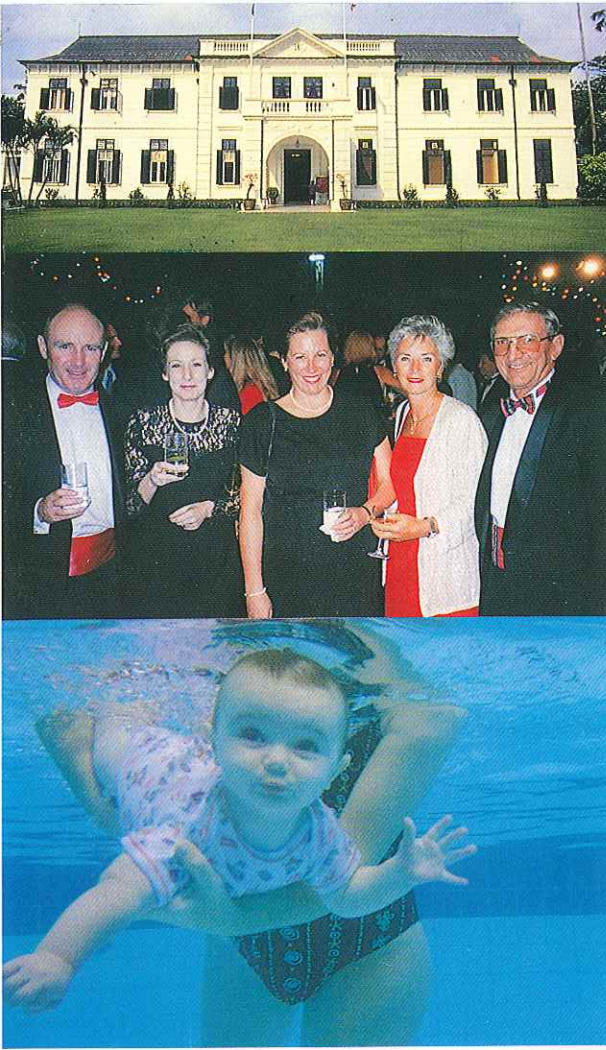
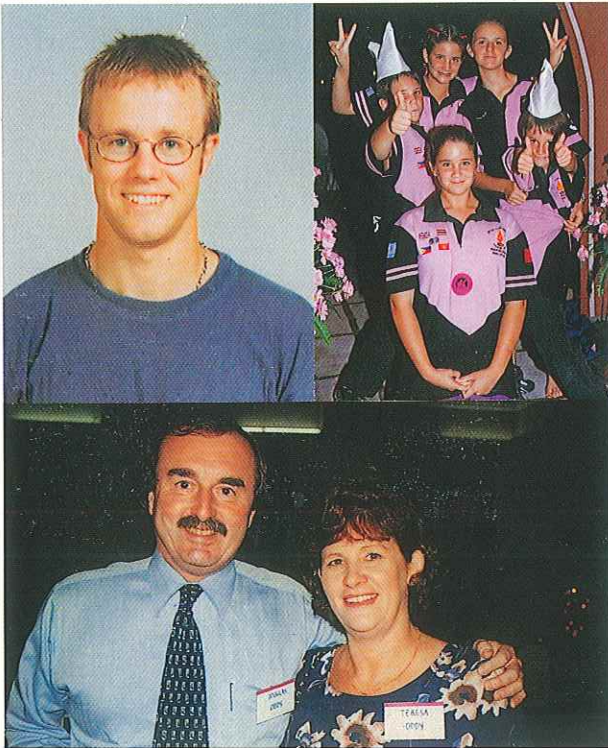


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Outpost

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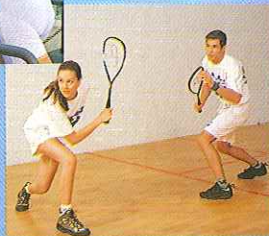
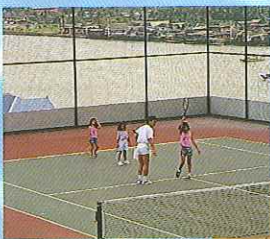
- The Club Christmas Ball Bonanza
- Diving in the Maldives
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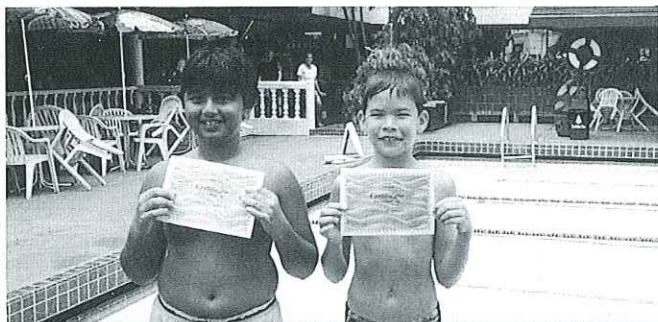
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Contributions

If you would like to contribute to Outpost please contact Sherry on
Tel: 2854721-2; Fax: 285 4723



The Outpost Magazine

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



Front Cover:

Damon Nemish, the Club's new SRC
New members, Doug and Teresa Oddy
Baa Atoll, the Maldives - see Scuba section
Christmas Ball Merrymakers
Thumbs up for the Pink & Black Ball
Isabelle taking the plunge - and loving it!

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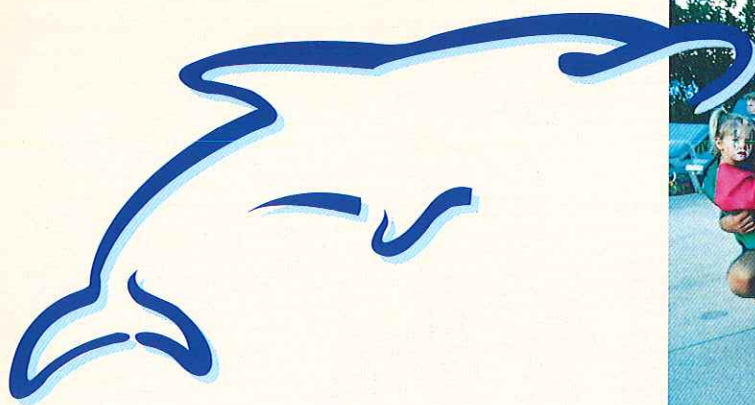
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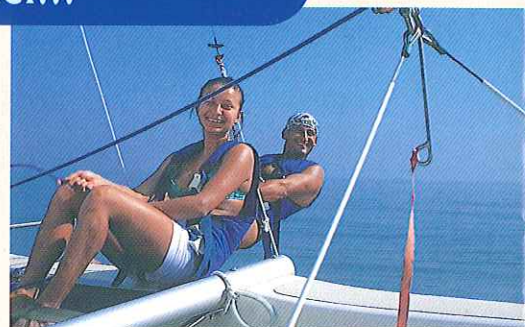


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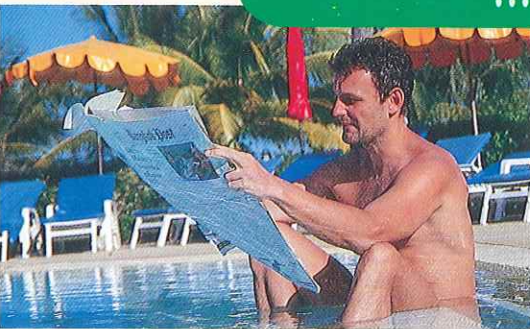
For the Active Holiday-Maker...



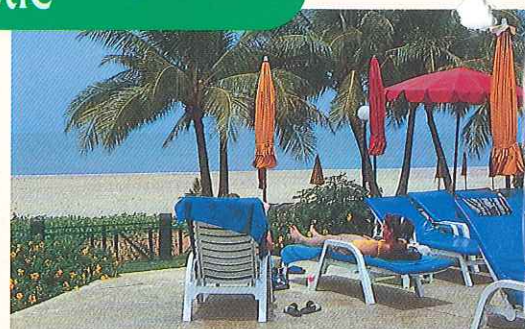
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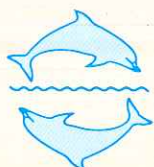


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From the Editor

Firstly, a very Happy New Year to all Club members and their families. It was great that so many of you supported the Club's Christmas events and I hope you had fun. I danced the night away and ate heartily at the BC Christmas Ball - the second I have enjoyed in Bangkok - and, as this issue hits your homes, I hope I shall have enjoyed a thoroughly good New Year's Eve bash with other members aboard the River Tubs. A grateful thanks to the club management and staff who worked so hard to make these events successful.

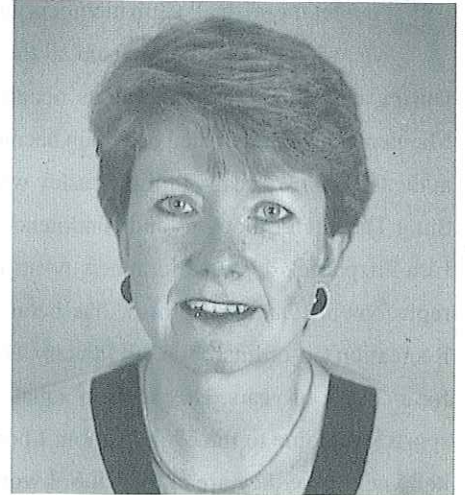
Overshadowing the December festivities was not only the untimely death of a loyal and well-liked member of the BC staff, Khun Sarakit, but also the tragic fate of many of the passengers and crew of Flight TG261 in Surat Thani. Undoubtedly, we will all give a thought to their bereaved families who begin the New Year in such a sad way.

Taking over from Gaynor as Editor is rather a hard act to follow. She's spent so much of her own time in making *Outpost* an informative, interesting and colourful magazine for all to enjoy that I'm sure you will join me in thanking her. She has not disappeared by the way, so her personal mine of useful, unbelievable and darn right silly information can still be tapped. Just call her at The Creative Partnership - she'd love to hear from you. Don't hesitate to call me either - same number: 285 4721-2.

As the new girl, I would like to ask for the continued support of all the regular contributors without whose efforts the *Outpost* would be a lesser magazine. Some sections are clockwork in despatching their articles and photos, others are more shy in publicising themselves. *Outpost* is an ideal forum for promoting the activities of the different sections, so come on all you budding columnists, resolve for the New Year to send in regular (or even irregular!) contributions. Indeed, if any of you reading this have a tale worth telling - of exciting holidays, interesting hobbies, outings with the BC, or just everyday life in Bangkok - I'd be happy to hear from you and will do my best to accommodate your scribblings in forthcoming issues. The deadline for contributions is the 10th of each month - just leave them in the *Outpost* pigeon hole at the club, or alternatively send material to me at The Creative Partnership (Fax: 285 4723; E-mail: creativ@loxinfo.co.th). I'm certainly looking forward to hearing from new contributors. Although the frenzy of Christmas is over, there is plenty to keep us entertained at the Club. The cricket season has opened, the BC team overjoyed with an initial win - or so I'm told by "after you with the box" Nick White who'll let you have a full report in the next issue. Scuba diver Peter Gary asks all underwater enthusiasts to keep an eye out for the new open water and advanced classes, and for those who enjoy the surface better, gear up for the Gala on the 31st. Looming up are the annual Tennis Section Dunlop Club Championships, and from listening to the enthusiastic chatter in the Churchill Bar each Tuesday night after the ballroom and Latin-American dance lessons, hopefully some more dance classes will soon appear on the 1999 BC events calendar. I'm exhausted just telling you all this!

Finally, welcome to Damon, our new Sport and Recreation Coordinator (see front cover and inside), who will doubtless root out the less active and create the sporting silk purse out of the proverbial sow's ear!

And so begins 1999...



Sherry Conisbee - Editor



Previous Editor, Gaynor, presenting Caption Competition winner Tom Wilson with his bottle of wine!


Sherry Conisbee
Editor

First let me wish all Club members and their families a very happy and prosperous New Year. Best wishes from all the staff for a wonderful 1999.

During December two sad events occurred for the Club. Khun Sarakit the Club's Maintenance Manager died of a brain haemorrhage. He was 54 years old and had worked at the Club for 33 years. Philip Beasley was lost in the Thai Airways jet that crashed in Surat Thani. Our thoughts and condolences go to the families of both men.

Lisa Fitzpatrick departed for a new position in the U.K. My best wishes go with her. A replacement, Damon Nemish, has been found. He will take up duties as Sport & Recreation Co-ordinator on 4th January. Damon is a Canadian but has lived in Bangkok for a couple of years. He excels in aquatics and triathlons along with numerous other sports. Welcome to the Club Damon. I hope members will take the opportunity to say hello next time they are at the Club. I would also like to welcome Alex Blackwood to the General Committee He has been coopted to replace Mike Lamb.

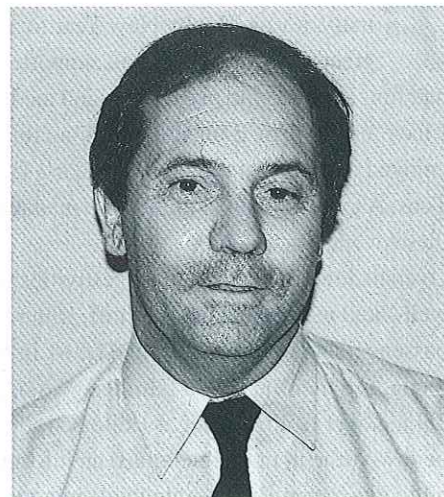
The Christmas Ball was very successful (see separate report) with exactly 400 guests attending. It was very pleasing to see how hard the Club's staff worked and how well they teamed up with the staff from the Dusit Thani.

I would like to thank especially the following for their participation in the event:

The **Dusit Thani** for their excellent catering, the band '**Tony and Friends**', D. Turner from the BC, our guests W. Fisher the Australian Ambassador, B. Giroux the Canadian Ambassador and his wife Marjolaine, M.C. Patrick L'Argent, major sponsors **Carlsberg**, **PTK Wines**, **Coca Cola**, and **Greenspot**, and all the suppliers of gifts for the evening. Last but not least to everyone who came along and participated in the festivities.

At the time of writing we are still full steam ahead for Christmas. The Ball behind us for another year, but the Children's Christmas Party, Carols by Candlelight and the New Year's River Cruise are still to come. Once we get to January it will be time to ensure a full programme of activities for 1999 and leading up to the millennium.

Once again, have a great 1999 and see you at the Club soon!



Thomas Bain - General Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Bain'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Tom Bain
General Manager

New Staff

You may have seen two new staff around the Club recently - Khun Yui is working in the Churchill Bar and Khun Weena at Reception. Welcome to both ladies.

Khun Sarakit Pongpaiboon

It was with great sadness that I and previous managers, David Viccars and Keith Bell, attended Khun Sarakit's funeral on 13th December. Khun Sarakit was a much-loved member of staff. Thank you to all members who have contributed to the collection for his family.

New Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator

Our new Sport & Recreation Co-ordinator, Damon Nemish, commences work as SRC this month. Damon is Canadian and has worked in Bangkok for a couple of years. Welcome Damon. Damon will be starting

up the recreation programmes very quickly.

CPI Increase in Monthly Subs

With your December statement (sent out this month) you will notice that the monthly subs have been increased by the CPI level of inflation of 5.9%. If you need any clarification about this increase, please contact me.

Club Maintenance

January is traditionally the month when Club staff try to take a breather after the busy 3 months leading up to Christmas and look to ensuring the Club's facilities are back to their normal pristine condition. Please forgive the inconvenience if you see the staff running around with paint brushes, hammers and so on.

Balinese Food Promotion

There will be a Balinese Food Promotion in Lords on 12, 13 and 14 February. Barry is making a special trip to Bali in January to source ingredients so the food should be good. Watch out for a flyer soon.

Friday and Saturday BBQ

A reminder that there is a BBQ on the back lawn commencing at 6 p.m. every Friday and Saturday. Children are allowed to eat in the Verandah area of the Churchill Bar. Come along and enjoy the famous BC BBQ.

Staff Party

The Club will be closed on Wednesday, 27th January due to the staff party. Club facilities will be available but there will be no supervision or F&B services on that day. Any inconvenience to members is regretted.

Letter from a Member

My father was told to go home - I was dead. Twelve years ago, a week before Christmas, I suffered a massive cerebral haemorrhage. But I was lucky, gradually the doctors realised I was stable. Three months later, I had brain surgery, then there was the start on a slow road to recovery. Learning to walk, learning to think, learning to communicate again. A year later, the second blow, there was another blood vessel filling up in my head - it would have to be another operation. This time five hours in length and recovery involved speech therapy, learning to swallow and learning to walk. But I was lucky, I had the all clear. Life changed - forget the hockey, the running, the bike riding, the horse riding, I was a liability every time I moved. But, I was lucky, I had my family who were brilliant. They looked after me, stood by me and, with their support, I made a full recovery.

So now to the reason why I have decided to tell you all something I usually keep to myself. Tears came into my eyes when I saw the photograph of poor Sarakit in the British Club reception. He had been going about his work at the Club a few weeks before Christmas when he too had a brain haemorrhage. He has left behind a wife and family who will never come to terms with their loss. I've already put a large amount of money into the donation box and I hope all members will feel the same compassion to do the same, at this time of giving.

"A member who has been there"

Philip Prescott Beasley

A giant of a man died tragically at Surat Thani on 11th December. A gentle giant. Phil Beasley, who was 46 years old, came to Thailand 6 years ago as Technical Director of Castrol Thailand primarily to set up and manage a new Motorcycle Engine Test Research Centre and Laboratory at Castrol's blending plant in Samut Prakarn. He had previously been in charge of the much larger Engine Test Facility at Pangbourne in the UK, and was very keen to transfer his technical knowledge and high ethical standards to his Thai staff.



With 22 years in Castrol, Phil had a reputation within the Group and within the oil industry for fairness, common sense, hard work, excellent human relations skills and uncompromising technical standards. During the past year he had taken on the additional responsibilities of Operations Director and Quality Assurance.

It is not surprising that as an Automotive Engineer, Phil was a car-buff. He was always involved at motorsport meetings and was fully involved as a committee member of the Castrol Vintage Car Club.

Indeed Phil's trip to the South was in the company of another close friend, Kaarle Harteva, a Founding Member and General Secretary of the Club, who also perished. They were there to plan the route of a special 1999 car rally to commemorate Castrol's Centenary next year.

Above all, Phil Beasley was a devoted family man. He loved Thailand and explored the country and culture fully with his wife Anne-Marie, son Arran and daughter Michaela. Simply put, he was one of the nicest men I've ever met. Soft-spoken, sincere and kind, he will be greatly missed by his 200 plus staff and colleagues in Thailand, UK and throughout the world. My thoughts, and yours I am sure, are with Anne-Marie, Arran, Michaela, his brother Clive, his parents and other relatives in the UK at this very sad time. I am sure they will be comforted to know how widely he was loved, even outside the family circle. Phil Beasley was a gentle giant. Rest in peace.

Bryan Baldwin

Khun Sarakit Pongpaiboon

After 33 years of loyal service as House & Grounds Manager at the British Club, Khun Sarakit's premature death at the age of 54 was felt by all to be tragic.

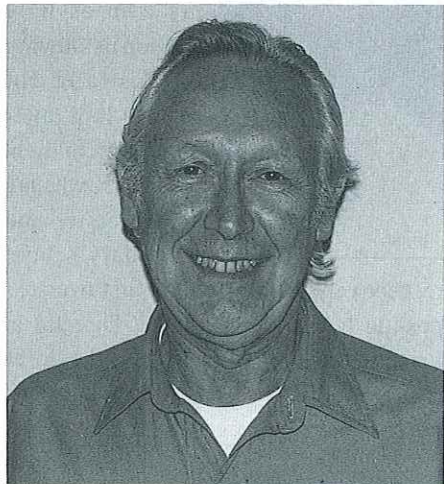
For those who worked behind the scenes with him, his industrious nature and in-depth knowledge of the Club will be irreplaceable, and his caring and pleasant personality forever missed. He has left a wonderful legacy which will be admired for years to come by every visitor to the Club who marvels at the colonial splendour of our Clubhouse and the well-tended and colourful gardens. Khun Sarakit will be greatly missed.

To his wife, Khun Thimm, and two children, Ying and Tu, we offer the heartfelt condolences of the members, management and staff.



Policies and Procedures

The Constitution and Rules of the Club define its purpose, membership and management and was written by the founding members. In some ways it is remarkable how it has stood the test of time.



David Turner

It made clear that the Club belongs to, or is under the control of, its Ordinary and Country members, i.e. members eligible to attend and vote at AGMs and EGMs. It provided for the AGM to elect between 8 and 10 ordinary members, to serve on a Committee to "manage the property and affairs of the Club" (on behalf of its members).

A Constitution is defined as the body of fundamental principles by which the organisation is to be governed. A Rule is defined as a principle to which an action is required to conform. The reason for spelling this out is to make the point that the Constitution and Rules of the Club provide the principles by which the Club should be run. It does not provide the details of how the principles should be put into practice. Our founding members knew that this was not its business, it was to be the responsibility of the Committee, who could be brought to account if they violate the Constitution or Rules.

The next part of this story is to give credit where credit is due. It was our former Deputy Chairman and Treasurer, Des Keane, who suggested that because

members of the Committee come and go, and the Committee is appointed anew every year, there should be some record kept of the Committee's decision of how the Constitution and Rules should be implemented, in practice. It also provides a means to record the Committee's instructions to the General Manager and his team regarding the day-to-day management of the Club. This was to ensure better continuity of decision-making and to avoid ad hoc approaches by a Committee unaware of the decisions of the previous Committees. Thus began the practice of maintaining a folder of "Practices and Procedures", which must be circulated to all members of the Committee and formally adopted at the following meeting before adding it to the portfolio. The first P&P, as they have come to be known, was approved on 22nd August 1994, and must have been drafted by Des as it was about short-term investments of any available surplus of funds.

I personally find them very useful and essential to the correct running of the Club, and as I am now the second oldest member of the Committee (Dugal being the oldest member around, though unfortunately not the oldest on the Committee), have frequently opened my big mouth to remind new members of the previous decisions and rationale for them.

The result of this stupidity was that our re-appointed Chairman this year asked me to accept responsibility to the Committee for maintaining the P&Ps up to date and to advise on them and any changes to the Constitution and Rules being discussed.

The current P&Ps contain 8 sections covering general matters, finance account-

ing, membership, food and beverage, house and grounds, personnel, sports and entertainment. The General Manager maintains an up-to-date copy in his office, and they are available to members on request, if they would like to see them.

To take one example, at the recent EGM, Rule 30 concerning candidates for election to the Club was amended to bring the Rule up-to-date with a less formal approach, whilst maintaining the requirements of Rules 29 and 32. Following agreement to this amendment, it was then necessary to draft a P&P to spell out the procedures to be followed by the General Manager to comply with the new Rule. Subsequently P&P Membership No. 10 was approved by the Committee on 23 November 1998 and added to the portfolio, the actions determined to be introduced immediately. The P&P states inter alia that the GM will put a copy of this new instruction on the Club notice board together with the details of new applicants, to enable them to be aware of the procedures that are required before they can officially become members of your Club. Another P&P in the process of being drafted relates to the amendment approved to Rule 59 regarding the membership rights of the sons and daughters of members to become members in their own right after reaching the age of 21. This P&P will take account of the discussion and suggestions made by members at that meeting.

I hope that the above clarifies the need for and use of P&Ps, without being too legalistic!

David Turner
Policies and Procedures

Lorenzo Moretti and Lara Gordon

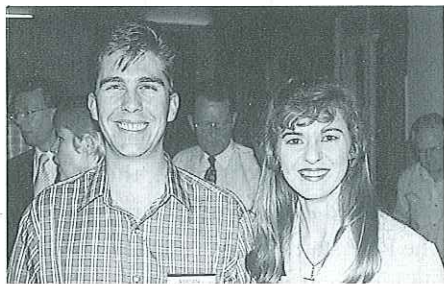


Lorenzo and Lara

Scots Lorenzo (Italian father, hence the name!) and Lara have just flown in from 18 months in Hong Kong; Lorenzo is the country manager for Marks and Spencer and Lara is an English teacher at Inlingua. Lorenzo is into tennis, football, diving, skiing, mountain biking and martial arts, while Lara enjoys tennis, swimming, scuba diving, aerobics and football but is willing to try anything. Accident-prone Lorenzo

likes drinking and a good sing-song, surfs the net and has an unhealthy addiction to video games; Lara has similar hobbies (except the singing) plus putting on lipstick ("large coverage"), and can touch her nose with her tongue!

Adrian and Dianne O'Brien



Adrian and Dianne

Adrian was an exchange student in Surin province ten years ago so was pleased to be returning to his "second home", this time on official posting as a Technical Executive for QBE Insurance. Aussies Adrian and Dianne expect to be here for a couple of years; Adrian is a golf fanatic while Dianne enjoys needlework, teddy bear making, Fabergé eggs and other crafts.

Doug and Teresa Oddy



Doug and Teresa

Canadian Doug is the CFO at Inchcape "indefinitely", both he and Teresa have been here over a year already. Prior to arriving in Bangkok Doug and Teresa spent 5 years in Tokyo, where Racheal, 9, was born, and 4 years in Hong Kong, where Christopher, 6, was born; both children are at Patana and are keen on sports. Doug plays squash, Aussie Rules and runs, while Aussie Teresa swims, does aerobics and enjoys crafts, and is the Secretary for Australians In Thailand.

Glen and Anna Pendry



Glen and Anna

Glen is the sporting one of this couple, playing squash, tennis, mountain biking and windsurfing; he's the Treasury Administration Manager at HongkongBank while wife Anna is the Japanese Sales Coordinator for the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel. Anna is from the Philippines, Glen's previous posting, and they expect another two years here.

Brian Pember



Brian

Aussie Brian is here in Bangkok on his own as wife Allison is staying in Australia for now to look after their two children, 18 and 15, who are at university and secondary school

respectively. Brian's on his first overseas posting here as an Assistant Director at PricewaterhouseCoopers for the foreseeable future; he's a golfer and enjoys horse-riding.

Tracey Ormiston



Tracey

A solicitor with Linklaters, Tracey lists her nationality as Scottish and is 28 years old on the first of this month - Happy Birthday! Previously in Hong Kong for a couple of years, Tracey

plays touch rugby and enjoys scuba diving.

Daniel Poole



Daniel

Young, free and single, 35-year-old Daniel is a Sales Consultant for the Global Silverhawk moving company; not sure how it's taken him nearly 4 years to join the Club with only a

couple of years left here. Before Bangkok he's lived in Kenya, America and Germany, he plays football, tennis, squash and badminton, and enjoys swimming and water-skiing. For one with such a mischievous smile, there are disappointingly no party pieces listed on his form!

Michael and Kathleen Ruddick



Kathleen and Michael

Rapidly becoming Asian veterans, Michael and Kathleen were posted to China, Vietnam and Singapore before arriving here a year ago; Michael is the Manufacturing Manager at CarnaudMetalbox Bevcan and expects to be here for another three years. Michael plays squash, rugby and football, and is interested in motorbikes; his wife Kathleen plays tennis and mah-jong and enjoys Chinese brush painting, and they have two sons: Gavin, 17, and Christopher, 14.

Rakesh and Narinder Sakhuja



Narinder and Rakesh

Here for 15 years already, Rakesh is a Director of Zenith Marketing and Trading and intends to stay depending on business. He and Narinder have two children, Sanjeev, 20, at Sydney University, and Kabir, 17, in his final year at Patana. Rakesh plays cricket and is learning golf while Narinder enjoys exercising, and both are into reading, travelling and music and take part in charity work.

David Salmon and Anongnat Pansuk



David and Anongnat

David, known as "Fish", has been playing rugby for the Club for a while, he plays golf and squash and enjoys surfing the net; he's a freelance television production consultant and expects to be here for some time. He and Anongnat have two sons: Louie, 4 and a half years, and Reo, nearly 2. Before moving here David worked for Star TV in Hong Kong and has spent 6 months in Kuala Lumpur.

Guy and Bridget Snow



Guy and Bridget

Another of this quarter's New Members intake working at Harrow International School, Bridget expects to be working there as a schoolteacher for the next four years, while Guy is retired. Both play golf, and Bridget also plays tennis and they have a connection with Thai Cheshire Homes which they hope to explore further. Their son, Edward, 13 this month, attends Harrow School and also plays golf as well as football and cricket.

Grant Signal



Grant

The Insurance Manager for Royal and Sun Alliance Group for several years, Grant has been known to referee rugby and was the Philip-pines' international referee (read: "the *only* referee in the country"!) during one of his previous postings in Manila. Other sports include fishing, diving, motorsports and motorcycling A bit of a sad story, this, as his wife Bernice has recently left him (which means, of course, that he is now young, free and single again), and he had a dog but even that died!

Tom and Pornthip Westbury



Tom

Tom and Pornthip graduated in Hamilton, New Zealand, and lived there for several years; both are Directors of PTK Management and Marketing, wine and beer importers, and both are keen on tennis and swimming, certainly Tom is an accomplished tennis player, having already played in matches for the Club, and he also enjoys a frame of snooker. They have three children: Katherine, 6, and Christopher, 2, who were both born in New Zealand, and Aaron, who was born in July of this year and is the main reason Pornthip wasn't at this New Members Night!

Veronica and Michael Sypsomos



Veronica and Michael

An interesting job title here: Projects Controls Coach at Unocal, a posting Michael expects to hold indefinitely. He's also a coach at soccer, as well as a player, and has been known to hit a tennis ball too. Veronica is happy with any kind of sport you can sit down and watch. Previous postings include Saudi Arabia and the US. They have one son, Alexander, 8, who is at ISB; and please note all three of them are nearly black belts in Tae Kwondo!

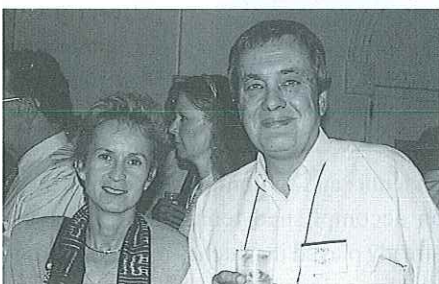
Nick Thwaites and Sharon Dooley



Sharon and Nick

Two likes attract: Nick and Sharon are both solicitors, Nick with Linklaters and Sharon with Freshfields, here for three years. Previous postings are Tokyo and Singapore, and Sharon being a Kiwi used to live in New Zealand. Nick plays squash, tennis, golf, cricket and enjoys scuba diving and skiing while Sharon is also a scuba diver, a "beginner" in tennis and "very much a beginner" in golf!

Denis and Roselyne Tigt



Roselyne and Denis

In the seven years that Denis has been MD of Kendall-Gammatron here, Swiss Roselyne has been appointed leader of the French-speaking guides at the National Museum in Bangkok. Denis claims he has no time for sports but does enjoy reading, travel and his computer; Roselyne of course is interested in Asian art, history and culture but also finds time for yoga and swimming. They have one child, Courtney, 11, who is at Patana and is involved in a wide range of sports and hobbies.

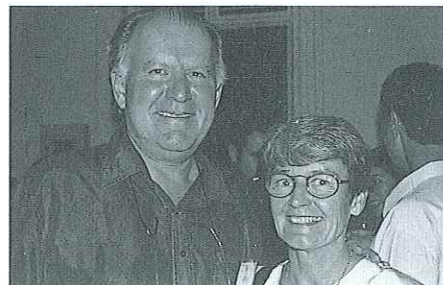
Nicola and Bernie Tudor



Nicola and Bernie

Previously in Hong Kong, Brits Nicola and Bernie have been here a year with perhaps another year or so to go; Nicola is a clerk at High Point Rendel while Bernie is a systems administrator at Noss Consortium. Nicola is into ten-pin bowling - must get her along to the BC bowling on Thursday nights! - as well as computers, and is a member of the World Wildlife Fund; Bernie is a golfer and a rugby player.

Jennifer and Gerald Wright



Gerald and Jennifer

Ah yes, I remember this couple from last year's New Year's Eve River Cruise - I didn't know who Gerald was but he made it onto several of the photos! Canadians Jennifer and Gerald have been here for over six years and who knows how long they'll stay; they're retired here and enjoy playing golf, with Jennifer also enjoying a game of tennis. Gerald lists his sole hobby as computing, and not one adventure or party piece between them... well, none they're willing to name!

Richard Powell



Richard

Richard has been in Thailand for nine months as a consultant with the engineering company High Point Rendel, with another year or so to go; he's British - or to be more precise, Welsh - and is into "any armchair sport", although he does confess to being a learner at golf. Previously in Hong Kong, Richard is into scouting and youth work.

Thank you to Gaynor for these write-ups from October's New Members Night.



The Thriller in Manila

On Friday 20 November a valiant squad from the BC set off for the Philippines to play in the Manila Nomads 7-a-side Tournament 1998, an event which our Veterans' Team managed to win in 1997. The Tournament attracts teams from all over the region.

The welcome dinner was a little disorganised but eventually everyone did get fed and watered (swamped would be a more accurate description).

The Open competition for the less decrepit took place on Saturday at the excellent Nomads' facility close to Manila Airport. The BC team probably still had their minds on the previous evening and the vast investment they had made in the local brewery. Before they knew it three defeats had been suffered and the only option was an early bath and another beer to wash away their disappointment. Heroic efforts from Keith prevented the goals against from being totally outrageous.

The performance on Sunday morning was much improved by the "youth" team in the Plate competition. After two superb strikes

from Steve Duckworth the BC suffered an unlucky 6-2 defeat and were out of the competition.

On came the Vets team gallantly lead by Alex Forbes, our goalkeeper extraordinaire. A guest appearance was made by Jim Howard who has superbly represented both the BC and other clubs during his years in both Bangkok and Manila. In fact the trophy for the Vets tournament bears Jim's name.

In a round robin tournament, the BC results read 0-3, 0-0, 1-2, the last result being a great shame as it prevented the team from proceeding further in the competition. For the winning goal there is a suspicion that Alex was either sleeping, watching the lightning flashes or the planes taking off from the airport. It was raining cats and

dogs and he did not have his windscreen wipers on - anyway the ball somehow passed between our hero's arm and the goalpost.

Post tournament celebrations were liquid, raucous and great fun. The BC will be back again in Manila next year so please keep it in mind. Our hosts, the Nomads Club, were well organised and as welcoming as ever. The Section first team is doing well in the **Global Silverhawk** Farang League this season and supporters are always welcome. Details on games for the Casuals Team can always be obtained from Matt Duke and the regular Tuesday evening training sessions at the Club continue throughout the year. Come along for some 5-a-side football, real training if our task master Mel Burkinshaw is in the mood, and some après-soccer refreshment in the Churchill Bar.

A Tourist

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 - ◆ Misunderstanding the new Self-Assessment system.
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Snorkel to Sharks in Six Months with Peter Gary

It's true - boys love gadgets, and there are few activities with the gadget potential of SCUBA diving. After all, it's completely unnatural for us to spend up to an hour fully submerged breathing air that we take down with us.



Arriving at the Maldives by airplane

Unnatural, and without a plethora of gadgets, impossible. So it was the lure of gadgetry galore that prompted my signing up with Peter Gary for the PADI Open-Water diving course at the BC.

Despite having tried our hand with one-day dives in Mexico, Bermuda and St. Lucia, my wife, Rosie, and I began our Asian diving career with the "Discover Scuba" session that Peter holds in the BC pool. This confirmed that breathing underwater is actually a pleasant and surprisingly easy activity, and that we were not likely to freak out later in the course. It also revealed that sporting all the essential gadgets, a diver out of the water looks like ... well, a fish out of water. A few nights later, the series of five sessions, comprising videos, lectures, practical pool work and short tests, began. Peter's meticulous teaching and constant emphasis on safety meant that over the next two weeks even a slow learner like myself was able to pass the tests, the practical exercises and the final exam. So it was off to Pattaya last April for the compulsory four dives that complete the Open-Water course.



One of the Maldives' many islands

Our group comprised Peter, his Master Diver assistant, Simon, and six novices. An hour or so on the dive boat took us to the site near Koh Man Wichai where we completed two dives on Saturday and two on Sunday in conditions that could not be described as ideal. The rough seas meant that I fell over twice en route - each time reducing a deckchair to matchwood, but damaging nothing on me other than my pride. In no time though, it was time to don the gadgetry and get in the water. Plankton and the constant kicking up of sand from the ocean bottom meant that visibility wasn't great, and on one dive strong currents had us streaming horizontally holding on to the boat's anchor chain like flags in a stiff breeze. However, the strong emphasis that Peter had put on safety, diving discipline and pre-dive planning meant that at no time was anyone disoriented or worried. In fact it was all great fun and once we had completed the mandatory exercises we went on short underwater tours which revealed a surprising array of flora and fauna. Anyway, the important thing was



Baa Atoll, Maldives

that everyone passed and so I was at liberty to begin buying my own set of gadgets and equipment.

Sadly, the cost of all the possible toys and the hassle of lugging them around has meant that I have restricted myself to mask, snorkel, fins, a watch, and a very small knife (sufficiently small that I can certainly justify an upgrade at the least provocation). The good news is that this still leaves a Buoyancy Control Device (BCD), first and second stage regulators, a console (with submersible pressure gauge, compass and depth metre), exposure suits, weight belt and weights, slate, tank, tank-pinger, kitbag, underwater lamp, and the holy grail of gadgets - a dive computer. And that is before embarking on the gadget superhighway of underwater photography. Wow! The bad news is that in subsequent dives in Pattaya, Samui, and most recently the Maldives, the rental equipment has been easily accessed and generally in very good condition, thus reducing the urgency of stuff-acquisition.

Maldives Dives

Precisely six months after that first dive in Pattaya, I had the privilege of conducting a series of seven dives off the Baa Atoll in the northwest Maldives. The Maldives has a terrific reputation as a dive destination and I can now testify that it is fully deserved. From January to April, when the prevailing wind is from the northeast, the water is crystal clear and underwater visibility is legendary, stretching for hundreds of metres. When the wind switches to the southwest in May the water fills with plankton and visibility reduces to a mere twenty metres or so (compared to four metres off Pattaya that first day). However, the plankton also brings in the big pelagic fish. Consequently, we saw an incredible variety of wildlife over the course of the seven dives this October.



As well as diving by day, we also did a night dive which is a bit spooky. It is incredible the difference in the type of life on the reef by night compared with the day. Because you tend to focus on the reef itself rather than the fish swimming round it, you see far more in the way of invertebrates, crustaceans and beautifully coloured, delicate corals.

However, it was a dive by day which stands out as the extraordinary experience of the holiday. We had spent the week at Soneva Fushi, a beautiful resort on an otherwise uninhabited and lushly vegetated 120 acre island. There is only one beach, but since it completely circumnavigates the island, you never feel that you are sharing it with anyone. Soneva Fushi has so much to commend it, but for me it was the Soleni Dive Centre, and the proximity to world class diving that held the greatest appeal. Dhigali Haa, the site which hosted the aforementioned best-ever dive, is less than twenty minutes from the island by Dhoni (the distinctive and ubiquitous fishing boat found all over the Maldives) - just long enough to get your kit on.

Shortly after we entered the water and descended to around twenty metres, our Instructor, Thomas, casually pointed out several sharks patrolling the outer edge of the reef. They were swimming back and forth and passing within a couple of metres of us. I later learned they were two metre grey reef sharks - they looked like huge trouble makers to me and I am sure my breathing rate increased by more than a tad. Just as I was getting my breathing under control, a train of six or seven massive manta rays passed directly over us. These bird-like fish are incredibly graceful and seem quite at ease near divers. What's more, they eat plankton, can't detect a pinprick of blood at a ten kilometre distance, haven't had even one scary film about man-eaters, and don't have a gruesome week-long special on the

Discovery channel. Speaking of which, I distinctly remember thinking that I was having a National Geographic experience and that it couldn't get any better when a turtle casually swam right by, studiously ignoring us, the sharks and the rays. Other than the moray eel that was nibbling my fin, the jackfish, tuna, barracuda, and the myriad reef fish, the sharks, ray and turtle were about all we saw on that particular dive. I was joined for the occasion by a Japanese couple and a Belgian couple. The Belgian guy, Andre, had just completed his six hundredth dive which I worked out would take twenty-three years if you managed to dive every other week - not bad for a Belgian! So what started as an excuse to collect gadgets has taken us to one of the most beautiful spots we have ever been, has opened up a whole new realm beyond that which you see with just a snorkel, and has introduced us to some interesting and adventurous people. And that's all before we try wreck diving, freshwater diving, dry-suit diving, underwater photography, search and recovery, or rescue diving. For that, I would like to thank Peter Gary for his enthusiasm for the sport and his excellent teaching, and the BC for letting us use the pool.

Disappointingly, I have to add that the instructor in the Maldives was less than complimentary about what he had expected from my diving. I presumed this was due to my ungainliness on dry land. However, it turns out that he often has to start from scratch with divers who have been trained in Thailand. Apparently they have frequently been mass-produced through crash-courses which leave them with little appreciation for the basic safety procedures and skills. This is both a worry and an interesting, if indirect, compliment to Peter, as I can assure you I have no natural underwater ability.

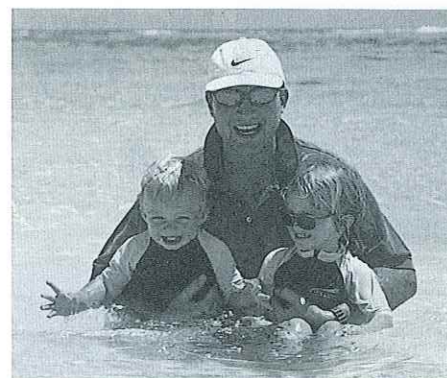
We are shortly leaving Bangkok to move to Chicago and I am sure that we will

continue to dive in the Americas (though more likely the Turks and Caicos than Lake Michigan). I am also sure we will continue to develop our skills using the excellent PADI syllabus and I have just noticed an optional course that I hadn't spotted before: the Equipment Specialist - brilliant!

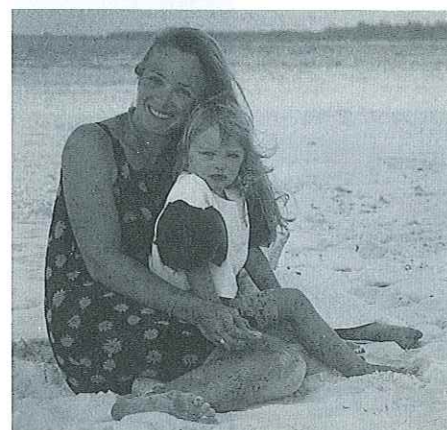
Alan Jope

Peter Gary adds:

Congratulations to Lorraine Barnard for completing the Open Water Diver course. Also to Stephan Chapman and Thomas Broadfoot who completed the Advanced Open Water course.



Alan Jope with son and daughter

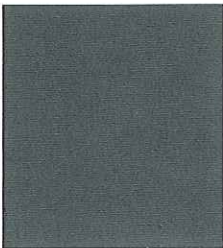


Rosemary Jope with daughter at the beach

Calendar

British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - January

Sunday



31

Morning Golf Club Championship-
Khao Kheow
11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
3-5pm Volleyball
3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

9.30am Swimming Gala with ISB

3

8am Golf - Majestic
11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
1.00pm Squash Mix-In
3-5pm Volleyball
3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

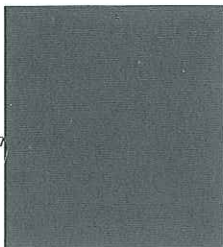
Monday



4

8am BWG Mahjong
7-9pm Tennis Team Training

Tuesday



Venues

Soi 15	NIST grounds
Soi Nares	Behind Bangrak Police Station
Cosmo Bowl	Central Plaza Rama III
Aerobics	Surawong Room
Golf	As advertised

5

7am Ladies Golf
8-10am Ladies Tennis
12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
7-9pm Soccer Training
8-11pm Friendly Bridge
9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

Wednes day



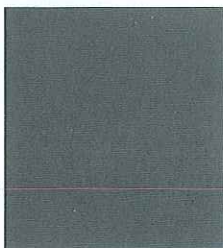
Opening Times

10am-11pm	Churchill Bar
11.30am-2pm	Lords Restaurant - Lunch
6-10pm	Lords Restaurant - Dinner
7.30am-10pm	Poolside Bar
6am-9pm	Fitness Centre - Mon-Sat
9am-9pm	Fitness Centre - Sun/Hols
9am-5pm	Thai Massage - Tue/Sun

6

6-9pm Tennis Mix-In
6-9pm Squash Teams competition
6.30pm Cricket Nets

Thurs day



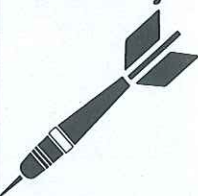
Sports - Contact the following:

Aquatics	Liz Beal	262-9351
Badminton	Anant	654-0002-29
	Leighrahathorn	
Cricket	Nick White	246-0832
Football	Matt Duke	545-5555
Golf	Bernie Adams	861-0608
Rugby	Jon Prichard	662-6376
Scuba	Peter Gary	634-7752
Squash	Peter Corney	712-4398-9
Tennis	David Blowers	285-4721-2

7

8-10am Ladies Tennis
12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
7pm Ten-Pin Bowling - Cosmo Bowl
7-9pm Rugby Training
9-10pm Hockey

Friday



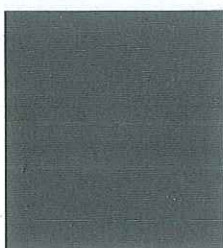
1

5-7pm Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
6-9pm FAMILY BBQ
7pm Social Darts

8

5-7pm Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
6-9pm FAMILY BBQ
7pm Social Darts

Satur day



2

8am Junior Tennis
9am-12pm Squash Coaching
4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15
6-9pm FAMILY BBQ

9

8am Junior Tennis
9am-12pm Squash Coaching
4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15
6-9pm FAMILY BBQ

12pm Aquatics Section AGM

Don't Forget !!

- Aqua Aerobics start 5th Jan
- Cricket Nets - 6th January
- To submit your entry for the Tennis Section Dunlop Championships 1999
- Staff Party - 27th January (no supervision or F&B)

10

11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
 11.30am Golf - Royal Lad Krabang
 12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
 3-5pm Volleyball
 3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
 5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

17

11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
 12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
 3-5pm Volleyball
 3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
 5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

24

am Golf Club Championship
 Khao Kheow
 11am-1pm Badminton - Soi Nares
 12-2pm Sunday Carvery - Lords
 3-5pm Volleyball
 3-6pm Tennis Mix - In
 5.30pm Sunday Carvery - Lords

11

8am BWG Mahjong
 9.30am Aerobics
 7-9pm Tennis Team Training

18

8am BWG Mahjong
 9.30am Aerobics
 7-9pm Tennis Team Training
 7pm Scottish Dancing - front lawn

25

8am BWG Mahjong
 9.30am Aerobics
 7-9pm Tennis Team Training

12

7am Ladies Golf
 8-10am Ladies Tennis
 12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
 7-9pm Soccer Training
 8-11pm Friendly Bridge
 9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

19

7am Ladies Golf
 8-10am Ladies Tennis
 10.30am Aqua Aerobics
 12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
 7-9pm Soccer Training
 8-11pm Friendly Bridge
 9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

26

7am Ladies Golf
 8-10am Ladies Tennis
 10.30am Aqua Aerobics
 12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
 7-9pm Soccer Training
 8-11pm Friendly Bridge
 9pm Gentlemen's Spoof

13

9.30am Aerobics
 6-9pm Tennis Mix-In
 6-9pm Squash Teams competition
 6.30pm Cricket Nets

20

9.30am Aerobics
 6-9pm Tennis Mix-In
 6-9pm Squash Teams competition
 6.30pm Cricket Nets

27

**Staff Party:
 Clubhouse
 closed**

14

8-10am Ladies Tennis
 12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
 7pm Ten-Pin Bowling - Cosmo Bowl
 7-9pm Rugby Training
 9-10pm Hockey

21

8-10am Ladies Tennis
 10.30am Aqua Aerobics
 12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
 7pm Ten-Pin Bowling - Cosmo Bowl
 7-9pm Rugby Training
 9-10pm Hockey

28

8-10am Ladies Tennis
 10.30am Aqua Aerobics
 12.30-1pm Abdominal Work-out
 7pm Ten-Pin Bowling - Cosmo Bowl
 7-9pm Rugby Training
 9-10pm Hockey

15

9.30am Aerobics
 5-7pm Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
 6-9pm FAMILY BBQ
 7pm Social Darts

22

9.30am Aerobics
 3-7pm BC Tennis Coaching
 5-7pm Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
 6-9pm FAMILY BBQ

29

9.30am Aerobics
 5-7pm Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
 6-9pm FAMILY BBQ

16

8am Junior Tennis
 9am-12pm Squash Coaching
 4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15
 6-9pm FAMILY BBQ

23

8am Junior Tennis
 9am-12pm BC Swimming Coaching
 9am-12pm Squash Coaching
 4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15
 6-9pm FAMILY BBQ

30

8am Junior Tennis
 9am-12pm BC Swimming Coaching
 9am-12pm Squash Coaching
 4.30pm Casuals Football - Soi 15
 6-9pm FAMILY BBQ



Bangkok Men's Invitational Doubles Tournament

This year's annual event was held at the scenic Royal Thai Navy grounds right beside the Chao Praya river and on that weekend we could not have had a better venue.



The day started promisingly enough with a light cooling shower and refreshing riverside breezes which, as it turned out, were both very necessary in keeping your Captain's 'cool'.

Start time was slated for 8 a.m. but as we have now come to expect, things never quite work out as planned and that day was not going to be any exception.

As we neared the Navy grounds it became obvious that something unusual for a Saturday morning was afoot. Traffic was at a standstill for miles around and it was clear that there was absolutely no chance of getting to our destination on time by car. There remained but one alternative and that was to leg it for the remaining half kilo or so in order to get there at all. And so it was that mixed in amongst the many Marathon runners could be seen a motley collection

of racquet-carrying tennis players, as it transpired that on this particular morning all local roads had been closed to allow the Bangkok Marathon to pass by. Naturally the start was somewhat delayed which was just as well for the BC team as subsequent events will show.

After making the draw, which certainly didn't do us any favours with both RBSC and Polo Club in our half of the draw, matches finally got under way at around 9.30 a.m. However, in one respect we were lucky, although we didn't know it at the time, as we were not required to play until 11 a.m. The extent of our luck only became apparent as time progressed and we still couldn't mount more than 2 pairs of players even by 10.30 a.m. Faced with imminent disaster your Captain was close to panic but his faithful fans with 'Mobies'

at the ready finally tracked down all the missing players who were instructed and directed to be courtside by 11 a.m. latest. The appointed "Hour" came and went but still our team was incomplete (one had gone shopping with the wife, one was teaching, believing he was playing the next day, another got lost, etc, etc). At 11.15 a.m. we finally had a team and so disaster was oh so narrowly averted!!!

It is perhaps not surprising that after such a traumatic intro my mind was absolutely not on the tennis. This was just as well as the results against our first opponents, Polo Club, were to say the least "Awful". If we had set out to devise the most unfavourable scenario possible, we could not have done better.

Polo were already warmed up having started at 9 a.m. by playing and winning against RBSC. On the other hand we were not even a complete team when we first went out on court and of course none of our players had the chance to warm up. All this leads on to the fact that we were well and truly "Whitewashed" by Polo, 4 of our pairs losing by a huge margin of 2-8 with one pair, who shall be nameless, going down without a single game to their credit.

The result against RBSC was not much better but we did at least get one noteworthy "Win". This remarkable "WIN" was achieved by Dr. Pongsak, a new member to the Club, together with that redoubtable performer Kn. Oud, recently returned to the playing fold after a 2 year leave of absence while pursuing an American "Master's" (Degree not Golf) in California.

These two played delightful tennis combining Dr. Pongsak's power of shot with Kn. Oud's fine touch play to give them a relatively easy win at 8-3. Kn. Voratheap and Andrew Robertson also had





their chances, finally losing out in a closely fought tie break at 8-9. Your Captain had his chances too; partnered by Kamol we climbed to 6 all before fading somewhat in the closing stages to finally lose out at 6-8. If Lady Luck had been smiling just a little bit more in our direction it is just possible to see that we could possibly have had the legs on the RBSC. Next Time Around Lads!!!!

I'm extremely glad to report that Sunday was not a repeat of the previous day in that everything went off comparatively smoothly and this was of course fully reflected in our results. Having been last in our half of the draw we were slated to play the Japanese Club who were losers to both Royal Thai Navy and Silom Club in the other half of the draw.

This time our team was complete at the appointed hour and we went on court in a much more settled state of mind. Our team was somewhat stronger than the previous day which also helped to bring matters to a much more satisfactory conclusion. This time round, play kicked off more or less on time and, as usual, the older players were on court first.

As there appeared to be time to spare the initial format was 'best of 3 sets', Kamol and I setting the pace with a straight sets win at 6-4 & 6-2 respectively. We were

followed on court by Roger Fitzgerald and a newcomer to the team, that All American Star Player, Tom Callahan. These two provided us with the match of the day, finally winning out in a closely fought struggle played over 3 exciting sets in which fortunes veered first one way and then the other. The outcome was never certain until the last ball had been played with our two heroes grimly hanging on to their slim lead at the end as their younger opponents stepped up the pressure in a vain attempt to close the gap. Such was the state of the pair of them that we were just about to call the ambulance when they finally staggered off court. Well done Tom and Roger for a real gutsy performance.

After such a splendid display of sheer determination the rest of the team could hardly contemplate anything less than outright victories and so it came to pass that the BC team recorded one of its very rare 'Whitewashes' and our Japanese brethren were suitably chastened and mortified.

The final team placings were, (1) Polo, (2) Silom, (3) RBSC, (4) Thai Navy, (5) BC and, bringing up the rear, Japanese Club.

As play finished we all repaired to the splendid Banquet Hall where we descended upon a magnificent buffet, all washed down with copious amounts of ale.

Speeches were made and prizes presented before players dispersed back to their respective Clubs.

Our BC Team had held its own, retaining the same position as last year but with a much less favourable draw. Given a slightly wider pool of available players and a kinder draw, it is possible to envisage a BC team actually achieving 3rd or 4th position, but then our match records are full of "If Onlys". Roll on 1999.

Bruce Gordon



Dunlop Club Championships 1999

Don't forget to hand in/fax your entry forms for THE Tennis tournament in the Club's calendar - the Dunlop Club

Championships 1999!! You must get your entry forms in by:

Friday 8th January 1999

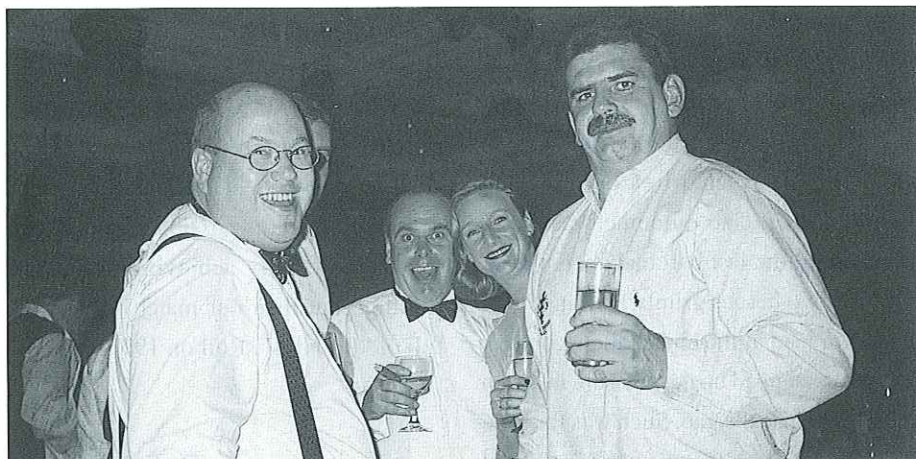
in order to be entered into the draw. Please send forms to David Blowers, Tennis Chairman, via the Tennis Section pigeonhole (in the Clubhouse) or by fax to 285 4723.

If you are having trouble finding a partner for the doubles events please indicate this on your form and we shall try to find one for you.

For more information please see the noticeboard in the Surawong Sala or contact David on 285 4721-2.



At the time of print, the BC Rugby Team will have sauntered home from their annual tour of Phuket and their King's birthday fixture against the Phuket Vagabonds.



Cheers!

As one player recently put it, the Phuket tour is "the players' Christmas gift to themselves, a reward for all the hard training sessions, stringent diets and months of abstinence in the pursuit of athletic excellence" (Rusty at 2 a.m. in Delaney's).

In many ways, the Phuket tour will represent something of a reward for the players. 1998 has been a difficult year for the club as so many of our first choice players have departed Bangkok for other destinations. With so few expatriates arriving in Thailand, the BC's depleted squad have had to fight tooth and nail in every game to gain any reward.

Although the HongKongBank League saw the BC without a win, the team competed well against everybody and had victory in their sights in a couple of games. We were pipped by one point by the Southerners and then faced the RBSC with a home referee; it is very difficult to win a game when the penalty count is 30 to 3.

The BC has shown considerable improvement with victories over the Bangkok Japanese Club and the

Southerners in the RBSC's "Friendship Tournament", victory over the RBSC again being denied by the all-important sixteenth player, the referee. The BC also competed well in the ISB 10s, coming in second to the Corsairs. In the Bangkok 7s we lived up to the expectations of the organisers. In the first match we grasped defeat from the jaws of victory against the team from British Airways, kept the Thai Police to below 50 points in the second game and then lost early on Sunday morning so that we could pursue our favourite past-time of drinking beer.

The Ball

Away from the field, the BC has been very active. The annual Pink and Black Ball was again a great success, the highlights being an appearance by John Prichard in a crash helmet to meet a barrage of bread rolls and Keith Rowley on the dance floor. Over 250 of Bangkok's finest were in attendance, including representatives from The Southerners Rugby Club and the Pot Bellied Pigs from Hong Kong. The Ball also raised some 30,000 baht which has

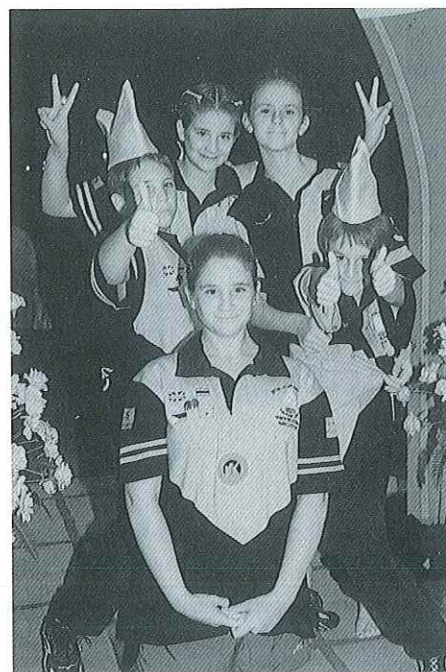
been donated to the Suphanburi PE College women's touch team, who will be competing in the Black's tournament in Singapore this month.

A big thank you to those who attended the ball and to **Carlsberg** for again supporting this event.

The ball will also be remembered as little Mike Lamb's final night in Bangkok. Trouble is, no one can recall seeing him, bar Alan Lovell.

And the Rest

Another notable social event was the Captain's Dinner at the Barbican. Skipper Rod Kerr presented the awards for the season, Dragon receiving the award for best back and David "Fish" Salmon for the best forward. The evening was also memorable for Fish performing the anal chug on Yoshi and for Prote spending a night in jail for a trail of vandalism that stretched from the Barbican to MBK. It was an expensive night for Prote.



The welcoming committee

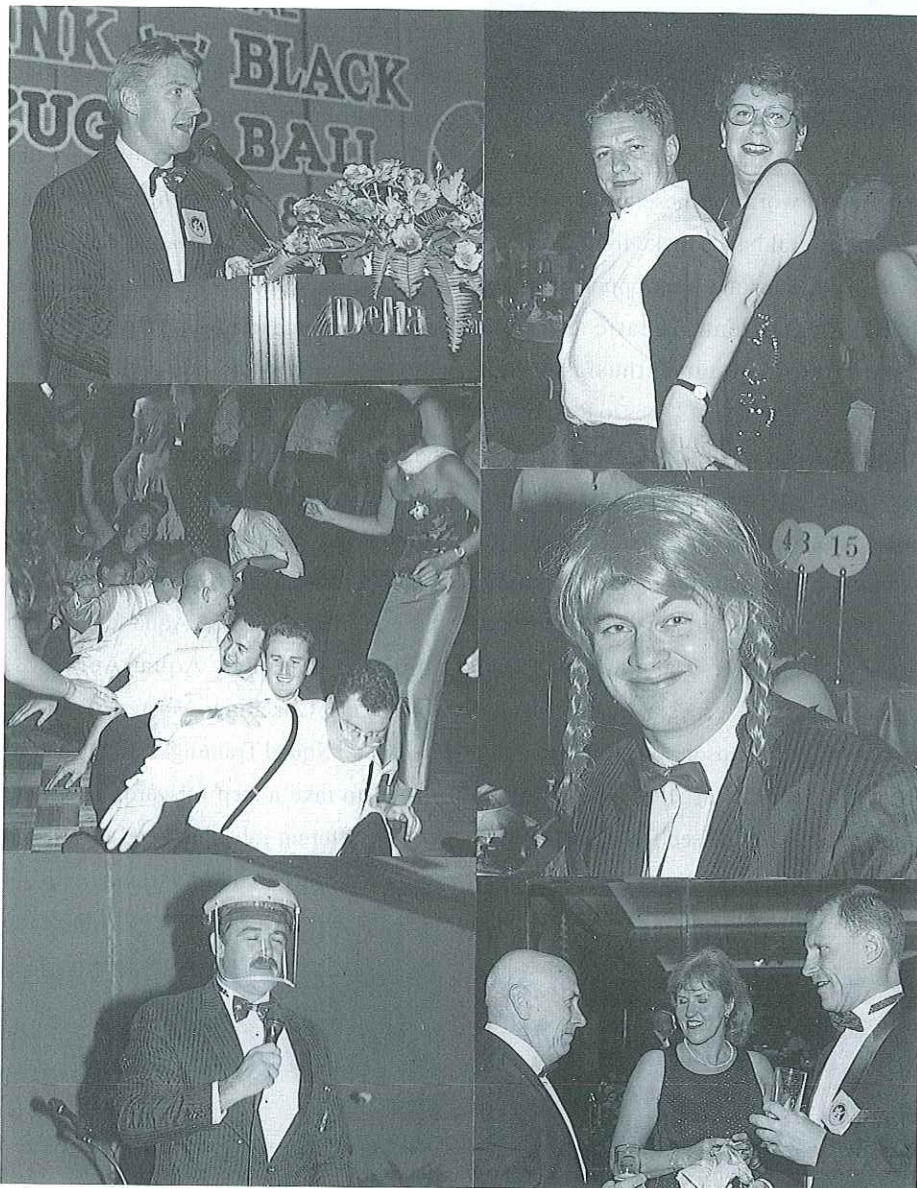
Our AGM held in October saw no change at the top with JP returning as chairman and Rod Kerr as skipper. David Salmon will assume the role of "vice" captain with Andy Davies shunted to the inactive post of Baa Baa's captain. An exciting development was the creation of the position of recruitment officer. In times

when players aren't walking in the door of the BC each week, Dominic Whiting will do his best to attract new talent to the BC. Marco Belonje will take over the responsibilities as membership secretary and his wife Linda will head a social committee.

Perhaps the major achievement for the BC

this year has been the establishment of the BC HOTLINE. Players and interested parties may call 962 1552 for all the latest information about happenings in BC rugby.

Andy Davies



Scenes of slick professionalism and utter debauchery at the Rugby Ball

Captain Kerr's Rugby Menu

What *might* have been served at the Rugby Ball in October...

Coached Salmon with Prichard's "Sauce"

Frosted Partridge with Bacon Bits and Smedley Peas

Stewed Hutton in a Barton Dish with Boiled Haggag

Rowley Poly Pudding and Belonje Custard

Swift'ly followed by:
"Hot" Chalon Coffee, Dakers Liqueur and Minich Mints

all accompanied by
"Stienbach" White Wine, Stewart's Whisky and Roger's Port (served in a dropable Plastic Bottle)

Judy Fitzgerald

Splashy New Year

Happy New Year! 1999 promises to be a great year with lots of galas and activity from the Aquatic Section. We are having our first gala this month on 31st January.



Aqua aerobics starts again on Tuesday 5th January 1999!

To make the day more interesting we plan to invite a team from ISB to come and compete with us. Please sign up before the day to help us ensure the gala is run smoothly.

Please come and join us for our AGM on Sunday, 9th January at 12 p.m. poolside. This is a great opportunity for all who are interested in the Aquatic Section to make a contribution. We started out a small band of interested members that decided to run galas for our children. Under Lisa Fitzpatrick's guidance we have created havoc around the pool all year round! Activities and galas have been held regularly providing entertainment, team membership and competition for our children and members. There is little

preparation work for these events but, of course, several hands make light work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current Aquatic Section Committee for their enthusiasm and creative energy. Thanks goes to Rosemary Imlah who is a wealth of information and expertise in the administration and organisation of our gala days. To Marilyn Moffatt for her great marshalling skills and creating a 'running spreadsheet' of the race times so competitors can now keep track of their progress. A special note of thanks goes to Janet Simpson, our treasurer, for the 'quiet behind the scenes' work she has done in creating the section database and keeping our finances organised.

Thanks to their efforts everyone has enjoyed a host of activities. Special guest stars such as Flipper and André have featured at our Family Poolside Movies. Marilyn has provided Flippa Ball (mini water polo) demonstrations, training and games after most galas. Events at the gala days have varied to include participation for everyone young and older. There have been piggyback races for the youngest competitors, adult competition races that have lead each event section and have always provided close competition for the spectators. There have been novelty races including clothes line, newspaper and tyre relays. These galas are family oriented and serve as a source of fun and friendship for not only the children competing but the adults as well. Finally, a big thank you to the parents and friends who pitch in on the day to make our events such a success.

Through the ingenuity of the section, sun protection wear has become available in the gym this year. The Aquatics Section umbrella includes Aqua Aerobics, Swimming Coaching, Masters Training and Junior Squad Training. I encourage all of you to take a step forward. There are lots of different jobs that need no special skills. Several parents and friends help out on gala days who have had little or no



Ali Ertuna



Anika Law



Ashwin Mathur + Phillip Chantanako

Aquatics Section Committee

Chairperson	Liz Beal	262 9351
Treasurer	Janet Simpson	271 0597
Secretary	Position Vacant	
Swimming Galas	Rosemary Imlah	437 9693
Water Polo and Record Keeper	Marilyn Moffatt	759 6884
Trophies	Position Vacant	
Sponsorship	Position Vacant	
Aqua Aerobics	Position Vacant	
Master's Training	Position Vacant	

experience before. We have on-the-job training and Rosemary Imlah has even provided short poolside workshops on time keeping at the galas themselves. Meetings are usually held before or after an event for convenience.

It is with great enthusiasm that I say this section has the potential to become an active and influential source of enjoyment for all of us who join it. I for one have rediscovered my enthusiasm for swimming, made new friendships and learnt new skills just by participating. I invite you to join us on Saturday, 9th January to see what damage we can do this year!

If you feel you would like to nominate for the committee please contact me on 262 9351 or any one of the committee members in the table above.

**See you then,
Liz Beal**

Here are some of the photographs taken at a recent Mothers and Babies Swim class with an underwater camera—see how the kids enjoy the water, which is great for their water-confidence.



James Simpson



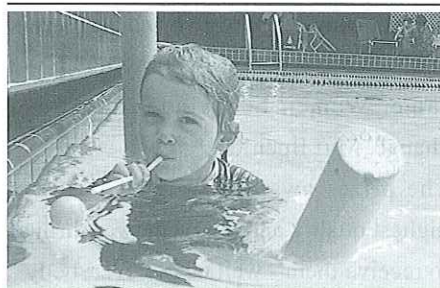
Mathew Smith



Berangere Altier



Nicholas Law



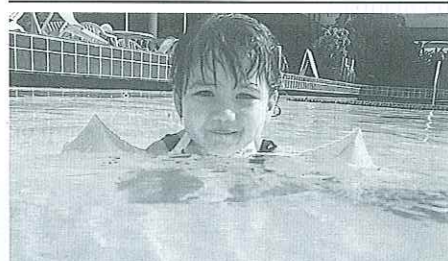
Elizabeth Norris



Nicholas White



Isabelle Lush



Nina Britton



Jack Airey, above and below the surface!





Women Behaving Badly!

S.L.A.G.S. - International Competition 1998

(The Royal Navy Golf Course, 14th October 1998)

Even though it was muddy underfoot, we were spared the rain for the 2nd Annual S.L.A.G.S. Tournament held at the Navy course Sukhumvit.



The SLAGS!

This year we managed to assemble 10 players to compete for the highly prized trophy. A 100% increase on the entry for 1997 which was better than expected as quite a few SLAGS have returned to the U.K. (i.e. the "Land of the Freezing Bum"). Notably absent was last year's winner, the delectable Diana Lamb, and the lovely Mrs. Castrol Jill Barclay. However, there were quite a few new recruits more than happy to join in with the crazy rules and regulations.

It was the usual Drink and Drive Champagne Competition with your very own plastic bottle full of Fizz - a slurp of

Champagne (S.O.C.) before you hit the ball and one after you reached the hole. Very silly hats were worn by all the players and our behaviour was pretty much the same. Women behaving badly for a change. My! Bpen! Ry!

The prizes awarded were of the very highest quality and everyone was thrilled to receive them - well nearly everybody! Second place went to BOGEY Jo Goodliffe who won a magnificent DUCK CLOCK that, on the hour, quacked "Old McDonald had a Farm", no the clock, not Jo. The winner this year of the magnificent Golden Plastic and Bright Dayglo Pink

Trophy some 18" high, decorated with Bells and Mini Mouse regalia, was Penny Whalley who, when she saw the Trophy, I somehow felt she would have liked to come second.

Anybody wishing to see this magnificent trophy need only look in the display case at the BC - it will be in pole position.

If you are just starting to play golf and you do not want to get up too early, and you have a good sense of humour, why not come and join the

Silly
Ladies
Alternative
Golf
Society

Judy Fitzgerald

President

The Game is Up

Yes women, SLAGS included, have forged the last bastion of maleness... the golf course. It is a place where business deals are struck, where ideas are born and plots are conspired. It is the ultimate, seven kilometre long boardroom. Women have discovered this. Women have wised up to golf's potential as a career-making petri dish. Golf is changing forever. And one day there will no longer be mid-week ladies' days but men's days, and the biggest



Jamie Woodford and David Lamb getting their bags



Bernie hands over the SUAL bell

novelty in the golf world will be the Big Hank driver. We (the men) will be observed by a group of female golfers puffing on Romeo and Juliets and passing wind in the deep rough telling howlingly funny club shaft jokes about men and securing deals that will seal the fate of the western world.

"I can't stop thinking about it - women and golf", he said, "It's going to be like going to an a la carte restaurant and ordering filet mignon with chocolate sauce."

"Rainbow trout with a caramelised topping."

"A scotch and advocaat on ice."

"A cigar with a filter."

Thanks to Judy Woodford - long suffering golf widow - for supplying this extract.

Medal Results

The final round of the quarterly medal competition was held at Lad Krabang. The winners were as follows:

Flight A Dick Blackmore 70 points

Flight B Bridget Snow 70 points

Flight C Karen Carter 69 points

Gary Baguley received a special commendation for his poor choice in socks.

Shut Up and Listen

The annual match against the Golfers Cocktail Lounge was held at Lakeview, Cha-am, on 5th December. The format was full handicap stableford pairs matchplay and we were creamed - six losses and two draws. Still it's always fun to needle your opponents whilst you are being thrashed. An individual club competition was held on the same day, generously sponsored by **Thai International Airways**. In first place was me with 40 points. Jamie Woodford came second with 39 points and David Lamb was third with 38 points.

A barbecue was held on the following evening and a special thanks goes to Khun

Ben and Khun Premsi for their kind hospitality, a wonderful spread and their good taste in music.

Committee Trounced

The competition for the Deemed Trophy between the committee and the members was held at Majestic Creek on 6th December. The committee were severely beaten but then it was five against twenty. I would also like to thank Don Robertson for clearing me out of all my cash. There was also an individual competition and it turned into a family affair with Bridget and Guy Snow in first and third place. In second place was Bernie Adams. Bridget was also presented with the Ambassador Cup having achieved the highest net score amongst all the players with a handicap of 24 and higher. Well done Bridget!

Karen Carter



Bogey Jo desperate to go



Alexis thrilled with her prize



A kiss at last



Flight A winner, Dick Blackmore



Carole topples in



Bridget wins longest drive

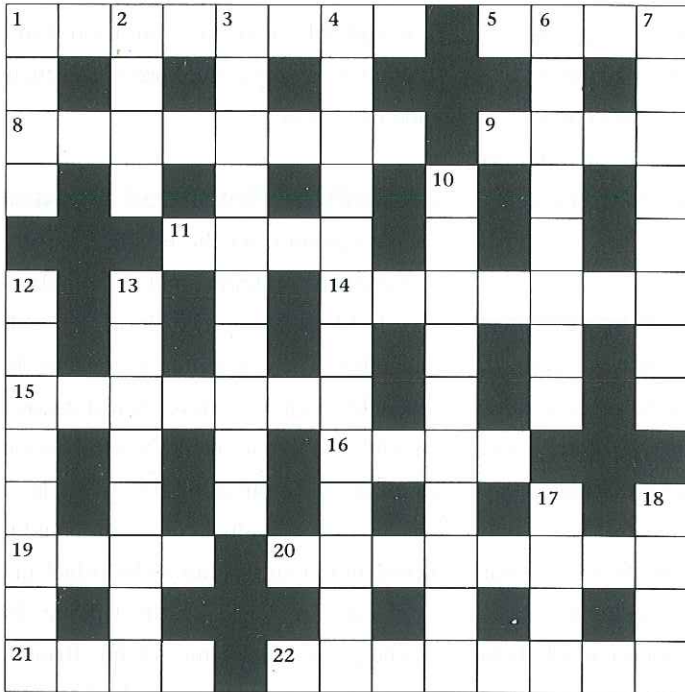


Members Captain, Peter Gouldby, accepts the Deemed Trophy



Guy Snow receiving his prize from AsiaPac's Paul Nears

Start as you mean to go on...



The New Year shouldn't begin with cross words, but this one you can indulge in without fear of retribution. Dig out your woollen socks, light the fire and curl up in the rocker with this brain tickler. (Yes, I know this is Bangkok, but these cold-climate comments seem to fit.)

Puzzle supremo, Margaret Miller, is again to be thanked for supplying the first of what I hope will be many 1999 crosswords for us all to enjoy.

Clues

Across

- 1 Did Ferdinand the Bull kiss these flowers?
- 5 Right in the charge - costs nothing
- 8 Put Mary into confusion - threatening!
- 9 By that very datum- _____ facto
- 11 Just half
- 14 A Rep. Sir? Yes, he hopes!
- 15 Unproductive
- 16 "Sir, we are a _____ of singing birds." (Dr. Johnson)
- 19 It's just a joint
- 20 A garment that's a must in the climate of Britain
- 21 Ties somehow for this location
- 22 A flower that blooms in the spring

Down

- 1 To be intent, you say?
- 2 "Ring out the _____, the care, the sin." (Tennyson, In Memoriam)
- 3 They accept your rubbish!
- 4 Britain's system - the Mother of them all, they say!
- 6 Mended - and went out
- 7 Eric's toe is for the chosen few!
- 10 The way Concord goes
- 12 "Experience is the name everyone gives to their _____." (Oscar Wilde)
- 13 Old drink in the Middle East
- 17 Noel Coward said that the natives swoon at this time - but not Mad Dogs and Englishmen!
- 18 A hut - very large in the U.S.A.

December's Solution

F	I	V	E	G	O	L	D	R	I	N	G	S
R	O	O	U	A	A	I						
O	N	I	O	N	N	A	T	A	L			
S	C	E	C	K	I	E						
T	R	E	E	S	H	Y	E	V	E	N		
Y	S			H	O							
				A	C	A	N	D	L	E		
B	B			R	E					J	S	
R	U	L	E	P	A	L		D	I	S	C	
I	O			T	P			K	N	O		
G	A	T	E	S	R			N	I	G	H	T
H	T			A	O			O	L	C		
T	W	O	F	R	O	N	T	T	E	E	T	H

British Club General Committee



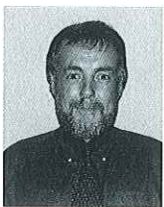
**James
Young**



**Nick
Bellamy**



**Dugal
Forrest**



**David
Henton**



**David
Turner**



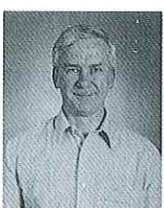
**Bernie
Adams**



**Colin
Hastings**



**Peter
Bond**



**James
Woodford**

The Committee is:

James Young	Chairman	Tel: 712 5407-9	Fax: 712 5410
Nick Bellamy	Treasurer	Tel: 679 6444	Fax: 236 5226
Bernie Adams	Sport	Tel: 861 0608	Fax: 861 0484
Dugal Forrest	Club History/ Centenary	Tel: 398 3807	Fax: 399 1564
Colin Hastings	Food & Beverage	Tel: 237 8024	
David Henton	Club Development	Tel: 661 6734-5	Fax: 260 5220
Peter Bond	Entertainment/ Promotions	Tel: 656 7732	Fax: 255 5759
David Turner	Policies and Procedures	Tel: 618 6516	Fax: 279 1234
James Woodford	Security and Membership	Tel: 326 0660	Fax: 326 1123

Club Staff



**Tom
Bain**
General Manager

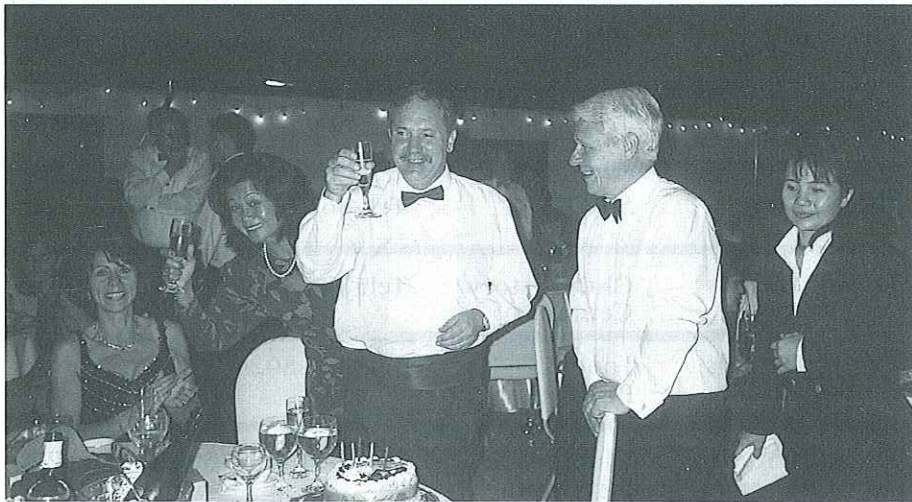


**Barry
Osborne**
Operations Manager

If you have any questions about the British Club or if you have any suggestions, please call any the Committee Members above or the General Manager on 234 0247, 266 4734 or 266 0597 or email us on <britclub@loxinfo.co.th>

A Cool Yule but a 'Hot' Night on the BC Lawn

Saturday, 12th December saw this year's Christmas Ball. The day was cool (for Bangkok) and clear. The usual last-minute jockeying for extra places took place and we finished up with exactly 400 guests!



Jim Napier of Carlsberg wishes the GM a happy birthday

At 7.30 p.m. the cocktail reception got underway on the front lawn. The Dusit Thani Hotel provided a great display with their ice carvings and, cocktails in hand, the guests mixed and mingled to the sound of Jingle Bells.

This year the move to the back lawn went smoothly and everyone was ready to dine at 8.30. David Turner, representing the Committee, introduced the guests of honour, H.E. Mr. William Fisher, the Australian Ambassador, and H.E. Mr. Bernard Giroux, the Canadian Ambassador. Toasts to the King of Thailand and the Queen were made, after which dinner was served.

Starting the menu for the evening was lemongrass-skewered grilled seafood, followed by traditional turkey with all the trimmings and Christmas Pud for dessert. A delicious meal, enjoyed by all.

The meal over, Patrick L'Argent, our M.C. for the evening, introduced the band, 'Tony and Friends'. Everyone was up and dancing straightaway and entering into the spirit of the evening.

Many people made it through 'til breakfast at 2.00 a.m. and feedback since the event has been very positive.

The staff from the Dusit and the BC teamed up well together and worked extremely

hard to ensure the members and their guests had a good time.

I would especially like to thank the Australian and Canadian Ambassadors for attending the event and I hope they had an enjoyable evening (they appeared to!).

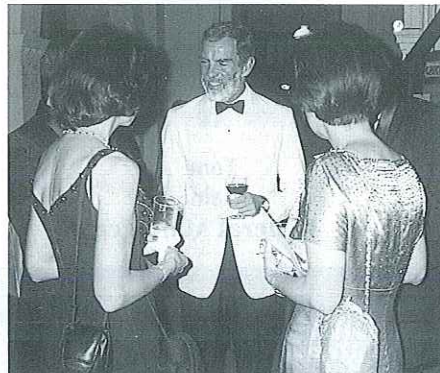
I would also like to record my appreciation to all the companies that donated gifts for the evening's prizes (their company names are listed in the Christmas Ball menu). Our major sponsors for the evening were **PTK Liquorland**, who supplied wine for the tables and pre-dinner cocktails, **Carlsberg** who supplied the beer for the night, and **Coca Cola** and **Greenspot** who supplied soft drinks and mixers.

All in all, a great evening and don't forget to make a date for next year's Ball scheduled for Saturday, 11th December.

Tom Bain



David Turner greets the Canadian Ambassador, H.E. Bernard Giroux, while the GM talks to the Ambassador's wife, Marjolaine



The Australian Ambassador H.E. William Fisher



The party in full swing

The Christmas Ball



The BC Bar



...and some of the BC staff



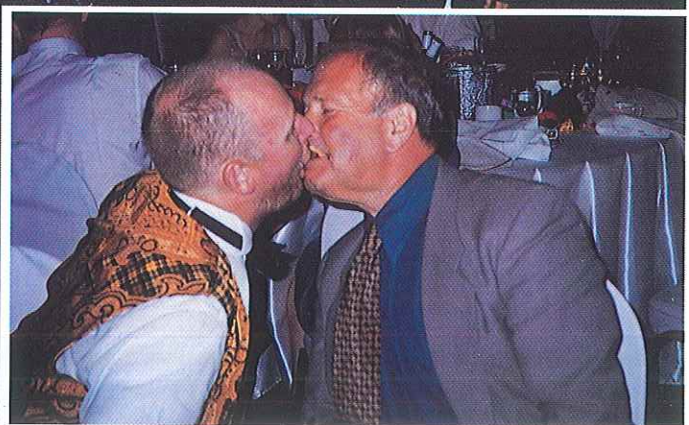
Barry is lured onto the dancefloor by an enchanting Ann Napier



The Christmas Ball



The new Editor's husband, Martin, with ex-Editor Gaynor and recently-departed SRC Lisa Fitzpatrick and her fiancé, Kevin



"Here, try this, it's delicious!"

If music be the food of love - dance on!

Fresh from their triumph of negotiating the dance floor in ever-decreasing circles to the Ballroom classics (Waltz, Quickstep and Tango), the BC dance class of '98 shifted gear in November, oiled their hair and their hips and went Latino!

Within a mere six weekly lessons they were able to Cha-Cha, Rhumba, Samba and Jive with some semblance of ability. The men resisted the urge to don black shirts, Cuban heel boots and false moustaches. The ladies in turn resisted plunging necklines and flamenco-style dresses, but all in all the class looked slick. The instructors from **Bangkok Dance**

were superb and showed incredible patience as the class tried to get their bodies around the basic Latin movements. How did the instructors get those slim and rhythmic hips and make it look so easy?

With plans to hit the Monarch Lee Gardens dance floor on a Saturday night, the class dispersed hoping for follow-up

intermediate lessons in 1999. Another beginners course would also win support within the BC based on the positive feedback received by the class of '98.



Julio

Scottish Dancing



Mayhem and twirling on the front lawn in November for the St Andrew's dance practices

Fireworks and Guy Competition

Sunday, 8th November saw the Club celebrating its annual Guy Fawkes programme and this year around 400 people gathered for the evening's fun and enjoyment.

At 5.30 pm the barbeque on the backlawn commenced. The adults relaxed with a quiet drink while the children had a great time running everywhere. As darkness fell, it was time to judge the Guy competition. This year there were eleven Guys, all extremely well made. Mrs Carcasson had a very hard time judging the entries but eventually was able to whittle her choice down to three winners. Each winning entry received a tub of **Baskin Robbins** ice cream.

Next it was off to the back carpark to burn the Guys. The kids had a great time

watching the flames burn bright and the Guys reduced to ashes. The grand finale of the evening was the firework display on the front lawn. This year we used a different company for the show and they really did us proud with one of the most spectacular displays ever.

Many thanks to Mrs Carcasson for judging the Guy competition and to Les Mouat for organising free carparking in the AIA carpark.

Tom Bain



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