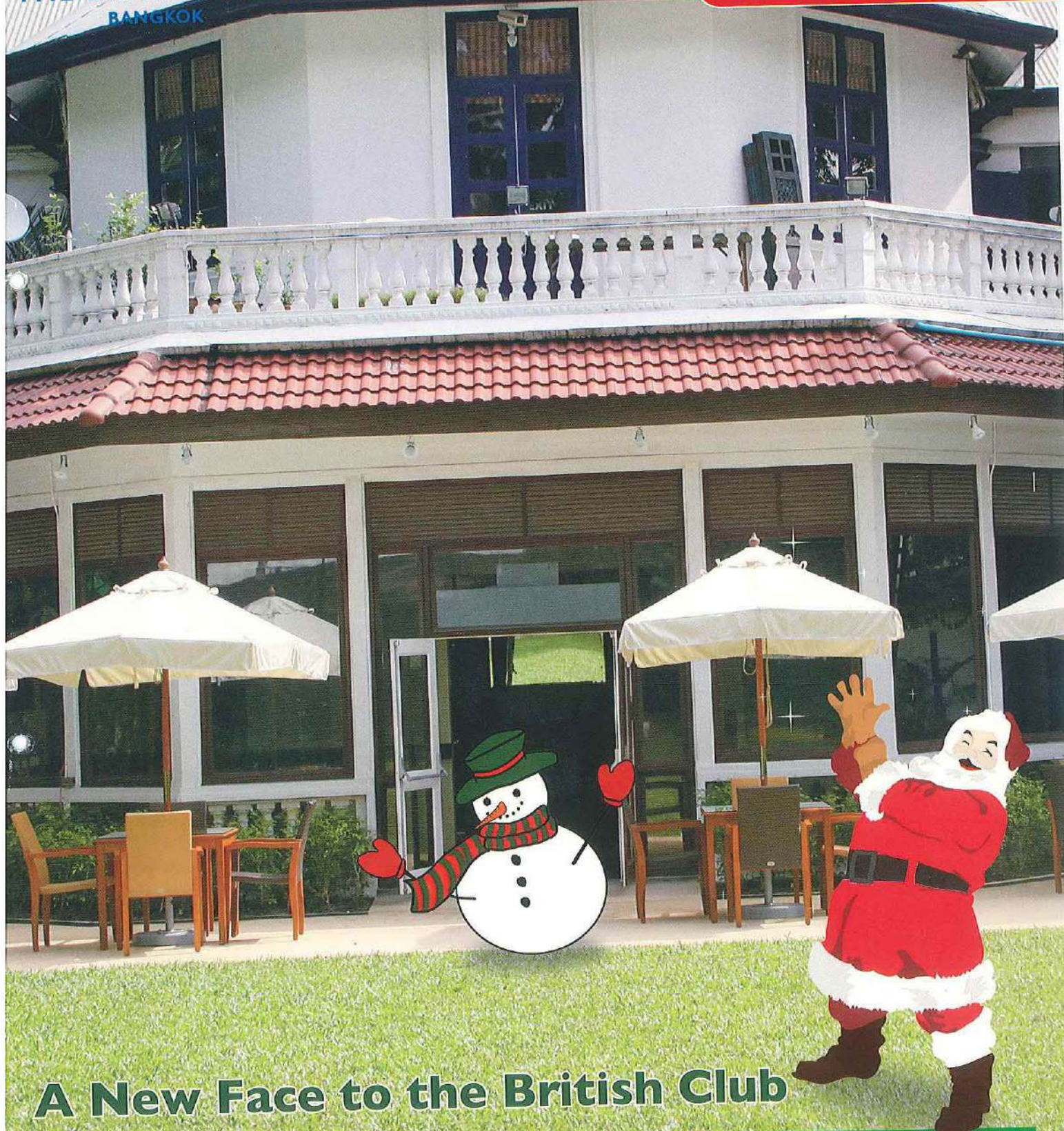




OUTPOST

THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

DECEMBER 2008



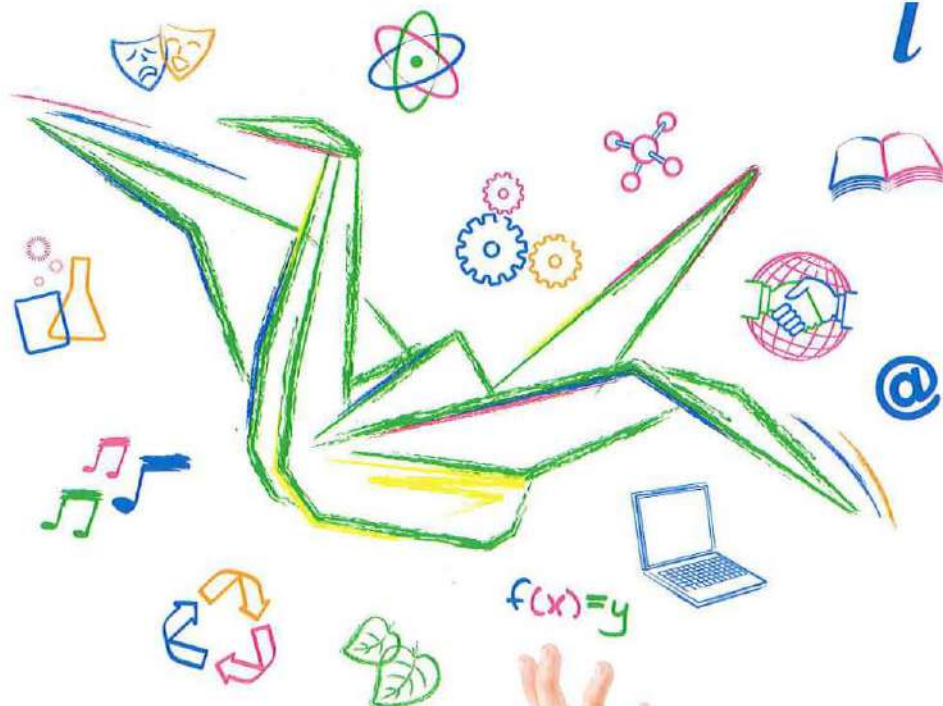
A New Face to the British Club

● Christmas on the Lawn Issue

Dinosaur Discoveries,

The Big Weekend, Sylvie Phillips Interview, How to Cook (and order!) the Perfect Turkey, Christmas Orders

i think, therefore IB



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THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

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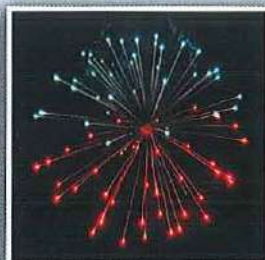
16-17 A Chat with Sylvie Phillips

The author of two popular books, novelist and British Club member Sylvie Phillips reveals the secrets of her art and shows us how to turn an e-mail into a bestseller. Find out more in our exclusive interview.



31-32 The Big Weekend

Ghosts, ghouls, fireworks and a rugby captain; one of the Club's busiest weekends yet was an enormous success and you can read all about it here!



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Cover pic –The British Club Enters a New Era.

OUTPOST MAGAZINE

Editor in Chief: Michael Silcock

Issues Editor: Toby Coborn

The contents of this magazine are not necessarily the opinion of the editors, 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 (081-844-7015 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.

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Members,

"And so this is Christmas." As the song goes, at this special time of year many of you will be reflecting on "what you have done" over the last 12 months. For the British Club Bangkok, it has been a year of introspection, carefully examining many of the processes and procedures driving key areas of club activity, like those in development, maintenance, and the overall strategic methodology of the General Committee (GC).

The most visible process change is related to Club development, in the initiation and operation of the Development Special Interest Group (DSIG). The Club has been most fortunate in being able to elect officers who have vast experience and expertise in these areas. I believe that the required step change in development has been realised by this group and suitably aided by continued consultation with the membership. The back lawn redevelopment project is, at time of writing, almost complete. The results speak for themselves, a project that will add value to the Club for years to come, bringing under-utilised areas of the Club back into use, and in addition, showcasing a process completed within budget and on time. What is perhaps a more fitting tribute to the DSIG officers is that they have not only provided a strategic platform for development, but have rolled their sleeves up to assist with operational matters on site! I am quite amazed by the selfless dedication of these volunteers; they deserve the recognition and gratitude of the entire membership.

Maintenance is another area where some "reinvention" will be required in order for facilities to meet member expectations in the coming decades. Once again, this is high on the list of priorities of the DSIG and the development leads on the GC. Members should expect budgetary implications in order properly to reflect the requirements of a comprehensive bespoke maintenance programme.

Dear Members,

The rainy season has been an exceptionally wet period this year with the frequent and fierce electrical storms over the last few weeks interfering with many activities around the British Club; consequently member participation was reduced in some of the Club's general and sporting events.

The flooding in a number of provinces has been testimony to the extra rain that has fallen since mid year, requiring our staff to work in sometimes appalling weather conditions to ensure that the Club's ability to offer its facilities and services at all times has not been affected. As always we thank them for their ongoing dedication.

Club Development: Unfortunately the rain has also delayed the completion of both the back lawn and the re-surfacing of the tennis courts which will not be completely finished until we are well into December.

To have waited this long and then to have attempted hurriedly to apply the acrylic surface on damp or uneven courts would have been foolish and possibly even voided the warranty.

Once they are completed they will become a valued asset to our several hundred tennis players and will be enjoyed for decades to come.

There will be ongoing development during 2009 both inside the Clubhouse and in our beautiful surrounds and gardens so keep a lookout for future developments that will be reported in Outpost.

Changes to the GC in terms of member portfolios in Key Result Areas (KRA) have been well received and I believe that ownership of issues on an individual basis has been instrumental in progressing key areas of the Club. We have just welcomed two co-opted members onto the GC, Jeremy Watson (Membership) and Kerr Thomson (Development/House & Grounds) meaning we have a full house of 10 GC members. Ali Adam has taken the Member Activities KRA and has also accepted the Vice-Chairman role, where he is already demonstrating his considerable strategic skills and financial acumen on the Executive Committee.

I am glad to welcome a Communications & Marketing Manager to our management staff. Khun Supathra (Pat) has been with us for some weeks now and is leading execution of a communications and marketing business plan with strategic oversight from Angela Stafford and myself. I hope you will all make Khun Pat welcome in her new role.

This will be the last issue of Outpost in its current format; I am delighted to report that we will be branding and redesigning Outpost for January 2009 and re-organising the magazine into a fitting record of perspectives and achievements of the British Club Bangkok, of interest to both current members and the Bangkok expat community at large. All of the above changes bode well for 2009.

It leaves me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I trust that those travelling home will do so safely and enjoy the warmth and spirit of Christmas with your families. I hope to see members on Christmas Day at the Club where my family and I will be enjoying the excellent food and fine company offered by the British Club Bangkok!



Dr Andrew Roberts

Chairman

BCB General Committee 2008/2009

The CEO's report

Balut Interport: The newly-completed back lawn redevelopment has just hosted over 150 participants who took part in the recent Balut Interport which was held at the Club for the first time on the 21st and 22nd November. The competition was extremely well organized and is a credit to our Balut section headed by Chairman Phil Alexander, Paul Cheesman, MC Roger Wilbourne and his tournament team. Many compliments were received from our visitors who enjoyed the friendly spirit in which the competition was held, the excellent hospitality and the friendships that were forged.

Christmas and New Year at the British Club

As the Festive Season approaches please don't forget the services and events that the British Club can provide to you and your families.

The Christmas Ball (13th December), Khun Laak's **Xmas fare** to take away (please order now), **Christmas Day Lunch** and if you wish to hold a function at the Club or at home please remember our fantastic function team who will cater for any private or corporate party at the Club or home.

The New Year's Cruise on the Chao Phraya River; such a huge success last year, is being repeated and is quite possibly the most wonderful way to see in the New Year in the Big Mango.

I would like to wish all our members, families and friends a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Michael Silcock

Chief Executive Officer



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Dear Members,

Despite becoming increasingly hectic over the next month or so this is definitely the best time of year at the Club and we have a tantalising list of events lined up for you.

December kicks off with the evocative Festival of Carols and Songs on the back lawn of the Club on December 11th which is led by Shrewsbury School. Get into the spirit of Christmas with traditional Christmas carols, mince pies and a glass or two of mulled wine – see you there! A couple of days later on December 13th we've got possibly the highlight of the British Club's calendar: the Christmas Ball, catered once again by the Shangri-La Hotel. The Children's Christmas Party takes place on December 16th followed a day later by the Deaf Children's Christmas Party. Other events include the last Wine Tasting of 2008 and what promises to be an action-packed Quiz Night.

Christmas Day itself will be buzzing – there's so much on, with plenty of festive entertainment for the kids. And fear not – with the toys broken and the kids bored on Boxing Day, what could be better than a trip to SF Cinema to see the new Madagascar...no, the new movie, not the country (although what a trip that would be!).



SF CINEMA CITY

We are taking bookings for our annual New Year's Cruise and on January 1st we have our second Polar Swim at which the normally pleasant temperatures of our pool drop to Arctic levels... brace yourselves!



In early January we are off to the spectacular light and sound show at Angkor Wat – at the time of writing there are still four places still available for what promises to be an absolutely superb event.

Don't forget, if you need information on any event just give me a call here at the Club and I'll be happy to help. And please don't forget to return your Christmas order forms to the Club as soon as possible.



At this late stage of the year I always tend to look back at the year and 2008 has been a phenomenal year at the Club. Not only have we catered more than 400 private functions for our members here at the Club, at members' homes and offices and other venues around town, but we've also laid on over 100 events for members, many of which have been new. Encouraged by all the positive feedback I can't wait to make 2009 an even more successful and enjoyable year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the British Club staff for all their diligence and hard work and the members for all their support over the year. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. For those of you in town during the festive season we'd love to see you at the Club over Christmas and if you're going away please don't forget to take advantage of the chance to visit one of our reciprocal clubs – you'd be surprised, they are everywhere! Please contact the membership department – they'll be delighted to supply you with all the details.

Regards,

Baz.





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REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

TUESDAYS Churchill Bar

8:30pm-late

Spoofing

WEDNESDAYS The Verandah

Noon-2pm & 6-10pm

THE MIDWEEK CARVERY - Choose from soup, two roasts carvery with potatoes & vegetables (Bt.275) and salad (Bt.300)

Churchill Bar

7pm and 8pm

PRESTIGE WINES ACCUMULATOR

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

7:30pm

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

FRIDAYS The Verandah

Noon-2pm & 6-10pm

THE FRIDAY 'THEME' BUFFET - **5th December:** PASTA BUFFET - Available in the Verandah, for Bt. 325 enjoy a soup, a range of salads and a plate of freshly cooked pasta.

12th December: CURRY BUFFET - Khun Laak's famous curry buffet, available for just Bt.275 per head. Enjoy a soup, curried dishes, samosas and naan.

19th December: MEXICAN BUFFET - Enjoy a soup, a range of delicious salads and main courses - the best Mexican food freshly prepared by Khun Laak and her team of chefs. Bt. 325 per person. There's also a promotion on Tequila and Corona beer; if you eat the buffet you'll receive Bt. 10 off a glass of Tequila or a bottle of Corona.

26th December: CURRY BUFFET - We finish off December with Khun Laak's famous curry buffet available for just Bt. 275 per head. Enjoy a soup, curried dishes, samosas and naan.

Silom Sala

7pm and 9pm

Kids' VDO - It's free. Includes free Nestle ice creams for the kids.

SUNDAYS The Verandah

11:30-3pm only

THE SUNDAY CARVERY - Choose from soup, cold cuts, three roasts carvery, with potatoes and veggies, hot dishes, children's buffet, fresh salad bar and a range of desserts.

Adults Bt.375; children Bt.200 including free Coke/Sprite.

6-8pm

A LA CARTE PASTA PLATE - Enjoy a plate of freshly cooked pasta with your choice of ingredients and sauces. Cost Bt.160 per plate, includes complimentary salad and garlic bread. Available every Sunday evening throughout October.

Silom Room

1-3pm

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

Suriwongse Room

2:30-6pm onwards

Bridge tournament (except last Sunday in the month)

Official Opening Times

The Verandah	11am - 10pm	Fitness Centre (Mon-Fri)	6am - 10pm
Churchill Bar	10am - 11pm	Fitness Centre (weekends)	6am - 9pm
Poolside Bar	7am - 10pm (last food orders - 9.30pm)	Thai Massage (Tues-Sun)	9am - 6pm

Take away your favourite food!:

All the Club's menu items are available to take away. Just order at the Club and specify "take away", or phone in your order and pick-up.

Special Events at the Club this Month

** THE VERY LAST WINE TASTING OF 2008

Wednesday 3rd December, 6pm. Suriwongse Room.

Due to the success of the last wine tasting held in November we have decided to hold another event before the end of the year. We have four companies booked and they have guaranteed that they will have some special Christmas savings on offer. There is no charge for this event but we ask members to please sign up.

** BALUT MONTHLY TOURNAMENT

Wednesday 3rd December, 7:05pm. Wordsworth Lounge.

Balut Section members meet each first Wednesday of the month to compete in the BCB Balut Shield. The BCB Balut Shield is awarded to the player with the highest aggregate score from their six best tournaments of the year, running from October to September. The Shield itself is on display on the Churchill Bar Balut wall. Club members who are not Balut section members are welcome to "try out" their Balut skills, and section members will give training and guidance when requested. The fee for non-section members is Bt.200 which will be charged to your account.

Movie

"Beverly Hills Chihuahua"

Thursday 4th December



The Movie has topped the US Box Office for two weeks taking in more than 50 million dollars.

At SF Central World Happiness Cinema which has VIP reclining chairs and bean bags.



** BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA

Thursday 4th December, 6:30pm. Meet @ SF Cinema.

We have booked seats at SF Cinema World for the opening night of the family movie "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" which has topped the US Box Office chart for two weeks and taken in more than 50 million dollars. We've booked seats at the Happiness Cinema where you can relax during the movie on reclining chairs and comfortable bean bags. The cost is Bt. 550 per person, including a soft drink and a box of popcorn. The tickets will be handed out at 6:30pm and the cinema opens at 7:00pm ahead of the film's commencement at 7:30pm.

** FATHER'S DAY - THAI STYLE

Friday 5th December. Meet at Joe Louis Theatre @ 6:30pm.

This year we will be celebrating His Majesty the King's Birthday and Father's Day with a visit to the wonderful and unique Joe Louis Thai Puppet Theatre at the Night Bazaar. The Joe Louis puppet shows are quite stunning - the characters appear to come to life. "The Birth of Ganesha" (the show we will see) has Thai theatrical puppets, shadow puppets and Thai classical dancers and singers performing together. After the show BC members will have a chance to visit the Theatre's Museum of Puppetry. The cost of the evening is Bt. 1,000 for adults and Bt. 750 for children, including a welcome drink and a Thai set dinner at the Joe Louis Restaurant which will precede the performance. We will meet at the Joe Louis Theatre at 6.30pm for dinner followed by the show at 8pm. See pages 29 and 30 for further details.

Festival of Carols and Christmas Songs

Let's enjoy Christmas
with good friends,
great food and holiday
cheer!

December 11th, at 7:00 P.M.
Back Lawn

Join us at the Club for our Christmas concert featuring traditional and modern Christmas carols and songs performed by Shrewsbury International School's choristers, chamber choir, junior choir and wind orchestra.

There is no charge for the event;
food and drinks are extra and charged
individually to your account.

To book simply sign up at the Reception

** FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS SONGS

Thursday 11th December, 7pm. Back Lawn.

Join us on the back lawn for our Christmas concert featuring traditional and modern Christmas carols and songs performed by Shrewsbury International School's finest singers and musicians. Enjoy Christmas spirits and mulled wine, mince pies and shortbread.

**** BRITISH CLUB CHRISTMAS BALL**

Saturday 13th December, 6pm. Front and Back Lawns.

The highlight of the BC social calendar, our annual Christmas Ball is a superb event and the only ball of its kind to be held under the stars in Bangkok. Catered once again by the Shangri-La Hotel, tickets to this wonderful event cost Bt. 2,800 each, the cost including a one-hour cocktail reception on the front lawn, a four-course traditional Christmas dinner, half a bottle of wine per person, live music from the Royal Thai Army Band and the funky sounds of Paul Jackson's disco, a lucky draw and if all that were not enough, a full BC breakfast at 2am.

**** JOHN SMITH'S BAR QUIZ**

Tuesday 16th December, 7.30pm. The Verandah.

Join us for the December round of the John Smith's Bar Quiz in the Verandah. As usual Bangkok's premier Quizmaster, Rodney Bain, will be asking four rounds of 19 questions (on a range of subjects from Asia to famous people) each ending in the dreaded "Common Denominator". Cash prizes go to first, second, third and 'second to last'; in addition there are also three 'between-round' questions where your team has the chance to win drinks sponsored by Crown Worldwide Relocations. So, get a team of friends (up to six) to come along to join in the fun – at least one Club member per team, or just pop along to see if we can fit you in. The cost to enter is Bt. 150 per person.

**** CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Tuesday 16th December, 2pm. Front and Back Lawns.

Activities include children's crafts, the Club's bouncy castle, pony rides, a puppet show, a magic show, a giant slide and so much more. A picnic tea follows at 4.45pm on the front lawn and then everybody's favourite, Santa Claus, will make a special appearance bearing gifts for all the children. The event costs Bt. 450 Baht (2 to 12 years) and Bt. 100 (under 2s and adults).

**** RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA**

Saturday 20th December. Depart BC at 6pm.

We have booked a limited number of tickets to this smash-hit musical starring Lea Salonga and held here in Thailand for the very first time. The musical extravaganza is being held at the beautiful Muang Thai Ratchalai Theatre and we have booked for December 20th, making this an ideal early Christmas present. Seats cost between Bt. 4,500 and Bt. 3,500 and the price includes transportation from/to the Club. The coach will leave from the Club at 6pm and the show begins at 7.30pm.

**** CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE BRITISH CLUB**

Thursday 25th December, 11:30am. Churchill Bar, the Verandah and Back Lawn.

Held in both the Verandah and the Churchill Bar and also in a huge marquee on the back lawn, the buffet includes Christmas favourites such as roast turkey, baked hams, roast beef, broccoli and stilton soup, sprouts, Christmas pudding, the Club's home made mince pies and a whole host of other Christmas goodies. The Christmas buffet will then continue in the Verandah bar from 6pm until 9pm for dinner. As this is a family day, children will be allowed in the Churchill Bar with their parents until 6pm. There's a host of entertainment organised for the children at lunch time, leaving Mum and Dad enough time to enjoy their Christmas too. Activities include a bouncy castle, walk around magic and of course a visit by Santa himself. Book now to avoid disappointment - last year we catered for over 300 members and their guests!

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

Wednesday 31st December. Riverside check-in and cocktails at 9pm.

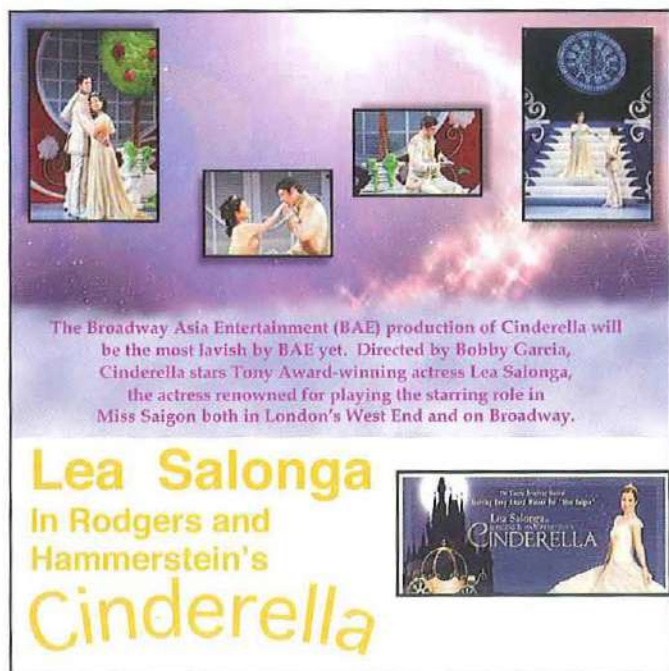
Welcome in the New Year in style aboard the luxurious Chao Phraya Cruise Princess 2. The event begins with a riverside cocktail party from 9pm before setting sail at 10pm and returning at 2am. Tickets are Bt. 3,600 each and the cost includes the cocktail reception, full buffet supper and an open bar for two hours. Entertainment is provided by Mike Allin's disco. Numbers are limited to 200 members so book now!

To book for an event send a fax or email to the Club, book online at the Club's website, or sign up at the Clubhouse reception. For further information please contact Khun Kasem or Barry.

December Activities at the Neilson Hays Library:

Violin & Guitar Concert – Wednesday 3rd December
Violinist Jonathon Glonek and guitarist Chavajed Maskulrat will present a selection of works from Giuliani, Paganini, Schubert, Ravel and Piazzolla. Enjoy the fine natural acoustics of the Library in the free-format setting of the evening. The program is sponsored by BNH Hospital and Food by Phone. Tickets are Bt. 600 and are on sale now at the Library.

195 Surawong Road – 02-233-1731 (tel.) –
www.neilsonhayslibrary.com, neilson@loxinfo.co.th



The Broadway Asia Entertainment (BAE) production of Cinderella will be the most lavish by BAE yet. Directed by Bobby Garcia, Cinderella stars Tony Award-winning actress Lea Salonga, the actress renowned for playing the starring role in Miss Saigon both in London's West End and on Broadway.

Lea Salonga
In Rodgers and Hammerstein's
Cinderella



Wine Tasting

“ We want the finest wines available to humanity, we want them here, and we want them now! ”
Withnail in Withnail and I (1987)

The big Christmas wine tasting took place at the Club on Friday November 7th and more than 120 members enjoyed an exciting range of wines from ten different wine companies. And this time there was more than just the wine on offer – members were able to purchase a diverse array of wine accessories, Christmas crackers, cards and lots more besides. Khun Laak was on hand with some delectable Christmas canapés and members had the chance to sample the first batch of Christmas mince pies, piping hot and straight from the oven – needless to say they didn't last long!

All the Club's outlets were buzzing throughout the evening which was wonderful to see. Our next wine tasting will take place on December 3rd – see you there!

Baz



James Bond Party!

On Thursday November 6th seventy-one members attended the James Bond party and enjoyed the action-fest “Quantum of Solace” at Central World's SF Cinema. Members were treated to wine or vodka martinis, just as 007 likes them. There was also a delectable selection of canapés, a wide variety of soft drinks and the finest popcorn in town. It would be no exaggeration to say that the members drank the place dry – 14 additional bottles were sold! I was told that they normally sell a bottle a week but on this occasion there was not a single drop left.

Upcoming movies include some family fare to be held at SF Cinema in their Happiness Room – lounge on bean bags, luxuriate on reclining chairs and take your pick from “Beverly Hills Chihuahua”, “Madagascar Two” and “High School Musical Three”. Or even better, see them all!

Baz.





We understand

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Ms. Valerie McGuinn (New Member)



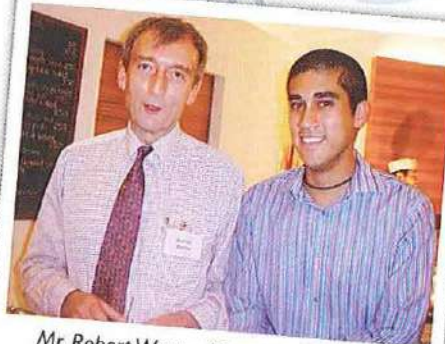
Mr. Michael Sim (New MB - Centre,
Mrs. Jennifer Harries, Club Member left and
Mrs. Maureen Gibson (Club Member
Golf Section, right)



Mr. Bolen Ng and Mrs. Michell Keyte
(New MB)



Mr. Len and Mrs. Chutima Clover



Mr. Robert Wynne (New MB - right) and
Mr. Andrew Wynne (proposer - left)



Ms. Margot Homburg (New MB - Left)
and Mrs. Nan Wynne (Club Member - right)



Mr. Michael Booton (New MB-left) &
Mr. Laurence Lipman (proposer -right)



Mr. Heinz & Mrs. Sylvia Walther-McDonnel
(New MB -right) and Mr. Jeremy Watson
(Committee Member)

CLUB BANGKOK New Members' Night

The atmosphere was as welcoming as ever as the British Club held its latest New Members' Night on Tuesday, November 4th, in the Verandah. The eight new members in attendance, hailing from a variety of countries and further adding to the Club's international ambience, were welcomed by several long-term members who came along to offer their regards and welcome them into the British Club family. Our MC for the evening was the Club's CEO Michael Silcock who made the introductions and formally welcomed everyone to the Club.

Khun Laak was as creative as ever with her canapés and everyone ate, sipped their drinks and conversed with each other in a jovial and relaxed setting.

New Members' Nights take place every two months and the next event will be held in January.



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A Chat with Sylvie

*British Club member Sylvie Phillips is the author of **Tai Tai Tales** and the more recent page-turner **The Rain Tree**. Married with three daughters, Sylvie first came to Asia in 2001 and is currently living in Bangkok.*

Sylvie kindly agreed to put down the pen and paper (or these days it's more likely to be a keyboard and a mouse) and meet me for a coffee.

Born to a German mother and a British Army engineer father, Sylvie spent her early childhood in Germany before moving to England at the age of three. Several years ago Sylvie swapped her life as an office manager for a property consultancy in rural Wiltshire for the anonymity of the teeming streets of Shanghai and, she admits, the transition was a complicated one.

'I joined various groups, went to the usual women's coffee mornings, but it wasn't really my thing. My husband and I were the only westerners in the neighbourhood and as such we were naturally the object of much curiosity - and the odd lengthy stare!'

So how did she pass the time?

'I sought solace in the computer. I wrote detailed e-mails to my friends, explaining my new surroundings and experiences; mundane things like catching the bus or going to the shops became adventures and I wrote it all down and sent it to my friends back home.'

Why was it that the writing started seriously in Shanghai?

'It's just such a vast metropolis', Sylvie explains, 'The material is virtually infinite.'

Perhaps, I suggest, it was the feeling of transience, of being a temporary being in an unfamiliar environment that gave Sylvie the impetus to write.

'Yes, possibly. I had no idea that I'd reinvent myself as an author at this stage of my life and being unsettled certainly played a part.'

So was it just the odd e-mail home or was there more to it than that?

'Encouraged by my friends, I'd write for hours and hours, leaving out nothing. It was all in my email - my life, my travels, my adventures. Eventually some friends suggested that I should think about writing a book and so, after plenty of thought, I decided to give it a try.'

And just like that - that was it? What happened next?

'I printed out all the e-mails and found I had a stack of what were really just letters to people. I gradually started reshaping them until I became aware that I had enough material for a book - the book that would become *Tai Tai Tales*.'

So, from sending e-mails, to printing them out and sorting through the stacks of correspondence; it sounds easy enough so far but surely the next step - getting the thing published - was perhaps fraught and time-consuming?

'Well, no - I was fortunate in that the first publisher I contacted, Bangkok Books, snapped it up.'

A quirky, light-hearted book, *Tai Tai Tales* was an instant hit in Asia, and it wasn't long before Sylvie began work on her first novel, *The Rain Tree*, which is set on the fictional Thai island of Koh Keo. Was the publishing process as straightforward the second time around?

'I opted to go for a broader audience and subsequently spent a year trying to get it published! Finally I was accepted by an Asian publisher with a global reach and now *The Rain Tree* is on shelves around the world.'

***The Rain Tree* is a tale of deception, intrigue and features some fascinating protagonists. How does a writer manage to breathe life into characters?**

'I went on a weekend writing course in the New Forest and I was told that you start with the character's face (you can find inspiration and ideas in magazines, etc) and then you start to add the details - they'll often assume quirks and idiosyncrasies from the people you've met in life. Eventually they almost become a living, breathing person - I even hear their voices in my head. The best thing about creating these characters is the power it gives me. I can get them to do whatever I want.'

Surely though, writing a book is the work of years - for some, a lifetime. I pose a question Sylvie's heard many times before: just how long does it take to write a book?

'About 18 months. I start with a thread of an idea and begin to form a plot with a beginning, middle and end - a template, if you like - and then try to write roughly ten pages a week. Obviously there are days when I just sit and stare at the screen and others when I'm fairly prolific.'

Sylvie's husband takes time out from his manufacturing career to assist in the writing process:

'He's an ongoing editor and I regularly ask him for ideas and input.' And that's not the only family connection: one of Sylvie's daughters is an undercover police officer in England and she arranged for Sylvie to spend a day with a police dog handler in order to gain insight into one of her characters.

And how, I ask, does Sylvie manage keep her stories interesting and entertaining?

'I write books I'd like to read myself, that's the key, and I'm always careful not to give away too much early on in the book.'

And while the transient lifestyle suited Sylvie for a while and contributed to the conception and development of *Tai Tai Tales*, she's recently decided to become more of a long-term fixture here.

'My husband and I were tired of the feeling of not being grounded so we moved to a lovely house with a large garden for Johnny Depp to run around in.'

Johnny Depp???

'No, no, not the real one - unfortunately!' laughs Sylvie. 'Johnny, or J.D as we now call him, is our soi dog. We've had him for three years now and we find that having a dog makes us feel that much more permanent.'

With *The Rain Tree* on shelves around the world, is Sylvie content to rest on her laurels? Not a bit of it. There's another book in the pipeline:

'It's called *Chinese Whispers*. It's set in Bangkok's Chinatown and is a tale of corruption, deception and....well, you'll just have to wait till it comes out to find out.'

Toby Coborn

The Rain Tree



And now the review...

The Rain Tree by Sylvie Phillips

On the Thai island of Koh Keo, a dead body is found, tainting the idyllic air of the tropical paradise and setting the stage for this murder mystery by Sylvie Phillips.

The Rain Tree introduces a set of disparate characters in Thailand and England, each carrying his or her own ghosts and secrets. There's Tom, who has yet to stop mourning the loss of many things in his life; the guilt-ridden and self-destructive Sally and her long-suffering best friend Delphine; Clive and Fiona, the couple who ultimately find that they are strangers in their own marriage; Keng, the warm-hearted local who gets mixed up with the wrong woman. These and a host of other complex characters find themselves on Koh Keo, inexorably drawn together by the promise of tropical tranquility. As their paths interlace, they become entangled in a web of romance and deceit, friendship and betrayal, love and murder...

Daphne Ong



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- White mud body wrap
- Aromatherapy oil body massage

Rest & Relex (2 hrs 2,680 B)

- Body scrub & Floral milky with Aromatic oil
- Aromatherapy oil body massage

Refreshing (2 hrs 2,680 B) *DECLEOR

- Body scrub & Floral milky with Aromatic oil
- DECLEOR deep cleansing facial treatment

Pure Package (2 hrs 45 min 3,880 B) *DECLEOR

- DECLEOR deep cleaning facial treatment
- Body scrub
- Balm Body Massage
- Sauna mask & Skin Nourishing

Ultimate Full Package (3 hrs 45 min 4,800 B) *DECLEOR

- DECLEOR Nourishing & Hydrating facial treatment
- Body scrub & Floral milky bath with Aromatic oil
- Fresh vegetable salad with fresh juice
- Balm Body Massage
- Seaweed wrap & Skin Nourishing

Tropical Healing Full Package (4 hrs 30 min 5,800 B) *DECLEOR

- Body scrub
- Aloe vera and Cucumber Body Treatment
- Mineral Bath
- DECLEOR Nourishing and Hydrating Facial
- Fresh Fruit with fresh juice
- Aromatherapy Body Massage
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The Discovery of Dinosaur Fossils in Thailand

In 1841, a British zoologist, Richard Owen, described a new group of extinct animals, the dinosaurs. As a result of their large size and similarities to the much-feared mythical dragons, these animals immediately captured the imagination of people around the world. An intense interest in, and search for, the remains of these animals ensued worldwide.

Over the past thirty years in Thailand, Thai and international geologists have uncovered over ten thousand fossils belonging to several families of dinosaurs. Included in this collection are remains belonging to five new dinosaur species found nowhere else on earth. In addition, dinosaur fossil finds in Thailand have led to a rewriting of the theories of plate tectonics and continental drift, as well as those of dinosaur evolution. Paleontology has 'come of age' in Thailand and has led to the creation of a world-class dinosaur museum and research centre located in the Northeast province of Kalasin. So, how did all this dinosaur activity in Thailand get started?



World-Class Sirindhorn Paleontology Museum and Research Center, Kalasin, Thailand.

The discovery of dinosaur bones did not occur in Thailand until 1976 when, at Phu Wiang Mountain in Khon Kaen province, Mr. Sutham Yaemniyom, a Thai government geologist mapping uranium deposits, happened upon a single dinosaur bone. Not having the opportunity fully to exploit the significance of this find, the fossil remained 'in storage' until 1979, when a team of paleontologists unearthed a further collection of several more dinosaur bones from the rocks of the Upper Jurassic Sao Khua Formation of the Phu Wiang Mountain Range, and started to put these various pieces together. Also, in 1978, a Thai geologist, Varavudh Suteethorn, recognized a dinosaur bone collected by the abbot of a temple in Kalasin province. This find, also, remained in storage for a period of time. As dinosaur paleontology was in its early development in Thailand, and was a science where Thai geologists had limited knowledge and expertise, they sought direction and help from the international paleontology community.

1981 was a benchmark year in Thai paleontology. That year saw a joint Thai-French team of dinosaur paleontologists launch a concerted effort to determine just what lay unearthed in the rocks of Phu Wiang Mountain in Khon Kaen. That effort resulted in a watershed as dinosaur remains were uncovered in several separate locations. A larger picture was beginning to emerge resulting in the identification of a number of dinosaur specimens including the first uniquely Thai dinosaur, the huge,

plant-eating (sauropod) dinosaur now known by its scientific name, *Phuwiangosaurus sirindhornae*. This was an entirely new genus and species of dinosaur not known to exist anywhere else on earth.



Phuwiangosaurus sirindhornae. A large sauropod (plant-eating) dinosaur discovered in Khon Kaen and Kalasin provinces.

From the same rock formation that produced *Phuwiangosaurus sirindhornae*, a collection of bones belonging to a large meat-eating dinosaur was also discovered in 1996 by the Thai paleontologist, Varavudh Suteethorn, and the French paleontologist, Eric Buffetaut. This led to the identification of a large Theropod (meat-eater) now known as *Siamotyranus isanensis*. This 'Tyranus' was found to be unique to Thailand and was determined to be a close relative of the famed *Tyranosaurus rex* - but some 30 million years older!



Siamotyranus isanensis. ("Horrible lizard of Siam")
Tyranosaurus rex's 30 million-year-old ancestor.

A third 'exclusive to Thailand' dinosaur, *Siamosaurus suteethorni*, was described in 1986 by Eric Buffetaut, a French paleontologist (who has been central to the determinations of most of Thailand's dino-discoveries made over the past quarter century), and Rucha Ingavat, a geologist with the Thai Bureau of Mineral Resources. Remains of this meat-eating Theropod were uncovered from the same Phu Wiang geographic region and Sao Khua rock formation in Khon Kaen province as those of *Phuwiangosaurus* and *Siamotyrannus*.



Siamosaurus suteethorni. ("Suteethorn's Thai Lizard")

A fourth unique Thai dinosaur was uncovered from a different geographical region and rock formation from the previously described three. In 2000, Eric Buffetaut and his colleagues discovered the remains of the oldest dinosaur so far unearthed in Southeast Asia. This very old, early sauropod unearthed from the Nam Phong Formation in Chaiyapum Province, was named *Isanosaurus attavipachi* ("Attavipach's Isan Lizzard"). This find establishes that the Thailand land mass was part of the Asian land mass over 220 million years ago.

The four dinosaur discoveries described above have established genera and species unique to Thailand. A fifth discovery, while not establishing a new genus, does describe a new Thailand dinosaur species. This find is now known as *Psittacosaurus sattayaraki*.



Psittacosaurus sattayaraki, A small fast-running plant-eater with a parrot-like head and beak. About 1 metre long and living about 100 million years ago.

Individual discoveries of this genus are known from China, Mongolia and Russia. This particular discovery represents the southernmost occurrence of this genus and indicates a revised dating of the collision between the continental land masses of Laurasia and parts of Gondwanaland.

Over the past thirty years, Thailand has made its debut on the world dinosaur stage. We can only expect truly extraordinary results as new and unique discoveries are made of Thailand's dinosaur wealth.

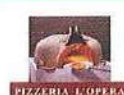
Chris Stanford 10/08

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Recycled CD Snowman

What you need:

- discarded CD
- juice can lid
- chenille stems - one brown, one red
- two plastic eyes
- small piece of orange craft foam or felt
- three buttons
- white spray paint
- black permanent marker
- small piece of fabric or yarn to use as a scarf
- two small pom poms
- glue gun



Directions:

1. Spray paint the CD and the juice can lid on both sides in white paint. Let dry.
2. Glue the eyes and a small triangular piece of craft foam for the nose to the juice can lid. Make a series of dots with black permanent pen to represent the snowman's mouth.
4. Cut a length of red chenille stem to fit around the top of the juice can lid, extending down a little less than halfway. This is the top of the ear muffs. Glue a small pom pom on each end of the chenille stem to finish the ear muffs.
5. Glue the completed snowman head on top of the CD.
6. Tie yarn, cord or a small strip of fabric around the neck as a scarf.
7. Cut a brown chenille stem in quarters. Take two pieces and twist one around the other to form a stick arm, as shown on the photo. Repeat to make the other arm. Glue the arms in place on each shoulder area.
8. Glue three buttons down the front to finish. If desired, add a loop of cord to hang.

POP-DOWN TO CHRISTMAS

This bubble packaging countdown calendar offers a daily burst of fun, so you'll probably have to make one for each family member.



To make a Christmas countdown calendar, cut a tree shape with 24 bubbles from bubble packaging (as shown), use glue dots or double-sided tape to attach it to a piece of paper, then decorate circular stickers with markers and attach them to each bubble. Squeeze a bubble to start each day of December with a bang!

Terra-cotta Nativity

What you need:

- 2 small terra-cotta pots
- 1 small terra-cotta saucer
- Acrylic paint
- Fine-point marker
- 3 wooden knobs, one smaller than the others
- Tacky glue
- Fabric
- Embroidery floss
- Raffia



Directions:

1. Paint the terra-cotta pots and saucer. Use a fine-point marker to draw faces on the wooden knobs.
2. Once the paint is dry, turn the pots upside down and use tacky glue to attach a larger head to the bottom of each pot. When the glue is dry, drape a piece of fabric around the top of each head and tie it in place with embroidery floss.
3. Form a swaddling blanket from another piece of cloth, as shown, gluing it to secure the shape. Glue the small head to the blanket and set it in the saucer on a bed of raffia.

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS!



Knock, knock.

- Who's there?

Wenceslas

- Wenceslas who?

Wenceslas train home?

Knock. Knock.

Who's there?

Hanna.

Hanna who?

.... Hanna partridge in a pear tree!

What do you call an old snowman?

Water!

What Christmas carol is a favourite of parents?

Silent Night!

What did one snowman say to the other snowman?

Can you smell carrot?

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?

Deep and crisp and even!

If athletes get athlete's foot, what do rocket scientists get?

Missile-toe!

Who is never hungry at Christmas?

The turkey - he's always stuffed!

Who's working at MI5 on Christmas Day?

Mince spies!

Why are turkeys wiser than chickens?

Ever heard of Kentucky Fried Turkey?

Invitation

Please join us December 11 at 6:00-6:30 at the BRITISH CLUB
for complimentary wine and snacks

WAYNE BEAUCHAMP of EMERALD HOUSE

will be giving a talk on how to analyze quality Jewelry and Gemstones
and perhaps some good stories about Brasil

The talk will start at about 7 pm. and last 30-45 minutes

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BC CALENDAR December – The Month at a Glance

Sun	30			7	9:00-11:00am Tennis Team Practice 10:30am-2:15pm Squash Mix-in Poolside 11:30-3:00pm Poolside BBQ The Verandah Noon-2:00pm THE SUNDAY CARVERY	Silom Room 1:00-3:00pm Children's Activities 2:30-3:30pm Yoga Suriwongse Room 2:30-6:00pm Bridge Tournament	14	9:00-11:00am Tennis Team Practice Poolside 11:30-3:00pm Poolside BBQ The Verandah Noon-2:00pm THE SUNDAY CARVERY
Mon	1	9:00am-12noon BWG Mahjong 6:00pm Adult Swimming Lessons	6:00-10:00pm Tennis Match Play 7:00-10:30pm Pipe Band Practice	8	9:00am-12noon BWG Mahjong 6:00pm Adult Swimming Lessons	6:00-10:00pm Tennis Match Play 7:00-10:30pm Pipe Band Practice	15	9:00am-12noon BWG Mahjong 6:00pm Adult Swimming Lessons
Tue	2	8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-In 9:00-10:30am Ladies Tennis Clinic 10:00-11:00am Aqua Aerobics 2:00pm Boxing Training	5:15-9:00pm Squash Casual Mix-in 7:00-9:00pm Football Practice Churchill Bar 8:30pm-late Spoofing	9	8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-In 9:00-10:30am Ladies Tennis Clinic 10:00-11:00am Aqua Aerobics 2:00pm Boxing Training	5:15-9:00pm Squash Casual Mix-in 7:00-9:00pm Football Practice Churchill Bar 8:30pm-late Spoofing	16	8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-In 9:00-10:30am Ladies Tennis Clinic 10:00-11:00am Aqua Aerobics 2:00pm Boxing Training Front & Back Lawns 2pm CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
Wed	3	The Verandah Noon-2pm, 6-10pm THE MIDWEEK CARVERY 4:30-6:00pm Junior Squash Coaching 5:00-6:30pm Junior Tennis 6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in Suriwongse Room 6:00-9:00pm THE VERY LAST WINE TASTING OF 2008	Wordsworth Lounge 7:05pm BALUT TOURNAMENT 7:00-10:30pm Pipe Band Practice Churchill Bar 7:00 & 8:00pm PRESTIGE WINE ACCUMULATOR 7:30pm Bottle Draw	10	The Verandah Noon-2:00pm, 6:00-10:00pm THE MIDWEEK CARVERY 4:30-6:00pm Junior Squash Coaching 5:00-6:30pm Junior Tennis	6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in 7:00-10:30pm Pipe Band Practice Churchill Bar 7:00 & 8:00pm PRESTIGE WINE ACCUMULATOR 7:30pm Bottle Draw	17	The Verandah Noon-2:00pm, 6:00-10:00pm THE MIDWEEK CARVERY 4:30-6:00pm Junior Squash Coaching 5:00-6:30pm Junior Tennis
Thu	4	Beverly Hills Chihuahua Movie Meet @ 6:30pm		11	8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-in 2:00pm Boxing Training 5:15-9:00pm Squash Mix-in	Back Lawn 7pm FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS SONGS	18	8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-in 2:00pm Boxing Training
Fri	5	The Verandah Noon-2:00pm, 6:00-10:00pm PASTA BUFFET	FATHER'S DAY - THAI STYLE Meet at Joe Louis Theatre @ 6:30pm	12	2:00-5:30pm Junior Swimming Classes 4:30-6:00pm Junior Squash Coaching 3:30-5:30pm Junior Tennis 6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in	The Verandah Noon-2:00pm, 6:00-10:00pm CURRY BUFFET Silom Sala 7:00-9:00pm Kids' VDO	19	2:00-5:30pm Junior Swimming Classes 4:30-6:00pm Junior Squash Coaching 3:30-5:30pm Junior Tennis
Sat	6	9:00am-1:30pm Junior Swimming Classes	2:00pm Squash Handicap Mix-in	13	9:00am-2:00pm Junior Swimming Classes	Back Lawn 7pm BC CHRISTMAS BALL	20	9:00am-2:00pm Junior Swimming Classes

<p>Silom Room 1:00-3:00pm Children's Activities</p> <p>2:30-3:30pm Yoga</p> <p>Suriwongse Room 2:30-6:00pm Bridge Tournament</p>	<p>21 9:00-11:00am Tennis Team Practice</p> <p>Poolside 11:30-3:00pm Poolside BBQ</p> <p>The Verandah Noon-2:00pm THE SUNDAY CARVERY</p>	<p>Silom Room 1:00-3:00pm Children's Activities</p> <p>2:30-3:30pm Yoga</p> <p>Suriwongse Room 2:30-6:00pm Bridge Tournament</p>	<p>28 9:00-11:00am Tennis Team Practice</p> <p>Poolside 11:30-3:00pm Poolside BBQ</p> <p>The Verandah Noon-2:00pm THE SUNDAY CARVERY</p>	<p>Silom Room 1:00-3:00pm Children's Activities</p> <p>2:30-3:30pm Yoga</p>
<p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Match Play</p> <p>7:00-10:30pm Pipe Band Practice</p>	<p>22 9:00am-12noon BWG Mahjong</p> <p>6:00pm Adult Swimming Lessons</p>	<p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Match Play</p> <p>7:00-10:30pm Pipe Band Practice</p>	<p>29 9:00am-12noon BWG Mahjong</p> <p>6:00pm Adult Swimming Lessons</p>	<p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Match Play</p> <p>7:00-10:30pm Pipe Band Practice</p>
<p>5:15-9:00pm Squash Casual Mix-in</p> <p>7:00-9:00pm Football Practice</p> <p>The Verandah 7:30pm JOHN SMITH'S QUIZ</p> <p>Churchill Bar 8:30pm-late Spoofing</p>	<p>23 8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-In</p> <p>9:00-10:30am Ladies Tennis Clinic</p> <p>10:00-11:00am Aqua Aerobics</p> <p>2:00pm Boxing Training</p>	<p>5:15-9:00pm Squash Casual Mix-in</p> <p>7:00-9:00pm Football Practice</p> <p>Churchill Bar 10:00pm-late Spoofing</p>	<p>30 8:00-11:00am Tennis Ladies Mix-In</p> <p>9:00-10:30am Ladies Tennis Clinic</p> <p>10:00-11:00am Aqua Aerobics</p> <p>2:00pm Boxing Training</p>	<p>5:15-9:00pm Squash Casual Mix-in</p> <p>7:00-9:00pm Football Practice</p> <p>Churchill Bar 8:30pm-late Spoofing</p>
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<p>5:15-9:00pm Squash Mix-in</p>	<p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE CLUB</p> <p>Churchill Bar, The Verandah & Back Lawn CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCH</p>	<p>The Verandah 6:00-9:00pm CHRISTMAS BUFFET DINNER</p>	 <p>Get this feeling</p>	
<p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in</p> <p>The Verandah 6:00pm MEXICAN BUFFET</p> <p>Silom Sala 7:00-9:00pm Kids' VDO</p>	<p>26 2:00-5:30pm Junior Swimming Classes</p> <p>3:30-5:30pm Junior Tennis</p> <p>6:00-10:00pm Tennis Mix-in</p>	<p>The Verandah Noon-2:00pm, 6:00-10:00pm CURRY BUFFET</p> <p>Silom Sala 7:00-9:00pm Kids' VDO</p>	<p>■ Short Term Rental (daily, weekly, monthly)</p> <p>■ Long Term Rental</p> <p>■ Rental with Chauffeur</p> <p>■ Limousine Service</p> <p>Location: Bangkok • Suvarnabhumi • Chiang Mai • Hua Hin • Pattaya</p> <p>Tel. 0 2696 8240 E-mail: info@europcar.co.th www.europcar.co.th</p> <p>Europcar YOU RENT A LOT MORE THAN A CAR.</p>	
<p>RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA Depart Club @ 6pm</p>	<p>27 9:00am-2:00pm Junior Swimming Classes</p>			

On the menu . . .

It's Christmas time and that can only mean two things (on these pages, at least): turkey and Christmas pudding.

This month we show you how to cook the perfect turkey and, courtesy of a recipe that's 85 years old, serve up a wickedly good Christmas pud.

But perhaps you don't want the hassle of cooking your own Christmas meal – if that's the case, why not let us do the work for you? Come along to the Club on Christmas Day and enjoy Khun Laak's wondrous festive fare. Or if you'd rather stay home with your feet up, why not order a Christmas meal – simply fill out your Christmas order form and let us do the rest.



Mrs. Beeton's Traditional Christmas Plum Pudding

Makes two Christmas puddings
(Enough for 8 or 9 servings)

Ingredients:

8 oz moist sugar (use soft brown)
8 oz chopped suet (or modern day equivalent)
8 oz sultanas cleaned
8 oz raisins halved and stoned
4 oz currants washed and dried
4 oz shredded mixed candied peel – cut your own or use ready-cut
4 oz plain flour
4 oz breadcrumbs
2 oz almonds blanched and shredded
grated rind of 1 lemon
3 eggs
a salt spoonful of nutmeg, grated
half a teaspoon of salt
quarter pint of milk
1 small wine glass of brandy (optional)

Basic Method:

Mix all the dry ingredients together, stir in the well-beaten eggs, milk and brandy (if used). Turn the mixture into 2 well-greased basins, and steam from 5 to 6 hours.



Christmas Plum Pudding.

Cooking Your Christmas Turkey to Perfection...

There are 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
- round 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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Introducing our new back lawn... a true oasis in the heart of Bangkok!

A large number of members will have already discovered the newly designed and replanted back lawn area and the comments we have received have been extremely generous in their praise for what our landscapers have achieved.

We now have a multipurpose sports court on which football, rugby, hockey, basketball, netball, futsal and many other sports and activities can all be played. The surface comprises flexible acrylic tiles with a long life expectancy that are an appropriately compatible shade of green and which enhance the natural tropical feel.

The opportunities for the formation of new sections and the use of the area for casual games, competition, training and junior sports development have been greatly improved and are in addition to our tennis facilities.

Our old cricket nets have been moved and replaced by two larger and better lit areas that will allow for much greater use without impinging on the lawn itself. Already we have the possibility of the formation of a new cricket section along with junior coaching classes and the continued use by some local community cricket groups if there is any time available to accommodate them.

The beautification of the back lawn area in total is stunning and will improve as pruned trees and new gardens continue to grow.

A new garden layout featuring quiet shaded areas and a winding path to discover the new plantings of trees, vines and ferns turns the whole area into a magical garden, especially at night when the spot lights are turned on to highlight our beautiful old trees that have been lovingly pruned and tended to ensure many more years of life.

A new drainage system will reduce flooding and an automatic sprinkler system will ensure that the lawns and gardens are watered correctly and efficiently each day.

Members' children now have a tree house and a swing with a jungle theme to enjoy, and I predict families will be attracted to the large shady areas while the youngsters play and discover a new world.



The photographs show it all and we urge all to come down to the Club and see all the changes which include the Verandah terrace which is now open and which encourages large and small groups to gather and enjoy the tropical evenings outdoors under the stars while experiencing our comprehensive menu and selection of wines and beers.

There is no equivalent experience to match what has been achieved in Bangkok so close to the city and we know all members old, young and in between will enjoy the experience of being in such delightful surrounds.

Further landscaping works are planned for 2009 around the pool and on the front lawn, tennis and car park surrounds, and an ongoing maintenance schedule will ensure our lovely gardens remain that way.



Now Showing!

The Traditional Thai Puppet Performance

The Birth of Ganesha

Birth of GANESHA

A TRADITIONAL THAI PUPPET PLAY

using Thai Theatrical puppets, shadow puppets and Thai classical dancers

PERFORMED WITH THAI CLASSICAL SINGING

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PLUS 30-MINUTE DOCUMENTARY ON THAI PUPPETRY

Best Traditional Performance

2006 *Awarded first prize* 2008

*at the World Festival of Puppet Art in Prague
twice!*

Best Performance

มณฑลราชบุรี
Traditional Thai Puppet Theater
(Uthachulaburi)

Love
You
Dad



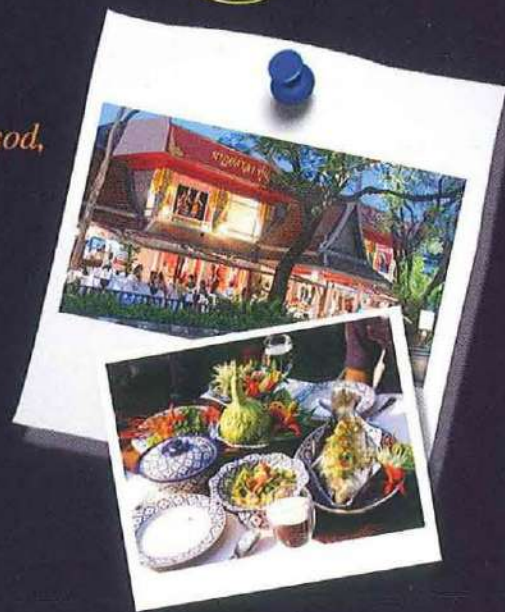
*Celebrate Father's Day with
the British Club Bangkok*

Thai theatrical puppetry is unique among the various forms of puppetry in that each puppet represents a character taken from the traditional Thai theater. There are three types of traditional Thai theatrical performances, all of which are stylized with dancing, singing and music comparable in complexity with the European opera-ballet of the 18th century French royal court at Versailles. The most sophisticated of these is khon, which performs only the Ramakian (the Thai version of the Indian epic, Ramayana); the less sophisticated is lakorn, which performs all other classic of Thai drama; and the least sophisticated is likay, which performs common dramas. Thai theatrical puppetry is also unique in that each puppet requires the synchronized effort of the three puppeteers in its manipulation, all of whom appear on stage with the puppet, and each of whom is a khon, lakorn or likay dancer in his or her own right. The puppets, in short, perform khon, lakorn or likay on the stage with the puppeteers, whence the name theatrical puppetry.

The Traditional Thai Puppet Theater Company is the authoritative guardian of this recently revived art form: the directors and senior members of the troupe are direct artistic successors of the founder of Thai theatrical puppetry. Performances are as unique as they are authentic.

The Kingdom's first Traditional Thai Puppet Theater *A showcase for Thailand's cultural heritage*

*Grand Master Puppeteer Sakorn Yangkhieosod,
National Artist, seen here with the
white monkey, Hanuman*



Before or after the show, please visit our puppet gallery to learn more about the history of puppets in Thailand. You may also wish to visit our souvenir counter and dine on the Naatayasala Terrace.



The Big Weekend!

Wow! What a weekend we had at the end of October and beginning of November. Not only did we cater for the events below, we also had the pleasure of looking after 200 guests at a wedding, despite the appalling weather.

All staff worked extremely hard throughout the weekend and my thanks go to all those who played a part in making the events such a success. Judging by the feedback we've received, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and that makes all the hard work worthwhile.

And now, without further ado, on to the events!

Baz

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY

Things got decidedly spooky on Halloween as over a hundred children and their families attended the party in the Silom Sala. The Halloween menu was a huge hit and the activities and games kept everyone entertained, with the doughnut-eating attracting a vast crowd – they'd obviously missed dinner! And with the magic show, spooky crafts and ghostly decorations in full swing the evening was a tremendous success.



HALLOWEEN MURDER MYSTERY



The British Club and the Neilson Hays Library presented "Thirst for Blood", a Halloween Murder Mystery at the Library on the 31st October.



Performed by professional actors in the atmospheric setting of the Library itself, the play was immensely successful. Prizes were given for the best costume and the winning table who guessed the identity of the culprit!

Accompanied by a splendid dinner put on by the British Club and wines supplied by Prestige Wines, the evening was greatly enjoyed by all who participated.

ROGER UTTLEY WOWS HIS AUDIENCE AT THE BRITISH CLUB

On October 31st we had the honour of hosting a former England rugby captain and coach at the British Club. He played 23 games for England both in the second row and the back row, five times as captain and four Tests in the Lions back row on the undefeated 1974 tour to South Africa. Roger was born in Blackpool and played first for Fylde then Gosforth before finishing his career at Wasps. He coached the successful London and South East Divisional side in the mid to late 80s before working with Geoff Cooke to coach and guide the England XV captained by Will Carling to the final of the 1991 World Cup. He was also assistant coach to the 1989 Lions side that won the test series against Australia.

The evening started with an informal chat with Roger who talked about his early career and discussed the rugby greats he played against. He then gave an excellent speech detailing the leap he made from a young man in a northern town to a touring captain of the England team. The food provided by Barry from the British Club was a perfect complement to the evening, as was the beautifully decorated Suriwongse room, with its red and white regalia.



The evening was arranged to help promote the range of charities that the St. George's Society supports and, as Roger is an active member of the charity 'Sparks' in England, it was clearly a perfect fit. A huge vote of thanks goes out to Gale and Barry for all their help. Here's to many more evenings celebrating the best of British.

Matt Riley, Harrow International School.

AN EXPLOSIVE GUY FAWKES EXTRAVAGANZA!

Our annual firework display on November 2nd was simply dazzling this year – even the clouds were in awe of the show and stayed away from the proceedings...for the most part, anyway! There was plenty of entertainment for the whole family and the feedback has been most encouraging.



Children's Christmas Party 2008

Activities galore including children's crafts, the Club's bouncy castle, pony rides, puppet show, magic show, giant slide and so much more.

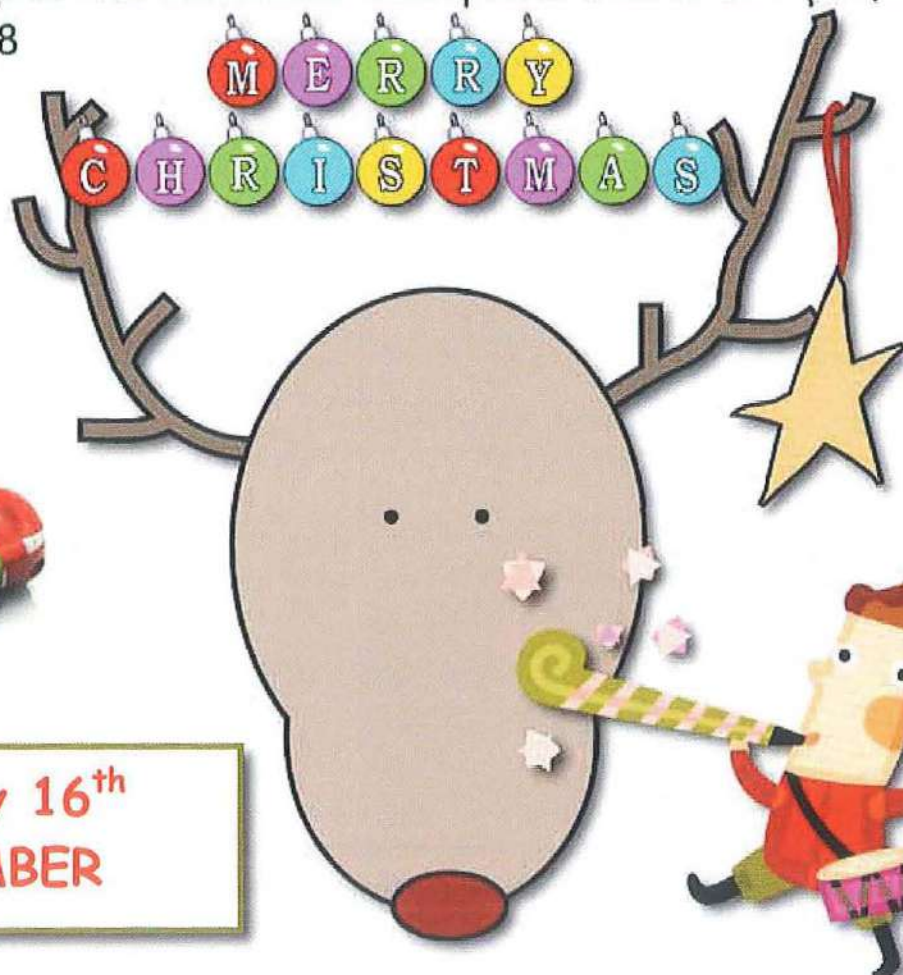
A picnic tea follows at 4.45pm on the front lawn and then everybody's favourite, Santa Claus, will make a special appearance bearing gifts for all



the children. The event costs **Bt. 450 <**

2 to 12 years> and **Bt. 100 < under 2s**

and **adults>**. Contact Khun Mai or Barry for further information; to book send a fax or email to the Club or sign up at the Clubhouse Reception. Starts at 2 p.m, 16 DEC 08



**Tuesday 16th
DECEMBER**

SPORT & FITNESS



With Reed Passmore

Dear Members,

Welcome to the December issue of Sport and Fitness. The Club's sporting sections have been busy achieving great results both at home at the Club and away, with our rugby team winning the bowl trophy at the Bangkok 7s and the footballers clinching the over 35s FUTSAL Cup. Squash had the Rod Carter Cup with over 50 entrants, golf had their annual club championships on November 15th -16th and tennis entered the 9th annual mixed doubles tournament on November 8th. These great achievements by the sports sections have shown the depth of talented sportsmen and women in and around the club. Great effort!!!

We have also been busy with Halloween, children's parties, swimming lessons, junior rugby, Guy Fawkes and a host of other exciting activities and events. December is traditionally the busiest month of the year so we are looking forward to many events, parties and, of course, to sharing some Christmas cheer.

Make sure you look after yourself over the Christmas period.

In this month's Outpost we will look at ways of staying healthy during the Christmas season – it's easy to get carried away at all those functions, parties and dinners.

Tips for staying healthy over Christmas



1. Choose treats wisely – look for the fruit salad, not the toffee salad.
2. Control your drinking – consumption of alcohol is an easy way to add the calories.
3. Exercise whenever and wherever you can – exercising doesn't just mean going to the gym. Walk to the Club or down to the local store.
4. Set realistic exercise goals – aim to exercise 30 minutes a day, instead of an hour.
5. Drink plenty of water – water helps counter the dehydrating effects of travel or alcoholic beverages, plus it helps lessen the appetite for food.



Junior Chess Interested in learning and playing chess?

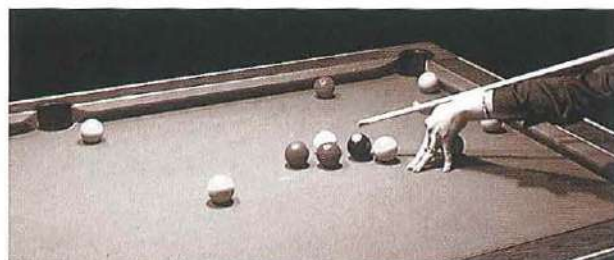
Chess is a game of imagination and strategy, one that provides rules, order and opportunities for intellectual growth while also teaching a skill that can be applied to other aspects of life.



Classes will be run on Saturday/Sundays at IWICA Chess Academy:

Eight-week beginner course. 4yrs and above.

Elementary-level ten week course.



Snooker Competition

Come and join our new snooker league.

Competition play starts late January.

Sign up now by emailing Reed.

Junior Swimming Lessons

This term's junior swimming lessons finish on December 6th.



Please sign up early for next term's, starting January.

Two-Day Sports Camp - Thursday and Fri, 18-19th December

All ages welcome; Bt.950 per day

Please sign up early!



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Regular Sports, Games & Activities

Aqua-Aerobics

Tuesday 9:30–10:30am

Balut

1st Wednesday of every month 7:05–9:00pm Wordsworth Lounge

Boxing Training

Tuesday and Thursday 2:00pm

Bridge

Sunday 2:30–6:00pm. Tournament play in Suriwongse Room (except last Sunday of every month)

Circuit Training

Thursday 6:00pm
Sunday 2:00pm

Fitball Training

Monday–Thursday 10:30am
Saturday 2:00pm

Pipe Band

Monday 7:00–10:30pm Practice - upstairs Clubrooms
Wednesday 7:00–10:30pm Practice - upstairs Clubrooms

Rugby Juniors

Sunday 3:00pm

Salsa Dancing

Wednesday 6:30pm

Spoofing

Tuesday 8:30pm until late – Churchill Bar

Squash

Tuesday 5:15–8:15 Casual Mix-in
Wednesday and Friday 4:30–6:00pm Junior squash coaching
Thursday 5:15–9:00 Mix-in
1st Saturday of every month 2:00pm Handicap Mix-in
1st Sunday of every month 10:30am–2:15pm Mix-in

Swimming

Monday 6:00pm – adult swimming lessons (free)
Friday 2:00–5:30pm junior classes
Saturday 9:00am–2:00pm 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
Team Practice: Sunday 9:00–11:00am

Tennis Juniors

Friday 4:00–6:00pm
(Contact Reed in the Fitness Centre for more details)

Yoga

Sunday 2:30–3:30 pm

Sports/Activities Price List

Aqua Aerobics

Bt.2,500 for 5 sessions

Boxing Training

Boxing/kickboxing sessions – Bt.400 (must book in advance)

Circuit Training

Bt.125 per session

Fitball Training

Package deals or Bt.200 per session (drop-in)

Massage

Thai massage/foot massage – Bt.250 per hourly session (except Mondays)

Rugby Juniors

Bt. 125 per session

Salsa Dancing

Bt.2,100 for 6 lessons

Squash Coaching

With Khun Rit – Bt.300 per session

Squash courts

Bt.50 per 45 min

Swimming

British Club swimming lessons – Bt.325 per lesson, Bt.3,250 for 10 lessons

Tennis Juniors

Bt.5,000 for 10 lessons

Tennis courts

Bt.30 per hour am/Bt.90 per hour pm

Tennis knockers

Hourly knocking sessions with – Khun Jang (Bt.550), Khun Kaew (Bt.500), Khun Tom (Bt.400), Khun Choon (Bt.400), Khun Phon (Bt.300), Khun Champ (Bt.300)

Yoga

Bt.2,500/month for 10 sessions; drop-in Bt.300 per session



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December 2008 Golf Report

Curve Cup Match against Lighthouse

An early Saturday morning start for the match against the Lighthouse golf society was a big change for British Club players who are used to playing late on Sunday morning. We played at Legacy and our opponents decided that the men should play off the blue tees just to make it more interesting. The course itself added to the drama because of the wet conditions and the renovation works which made some holes rather like playing in a cabbage patch. The match was decided by the total stableford scores for each side and although some of the BCGS members played well, we were outclassed by the Lighthouse who beat us by 20 points overall. Congratulations go to Gordon Milne & Yurachatr Brook, with 38 points each. Gordon took the British Club honours on countback – he had 24 points, level par gross for him, on the back nine.



Gordon

Yurachatr

Both teams sat down at one long table for post match refreshments and the announcement of the results. There was the customary levying of fines for alleged indiscretions during the day, with all proceeds going to the Lighthouse charity. Thanks to Lighthouse and the Curve Company for organising and sponsoring the event.



Relaxing After the Game



The 19th Hole is Always the Best

Bangkok Golf League

The British Club Golf Section has for many years entered a team in the Bangkok Golf League. In 2008 there were nine teams, playing a round of fixtures against each other on the third Saturday morning of each month, with matches initially played at Legacy but in mid season the event moved to President. The British Club team got off to a slow start, but late in the year new talent was brought into the side as old hands were unavailable. This new team managed to bring the British Club to a creditable 4th place on the last day, with a respectable 5-1 win over the once seemingly invincible Golfers Cocktail Lounge.

Hassell Stableford

The competition this month was played at Lam Lukka with a fairly small field. The runaway winner was Nui Clarke who is a recent new member. She scored an amazing 44 points and has consequently had her handicap cut four shots from 33 to 29. Runners up were Tracy Birchall and Jim Moroney.

Milne Monthly Medal

Hurrah, it did not rain on the medal this month and we all enjoyed a good day's golf at the Royal Course, Lad Krabang. The course however was still sopping wet from an early morning storm and the ball did not roll much. We welcomed new members Len and Noo Clover, who are currently doing their three handicap cards and will soon be in contention for all the competitions.

Flight A was won by Karen Holloway with a score of net 68 with Barry Ashman in second place. Peter Gale won flight B with net 69, followed by Peter Bond just taking second place on count back from Andrew McLean.



A-Flight Medal Winner, Karen



B-Flight Medal Winner, Peter

Seara Match Play

The final stages of this match play competition will be underway in December with semi finals to be played between Peter Gale and Barry Ashman and Peter Skinner and Brian Brooks. The plate competition is also at the closing stages with Maureen Gibson and Peter Bond to play one semi final and husband and wife, Gordon and Rosemarie Milne, in contention for the other place in the final.

By the time you read this we will also have had our Club Championship weekend away in Pattaya, with 30 or so of our regular players competing for the prestigious titles of Men's and Ladies' Club Champion and to get their names on the huge and ancient trophies which are kept in the trophy cupboard at the British Club.

Remember, we welcome guests and new members to all our events. Either email or phone for more information and to sign up for the next games.

Remember, a bad day on the golf course beats a good day at the office.

Happy Golfing.

British Club Golf Section contact details
Website: www.geocities.com/bcgolfsociety
Email: bcgs2002@yahoo.co.uk
Phone: Captain, Maureen Gibson 089 017 2254



Midweekers' Golf

Come and join the midweekers' golf group which plays about 8am on Wednesday mornings. The regular golf course is Bangkok Golf Club, but we alternate with other courses just for variety.

We play friendly golf with teams drawn out of a hat on the day. Scoring is on combined stableford scores so that everyone has a chance to contribute right to the last hole, even if they personally are having an awful round. There are no prizes or match fees – it is all just for fun.

If you are interested in playing on Wednesday morning please contact any of the following.

Ray Harries 0866016839
Bob Randle 0878256399
Andrew McLean 0898113940
or email rlharries@btinternet.com

celebrate



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

NEW YEAR'S EVE CRUISE

DECEMBER 31ST 2008

9:00 P.M. - 02.00 A.M.

BT 3,600 - PER PERSON

Celebrate New Year's Eve in Style With the British Club

We are now taking bookings for this year's New Year's Eve cruise. Once again we are aboard the luxury Chao Phraya Princess, the most modern cruise boat on the Chao Phraya. The cost includes cocktail reception, buffet supper, open bar, music by Dj Mike Allin and fireworks at midnight.



FOOTBALL SECTION UPDATE – UP AND RUNNING

Well it's early days yet, but the "New Beginning" promised in our previous bulletin is really starting to be just that.

In the UK, England's "New Beginning" puts them top of their World Cup qualifying group (some impressive results too).

Hull City's "New Beginning" has resulted in them being elevated to the heady heights of the top of the English Premier League, while Harry's "New Beginning" has already resulted in 2 wins and a draw from a Spurs side that previously couldn't buy a goal. Newcastle United (more new beginnings than books in the bible) continues in its usual fashion.

But it is here in Bangkok where the "New Beginning" really means just that. As penned previously, thanks to the excellent support of the Committee and the Club Management, we have been able to restructure the football section to target the slightly more mature section of Bangkok's footballing finest.

Subsequently, the Casual League has begun and at the time of writing, the BC Casuals stand near the top of the first division after a recent fine 2-1 win against the defending champions from Pattaya and the newly formed BC Masters have really hit the second division in a big way.

The BC Vets managed to secure the plate in the October Vets League and the BC Masters managed to win the annual Futsal Cup at the first attempt, despite being 5-1 losers that day in their first ever Futsal game.

All of this ahead of the opening of the Club's new all-weather pitch facility.

Anyway, some details.

BC Casuals:

Having reached the dizzy heights of the Casual League Division I, the BC Casuals have enjoyed a mixed start to the season.

Losses in the first two games to Bulls Head and Bangkok United did not bode well, but storming wins in later games against Woodstock and Bangkok United moved the team back into contention.



"Gorden in his new kit practicing for next year's world diving championships!"

Bolstered further by the receipt of the new BC super dooper red and blue kit made of dry-fit ultra technology material and after several coaching sessions to show the lads how to put the shirts on, the team went on to face their biggest challenge to date.

Decked out in their new finery, the team managed to secure a 2-1 victory over Pattaya, the defending champions.



The stands were packed with partisan BC fans (well at least 7) who much to the bemusement of the Pattaya team cheered the BC on to victory to the chants of "Walking Street is falling down".

With 20 minutes to go and leading 2-0, BC had a player sent off. (Honestly, the Ref did not know what he was doing the whole afternoon; after all, our player only kicked him!) This awful error of judgment by the obviously shortsighted official allowed Pattaya to get their goal. After that the BC hung on, although having said that, with yet another goal line clearance in the last five minutes, hanging on was somewhat of an understatement. (Michael Caine's hold out against the Zulus was nothing by comparison)

Nevertheless, hold out they did, and as a result the team moved into joint second place with Bulls Head and Pattaya City. The French, Les Gaulois, remain on pole.

Pattaya as always were very sporting and gracious after the game and kindly offered to prepare a warm welcome for the return match to be played in their quiet fishing village which is believed to be located somewhere on the Eastern Seaboard.



"No, Joel! Do the exercises before the game, not when the opposition are about to score!"

BC Masters:

The newly formed BC Masters started off their Division 2 campaign in fine form too, with 2 early victories enabling them to achieve 2nd place before a couple of recent reversals saw them slip a little. Still, early days.

However, it was in the annual Bangkok Futsal Championship that they really made an impact.

Playing somewhere so far down Rama 2 that some thought the games were being played in Burma, things couldn't have got off to a worse start, with the BC Masters getting a drubbing from the combined French and Thai Le Coq squad (how can you concede 5 goals in only 13 minutes?) The BC was living up to its pre tournament reputation of only being able to play the long ball game. That, however, was before the turnaround.

Quickly learning how to play the long ball game on a short Futsal pitch, the team reinvented Futsal and turned in a commendable 0-0 draw against Anatolia, last year's champions.

Following further victories in the group stage and a win on penalties in a play off, the BC had made the semi finals.

Surely against the Nomads it would all end soon, but with Ashley scoring an early goal the Nomads suddenly looked nervous.

Both sides had chances, but with some good work between the posts from Peter and hard work all over not least from John, Ashley Bruce and 'Keith the Whippet', the BC defended well. Harrying them all over the pitch, the Nomads never settled into their normal rhythm, and after a foray up the left Ashley slotted his second through a defender's legs to make it 2-0.

The BC was in the final against Le Coq!

Although the BC had deservedly been thrashed by them in the 1st game, this was no longer the same team and a 1 goal lead, scored by Eric, was enough to see them home.

BC were champions! Hopefully, the first of many triumphs to come.



"BC Masters, the 2008 Bangkok Futsal Champions!"

BC Vets:

The BC Vets continued and it's encouraging to note that the recent changes have also impacted here too. Numbers are swelling and the ever increasing skills of those present are helping to move the team higher and higher in the monthly rankings with a plate win in September and a place in the top flight in early November.



"BC Vets, the only reason Wayne wants to be captain!"

And, coming up:

The next step change will be the introduction of the new all-weather playing surface to the rear of the club. Initially, the section will continue training on Tuesdays as before, when the proposed card entry system for football section members will be introduced. This will allow non full members the opportunity of more easily securing food and drinks after training. Depending on numbers and subject to availability an additional night may be introduced at a later date.

Later this month, Jim Howard will lead his mighty BC team once more into the footballing hub of Asia that is Manila, while here in Bangkok the section will entertain the Pirates, not of Penzance, but of Singapore.

Vets, Masters, Casuals and friendlies will continue playing as usual, so any of you wishing to play, regardless of ability (having at least one leg would be an advantage), please contact us at the Club.

In the meantime,

Hope to see you soon

The Football Section

PS. For those of you who don't know, in the annual Scotland v England Alex Forbes Trophy.....England came second.

BRITISH CLUB BALUT

LOCAL

The focus of November's Balut was, of course, the Interport competition, which led to only nine players taking part in the monthly Balut Shield Tournament. Despite the small number of players, some great and not-so-great, Balut was played but most people did a lot of damage to their averages!!

Congratulations to the two winners... Bowling Ball (Bob van Es) and The Jackal (Carlos Romero).

The BCB Balut Shield leagues now read:

Rank	Player	Tournaments played	Average
1	Steve Mallon	1	103.2
2	Phil Alexander	3	102.8
3	Tony Rodriguez	1	99.0
4	Carlos Romero	2	98.2
5	Momo	1	97.6
6	Roger Willbourn	2	96.8
7	Christopher Poustie	2	95.5
8	Steve Eaton	3	94.9
9	Paul Cheesman	3	94.9
10	Caroline Willbourn	2	94.3
11	Ranald Macdonald	1	93.4
12	Bob van Es	3	93.3
13	Simon Davies	1	85.8
14	John Boisclair	2	84.8

The next tournament is 3rd December.

INTERNATIONAL

By the time this Outpost goes to bed the 28th STC Interport Balut Competition will have been and gone and we will know who won and who lost and more importantly who will host the 29th Competition.

The 28th STC Interport Balut Competition would not have been possible without its sponsors to whom we offer our thanks: Martello Realty, ICPA, RSM Advisory, Det5 Bar & Restaurant, the Narai Hotel, Murkh Tailors, Synovate, ACH Management, Central Retail Corp, YES Technologies, Erawan Interactive, Outrigger Serenity Terraces Resort and, of course, the British Club Bangkok. Our thanks also go to Club members Roger Johns and Simon Davies for personal sponsorship and our special thanks go to Chang Beer who came to the rescue at the last moment after a lesser brand dropped out of sponsorship.



Finally a trophy!!

Since taking over the management and coaching of the rugby section at the British Club three years ago we've failed to win a single trophy – losing players to professionalism and our decision to nurture talent are the main reasons for this. We've reached many semi-finals and even some finals but the Bangkok 7s was a nice surprise!

Scheduled this year for November 1st and 2nd, the Bangkok 7s served up a very tough group in which we were pitted against the skills of favourites Rugby Eccose, the Kazakhstan national team and the Royal Thai Police. The Eccose team is a development squad for the full Scottish national side, the Kazakhs are in the first division of the Asian Five Nations and the Royal Thai Police have been the Thai 7s champions throughout the last decade.....hmmmm!

First up were the Kazakhs – it's amazing how such a quick game can produce such a high score. Too big and powerful for us, the Kazakhs romped to a 42-0 victory, bullying us effectively both up and down the field. Next up were the Police against whom we knew we had no chance, despite only narrowly losing to them in Malaysia. But this time the Police seemed uncharacteristically lethargic – it wasn't until we'd scored three tries that they really got going and with two minutes left to be played they simply had too much to make up and we won, 19-7. The final game of the group was against the Scots who'd beaten the Kazakhs 58-0 and the Police by over 60...

Tak, our centre, kicked off cleverly, dribbling the ball just shy of the 10 metre line and then managed to dive on it and get the ball back. Seeing the Scots charging up to try and get the quick kick, Max chipped their ball up field where there was now no sweeper. Our boys then charged up the field into a mass of bodies on the Scots' try line – the ref blew the whistle...was it really a try? Oh yes it was – the first try against the Scots all day...GET SOME!!! However satisfying that try certainly was it's always a bad idea embarrassing the favourites and from then on the BC boys were chasing shadows and blurs – the movement and passing from the Scots was something to behold and we eventually went down 42-7, a very respectable score.



On Sunday we managed to reach the Plate quarter finals against the Siam Knights but the boys' bus driver never made it so we were forced to forfeit the game, dropping down to the quarters for the Bowl instead.

First up were the Police and they were noticeably up for it this time, firing on all cylinders and with all guns blazing! They quickly raced to a 10-0 lead, obviously determined not to lose to us on their field again. We made some clever changes, intentionally sacrificing some speed for a bit more power, and bringing Mor and Ton on to add a little grit certainly paid off. The free-flowing style of the Police was disrupted and we started working our own magic with our boys from the south, Max, Mark, Tak and Jud really turning it on and dazzling the crowd. In a flash it was 32-10 for the British Club boys.

East Asia University was up next – supremely confident they must have been, too, after demolishing us at 15s last month. This time though the balls were bouncing right in front of our boys, the calls were going our way...we felt we had a chance. A tense, extremely close game, we had chosen to use our subs effectively; as it was roll on, roll off subs we were able to swap and change players as often as we liked. Changing a couple of players almost every minute, we were able to keep our players fresh – our legs held out and the boys managed to pull away to a 23-14 win.

A final against RBAC! RBAC were part of our development until last year when they chose the route of professionalism – this game would be the first encounter since going our

separate ways and a very intriguing game it turned out to be! The first few minutes were quite simply "mental, mental, chicken oriental!" – neither side would give an inch and each player knew exactly how his counterpart played. After we scored first RBAC answered with a beautifully worked try before the BC boys went two ahead almost immediately. The RBAC boys were attacking our line ferociously; Max had a last-gasp tackle at the lunging RBAC player and managed to knock the ball free. Tak picked the ball up behind our line and instead of kicking it out as I was screaming at him to do from the sidelines he danced and wiggled his way through the first defenders, drew in two more and then sent a looping pass to Jud; with no one left to defend that was the nail in the coffin and as Jud ran in the 80-metre try we knew we'd clinched the game. The RBAC boys refused to give up and managed a consolation try from the kick off but that was it, we'd won an extremely satisfying game 28-12.

BACK to 15s

October was again a rugby-filled month. A warm up game against the Police Cadets was played on October 8th out at the Royal Police Cadet School in Nakhon Pathom. The storm made for a fun game – the pitch was unplayable but as we had travelled down they agreed to play us anyways. The mud was knee deep in some places making playing hard but thoroughly enjoyable. As entertaining as it was it was also a decidedly tough game; the Cadets were coached by Dud, our fly half, who had obviously done his job well because they knew precisely our style of play. Everything we tried was countered perfectly and the Police boys managed to take a lead of 20-10 at half time. We made a lot of subs, had showers and freshened up for the second half – gradually our subs made an impact and the BC boys pushed harder and harder, slipping and sliding to a 25-20 lead. Dud then came on with five minutes to spare and showed us what we were missing this year with a wondrous move which our boys could only watch in awe...Dud scored in the corner and the game ended 25-15.

The next game was a league match against the Navy 2nd XV. The night before was our annual Pink & Black Ball so we were...well, a little jaded, to say the least, and the game wasn't a particularly enjoyable one! Most of the boys were still drunk and had barely slept, so the fact that we managed to reach half time without passing out, despite the score being 32-0 against us, was fairly miraculous. But what happened next was quite inspirational – either our boys sobered up or the Navy gave up because somehow moves that had never worked before were working and every pass and kick was inch perfect...we didn't win, but what a comeback: 37-27.

Don't miss next month's article – we'll have photos and a write-up from the Pink & Black Ball and, of course, lots more rugby!

Yours in rugby,

Morcar McConnell
Secretary Rugby Section



RIP – Micky Wheeler

Micky Wheels was the captain of the BC for the 1991 season, pipping Meggison to the vote by 32 to 3.

The lads will remember 4'10" scrumhalf Micky for his forthright, hard and direct style of uncompromising rugby, his off-the-pitch antics in the Churchill and the squash courts (without any rackets) and his sense of fun and mischief. I remember asking Micky what the 'MTB' initials meant after his name on his business card, since he was a horrible little punchy senior foreman on the Tridos Marina on Bangkok's Thonburi riverside. Back then everyone emanating from Hong Kong had more initials and guff after their names than Burmese generals have medals but most people's initials meant, of course, Lord so and so, Member of the British Empire, Fellow of the Institute of Funny Walks, etc, etc...all very eminent, serious and dignified. So, I put the question to Micky. 'MTB?' he replied with a smirk;

'Micky the Bricky!'

Streetwise Londoner that he was, it was Micky who recovered young Daker's wallet which was 'half-inched' from his rear pocket by a rogue in Patpong one night. Whilst the fleet-footed thief ran in one direction with six of the most mobile members of the BC's 1st XV in hot pursuit, Micky simply walked into the street and nabbed a seemingly innocent member of the Thai public sauntering in the opposite direction. Without even a moment's hesitation the erstwhile accomplice handed over Daker's wallet and went on his way. The lack of resistance or complaint may have been because Micky had a firm grasp on the essentials!!

And on that note we should end; there are of course many more stories of the man that lived and played with us in 1991/2, but for now we just should wish Micky everlasting mischief in God's fair hands because that is where he is, without doubt.

From all of us at the BC rugby section: Rest in Peace.

In co-operation with Bangkok Community Theatre

TheatreWorks

presents

Gilbert & Sullivan's musical romp

THE MIKADO

(UNLEASHED!)

Dinner Theatre

at The British Club

January 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30 & 31, 2009

at 7:30pm

B1,200 includes 3-course buffet dinner

Matinee Show on

Sunday, January 25th at 2:00pm

B700 (F&B not included)

Please note there is no performance on
Tuesday, January 27th, 2009.

Tickets available at Reception from late December.

Bookings may be made in person or by email at
eventbooking@britishclubbangkok.org

For more information, please call TheatreWorks at
089-006-5259 or 081-869-1104 or email: theatreworks@sala.net
or visit www.sala.net/theatreworks

Tables fill up quickly so please book early to avoid disappointment!

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THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

British Club Tennis Magazine

BASELINE



WELCOME

The wait is almost over...

A new professional Tennis Programme, upgraded ITF Grade Courts (courtesy of GreenSet), and a SPECIAL guest!

The relaunch of British Club Tennis is right around the corner, a veritable Christmas feast for all members of the British Club Bangkok.

In January 1919 the British Club Bangkok acquired land from the Siam Electricity Company's Tennis Club that gave the Club ten tennis courts in front of the clubhouse lawn. In 2008, the hard surfacing of courts 2 and 3, and the resurfacing of centre and court 1 will mean, that for the first time, members have four dedicated hard courts to play on. Something short of the ten grass courts we had back in 1919, but times change and four courts will present a wealth of opportunities for all to enjoy the game at the Club.

The road to the new courts has been a long one, rain has delayed work on the concrete slab, yet it is important to get this structure right. Some very positive news came from the surface suppliers, Yang Ma Sports and the GreenSet company in Spain. In recognition of the first GreenSet surface to be laid for recreational use in Thailand, GreenSet have agreed to upgrade the surface to the ITF specifica-

RIGHT — Daniel Ahl, the Head Coach of the Bangkok Patana School Tennis Academy visited the British Club in November.

BELOW — GreenSet was the surface of choice at the 2008 Thailand Open, BCB members will enjoy the ITF grade surface, and new colours in December.

INSET — New BCB Tennis kit is being produced in Club colours with the new BC Tennis logo.



tion, supply us with the new GreenSet colour as used at the Thailand Open 2008 (see picture above) and send their lead court surfacer from Spain to Bangkok to supervise the entire court laying process. Javier Sanchez (GreenSet President) is to be thanked for his commitment to the Club.

The new courts will be officially opened in January 2009, a very special guest has been invited and at time of press, dates are being explored.

Baseline will feature each month in Outpost, along with the new dedicated website and news and updates in the members only, Announcer.



the best surface, for the best tennis™

Daniel AHL

PROFILE

Head Tennis Coach — Bangkok Patana School
LTA Level 3 Professional Coach
Highest Singles ATP Rank: 831
Highest Doubles ATP Rank: 639
ITF >35 World Rank: 1 (March 2007)
Current ITF Asian and Thailand >35 Champion
Married to Genevieve with 2 children,
William and Amelia



Picture courtesy of



Bangkok Patana School
The British International School in Thailand
Established 1957

www.patana.ac.th

Puzzles

Double Diabolical Sudoku

With Christmas fast approaching (and thoughts turning perhaps to bottles of wine!) we've had a bumper harvest of entries this month – 19, to be precise. Times ranged from a giddy 10 minutes (about the time it takes me just to read the grid) up to a carefully constructed calculation session lasting 70 minutes. Everyone managed to send in their times so well done, one and all. The average times revealed a dramatic speeding up: 32 minutes to complete the first puzzle and 27 for the second.

Here are another two minimal Diabolical Sudokus. As usual, each Sudoku will have its own draw and for each a bottle of wine goes to the skilful – and lucky – winner.

Fax or deliver your completed sudoku/s to Barry Osborne as soon as possible after receiving Outpost. Entries must be received by the 10th of the month (but we will extend the deadline in the rare event that Outpost is late out). The author of the first correct entry (for each Sudoku) drawn out of a hat will win a bottle of wine.

November SUDOKU WINNER

Congratulations go to Dr J.P. Dickson (D6), a previous winner (how many times? I think we've lost count!) and Sudoku stalwart, who is the winner of November's Sudoku No. 1 puzzle.

The winner of Sudoku No. 2 is Ray Harries (H361) – congratulations, Ray, and enjoy your wine.

To all those not-so-lucky souls who missed out this time, don't give up! Keep sending in your sudokus because one day, when you least expect it, your number might come up ... Pictured this month is Dr J P Dickson, receiving his prize from Khun Sangvon after winning the second draw in the June Sudoku competition, his third win for the year – well, make that fourth now.

And finally, to the current winners, just a reminder that we at Outpost are always available to help you drink your wine, should you need assistance ...



6		2					7	
		3	4					
1							2	6
	3		5		4			
			8					
7	1			2				
						5		
						4		

Rating: 'Diabolically Difficult'

Solution times: You tell us! Write down your time next to your completed puzzle(s) – be truthful now!

6		5	2					
				7				1
1	7					4		
			8				6	
3								
		8				2	5	
	4				1			
				3				

Rating: 'Diabolically Difficult'

Solution times: You tell us! Write down your time next to your completed puzzle(s) – no fibbing!

Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

MEET THE MEMBERS

Please tell us something about your work experience and background and when you originally came to Thailand.

It was back in 1965 that I first came to live and work in Thailand – Udon Thani, to be precise. As an Australian I was doing National Service in the RAAF during the Vietnam War and Udon Thani was one of two major air force bases for the USAF, and the RAAF had a small slice of that operation. Bangkok was a favourite destination for R&R and you might imagine just how different the city was then.

In 1970 I was hired in Australia by Clarks Shoes and sent for training in shoe manufacturing management to the parent company in the UK with the goal of returning to manage part of the Australian operation. This was ostensibly for 2-3 years but I remained with Clarks in the UK for the next 23 years with two of those years as the MD for the South African subsidiary. During this time I made a number of visits to Thailand as it was a major source of supplying part shoes to our factories in the UK.

I left Clarks in 1993 and spent the next seven years as an independent consultant to various countries and companies around the world: seven in all.

In 2000 I was hired by Nike and my first job was based in Vietnam. In 2004 Nike transferred me to Bangkok as the Shoe Engineering Director and at this time Thailand was the largest overseas office. In 2005 I returned to Vietnam which as we know has been experiencing rapid expansion and where the shoe industry is now one of the top five export earners for the country. For Nike, Vietnam is now the largest overseas operation and surpasses China in its scale of operations.

In 2007 I retired from Nike and the shoe industry and moved to Bangkok to live.

What are your interests and hobbies?

I have always had an abiding interest in international affairs and it was my goal in each of the ten countries in which I have lived and worked to gain a thorough understanding of the country's history, politics, culture, religion, etc. Of course when I moved on I felt it was important to keep up to date!

This of course requires a large amount of time spent reading; now that I am retired I am able to do this and I enjoy it immensely.

What motivated you to stand for the General Committee?

I joined the British Club in July 1995 and at the time I was living in Min Buri and working in Lat Krabang. There were no "distractions" for farang there, and too far to travel during the working week, and the British Club was an oasis for my weekends. In 2004 when I returned to Bangkok I upgraded my Club membership from absent member to ordinary and I was living in an apartment in South Sathorn so I was able to make more frequent use of the Club. Then in 2007 when I returned to Bangkok I went through the exercise again. Whenever I visited Bangkok during these intervals I invariably visited the Club and my accompanying colleagues – the Americans especially – were always bowled over with the clubhouse and the facilities.

Retired now, I thought I should put something back into the Club through membership of the General Committee.

What do you think about today's British Club?

Name: Mr. Warwick Newton

Member Since: July 1995

Occupation: Retired former shoe manufacturing executive

Position held in any Associate

Group: Committee Member of the British Club Year 2008-2009



The development work nearing completion on the back lawn and the extensive upgrading of the tennis courts will raise what is already a fine Club to a new level entirely – probably the best ever! Because the Club becomes nicely familiar to us we can lapse into taking it for granted. I am forever reminded what a fine Club it is from the remarks made by my visitors visiting the place for the first time, and their subsequent requests to revisit.

What are some of the challenges you face as a member of the General Committee?

There is a great deal of work underway in a number of areas and of course some of it is easily visible (back lawn, etc) but I've been struck with the scope of activity the GC faces. So time is a challenge because most GC members have their family and a job to manage too, and the commitment I have witnessed is very impressive. The chairman has invited ordinary members to consider standing for election to the GC and it is a great opportunity to make a contribution to the Club and it certainly provides an invaluable insight to its operations. I cannot miss the opportunity to acknowledge the enormous contribution – beneficial to all of us – from all levels of management and staff, and the special and unfailing assistance they provide to the members of the GC.

Any particular happy memories of your time at the Club you'd like to share with us?

The interesting conversations I've had with members provide my most enduring memories. There are many colourful characters here and being predominantly expat most members are able to share rich experiences gained from living in a variety of different countries.

What is your favourite traditional British meal or dessert?

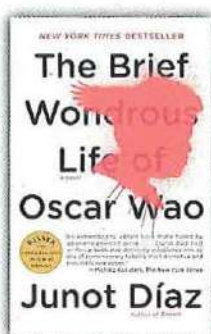
The Sunday roast is a must for me and visiting American ex-colleagues look forward to it too. I have related the story where an ex-colleague and friend working now in South China was visiting Bangkok on business for a week and he asked if we could meet up for a meal and made a special request for the British Club. It transpired during the week that he had two other evenings free of business and somewhat apologetically requested the British Club again. I'm not surprised!!



Where can we find you in the Club? A favourite corner?

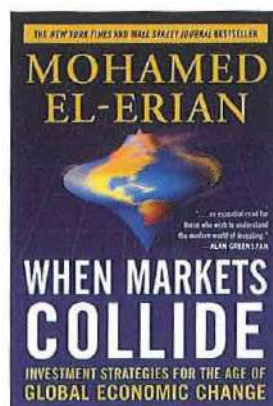
My usual haunt is the Verandah Bar largely because it's the location of the great buffets prepared by Khun Laak and her talented kitchen staff. Table one is semi-permanently reserved for me!

Book Reviews



Title: The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
By: Junot Díaz
ISBN: 9781594483592
Publisher: Penguin US
B2S Price: Bt. 275

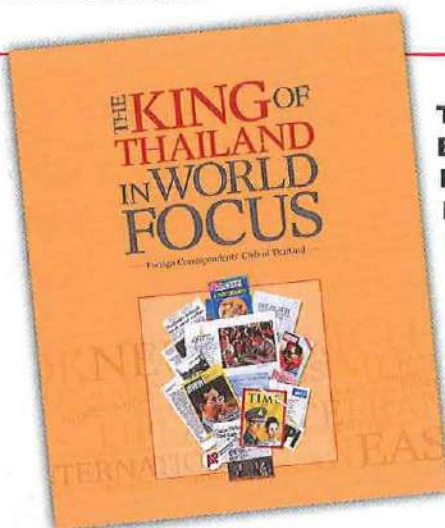
Things have never been easy for Oscar. A ghetto nerd living with his Dominican family in New Jersey, he's sweet but disastrously overweight. He dreams of becoming the next J. R. R. Tolkien and he keeps falling hopelessly in love. Poor Oscar may never get what he wants, thanks to the Fuku - the curse that has haunted his family for generations. With dazzling energy and insight Díaz immerses us in the tumultuous lives of Oscar; his runaway sister Lola; their beautiful mother Belicia; and in the family's uproarious journey from the Dominican Republic to the US and back. Rendered with uncommon warmth and humour, "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" is a literary triumph that confirms Junot Díaz as one of the most exciting writers of our time. Winner of John Sargent Snr First Novel Prize 2007 and Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2008. Shortlisted for National Book Critics Circle Awards: Fiction 2008.



Title: When Markets Collide: Investment Strategies for the Age of Global Economic Change
By: Mohamed El-Erian
ISBN: 9780071592819
Publisher: McGraw-Hill
B2S Price: Bt. 1,118

Winner of the 2008 Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year awards,

"When Markets Collide" is a timely alert to the fundamental changes taking place in today's global economic and financial systems--and a call to action for investors who may fall victim to misinterpreting important signals. While some have tended to view asset class mispricings as mere 'noise', this compelling book shows why they are important signals of opportunities and risks that will shape the market for years to come. One of today's most respected names in finance, Mohamed El-Erian, puts recent events in their proper context, giving you the tools that can help you interpret the markets, benefit from global economic change and navigate the risks.



Title: The King of Thailand in World Focus
By: FCCT (Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand)
ISBN: 9789814217934
Publisher: FCCT (Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand)
B2S Price: Bt. 1,450

Following last year's successful sell-out of their book, "The King of Thailand in World Focus", the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand (FCCT) has reprinted. The new edition has an additional 20 pages which cover H.M. the King's 80th birthday celebrations, the death of Princess Galyani and the remarkable speech on the past, present and future of the monarchy given by former prime minister Anand Panyarachun at the book's launch party in August 2007

Editor's Note: This month's book reviews are generously provided by B2S bookstores

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How much alcohol is safe?

This depends on the individual's body weight, gender, etc; for example, women tend to be more susceptible to alcohol related liver damage. In general, alcohol consumption should be limited to no more than one to two standard drinks per day. Drinking alcohol every day as well as binge drinking can be harmful to your liver. If you already have liver disease, the safest amount of alcohol is no alcohol at all.

With respect to different types of alcohol, is one safer than another?

No. It is the amount of alcohol present in a drink that matters, not the type of drink. One "drink" is the equivalent of either:

- 12 oz. (341 ml.) beer
- 5 oz. (142 ml.) wine
- 3 oz. (86 ml.) sherry or port
- 1 1/2 oz. (43 ml.) spirits



Holiday Drinking

How do I know if my liver has been damaged by alcohol?

More than three quarters of liver cells may be non-functioning before you notice any symptoms but by then it may be too late to do anything about it. So it's important to have regular check ups with a doctor, who will be able to detect early signs of liver disease through physical examinations and blood tests. It is important to be honest about your alcohol intake when you see your doctor.

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