



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

Outpost

www.britishclubbangkok.org

December 2015

CHRISTMAS DAY

Luncheon & Dinner

Friday 25th December 2015

- Full seasonal buffet & desserts, suitable for vegetarians
- Crackers and trinkets, magic, and Santa at 1:30pm

Enjoy the warmth and goodness of Christmas in the comfort of The Verandah, the Churchill, the Suriwongse Room, or the Back Lawn, especially good for Christmas dinner



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Bt 1,100 for Members

Bt 1,250 for Guests

Bt 600 for Children under 12 yrs

Bt 300 for toddlers ≤ 3 yrs



Seating is limited !

Please sign up in Reception, or

book via email to events@britishclubbangkok.org





ทรงพระเจริญ

LONG LIVE THE KING



With best wishes and many happy returns to

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej

on the auspicious occasion of his 88th birthday. 5th December 2015,
from the Management, Members and Staff of the British Club Bangkok



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK



ST REGIS
BANGKOK



A FESTIVE CELEBRATION BEYOND EXPECTATION

CHRISTMAS EVE AT VIU AND JOJO

5-course dinners ♦ From THB 2,500++ per person

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH AT VIU

12.30pm onwards ♦ From THB 3,500++ per person

Featuring classic favorites including Slow Roasted Turkey with Bread Stuffing, Salmon Wellington, Honey Mustard Baked Leg Ham, New York Caesar with Boston Lobster, Oyster Rockefeller, Steamed Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT JOJO

5-course dinners ♦ From THB 2,800++ per person

SPG, Citibank and Astor card members enjoy a 15% discount.

Children aged 5-12 dine for half price, and children under 5 dine for free when accompanied by paying adults.

VIU
Jojo

FOR RESERVATIONS OR ENQUIRIES,
PLEASE CALL 02.207.7777 OR E-MAIL
FB.BANGKOK@STREGIS.COM

THE ST. REGIS BANGKOK,
159 RAJADAMRI ROAD BANGKOK 10330

STREGISBANGKOK.COM



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Chairman - Phil Alexander
chairman@britishclubbangkok.org

Honorary Secretary - David Quine
honorary.secretary@britishclubbangkok.org

Honorary Treasurer - Bill Wilcox

General Committee Members
Bob Merrigan (Vice Chair),
Sulindy Collacott, John MacTaggart,
Robert Marchant, Adrian Vandyk,
David Viccars
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FRONT COVER

The festive season is upon us. Even without cold weather, the fun builds up through the month, the expectations grow, with the warmth and love between friends and families spreading out into social goodwill. Stockings, trees, lights, presents, feasts: Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

EDITOR'S GREETING

The end of year festivities bring a number of reviews this month, plus the first part of the interview with HM Consul as promised. So soon after Remembrance Sunday our hearts and thoughts are with the people of Paris, France and their families.

We bid farewell to Monday Night and Kids Movies, and the monthly 'As We Were' is taking a break.

Hoping this month brings you all the hopes and joys of the festive season.

Ed.



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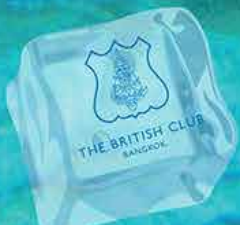
1ST JANUARY 2016 ❄️ SILOM SALA ❄️ 12 NOON ONWARDS

POLAR SWIM

HUGE BLOCKS OF ICE WILL BE DROPPED IN THE POOL,
LIKE ICEBERGS FLOATING IN THE ARCTIC WATERS.

THE POOL WATER GETS PRETTY CHILLY,
AND IS INVIGORATING FOR THOSE
WHO SWIM AMONGST THE ICE

COME & SWIM &
REALLY BE COOL!



ALSO AVAILABLE, DELICIOUS THAI BUFFET AND DESSERTS,
WITH MULLED WINE AND YOUR FAVOURITE DRINKS AS USUAL !

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The main intention of this regular Outpost feature is to keep Members abreast of the performance of the Club in general and to provide a further insight into some of the operational aspects. I am pleased to note that the Club has once again produced good results for the period under review. The operating income was up on budget with The Verandah and Churchill Bar performing very well.

Some highlights from October to mid-November

- Revenue from October meant the Club's operations produced a financial surplus before depreciation of some 340,072 baht. For the first seven months of the new General Committee year this brings us to a surplus before depreciation of approximately 2,379,625 baht in total. These figures exclude membership joining fees.
- Actually the Club's total Cash in Bank position at the end of October was 31.8 million baht. We are now predicting a total Cash in Bank position of approximately 32.5 million baht for the end of November. As both the Treasurer and I have mentioned on previous occasions, around 10.5 million baht of the total Cash in Bank position is considered as a **minimum** Club buffer and is set aside in fixed, annual and rolling savings accounts. With regards to any past and future developments, this and past General Committees where I have served as Chairman have always adopted a prudent financial policy where the financial buffer **cannot** be used. The current level of this buffer is now under review in the General Committee.
- Next, on the Membership front we currently have 1107 Members. Membership is always a key focus of Management attention and our focused external recruitment activities are being increased.
- Some of the main issues under discussion in the General Committee in recent months include the continuous improvement of our House and Grounds, where Management will continue to focus their efforts and small scale investments will be made in the coming months. Other areas include the family orientated parts of the Club. I have mentioned this before on several occasions and I am pleased to see a renewed proactive and flexible approach being adopted.

General Club Improvements

Particular mention in last month's Outpost was made of some areas, outside of normal day-to-day general maintenance activities, that are in need of renovating, upgrading and of modernising. In this financial year Management have undertaken 18 small improvement items which totalled some 572,223 baht.

- All in all in this financial year the General Committee approved 3 new capital expenditure projects. All of these have now been finished and the sums involved are a total of 3,500,951 baht. Just as a reminder under the current regulations the General Committee has the delegated authority from the Members to decide and approve Capital



Phil Alexander

Chairman,
General Committee

Expenditure on ANY SINGLE project of a maximum of 5 million baht.

- Regarding the new lighting proposals for the Multi-Purpose Court which, as announced in the last Outpost were recently approved by the General Committee, these will commence at the end of November and will take about one week, subject to weather, to complete.
- Exciting times for the young children in the British Club as the new revamped playground has undergone a much-needed and long overdue makeover. There of course is still much more needed for our Members and their children, and these activities must be dealt with as a priority moving forwards and hopefully will be integrated into the Silom Sala redevelopment programme.

General Committee

Next to the normal business activities on the agenda for the recent General Committee meeting, the Committee spent a lot of time discussing some of the less savoury aspects of being a Member of a private Club

Club performance continues on an upward trend and, as mentioned before, over the next few months we will have a very busy period for functions so we anticipate a further growth in our revenues. Recently the Club was able to host a function for the world famous Oriental Club from London, with which our Club reciprocates. They were on a tour of many SE Asian private member clubs. They remarked to Bill Wilcox, our Treasurer, that this Club was the best of the clubs which they had visited, and they were amazed at the "overall quality of our Club and its grounds. A Club to be really proud of." The last few years have seen the Club creating a very solid base from which future Committees will benefit and will be in a position to be driven even further forwards under the guidance of our excellent Management Team and Staff.

Your input is always welcome, so if you have any questions or ideas on any areas or aspects of Club development, please feel free to send me an email.

May I take this opportunity of wishing all our Members and their families a very enjoyable holiday period.



The British Club cordially invites you to attend
Bangkok's Original Exclusive Outdoor Event



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BALL

Sat 19th December 2015
From 6 pm until late



- 1.5 hour cocktail reception on the Front Lawn with drinks and deluxe canapés.
- Traditional turkey dinner.
- Tickets include half a bottle of wine.
- Live music, dance-floor.
- Special bar and wine menu.
- Raffle draw with great prizes!

Tickets Bt 2,500 per person
Tables of 10 at Bt 22,500.
Non-member supplement Bt 250.

Book with Reception or by email : events@britishclubbangkok.org

LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

We started the refurbishment of our Children's Playground at the beginning of November and it opened on time in the middle of November. Some work was done by our engineering staff, we changed to a new floor and installed some big new equipment. I hope your children enjoy the new playground!

We are also adding some new, and changing the old, bulbs to provide extra light on the Multipurpose Court to bring it up to standard for our sports games. This month our maintenance staff will also be doing small repairs and maintenance such as repainting the lines in the car park, the fences, and items in the outlets, as it is the busiest time of the year for the Club.

I would like to thank all the Members and Guests who attended our Guy Fawkes Night; unfortunately we could not let the fireworks off on the night, so we moved them to the next day when many other Members turned up. We hope to see you again next year.

The festive season has started so the Club will be busy in December: we have the Annual Ball, the Children's Christmas party, the Christmas Day lunch and dinner, and of course the New Year's Eve Cruise. Please check the calendar or the board in the Clubhouse Reception.

On Friday 4th, the Churchill Bar will be closed from 3pm onwards for the Thai National Spoofing Championship. This annual event raises money for Thai charities. Thank you for your support and I hope nobody is too inconvenienced.

This month our Sports Manager, Khun Amnat, will be running the Sports Camps for children before Christmas, and we will be using the front lawn for volleyball and other kids activities. We are also starting Kids Yoga in



Premrudee Tanyaluck

General Manager

January, so please check the schedule at the back of this issue or in the Fitness Centre. On New Year's Day we will be having Polar Swim as Members and their kids always enjoy this event, so any of you in Bangkok please come along to the Big Pool.

Finally, I have now completed three years as General Manager, and I would like to thank all Members and the General Committee who always support me. I would also like to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication during the year. I hope you enjoy a wonderful festive season and I look forward to seeing you down at the Club.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!



OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES

The Verandah	11am - 2pm, 5pm - 10pm (Mon-Thurs) 11am - 10pm (Fri-Sun and Public Holidays)		
1910 Balcony	3pm - 11pm (Afternoon Tea 3pm - 5pm)		
Accounts Office	9am - 6pm (Mon-Fri), Closed (Sat-Sun)		
The Pavilion Café	9am - 6pm	Fitness Centre	6am - 10pm (Mon-Fri)
Churchill Bar	10am - 12midnight	Fitness Centre	6am - 9pm (Sat-Sun)
Poolside Bar	6:15am - 11pm Last food orders 9:30pm	Thai Massage	10am - 5pm (Tues-Sun)



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER CRUISE

WELCOME THE NEW YEAR IN COMFORT, AWAY FROM CROWDS,
CRUISING ALONG THE CHAOPRAYA RIVER UNDER THE STARS!

Thurs 31st December 2015

Eat, drink, and be merry while viewing the sights and celebrations along the river banks, including Wat Arun, ending with the fireworks display overhead!



**15%
discount**

on sparkling wine or
Wine of the Month
if booked in advance

Members Bt 3,250/Children under 12 years Bt 2,250
Guests/Non-Members Supplement Bt 250
Limited seats available, **BOOK NOW!**
events@britishclubbangkok.org

Leave Saphan Taksin pier at 8:30pm. Enjoy canapés before the buffet dinner on deck under the stars.
Full bar available, and a free glass of sparkling wine at midnight!

HAPPENINGS

Well, December is on the horizon, and the festivities have already begun. We had a fabulous Halloween Party with a much better turnout than last year and without the cloudburst, and a good time was thus had by all. Guy Fawkes was likewise a fantastic turnout, the back lawn crushed with tables (numbered and named too) but an unforeseen glitch well beyond the control of the Club was that at the last minute the fireworks had to stay unignited. The mood was so terrific, however, and the Members and their friends so chilled that despite this mishap, everyone carried on having a good evening, we did the bonfire and a couple of piñatas, and the last people left at almost midnight. The following day the fireworks went off in the evening albeit with less people and they finished just before the heavens opened, so all was well that ended well, so to speak. Thanks to everyone for their positive, friendly and supportive attitude.

December will see quite a number of functions and weddings, as well as the major events that round out the year, so let me devote this page to a quick summary of them for you. Of particular note is the shortage of turkeys this year - Khun Laak has managed to procure enough for the main events (see her page also) which is fantastic news as Christmas isn't really Christmas without some succulent turkey, as I'm sure you agree.

Christmas Quiz Night on Tuesday 15th is a special edition again, like last year we will be having an extra round of questions from leuan himself, and there will also be the visual round issued on a piece of A3 to text and test your artistic side, carrying with it a separate additional prize. I'm hoping for a few extra teams, so let me know, ok? No turkey involved on this evening.

The Annual Christmas Ball this year is on **Saturday 19th** and will start an hour earlier this year at 6pm with the cocktail reception on the front lawn. The raffle draw has some wonderful prizes to be won, air tickets to London with British Airways, air tickets to Phuket, amazing hotel vouchers and so on. The dinner has turkey, of course, and half a bottle of wine per person to keep you smiling. The Big Boss Band we had last year, who notably got more people dancing than has been seen for four or five years, will be back again to draw you up to your swaying feet to welcome in the chimes of midnight and on, and there will be the improvised spot prizes to contend with and compete for.

The Children's Christmas Party will be on **Tuesday 22nd** starting on the Back Lawn with lots of fun games and activities and then moving to the Front Lawn for the food and arrival of Santa in a tuk-tuk, sky and sleigh traffic permitting of course. It's always an afternoon of great fun



Jeremy de Sausmarez

**Events & Marketing
Manager**

and culminates with a present from Santa, so we hope to see toddlers and upwards coming along.

Christmas Day Luncheon and Dinner is a wonderful day when the saying of 'peace and goodwill' is really evident. It's also one of the most marvellous buffets the Club can produce, himalayan spreads of food, including turkey, of course. As I write, the bookings for Luncheon have filled the rooms in the Clubhouse but there is still about half the Back Lawn available for those who may have missed making a reservation. There is also Dinner, which is the same gargantuan buffet but in The Verandah and on the Back Lawn under the stars. By mid-December, the cool weather should have reached Bangkok and so Christmas Dinner outside is a delight and may prove a worthy alternative to the warm midday Luncheon outside. Book in Reception for whichever suits you best.

To finish the year off, and what a great year it's been (so far), we have upgraded our **New Year's Eve Dinner Cruise**. The last two years we've rented our own boat so we can do the catering ourselves, and both years have been fabulous. This year we've got a much bigger boat, with easy access, solid stairs, lovely loos, and a huge upper deck which will seat double what the last year's boat could. Some of the buffet dinner will be prepared on board, some will come from the Club, the whole roof slides back so it will be a glorious trip up the river, with the amazing fireworks display at midnight with a glass of bubbly to welcome in 2016.

Details of all these events are elsewhere in this issue of Outpost. Any individual enquiries can as always be emailed to me, and bookings can be made in Reception or by email likewise.

As we wake on **New Year's Day**, most of us need refreshment and invigoration. **The Polar Swim** on the **1st Jan** which takes place poolside at midday with a Thai Buffet is the answer. Help 2016 sparkle!

That only leaves my sincere wishes for you all, your families and friends, to have a wonderful month wherever you may be, and most of all, a very Happy Christmas and a Fabulous New Year!



Business Luncheons



7th December - 11th December 2015

Starters : 65 baht
Waldolf Ham Salad

or

Chef's Soup of the Day
Main Courses : 160 baht

Mini Steak Served with Mixed Vegetables, Roasted Potatoes and Gravy Sauce

or

Pan-fried Dory Fish with Mornay Sauce *Served with Broccoli and Mashed Potatoes*

or

Creamy Chicken Penne and Peas *Served with French Beans, Carrots and Sauteed Potatoes*

or

Tom Kha Gai *(A Refreshing Coconut Milk Soup with Chicken and Herbs)*

Phad Kraprao Moo Sab *(Stir-fried Minced Pork with Hot Basil and Chilli)*

Phad Tua Ngok Tao Hoo *(Stir-fried Bean Sprouts with Curd and Oysters Sauce)*

14th December - 18th December 2015

Starters - 65 baht

Mozzarella, Mango, Tomato and Rocket Salad

or

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses - 160 baht

Salmon Fish Cake *Served with Chips, Garden Peas and Tartare Sauce*

or

Chicken Stew in Red Wine Sauce, French Onion, Peas, Carrots and Mashed Potato

or

Fillet of Pork in a Light Curry Sauce *Served with Grilled Zucchini and Coriander Rice*

or

Gaeng Jued Phak Gard Khao *(Chinese Lettuce Soup with Minced Pork, Tofu and Vermicelli)*

Pla Som Ros *(Deep-fried Dory Fish Topped with Sweet and Sour Spiced Sauce)*

Phad Phak Ruam Nam Man Hoy *(Stir-fried Mixed Vegetables with Oyster Sauce)*

21st December - 25th December 2015

Starters : 65 Baht

Chicken and Papaya Salad *(Grilled chicken, lemongrass, spring onion and lime dressing)*

or

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses : 160 Baht

Mixed Sausage with Mashed Potatoes and Fried Onions

or

Turkey and Mushroom Pie with Mixed Vegetables and Home-fried Potatoes

or

Grilled Seabass *Served with Spinach Risotto*

or

Tom Yam Gong *(Spicy Lemon Grass Soup with Prawns and Mushrooms)*

Gai Phad Khing *(Stir-fried Chicken with Ginger, Onion and Fungus Mushrooms)*

Tod Mun Pla *(Depp-fried Fishcakes)*

28th December - 31th December 2015

Starters : 65 Baht

Carrots, Raisin and Apple Coleslaw

or

Chef's Soup of the Day

Main Courses : 160 Baht

Chicken Maryland with pineapple, banana, sweet corn, bacon and home-fried potatoes

or

Pan-fried Dory fish in orange and butter sauce *Served with French beans, carrots and mashed potatoes*

or

Sausage Stew with Green Beans, Carrots, Pea and New Potatoes

or

Tom Kha Gai *(A refreshing coconut milk soup with chicken and herb)*

Phad Kraprao Moo Sab *(Stir-fried mimced pork with hot basil and chilli)*

Phad Tua Ngok Tao Hoo *(Stir-fried bean sprouts with beancurd and oyster sauce)*



F&B MORSELS

December is the festive month, and we'll be having turkey at the Annual Ball, also on Christmas Day, and maybe some on the Christmas à la carte menu. There is also going to be a Christmas Set Menu which has Welsh lamb and roast ham - check it out, a lovely meal! The Khun Laak Recommends menus may also have a turkey dish included

when I change them for December. If there is still turkey available, I will include it in the buffet for the New Year's Eve Dinner Cruise as it will be a special evening this year on the big boat we've booked.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be available in all outlets from 1st December. Our Burger Promotion is still very popular, so we will be continuing this into



Khun Laak

Executive Chef

December as the kitchen can prepare them quickly. The fresh strawberries are already arriving in Bangkok so there will be a strawberry promotion throughout December as well. There's no Pizza promotion this month, but the Morning Rolls and Baguettes are still available for special order!

The new Thai Menus should be in all outlets before the end of November, a bit later than planned as we have been busy this month. I hope you enjoy the dishes once you have tried them out. Don't forget the Khao Glong Specials as well.

My staff and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year ka.

Take away bakery

Morning Roll
-Bt 25-

Baguette Bread
* Order 30 minutes in advance to allow for cooking *
-Bt 65-

COCKTAILS OF THE MONTH DECEMBER

COLD FIRE ONLY BT 100

SEA BREEZE ONLY BT 100

Don't forget...Afternoon Tea is available from 3pm!

This month with a special extra round and of course, an extra prize!



Christmas Quiz Night

With the
Monthly
Jackpot

Tue 15 Dec 2015

The Verandah

7.15 pm

Teams of 6 or less

Members Bt 100

Guests Bt 150



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Book in Reception, or by email : events@britishclubbangkok.org

REMEMBER, REMEMBER

Poor old Guido Fawkes. He was a man on a mission, a man with a dream, and almost got to fulfil it. But at the last minute, bang, his dreams went up in smoke unlike his target, the Houses of Parliament. And every year since then, millions of children and their parents have relished his memory with glee as the skies are filled with colours and the bonfires crackle and consume his image.

It's one of the biggest evenings of the year for us here at the Club, and much like last year, the Back Lawn was bedecked with tables, and awnings around the perimeter just in case the weather were to be unkind.

Unfortunately, for legislative reasons we first had to bring the other shows forward from their scheduled times, and then four minutes before the fireworks went off we had to pause and await clearance, which sadly did not come through until too late. But the amazing ambience and mood of those gathered did not drop, despite frequent mildly grim updates from the MC. The magical entertainment, then the fire acrobatic show, both went ahead as did both the bonfire and the sparkler show in the car park. The children all had a wonderful afternoon and evening, and the parents were relaxed and understanding. The membership at their best.

The following night the fireworks did go off, about 8 minutes earlier than planned as there was lightning overhead and a sky dark with clouds. They were spectacular as always, and within 5 minutes of their exhaustion, the heavens opened. A different Guy Fawkes evening it was indeed.







BC Calendar December 15



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

	<p>1</p> <p>Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 7:30pm</p> <p>Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm</p> <p>Yoga Course 9:15am - 10:30am Beginner's Course</p>  	<p>2</p> <p>Ladies Tennis Coaching 9am - 10:30am</p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p> <p>Christmas Carols 6pm Back Lawn</p>  
<p>7</p> <p>BWG Mahjong 10am - 1pm</p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p>  	<p>8</p> <p>Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 7:30pm</p> <p>Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm</p> <p>Yoga Course 9:15am - 10:30am Beginner's Course</p>  	<p>9</p> <p>Ladies Tennis Coaching 9am - 10:30am</p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p> <p>St David's Society Christmas Party 6:30pm</p>   
<p>14</p> <p>BWG Mahjong 10am - 1pm</p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p>  	<p>15</p> <p>Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 7:30pm</p> <p>Yoga Course 9:15am - 10:30am Beginner's Course</p> <p>Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm</p> <p>Quiz Night 7:15pm The Verandah</p>   	<p>16</p> <p>Ladies Tennis Coaching 9am - 10:30am</p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p>  
<p>21</p> <p>BWG Mahjong 10am - 1pm</p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p>  	<p>22</p> <p>Treasury Work Group 2pm, Silom Room</p> <p>Yoga Course 9:15am - 10:30am Beginner's Course</p> <p>Children's Christmas Party 2pm - 6pm Front Lawn & Back Lawn</p> <p>Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm</p>  	<p>23</p> <p>Ladies Tennis Coaching 9am - 10:30am</p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p>  
<p>28</p> <p>BWG Mahjong 10am - 1pm</p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p>  	<p>29</p> <p>Squash Mix-In 5:15pm - 7:30pm</p> <p>Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers 8:30pm</p> <p>Yoga Course 9:15am - 10:30am Beginner's Course</p>  	<p>30</p> <p>Ladies Tennis Coaching 9am - 10:30am</p> <p>Tennis Mix-In 6pm - 10pm</p>  

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

3

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 9:45pm



4

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Junior Tennis Coaching
4pm - 6pm

Thai National Snooking Championship
3pm to Closing
Churchill Bar closed



5



6

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am



Swimming Lessons
9am - 12noon



Sunday Brunch
11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge
2pm Silom Room

10

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 9:45pm



11

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Junior Tennis Coaching
4pm - 6pm

12

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am



Swimming Lessons
9am - 12noon

13

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am



Swimming Lessons
9am - 12noon



Sunday Brunch
11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge
2pm Silom Room

17

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 9:45pm



18

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Junior Tennis Coaching
4pm - 6pm

19

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am



Swimming Lessons
9am - 12noon

Annual Christmas Ball
6pm



20

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am



Swimming Lessons
9am - 12noon



Sunday Brunch
11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge
2pm Silom Room

24

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 9:45pm



25

Tennis Mix-In
6pm - 10pm



Junior Tennis Coaching
4pm - 6pm

Christmas Day Luncheon & Dinner
The Verandah



26

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am



Swimming Lessons
9am - 12noon

27

Kids Cricket

Book first! 8am - 11am



Swimming Lessons
9am - 12noon



Sunday Brunch
11:30 - 3pm Verandah

Open Pairs Bridge
2pm Silom Room

31

Squash Mix-In
5:15pm - 9:45pm



New Year's Eve Dinner Cruise

8.30pm Book Now!



SPOOKS GALORE!

This year's Halloween Party saw well over 100 people on the Back Lawn, with some weird and wonderful costumes too. There was eery music billowing over the Back Lawn, punctuated by shrieks of delight from the Bouncy Castle and Trampoline which only diminished during the magic show and the rather lengthy attempt to destroy the piñatas which looked flimsy but proved otherwise.

Despite the splendid buffet, there was still great interest in the doughnuts on a string, leaving sprinklings of sugar on eager lips with every brush or valiant attempt at a bite. And the games which Sam led afterwards were exhaustive and obviously great fun.

Luckily this year we were spared the rain which was probably more appreciated by the parents than the kids who would have loved the chance to squelch their toes in the mud. And now we're looking forward to next year, when the pumpkins are brought out once afresh.







CONSULTING THE CONSUL

A chat with H.M. Consul, Layla Slatter MBE

Firstly, please clarify any confusion between Consul, Consulate, Consular, and Embassy.

We don't have a separate Consulate here, because we have an Embassy. We have a Consular Section within an Embassy. As the Consul, I'm the head of that Section here, my chain of command is up to the Ambassador so we're very much within the Embassy structure. The Consular Section is here to provide support and services to British Nationals in Thailand. We do that through our work on the Assistance side which is where we provide help to people, a reactive service, which covers when people die or are hospitalised and need support from us, victims of crime who need help, different cases of welfare, mental health, that's the Assistance side. On the Services side, which provides notarial and documentary services, for example a certified copy of your passport perhaps for a visa application or a marriage affirmation. Those are done on an appointment basis in the Embassy. As the Consul, I coordinate all of that work and in addition coordinate our public facing activity so there's also a team looking at prevention and engagement work, that's where we are trying to raise awareness of local issues and prevent people from needing our assistance with hospitalisation, accidents etc, and that covers more of the communication side.

How does a British passport holder know what assistance you can offer?

We have an excellent guide, called "Support for British Nationals Abroad : a guide" which is on the Foreign Office website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-british-nationals-abroad-a-guide>) and this applies to every Embassy and every Consulate around the world so we have a very consistent service and customer charter and this covers exactly what we can and cannot do. Of course when someone gets into trouble or something happens to someone overseas they're probably not going to think to look on the website which is why we have a contact centre based in Hong Kong who can advise on whether the Embassy can help them and if not they can signpost them to where they can possibly get help. In Thailand I think we're the fourth highest in the world for arrests and the fifth highest for drug arrests in the last year, so this obviously takes up a lot of our assistance work. We have Honorary Consuls in several places around Thailand although no Consulates, and they play a vital role in crisis response, being our eyes and ears on the ground outside Bangkok, so to speak, and they enable us to provide regional updates on our travel advice as well.

Does your website get a lot of hits in the UK, or even from Thailand?

Yes, it's increasing, and I saw that much of our advice gets picked up and passed on by bloggers and social media which is great as it reaches a wider audience. A big part of our consular strategy is to digitalise and put more of our services and more of our information online as that is the way society is moving and it really has changed the way we deliver our services so not only is travel advice available on your smartphone, but other services like appointment booking, more can be done while you're on the move, and social media too has also opened doors for us in that sense as we can get messages out to people and pick up their responses in real time.

So the Consular Section in Thailand is busy, it seems.

Well, it's one of the largest and busiest in the world, in as much as last year we had more than 900,000 British Nationals visiting Thailand, and we estimate more than 50,000 British residents here, so with that size customer base and the sort of operating challenges that this region brings it all adds up to us being very busy nearly all the time!

What do people contact you about the most?

What they contact us about and what we spend our time doing is very different. Mostly our time is spent on services, like affirmation of documents for marriage, certified copies for visa applications, emergency travel documents, lost passports and so forth. These amount to about 600 visits per month (there were 890 emergency travel documents issued in the last financial year), so our consular strategy is to try and streamline and modernise these services and make more available online where possible including online payments, to save people having to come to the Embassy except where absolutely necessary. The rest of our time is spent on the assistance side, arrests, detentions,

and because of the prison conditions in Thailand we normally visit British prisoners every 8 weeks, who are spread around the country, not just in Bangkok. We deal with the second highest number of death cases in the world, which are not so complicated but the Embassy still has to be involved because of requirements by the Thai authorities. We are also seeing a growing number of issues like mental health which we haven't seen so much of in the past, and consular staff are not qualified in providing this expertise, so we are trying to set up partnerships with organisations which are specially suited to these sort of requirements so we can offer help by referring British Nationals to them.

How has the introduction of online appointment booking been received since it was introduced recently?

I think it's gone really well, previously people had to come and wait, then go away and come back, causing a lot of frustration. Now people come at a time that suits them, they're seen quickly and the waiting time for documents is reduced enormously, so overall the service is much improved. We will always have appointments available for emergencies, but most of these services are non-emergency.

How relevant is the new document verification process (Outpost October) for British nationals resident in Thailand?

Ideally this would be applicable mainly to people thinking of moving to Thailand, but it's not a new service, it's a clarification of an existing service because the Thai authorities request authenticated documents and the only way to obtain these is through the legalisation process in the UK. In the past we've seen different authorities requesting slightly different things, so to make our advice and service consistent we've publicised this process. We also always advise people to check with the authorities which documents they actually need before they come to us to see if we can process them or need to redirect them. One area where we've found it is often needed is for visas for spouses whose partners are here on a work permit. It may also apply to retirement visas in some cases.

Part Two of this conversation will be in the January 2016 issue of Outpost.

Christmas at Christ Church



Christ Church

11 Convent Road
(Next to BNH Hospital)
Near BTS Sala Daeng
Near MRT Silom or Lumpini
Tel 02 234 3634
www.christchurchbangkok.org

Sunday – 13th December

10am All-age Christmas celebration

6.30pm Readings & Carols by
Candlelight (A service for adults)

Sunday – 20th December

730am & 10am Normal Sunday Services

Thursday – 24th December

6pm A Candlelight Children's
'Christingle' & Nativity Service

11pm Christmas Eve
Midnight Communion

Friday – 25th December

10am Christmas Day
All-Age Family Communion

LEST WE FORGET

Poppy Day is well-remembered all over the world. Originally in commemoration for those who suffered and gave their lives in the Great Wars, its field of remembrance has now expanded to cover those who have and are currently engaged in combat wherever they may be. I was proud to be asked to stand in and represent the British Club Bangkok at the ceremony, and to lay our wreath at the British Embassy's Cenotaph on Sunday 8th November.

It was a clear hot morning with many people from different nations and organisations attending the ceremony, officiated by Reverend Tim Eady and presided over by the British Ambassador H.E. Mark Kent. The British Club Pipe Band marched on, playing, before the service got underway with traditional prayers and the Act of Remembrance. After the laying of the wreaths the Pipe Band played a lament before a psalm, a hymn and a blessing brought the service to a close, and the Pipe Band marched off. It was a moving moment as our thoughts returned to the present.

May we never forget the sacrifices of so many before that enable us to now enjoy our happiness and freedom.



TENNIS

Tennis Leagues

You may have noticed that Club Singles tennis leagues are now firmly underway and there is always time to sign up for the next league.

In the September/October league the winners of the ubiquitous THB 500 Food and Beverage voucher were as follows:-

League 1 – **Dawa Sherpa**

League 2 – **Roger White**

League 4 – **K. Chalathip**

You will notice that there was a minor hiccup in league 3 where no matches were played because, apart from the very honourable exception of Denis Schohn, no one managed to drag themselves out of bed to play a game. For future leagues it would be very much appreciated by the committee and all players that if you sign yourself up for the league then you try your very best to play the matches. Unless you get injured - which we appreciate can happen to even the fittest of players (like myself!) everyone should be respectful of the competition and their fellow league competitors.

November/December leagues are now in full swing. Following these leagues there will be a short hiatus whilst the annual club championships are played January through March in 2016.



Tony Moore



Bruce Gordon Cup

By the time this article is published the Bruce Gordon Cup will have been played, won or lost, with all proceeds going to the Pisamai fund that supports BC staff children with cost of education. Thanks to all those members who signed up and played, a full report will follow in January 2016 Outpost.



HARD BALLS

I'll waste no time in getting to the tour report. As a quick summary of one game prior, BC had a reality check versus a strong league side 'BKK stars' in mid-October as part of the GC trophy. The big-hitting opposition smashed a near record breaking 258-2 from 20 overs before BC managed to score only 88 runs (with a couple of wickets in hand atleast!). With BC's confirmed re-introduction to BCL league cricket, its games like these that will help to prepare for those more serious sides. As always, for the full match report and scorecards - check out www.britishclubcricket.com.



Ben Eastwell



All set

Phuket tour matches 31st Oct – 1st Nov

After what only felt like a few weeks after the successful Koh Chang beach cricket tournament, the BC tour bus was cranked up once again for a more familiar excursion to Phuket. A record breaking squad of 12 burly young chaps (and Steve) landed on the island for 2 days of cricket and extra-curricular activities. Matches were held in pristine conditions at the world famous Alan Cooke Ground, witness to some of the sport's historic moments; Jack Dunford's 250th British Club appearance and Haroon falling in love with the local cattle, to mention a few.

The fun and games started earlier for some on Friday afternoon, before most of the team congregated in the evening at the infamous Bangla road in Patong. A few quiet beers set up the team spirit ahead of the first of 2 games. A few question marks over the team's usual good behaviour hung over the breakfast table in the morning, and the plot thickened further when one of the lads checked out his minibar bill.

Ben on strike





3 of the best (p8)



DILIP NOT OUT



H making up for lack of karaoke (p7)

Saturday's matchup was a 30 over battle against Phuket's 'Thalang CC' team. After winning the toss, Dale elected to field first. Talal (Patrick), as was recently discovered to be his real name, bowled an opening spell with a tight line and put pressure on TCC with a maiden over. Thalang were looking steady at 6 per over until a bowling change saw Sarg (1-13) find a way through to the pegs, even without his mechanical bowling arm. 7 of the wickets came from spin; Manish leading the charge with (3-17), followed closely by Ben (2-10), Sunish and Sir Jack (both 1-18). Dale held off until the death to bowl his over, only managing to complete half of it before cracking through number 11s defense to cut the opposition short, complete the operation and set BC a target of 156 to win from 30 overs.

A combination of Dale's fresh ideas and Patrick's fresher legs saw the Sri Lankan batting at number 2 alongside Ben. But even with a quick single representative of the tactical change, captain fantastic's theory was disproved

in the 4th ball of the first over when Patrick lost his leg stump. H meandered in at 3 to patch things up, but was sent packing faster than he sent his jagerbombs the night before - he fell first ball to bring on a hatrick chance for Thalang and a frantic kit hunt for BCs middle order batsmen who were still enjoying their lunch. It wasn't until Dale stepped into the crease at number 6 that the run rate picked up - scoring a healthy 47 from 51 balls. This period also produced the highest partnership (46) of the innings with Sunish, who held a strong defense at a crucial point of the game. 7 overs remained after Dale's dismissal and 50 runs were required from the bottom order. Even with a solid contribution of 23 from debutant Nachi it was too little too late, BC lost by 28 runs. Nevertheless, the team's disappointment quickly vanished after a bottle of jäger was swiftly dismissed as part of the perilous slammers session.



Hammer time (p7)



Howzat



Coach warming up the squad



Signature Dale



Nachi gets his man



H's new bird



Hard work

Back in town, there was a quick turnaround before the team fuelled up on some Indian cuisine. Some sensibly decided to catch 40 winks after a busy day, Steve decided to catch 4000 winks before attempting to contact the lads at 3am to see if anyone was still motoring, maybe if H's phone was on he could have directed him back to his hotel after showing up at the wrong one. Elsewhere on the island, Sunish had managed to convert his hand eye into some roadside carpentry skills before most of the guys tuned in for the rugby World Cup final. The reporter's notebook was suitably tucked away at that point, and the rest of the night is history.



Perfect setting



Playing through the rain

Sunday was the day. Spirits were high as always, and Jack was heading in for his milestone game to applause from a buzzing pavilion. BC set to the field first against old friends 'The Village CC' and proceedings started off steadily with some tight overs and a run out. Some would say this was the calm before the storm, making way for 'King Dilip The 1st' to plough through the middle order and take himself home the match ball - hats off to the hat-trick hero, his victims all clean bowled (4-13 from 4 overs). Jack's impressive performance was somewhat overshadowed as he marked the moment with 3 wickets after the opposition batsmen couldn't handle his lightning pace. Manish (2-23) added another couple to his tally and Nachi rightfully took his maiden wicket for BC. The village were all out for 136 from 19.5 overs.

After a feed from a tasty curry lunch and a quick backrub from the onsite masseuse, BC set to chase down the total. Nachi (17) was bumped up the order to open with Ben (6) and they looked to play well together before a run out ended Ben's cricket for the weekend and brought the skipper to the crease. Dale (22) contributed the highest score of the innings in familiar style with 4 boundaries. Steve (17) was the only other batsman to make double figures as the rest of the team fell to some notably dodgy decisions and trigger happy umpiring to leave BC falling 31 runs short of the target, and an undeserved double loss to start the new season. Kangaroo court shenanigans marked the end of what was a brilliant tour weekend, as always - cricket the winner. Next stop Chiang Mai!



St David's Society Christmas Party

Traditional Christmas Buffet Dinner

**Wednesday 9th December 18:30
at the British Club**

**Christmas Carol Singing
Open to all, especially members of
all the Loyal Societies**

**Cost: 1000 Baht
Corkage only 100 Baht**

**Tickets:
infosdsbangkok@gmail.com**



SQUASHY BITS

Squash Beauty!

The HKCC visited us the other evening and the photos of the event highlight the depth of attractiveness to be found in the world of squash. Such was the beauty on show that a pageant was staged to determine the most appealing. The winner and runner-up are posted here. They are a testament to Western genetics and heritage. Be careful not to swoon.

Until next month when we discuss skin care for the over 50s....



Bruce Madge



The Beauty Pageant Contestants!



Just Gorgeous!



Winner!



Runner-up!



Usual stunners!



I like your kit!



Fit and Firm!



Don't fancy yours much!



The Walking Dead!



The BCB Squash Section would like to acknowledge Boots Retail Thailand as its sponsor for 2015. Boots Retail Thailand kindly sponsored the 2014 Rod Carter Open, the BCB Squash Section's open squash competition, and has agreed to support the section throughout 2015. Boots Retail Thailand has numerous branches throughout the country supplying high quality cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. Many thanks to Boots Retail Thailand.





BCB 1910 FANTASY FOOTBALL



Bruce Madge

Dangerous Dreams!

Fantasy Football involves fantasizing over events that may or, most likely, may not, become a reality. Fantasizing is a normal human trait and most individuals are often caught daydreaming over such things as plucking up the courage to ask the local noodle lady to dinner, having supremely well-behaved children, achieving complete job satisfaction, saving enough to retire at 60, not being at all fat at 50, or even still harbouring romantic thoughts for their spouse of ten years.

Dream on!

the only problem with dreaming is waking up.



Man U are Dreamy!



Agüero's fitness came between us!



Fantasy Football Managers envisage all that and more: poring over the stats and the latest team reports, checking the form guide and forever tinkering with their team as they dream their way to yet higher and higher points tallies hoping, against hope, they could finally be crowned a Fantasy Football League Champion or at least the scorer of the highest number of points in their league for just one week of the season. Their wishful thinking appears to have no limits since they like to remind themselves that it's only a fantasy after all (just ask Marc Sayer as he appears to live in a complete football dream world).

Fantasy it may be, yet along the way many foolish FF dreamers regularly overlook life's simple realities which include just looking at the local noodle lady, stopping their children annoying everyone within a one kilometer radius, actually getting out of bed and going to work, saving enough for next year's car insurance, avoiding a 50inch waist at 50, and remembering their spouse's birthday!

If you are an active FF Manager you will fully understand. If you are not, let the following tale serve as a warning.

A young, newly-wed (5 years) BCB, FF Manager was recently asked by his wife on a Thursday evening what the following day was, (she feared he'd forgotten their wedding anniversary again as he had the previous year) and the young man replied rather too enthusiastically that it was bloody Friday and thanks for reminding him as he needed to check if Agüero was fit as he wanted to put him in as his captain as Man City were home to Villa that weekend and he expected a bloodbath! Typical! And it won't surprise you to learn that this sad fellow is now a young, newly-divorced (5 weeks) BCB, FF Manager!



Just look at her!



The Fantasy!



The Reality!

Fantasy Football? Dream on!

BCGS GOLFING NEWS

Hurrah! No more paddling in water on the golf courses of Thailand for BCGS - well, lets keep those fingers crossed for yet more sunshine!

Stableford this month was played at Lam Lukka where winner Randal Coleman was triumphant.

Monthly Medal at The Royal was deja vu - yet again, the winner of Flight A was Graham - he must have bought a trophy cabinet by now! Flight B winner was Marc, another experienced winner.



Deb Farrar



Enjoying a well earned slurp or two after dinner



Brave Phil - survived a round with the girls - Carol, Susan & yours truly



Birthday Boys - David & Tony - fire hazard with all those candles.....



Brian, David, Chris and Vergese



Our Champions - Dunlop Plate - Sharon & Tony, Dunlop Cup - Betty & John



Monthly Medal - Flight A winner - Graham AGAIN!!



Monthly Medal - Flight B winner - Marc



Stableford Winner - Randal Coleman

At the end of October was the Dunlop Cup & Plate. A well attended 3 day event at Royal Hills, Nayorn Nayok. A memorable weekend where there was as much laughter as there was golf. After 3 days graft, the winners emerged - The Dunlop Cup was secured by John & Betty Stewart from runners up John Carter and Pete Gale. Dunlop Plate won by Tony & Sharon Moore with a fantastic number of points. Many thanks to David & Cheryl Lamb for sponsoring the prizes for this great weekend competition on behalf of Dunlop Adhesives Thailand.

This is my last update for Outpost as Chris and I will be shortly relocating to Tokyo. We're sure going to miss the BCGS folks who have made us so welcome and even opened their arms to a high handicapper like me.

According to Google Translate 'thank you and good bye' in Japanese is "Arigatō, soshite sayōnara", or is Mr. Google laughing at my golf skills??

Mini Sports Camp

21 - 23 December 2015



TIME	Activities
10:00 - 10:15	Admin
10:15 - 11:00	Games
11:00 - 11:15	Snack
11:15 - 12:15	Mini Tennis
12:15 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 1:45	Cooking / Play time
1:45 - 2:30	Water Fun

Bt 650 per day



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

- Children must be between the ages of 4 and 6 yrs.
- The children must be capable of feeding themselves, changing their clothes and using the bathroom unsupervised.
- In the interests of safety and quality for your children there is a maximum number of 8 children per day so please sign up to avoid disappointment. A three child minimum is required to run each day.
- A no show booking will still be charged at the full amount. Cancellations up to 24 hrs before will be charged 50%.
- Whilst the British Club and its staff will provide the highest level of care possible for your children, sports/activity camp participants take part at their own risk and the Club accepts no liability for injuries caused during activities on or off site or travel to or from the Club.



SPORTS CAMP

21-24 December 2015

DATE	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
TIME	21/Dec /15	22/Dec /15	23/Dec /15	24/Dec /15
	Bt 950	Bt950	Bt 950	Bt 1200
9:30-10:00	ADMIN	ADMIN	ADMIN	ADMIN
10:00-11:00	TENNIS	TENNIS	TENNIS	Ice Skating
11:00-11:15	SNACK	SNACK	SNACK	
11:15-12:15	FOOTBALL	FOOTBALL	FOOTBALL	
12:15-1:00	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
1:00-2:30	SQUASH	SQUASH	SQUASH	Bowling
2:30-3:30	SWIMMING		SWIMMING	

- Children should be 7+.
- This is not an elitist camp, the emphasis is on joining in, trying out new sports, having fun and making friends.
- A five child minimum is required to run each day so please sign up.
- As travel arrangements need to be made for Tuesday & Thursday activities please sign up 48 hrs in advance.
- A no show booking will still be charged at the full amount. Cancellations up to 24 hrs before will be charged 50%.
- Whilst the British Club and its staff will provide the highest level of care possible for your children, sports/activities camp participants take part at their own risk and the Club accepts no liability for injuries caused during activities on or off site or travel to or from the Club.



YOGA FOR KIDS



BT. 3,500

Total 10 Lessons

START

Sunday

17th January 2016

In the Yoga For Kids classes, traditional Hatha yoga is taught and practiced in a way that is fun and accessible

Yoga For Kids

provides a learning adventure that helps youths de-stress and relax. Children will discover a sense of awareness and respect for themselves for others and the world around them.

DAY : SUNDAYS

TIME : 1pm - 2pm

AGES : 6-12 YEARS OLD

MIN : 7 KIDS

MAX : 10 KIDS

Book at the Fitness Centre

02-234-0247 Ext. 26 or

by email: sports@britishclubbangkok.org



THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

A whole afternoon to have fun!

Children's Christmas Party

Tuesday 22 December 2015

Front Lawn
& Back Lawn
from 2pm-6pm

Kids Under 2 yrs - Bt 50,

Kids 2-12 yrs - Bt 500,

Adults - Bt 150

Bangkok's Biggest Bouncy Castle, Water-slider,
Arts, Crafts, Games, and even a visit from SANTA!

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