitude and accompanying comfort. Combine this with a decisive action-orientated team that allows you the freedom to make decisions and plan your move as you wish. All so that you can have a better experience wherever in the world you choose to go. It's just another of our Asian specialities.

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- › Philippines
- › Singapore
- › South Korea
- › Taiwan
- › Thailand
- › Vietnam



# Getting in touch

General Committee		email
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Stuart Blacksell	Vice Chairman + Sports	gc@britishclubbangkok.org
Nick Day	Vice Chairman + Information Technology	gc@britishclubbangkok.org
Paul Cheesman	Hon. Secretary + Constitution & Rules	gc@britishclubbangkok.org
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Gavin Broad	House & Grounds	gc@britishclubbangkok.org
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Khun Benjawan	Events; GM secretary	eventbooking@britishclubbangkok.org
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Zeeshan Khan	Cricket	shan@bangkokgemmart.com
Martin Conisbee	Football	conisbee@mailsvr1.loxinfo.co.th
Brian Brooke	Golf	bbrook@loxinfo.co.th
Jon Prichard	Rugby	jpach@csloxinfo.co.th
Steve Eaton	Spoofers	EatonSteve2000@yahoo.com
Peter Corney	Squash	peter@acagroup.com
Marc Nussaume	Tennis	marcnus@hotmail.com
Associated Groups		
Australians in Thailand	<a href="http://www.geocities.com/australiansinthailand/">http://www.geocities.com/australiansinthailand/</a>	
Babies & Mothers Bangkok International	<a href="http://www.bambi-bangkok.org/">http://www.bambi-bangkok.org/</a>	
Bangkok Music Society	<a href="http://www.bms.in.th/">http://www.bms.in.th/</a>	
British Chamber of Commerce Thailand	<a href="http://www.bccthai.com/">http://www.bccthai.com/</a>	
Bangkok Community Theatre	<a href="http://www.bct-th.org/">http://www.bct-th.org/</a>	
British Women's Group	<a href="http://www.bwgbangkok.com/">http://www.bwgbangkok.com/</a>	
Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand	Jack Dunford - jack@tbbc.org	
Masonic Lodge of St. John	Chris Moore - lasanne@loxinfo.co.th	
New Zealand Society	<a href="http://www.nzocietythailand.com/">http://www.nzocietythailand.com/</a>	
New Zealand-Thai Chamber of Commerce	<a href="http://www.nztcc.org/">http://www.nztcc.org/</a>	
Society of Professional Engineers in Thailand	Chris Moore - lasanne@loxinfo.co.th	
St. David's Society	Darren Jones - darren.j@shrewsbury.ac.th	
Thai Canadian Chamber of Commerce	<a href="http://www.tccc.or.th/">http://www.tccc.or.th/</a>	
Miscellaneous		
BCB Webpage	online	<a href="http://www.britishclubbangkok.org">http://www.britishclubbangkok.org</a>
Outpost Submissions	Member magazine	outpost@britishclubbangkok.org

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