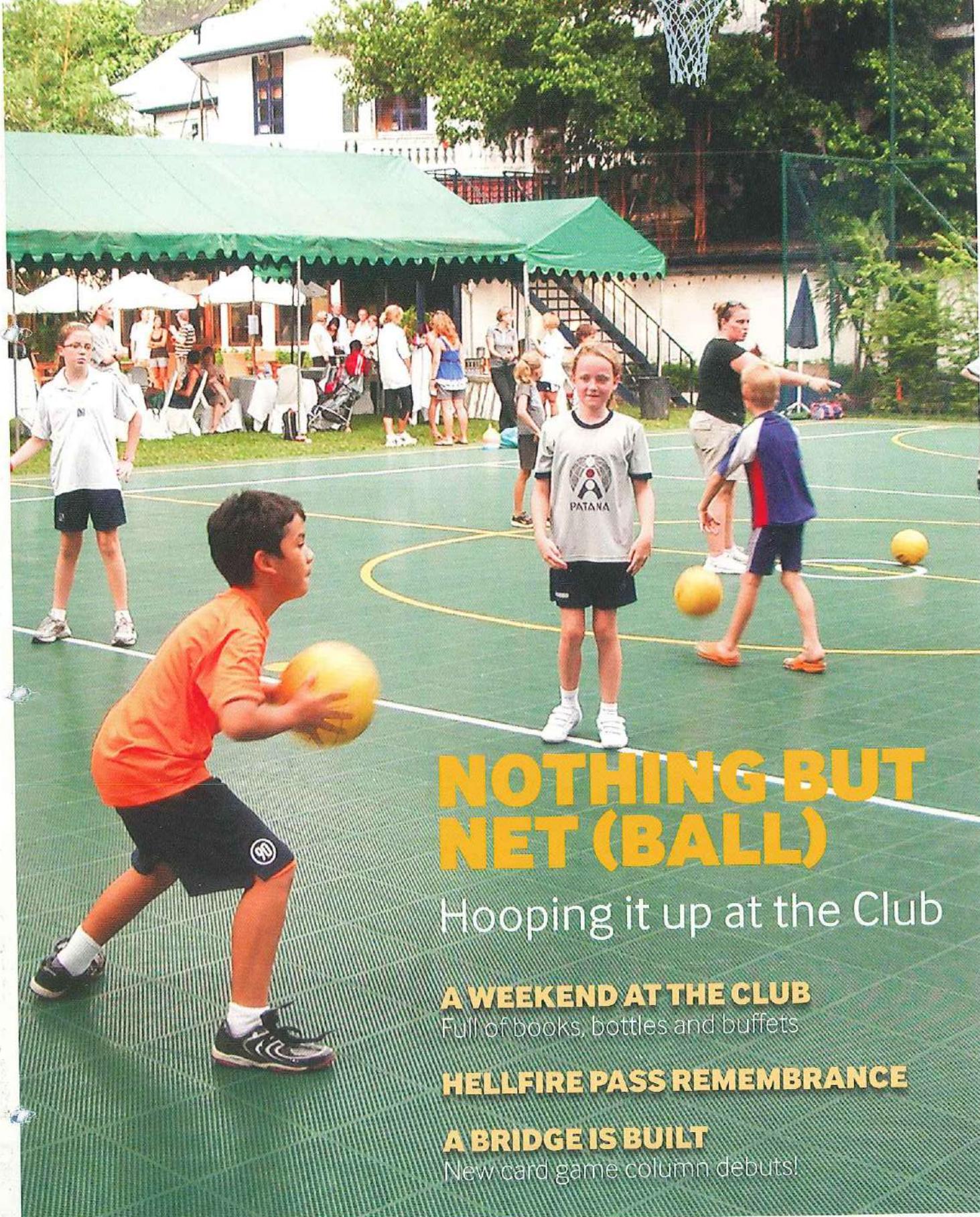




THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

OUTPOST

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK



NOTHING BUT NET (BALL)

Hooping it up at the Club

A WEEKEND AT THE CLUB

Full of books, bottles and buffets

HELLFIRE PASS REMEMBRANCE

A BRIDGE IS BUILT

New card game column debuts!



BANGKOK PREP

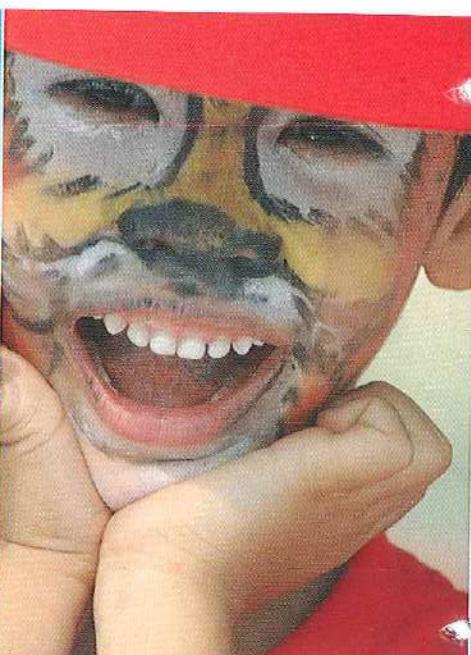
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OUTPOST

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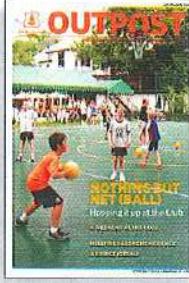
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FRONT COVER

Netball lands big at the Club with over two dozen kids participating in 10th October's junior netball event on the Club's Back Lawn court.

i think, therefore IB



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Jonathan Truslow
Chairman - General
Committee 2009/2010

I turn this month's Letter over to John Bleho for an update on Club sections. – Jonathan

British Club members enjoy a variety of sports and clubbable activities. The Club is unusual in that members, rather than professional club management, take the lead in forming and running their sports and recreational sections.

The Sections Working Group (SWG) works to develop active member-based sports and recreational groups because we believe that the sections and their activities make the British Club a more lively and interesting place for all members – and critical to the Club's growth.

Active sections are the key to recruiting new members, particularly younger ones. By working to strengthen existing sections and to revive traditional sections that have gone dormant while helping to create new ones, we hope to make the Club more attractive to new members... and more fun for current ones.

To that end, we've worked closely with Sports Manager Reed Passmore and interested members to create new sections that appeal to younger members like hockey, racquetball and junior netball, whose fun event on 10 October involved over two dozen kids and their parents and introduced many of them to the Club and its charms.

Using BC grounds and sports facilities for fun events, inter-club matches and competitions that appeal to a wide range of ages makes sense to us. So does providing long-term technical and BC management support so that sections more effectively serve their members.

To that end, we've actively assisted the tennis section, Reed and professional tennis coach Pierre Sequier as they've developed weekly junior and adult coaching clinics and a calendar of social and competitive club events, both at the Club and away. Reed and his team also work closely with the squash section.

Our focus is not just on new and big established sections. We also look to revive inactive groups that reflect BC history and traditions, such as cricket, which, thanks to Jack Dunford's efforts, reconstituted itself at an AGM on 6 October and plans its first away matches in November.

To ensure that all sections are overwhelmingly made up of BC members and also support Club members' interests, we're looking to clarify Club by-laws governing the establishment and management of sections, and we're closely working with field sport sections so that BC members once again make up a majority of their players.

Thanks for bearing with me. It's been a busy half-year since Ian, Reed, Sally and I started work on the SWG... and there's still lots to do! Thanks in advance for your support and feedback.

John Bleho (B386)
john@bleho.com



HOUSE & GROUNDS

The monthly report on Maintenance and Development



I am pleased to report that the electrical repair and modification work was completed on 12th October. Inspection and testing of the installations by our consultant, Electrical Safety Consultants, indicated that the work had generally been carried out to a high standard. Fabrizio Mazzocchi's company, New Electrical Technology, is to be congratulated on completing a very tricky and time-consuming contract with such diligence. We now have an electrical infrastructure that complies with both the Thai Electrical Code and the British Institution of Electrical Engineers requirements for Electrical Installations, BS7671:2008.

The next stage of the facility upgrades is for our maintenance staff to fit 3-pin plugs on all electrical equipment and, where necessary, install 3-core cables. In order to achieve reasonable energy conservation, we are replacing the seals on refrigerator doors, adjusting thermostats to a sensible level and preparing a replacement proposal for the A/C units. Certain safety-related issues are being addressed, including the emergency lighting, blocked exit routes and access to the electrical distribution boards.

The pest management specialist carried out another inspection at the end of September. The inspection indicated some minor termite activity at the Verandah and in the lawn area adjacent to the Suriwongse Sala. Other areas, including perimeter locations covered by the termite bait stations, seem to be clear for the time being.

I have now recommended, and had acceptance by the General Committee of, a quotation for refurbishment of the Men's Changing Room. Work is due to commence on 12th October and finish by 22nd November. This will inconvenience many members, but we will try our best to minimize the dust and disruption. Members have complained continually about the problems in this room, and it is fair to say that the refurbishment is long overdue. The existing lockers will be relocated to the external walkway, and once the work is completed, members can transfer their kit to the new lockers.

At the time of writing this report, I am reviewing quotations for the work in the Verandah and Churchill Bars. The scope of work we are planning is intended to satisfy the requirements of the motion approved at the AGM in March 2007 that Phase 1 of the Club Development should be completed in its entirety and to members' satisfaction. There is obviously a financial constraint to this objective, and now it is not cost effective to make major changes to the design concept. The scope of work

will correct some of the features most disliked by members or those that were simply built incorrectly. The design will not be fundamentally changed.

First of all, the Verandah: Our plan is to commence work on 2nd November to replace the termite-damaged floor with teak flooring and skirting. Where necessary, work will be carried out at night to minimize disruption. The bar shelves and the wall finishes in the dogleg will be carried out in mid November. The new chairs are due to be delivered by the third week of November, when the area should be complete. New artwork will be provided in keeping with the general décor.

Less work will need to be carried out on The Churchill Bar. The entrance steps will be rebuilt to comply with British Building Regulation requirements. The ceramic flooring will be replaced with wood flooring around the bar and a suitable washable floor covering inside the bar.

Minor maintenance items in progress are as follows: Repair of playground equipment, refurbishment of swimming pool start blocks and repair of pool tiling (we are waiting for delivery of special epoxy glue). Items currently being priced include additional modifications to the cricket nets, installation of a childproof gate at the ramp between the car park and the Silom Sala, provision of a towel kiosk at the swimming pool and replacement of the termite-damaged parquet flooring in the Clubhouse corridor.

The roof over the single storey Clubhouse annexe consists of an asbestos roof sheeting, which could be at least 20 years old. This has some serious leaks, and therefore, we are getting quotations for replacement. For the record, the roofs and gutters on the main Clubhouse building and the Changing Room/Squash Court block were replaced in 2003/2004. After five years, there are some minor problems that will also be dealt with.

The manufacturer of the Greenset tennis court surface sent a technical representative from Germany to inspect the courts on 6 October. His report will be issued by mid October. A decision can then be made about the repair of the surface.

All for now.

John Boisclair
Development & Facility Manager



BAZZA'S BANTER

Dear Members,

This November, we kick off the holiday celebrations (both from home and Thai) to carry us through the rest of the year.

Starting with our annual fireworks spectacular for Guy Fawkes Day on 1st November, there will be special performances by the kids from Thungmahamek School, who will perform a range of acrobatics and dancing to celebrate the Loy Krathong festival, which is to be held on November 2nd this year. There are tickets still available for Guy Fawkes Day and can be booked by contacting the reception or by sending a fax or email to the Club. Please note that the Club's car park is closed from 10pm on Saturday, 31st October until 10pm on Sunday, 1st November. The Club will close at 3.30pm and reopen at 4pm only for ticket holders of the Guy Fawkes event. There is no alternative car parking arranged. Suzie will be on hand with her activities, one of which will be designing the cover for the December edition of Outpost!

The following day we will be celebrating the Thai festival of Loy Krathong aboard the Chao Phraya Princess, with a delicious Thai and international buffet, live music and an amazing fireworks display. Krathongs are, of course, included. To book, send a fax or email to the Club, book online or at Clubhouse reception. For more information, please contact Khun Apple or me.

On 20th November, we will be holding our annual Christmas wine tasting in all upstairs rooms of the Club. There will be 14 wine companies present and one wine accessory company. The wine tasting is from 6pm until 9pm as usual, but this month, we have a cover charge of 100 baht per person. Khun Laak will create some special Christmas canapés for this evening.

Inserted in this month's Outpost, you will find your Christmas order list. As you can see, the list is more comprehensive than last year. The Christmas orders are very popular, so if you want the Club to cater for you this festive season, please order your Christmas goods now to avoid disappointment. If you need any advice with the order, please contact Khun Laak, Apple or me. Also, if you wish to use the Club's catering services over the next few months, we can cater any variety of food you wish, here at the Club or at your home. But, definitely, book now – we have a small catering team that gets booked very quickly in the holiday season. Contact Khun Somboon, Apple or me for a quote.

We already have over 80 members booked for Christmas lunch, with The Churchill Bar already full. We have a few places remaining in the

Verandah and on the back lawn. If you want to attend Christmas lunch at the Club, please book now. On Christmas Day, children are allowed in the Churchill Bar under parental supervision until 6pm. At Christmas lunch, there will be no à la carte items in the Clubhouse, but we will have an extensive Christmas buffet. In the evening, the buffet is available in the Verandah only but à la carte items will also be on hand.

Bookings are also being taken for the Club's annual Christmas ball to be held under the stars of Bangkok this 12th December. The cost is 3000 baht per person and includes open bar and canapés from 7-8pm, followed by a Christmas dinner with a half bottle of wine per person. The music will be by Major Somkiat and the Royal Thai Army Band, to be followed by Paul Jackson disco. Breakfast will be served at 2am. Tickets also include a lucky draw with many nice prizes to be won. To book, send a fax or email to the Club, book online or at Clubhouse reception. Contact Somboon, Apple or me for further details.

We are now taking bookings for the Club's annual New Year's cruise. We have managed to keep the cost down to the same as last year – 3,600 baht per person. The evening starts off with a cocktail party from 9-10pm, and then we board the boat at 10pm, where dinner will be served, followed by disco from DJ Mike Allin, fireworks and countdown at midnight. The open bar lasts from 9pm until midnight, and the evening ends back on dry land at 2am. Bookings are limited to 180 passengers; we already have 80 bookings, so please book now... once again, contact the usual suspects for further details.

Other events planned are the children's Christmas ball, the children's Christmas party, a Christmas party from Kru Noi's orphanage and lots more! Make sure to keep track of all upcoming events by checking out the calendar on the Club's website and, of course, Outpost magazine.

To celebrate Oktoberfest back in October, we offered up assorted German sausages and deep-fried German pork knuckle, à la tawandang style, as well as German beers. Well, in November each Wednesday, Laak will arrange some delicious thin-pan pizzas, chicken wings, and more. These will be available every Wednesday to replace the paella menu. Try the pizzas – we have, and they taste (and look) great!

**Regards,
Baz**

ITEMS FOR SALE

The chairs and stools in the Verandah are for sale. If you would like to make a bid for some of the chairs, please contact Barry or Khun Prem (contact info for either is on page 2).



MEET THE CLUB'S "NEW" STAFF



Vindu Chawla

Hello Dear Members. I hope its not too late to introduce myself to all of you in the November issue even though I joined the club at the end of August! I'm Miss Vindu Chawla, the Club's new Membership Manager.

I'd like to thank our GC Mr. Jonathan, our GM Khun Barry and last – but definitely not the least – Khun Prem for giving me the opportunity to work in this full-of-fun environment. The day I walked in for the interview, I just fell in love with this place.

I don't feel as if I'm working here; it's more like a family and friends getting together everyday, which really makes me wanna work 7 days a week... uh, K. Barry, please skip this statement of mine na ka.

Please feel free to contact me for any assistance needed, and I offer a special welcome to members who would want to introduce new members to the club!

Enjoy the quality time at our Club. I send a 'thank you' for the warm welcome that all of you have extended to me.

Cheers! :)

What a great chance to express my formal greetings to everyone in this issue of Outpost! Let me start by introducing myself – my name is Anongluck Lim, but you can call me by my easy nickname, "Apple". I have been working in the Club as the Communications Coordinator since August 2009. Some members may have met me at some recent events like the Bar Quiz or Wine Tasting (or both!) as the ever-present photographer. Thank you for your warm welcome.



Anongluck 'Apple' Lim

Smiles are everywhere in the Club, and that was my first impression that I will never forget! Here, it seems not to be a "skyscraper workplace" but a place with a lot of liveliness in such a natural environment (this may sound like it comes from an advert for the Club – ha! – but it is true). Thank you to Khun Barry and Khun Prem, who have both given me this great opportunity and, once again, thanks to all the members who have given – and continue to give – me a lovely welcome.

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COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1st

Guy Fawkes 2009 Fireworks Spectacular

We are celebrating our annual Guy Fawkes event here at the Club starting at 4pm. The car park will be closed from 10pm on Saturday, 31st October, until 10pm on Sunday, 1st November. There is no alternative car parking arranged. The Club closes at 3.30pm on Sunday and reopens at 4pm to Guy Fawkes ticket holders. There are plenty of activities for the kids – Susie and her team will be here, as well as pottery crafts with Clay Play company and the Club's bouncy castle until 6.30pm. And this year, we have a special performance by the kids from the Thungmahamek orphanage who will perform a specially designed acrobatics show and some dancing for the Loy Krathong festival that will be celebrated in Thailand on 2nd November. The cost of the event is 700 baht for adults, 500 baht for children under 12 and 150 baht for children under 2, and includes the BBQ supper from 4.30-7pm, kids activities, fireworks at 7pm and bonfire at 7.15pm. To book, send a fax or email to the Club or sign up at Clubhouse reception. For further information, please contact Khun Apple or Barry.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd

Loy Krathong Festival 2009

This year, we have booked places aboard the Chao Phraya Princess Dinner Cruise to celebrate the Thai festival of Loy Krathong. The cost is 3000 baht for adults and 2,000 baht for children under 12 years old and includes transport leaving from the Club at 6.30pm, a Thai and international buffet dinner, live music, fireworks and, of course, your Krathongs. To book your table, sign up at Clubhouse reception or send a fax or email to the Club. For further information, please contact Khun Apple or Barry.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd

Tetley Smooth Flow Bar Quiz

The British Club Quiz will be held in the Verandah at 7.30pm. As usual, Bangkok's premier Quizmaster, Rodney Bain, will be asking four rounds of nineteen questions (on a range of subjects from 'Asia' to 'Celebrities'), each ending in the dreaded "Common Denominator". Prizes go to First, Second, Third and 'Second-to-Last'. There are also three 'between-round' questions, sponsored by Crown Worldwide Relocations, where your team has the chance to win drinks. So get a team of friends (up to six, with at least one Club member per team) to come along and join in the fun, or just pop along to see if we can fit you in!

WEDNESDAYS, NOVEMBER 4th AND 18th

BCB Balut Shield

You are welcome to join the monthly BCB Balut Shield Competition – 24 tournaments throughout the year; your BEST SIX count toward the Shield. The BCB Balut Shield is held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7.05pm in The Wordsworth Lounge. Scores made available on the Balut notice board and on our website after each competition.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

The Wedding of Sarah Jane Smith

David Tennant makes a guest appearance as 'The Doctor' in this new adventure of Sarah Jane Smith. This award-winning Children's BBC spin-off series from Doctor Who is now in its third year and stars Elizabeth Sladen as Sarah Jane Smith, the journalist ex-companion of both the Third and Fourth Doctors, Jon Pertwee and Tom Baker. In this story, Sarah Jane is joined by her adopted son Luke (Tommy Knight) and his school friends Clyde (Daniel Anthony) and Rani (Anjli Mohindra), with special guests David Tennant and Nigel Havers. This adventure will be shown in the Suriwongse Room at 11am and, as part of CBBC, is suitable for children of all ages.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27th

Fight Night

The Landmark Hotel and The British Club host the second "Fight Night" at the Club. 2400 baht per ticket, tables of 8, 3-course sit-down dinner, beer and wine. 8 great fights. Wine tasting at 7pm, move to ringside at 7:30pm. Tickets are limited – book now!

MONDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Monday Night Club

We continue our series of TV movies of famous detectives every Monday in November with 'The Moving Finger' on the 2nd, 'Death in the Clouds' on the 9th, a Holmes double bill on the 16th and 'At Bertram's Hotel' on the 23rd. Each evening starts at 7pm in the Wordsworth Lounge with the full F&B menu available.

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Swimming Lessons

Fridays, 3-5:30pm, and Saturdays, 10am-2pm; children of all ages. 325 baht per lesson. Sign up in the fitness centre, or contact Reed for more information.

OFFICIAL OPENING TIMES

The Verandah

11am - 2pm (Mon. - Thurs.)
5pm - 10pm (Mon. - Thurs.)
11am - 10pm (Fri. - Sun. and Public Holidays)

Neilson Hays Coffee Shop

9am - 6pm (Tues.-Sun.)

Fitness Centre 6am - 10pm (Mon.-Fri.)

Churchill Bar

10am - 11pm

Fitness Centre 6am - 9pm (Sat.-Sun.)

Poolside Bar

7am - 10pm
Last food orders - 9.30pm

Thai Massage 9am - 5pm (Tues.-Sun.)

A WEEKEND AT THE CLUB

Wow, we had a great weekend here at the Club over the weekend of the 25th to 27th September!

On Friday the 25th, we held our monthly wine tasting and the most recent New Members Night in the Suriwongse Room from 6pm until 9pm. This month, over 100 members attended, and there were six wine companies present, as well as a wine accessory company. As usual, Khun Laak arranged some tasty canapés to compliment the wines. All the companies were kept busy, with members tasting the excellent wines – then purchasing at great discounted prices!

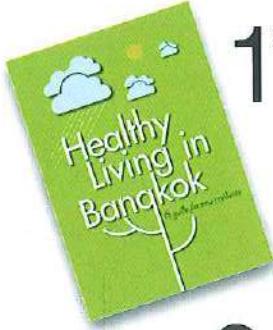
Whilst this was all going on upstairs, the kids' video night was being held in the Silom Sala. This takes place every week and is free. Khun Awe looks after the kids while they enjoy a great movie, leaving time for parents to have a drink in the Salas or attend the wine tasting.

Khun Laak created her new Spanish promotion in the Verandah, and dishes included seafood paella, Apache soup, summer vegetables with poached eggs, Madrid salad, salad with Roquefort dressing, honey baked ham with oranges, chocolate and coconut cake orange cheesecake and lots more. Of course, there were lots of olives and a special Sangria punch. Over 35 members enjoyed the buffet.

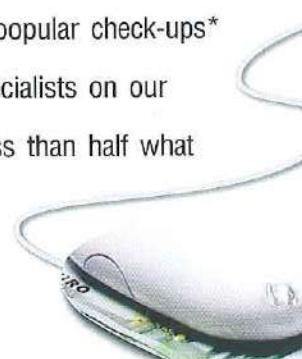
As if this wasn't fun enough for the weekend, Saturday was just as full. Reed had his regular swimming lessons, there was a birthday party in the back lawn, a private members function in the Verandah and the Big Book Day Two party held at the Neilson Hays (see full details on page 13 of Outpost). On Sunday, all outlets were packed, and Poolside and the Verandah had their busiest days of the year. It ended up being a great weekend at the Club all round!



Free health resources for new residents



- 1** Get *Healthy Living in Bangkok: A Guide for New Residents*, a 24-page booklet written by local doctors and infectious disease specialists. Email us at the address below and we'll send it to you.
- 2** Subscribe to *Better Health*, our colorful quarterly magazine. You can pick up your free copy at our hospital, or we'll send it to your home.
- 3** Join our Healthy Living Club. As a member you'll receive savings up to 30%. It's available to residents of Thailand and membership is free when you get one of our popular check-ups* at Bumrungrad.
- 4** You can review the credentials of hundreds of specialists on our website. And find the cost of common procedures (probably less than half what you paid back home) at www.bumrungrad.com/realcost.



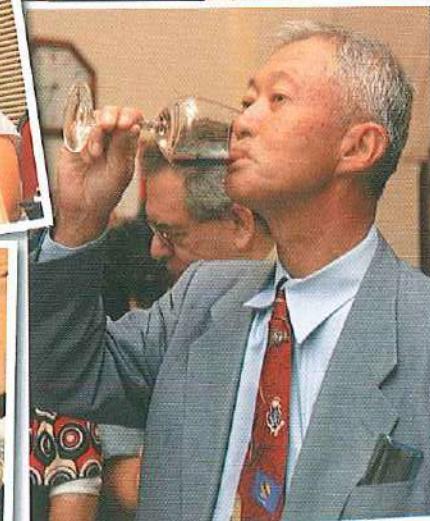
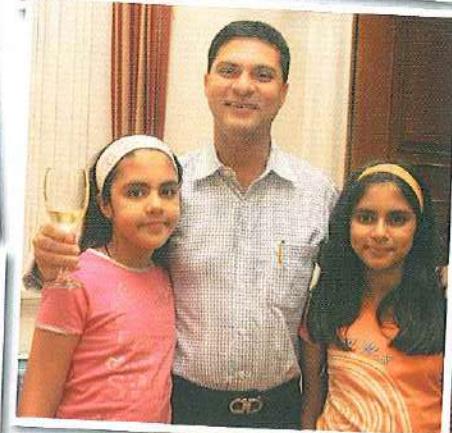
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A WEEKEND AT THE CLUB WINE TASTING



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Front lawn for 1 hour cocktail reception
Back lawn for
4 course Christmas dinner
Half bottle of wine per person
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Please R.S.V.P. or sign up at
Club reception

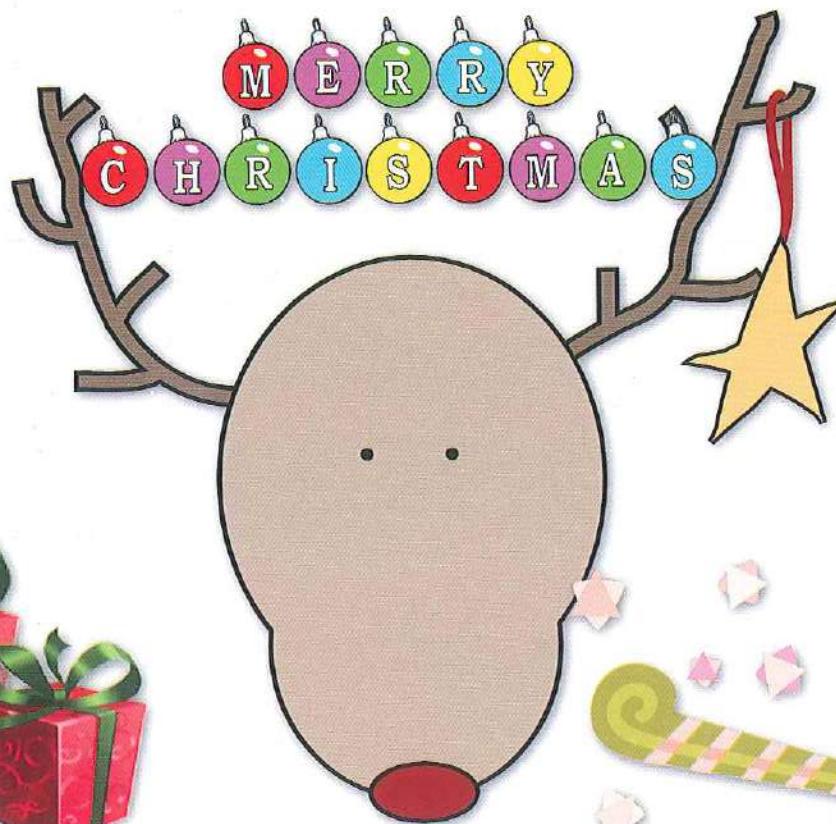
or

contact Khun Barry at
info@britishclubbangkok.org
Tel. 02-234-0247

Children's Christmas Party 15th Dec.



Activities include crafts, the Club's bouncy castle, pony rides, puppet show, magic show, giant slide and lots, lots more. A picnic tea follows at 4.45pm on the front lawn and then everybody's favourite, Santa Claus, will make a special appearance bearing gifts for all the children. The event costs **450** baht (**2 to 12** years) and **150** baht (**under 2 and adults**). Contact Khun Apple or Barry for more information. To book, send a fax or email to the Club or sign up at Clubhouse Reception. Starts at 2 p.m. /15 DEC 09



Tuesday, 15th DECEMBER 2009.
Please Sign up at Reception.



A WEEKEND AT THE CLUB

BIG BOOK PARTY 2

Last year's Big Book Party was such a great success that we decided to make it an annual event. This year, Eric Carle's much-loved "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" had its 40th birthday, and Janice Santikarn's "Nawin Saves the Elephants" was relaunched, so a celebration of "Animals Big and Small" was declared. The Big Book Party 2, hosted jointly by the Neilson Hays Library and the British Club, kicked off on the morning of Saturday, 26th September.

First up, the kids were treated to storytelling with Ajarn Lloyd's lively rendition of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". More Eric Carle selections – "Rooster's Off to See the World", "The Mixed-Up Chameleon", and "A House for Hermit Crab" – were read throughout the day, with some notable performances by Neilson Hays President Beverly De Sonier and tireless Children's Programs Assistant Leah van Wilgen.

Next, the kids filled the library for the unveiling of Janice Santikarn's latest book. It tells the story of the young boy Nawin's meeting with a baby elephant and how he learns that elephants in Thailand are suffering because the jungles are disappearing and they no longer have a place to live. The captivated audience also heard how Nawin ventured to the city to ask for the King's help, and everyone was relieved to find that the King eventually found a new home for the elephants. If you'd like to buy a copy of Janice's book, it is available at major bookstores in Bangkok; or if you are lucky, you could still win a copy... read on to learn how.



Some of the Cadbury chocolate bars sold on the day secretly contained an "animal" coupon. Those lucky enough to find an "animal" inside their chocolate bar received a selection of Janice Santikarn's books. The 1st prize winner was young Australian Oliver Howe, who amazingly had travelled all the way from Pattaya with his mum and dad just to attend the day's event! However, not all animal coupons have yet been found, so if you hurry along to the Club's Suriwongse Sala and purchase one of these special chocolates, you might still be a winner!

Following story time, the kids headed out to the Neilson Hays garden, where Susie and her team were waiting with tables loaded with crafts and activities – animal masks, elephant puppets, face painting, and more. The Plant-A-Tree people were back again this year with games to play and potted plants to be won, and kids who approached their booth learned how we can all help keep Thailand beautiful by planting more trees. Khun Noi and her team of clay modelers also joined us again, and kids flocked to their tables to make and take home bright green "Very Hungry" caterpillars.

At noon, it was back into the library for a special talk by young Dutch woman Antoinette Van de Water. Antoinette has been helping with the conservation of Thai elephants for many years and very kindly came along to tell us what we all can do to help. Antoinette's talk was followed by a fun video starring baby elephants from the Elephant Nature Park in Chiang Mai.

Following a delicious lunch with choices from the buffet table, plus hot dogs, sandwiches, drinks, popcorn and the chocolate fountain, of course (all organized by Khun Somboon), there was still plenty to do. The "Little Blue Tuk-Tuk" was parked in the library for kids to climb in and "drive", the bouncy castle was a lifesaver for exhausted parents, and Scholastic books proved popular for mums and dads doing some early Christmas shopping.

With over 130 children in attendance, Big Book Day 2 more than matched the success of last year. Many thanks to Barry and the staff at the British Club, as well as Bev and the board and staff of the Neilson Hays Library, for all their hard work in joining forces to make this a wonderful event.

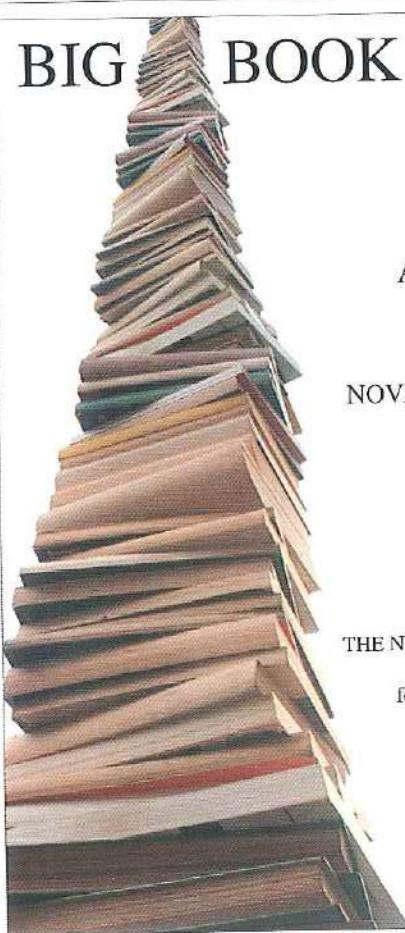
With this year's party over, we are now putting thoughts to next year's event... what shall we celebrate at Big Book Party 3?

BIG BOOK SALE

HUNDREDS
OF QUALITY
USED BOOKS
AT LOW PRICES

NOVEMBER 21st & 22nd
9.30am - 1pm

THE NEILSON HAYS LIBRARY
196 SURAWONG ROAD
for more information email
neilson@loxinfo.co.th



BAAN KRU NOI



The Club has hosted the Children's Charity Christmas Party for ten years, and this year, we have invited Ban Kru Noi. We are asking members to donate towards the cost of the party. Please contact Clubhouse reception, Khun Apple or Barry for your donation.

While many people are willing to help others when they are ready to help, Kru Nuannoi Timkul or "Kru Noi" ("Teacher Noi") gives a hand to underprivileged children, even though she has had a stroke and isn't rich. Initially, she worked in straitened circumstances for several years until 1987 when the Department of Public Welfare guaranteed "Ban Kru Noi" ("Teacher Noi's House") as able to look after underprivileged children.

Kru Noi grew up in a poor family, so her experience made her understand the poverty of children who do not have any chances to study or even to serve their basic needs. Kru Noi intends to help these children to pass the crises of life and grow up to be valuable resources for society in the future. Therefore, she has spent her life helping them without giving up, no matter what obstacles or pressures face her.

Kru Noi started helping children in 1980 when she had a stroke that affected her legs and forced her to rest at her small house in Soi Ratburana 26, Thonburi. This allowed her to see laborers' children playing in the fields, with no chance to study at primary level because of poverty and the lack of necessary documents, such as birth certificates and house registration forms. Kru Noi decided to use her house as a place for the children, to give food to them and to teach them to be literate. Since then, her extreme generosity has been much talked about, and many people take their children to live with her, even though Kru Noi is massively indebted for food and other expenses.

Ten years ago, Kru Noi's story received attention from the mass media. Organisations, foundations and the general public started giving help to Ban Kru Noi by donating money, food, clothes and toys. They also encouraged the government to allow children to study at primary level without official documents.



Since 1980, Kru Noi has helped about 800 underprivileged children, children with imprisoned parents and homeless children to have a chance for education. Now at Ban Kru Noi, there are a total of 128 children, aged between 6 and 18 years. 98 of them are studying at schools. The rest are very young children and children with multiple disabilities. Many of these children go home at night, while others live at Ban Kru Noi and in houses rented by Kru Noi.

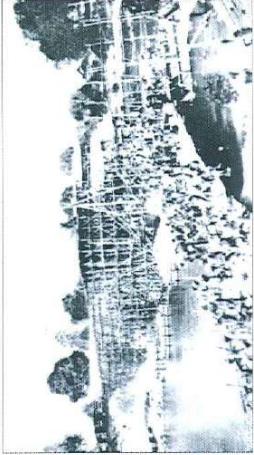
In Ban Kru Noi, there are only ten members of staff, four teachers and six support staff who work in two shifts. Kru Noi not only works at Ban Kru Noi, but also cooperates with many other foundations and organisations, such as Sithasinee Foundation, Srinartsiam School and Sriwara School in Bangkok and in other provinces.

On weekdays after school, weekends, public holidays and vacations, many people come to visit Ban Kru Noi. Also, there are volunteers from many institutions in Bangkok running entertainment and academic activities for the children, like teaching art, music, computing and English, for example, as well as occupational activities such as candle-making. This builds good relationships and allows others to share their kindness and smiles with the children. It may also help the children to change their attitudes and behaviours, so that they can grow up to be good people in the society following Kru Noi's intentions. She wants the children to be happy and doesn't expect anything in return.



HELLFIRE PASS

A Railway To Burma



Burma-Thailand Railway, c. February 1943. Allied prisoners of war (POWs) engaged in bridge building at Tarnhekan, fifty-five kilometres north of Nong Pladuk (also known as Non Pladuk) and five kilometres south of Kanchanaburi (Kamburi). The scaffolding made from bamboo at the site of the eleven span steel bridge, which was completed in April 1943, together with a wooden bridge approximately 100 kilometres downstream, spanned the Mae Klong river (renamed Kwai Yai river in 1966).

In December 1941, the Pacific War began with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour; Hawaii; and the invasion of Malaya. By mid-1942, Japanese forces were fighting the British in Burma, their ultimate aim being an offensive against India. To maintain their armies in Burma, the Japanese needed a more secure supply route than the vulnerable sea-lanes between Singapore and Rangoon. They decided to construct a railway 415 kilometres long, through the jungle and mountain from Ban Pong in Thailand to Thanbyuzayat in Burma.

In 1943, Japan's high command decided to build a railway linking Thailand and Burma to supply its campaign against the Allies in Burma.

The railway was to run 420 kilometres through rugged jungle. It was to be built by a captive labour force of about 60,000 Allied prisoners of war and 200,000 romusha, or Asian labourers. They built the track with hand tools and muscle power, working through the monsoon of 1943. All were urged on by Japanese shouting 'Speedo'!

Relentless labour on inadequate rations in a deadly tropical environment caused huge losses. By the time the railway was completed in October 1943, at least 2,815 Australians, over 11,000 other Allied prisoners and perhaps 75,000 romusha were dead.

The prisoners' sufferings on the railway have come to epitomise the ordeal of Australians in captivity. The railway camps produced many victims, but also heroes who helped others to endure, to survive or to die with dignity.

Building the railway

To build the railway, the Japanese assembled a multi-national workforce of approximately 250,000 Asian labourers and over 60,000 Australian, British, Dutch and American Prisoners of War (POWs). Work on the line began in southern Burma in October 1942, while at the same time construction also started in Thailand. On 16 October 1943, the two ends of the Burma-Thailand railway were joined at Konkola in Thailand.

little modern equipment was made available for railway work. Earth and rock were broken by shovels, picks and chunkels(hoes), and earth were heaped up in baskets or sacks. Embankments of stone and earth were heaped up by human endeavour. Cuttings were driven through rock by hand; metal taps and sledgehammers being used to drill holes for explosives. Most of the bridges along the railway were timber trestle bridges made from timber cut in the surrounding jungle.

From April 1943, the work pace increased greatly as the Japanese strove to meet a proposed August deadline for completion. This was the notorious 'Speedo' period. POWs and Asian labourers worked punishing hours well into the night. At Konyu Cutting the flickering bonfire light on the emaciated workers gave the place its name - Hellfire Pass. The 'speedo' pace, coinciding with the wet season and outbreaks of cholera, claimed thousands of lives.

Between December 1943 and August 1945, some 220,000 tons of military supplies were carried over the railway. Allied air raids hindered the railway's operation, yet the Japanese continued to move supplies along the route. Today, 130 kilometres of the line remains in use, from Non Pladuk to Namtok.

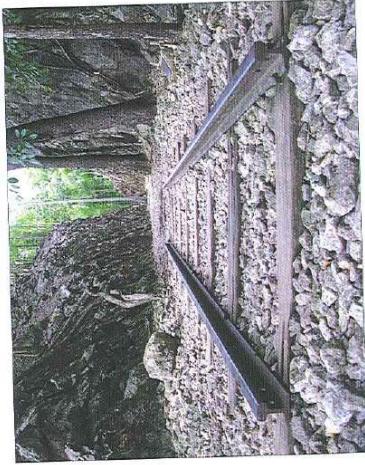
Cost

Of the 60,000 Allied POWs who worked on the railway, 12,399 (20%) died. Between 70,000 and 90,000 civilian labourers are also believed to have died. The reasons for this appalling death toll were lack of proper food, totally inadequate medical facilities and, at times, the brutal treatment from guards and railway supervisors.

Rice, with a little dried vegetable and dried fish, was the POWs' basic food. This meagre diet provided by the Japanese was supplemented to some extent through trade with local people. Starvation led to a range of diseases, including beriberi and pellagra. Weakened POWs living in appalling conditions commonly fell ill to malaria, dysentery, cholera and tropical ulcers.



Hellfire Pass Memorial – Sai Yok, Kanchanaburi



V Organisation Thailand was a reluctant ally of Japan and Allied-interned citizens were well treated by the Thais. Internees became aware of the POWs' plight. An internee group known as the 'V' Organisation, aided by neutral businessmen and sympathetic Thais, smuggled food and medicines to POWs.

Peace and after After the completion of the railway, the POWs were either kept in Thailand or sent back to Singapore. When the war ended the POW survivors were repatriated and with proper food and medical treatment many quickly recovered. However, most carried the mental scars of their experience with them for the rest of their lives.

The POWs who died along the railway were reinterred at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries at Thanbyuzayat, Kanchanaburi and Chung Kai. American dead were returned to the USA.

Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum – Sai Yok District Upon arrival at the Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum, you can undertake an audio tour recorded by former POWs, from events during the construction of the Burma-Thailand Railway.

The museum is purposely designed to allow visitors to conduct a self-paced tour of World War II history within the museum, reading

POWs lived in attap (woven palm thatch) and bamboo huts. Huts were overcrowded, and the cooking and sanitary arrangements at camps were primitive. Lack of clothing and footwear increased the risk of illness.

Physical punishment was a feature of Japanese military discipline and POWs were often given severe beatings as well as other forms of punishment. This was at its worst during the speedo.

If anything the Thais fared even worse. Unlike the POWs, they had no army doctors to give them basic medical treatment.

Hellfire Pass Memorial – Sai Yok, Kanchanaburi
There is an Unofficial Remembrance Day Service commencing at 1045 at the Hellfire Pass Memorial on 11th November. If any Club members wish to attend, they can lay a wreath after the service if they wish to do so.

Memorial Service – 11 November 2009

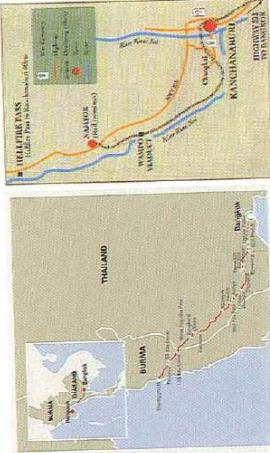
Management at the Hellfire Pass Memorial and Memorial Museum at Sai Yok District can be contacted as follows:

Contact Details

Manager: William Slope
Mobile telephone number: 08 1754 2098
Email: hellfirepassowg@gmail.com



Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum – Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs



Visiting Hellfire Pass Memorial and Memorial Museum

PAST PARTICIPLE

Auspicium Melioris Ævi

By Paul Cheesman

We continue our series on historical trivia about our Club by looking into the 1930 to 1941 period.



1 We start this decade with a flurry of Chairmen – some old, some new. In terms of the “old”, Mansur F. Buszard mentioned last month, was elected Chairman in 1930 and again in 1932, and served until he retired in December of that year and returned to the UK. John Bailey, a diplomat mentioned in the September article, took over for his last time as Chairman from 1934 to 1935.

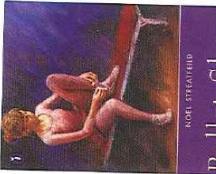
Star Mat. Newspaper Headlines the Change to Constitutional Monarchy

At dawn on 24th June 1932, the Khana Ratsadorn (People’s Party), backed by the Bangkok Military Command, launched a coup d'état. H.M. King Prajadhipok received the news a few hours later whilst playing golf in Hua Hin. In an exchange of telegrams and, in His Majesty’s words, “For the sake of peace; and in order to save useless bloodshed...”, Siam changed from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy. In 1935, King Prajadhipok went to visit England, from where he abdicated on 2nd March of that year. King Prajadhipok passed away in Wentworth in Surrey in 1941.

2 Of the new Chairmen in this period, we know very little about F. Campbell, who was Chairman from 1931 to 1933, except that he also served as Captain to the St. Andrews Society from 1928 to 1932. K.H. Simpson, who served 1937 to 1938, was employed by the Borneo Company at the time. Whilst we know nothing about A.I. Williams, who served 1938 to 1939, we know a lot of about the family of William G.



Streatherfield (often mispelt Streatfield, as on our Chairman's board). Bill Streatherfield was the younger brother of prolific novelist Noel Streatherfield (her first work from 1926, Ballet Shoes, was made into a TV film in 2007) and son of William Champion Streatherfield, the suffragan bishop of Lewes.



NOTE: STREATHERFIELD

Ballet Shoes

The thirties were a decade of massive expansion for Bangkok itself – the province of Phra Nakhon (as Bangkok was officially known) was expanded, first in 1931 when it absorbed most of the disbanded Min Buri province (the current Nonthaburi, Lat Krabang and Khlong Sam Wa areas) and the next year when it gained Nong Chok from Chaochengsao province. Of course, Bangkok was still only on the north side of the river; Thon Buri province wasn’t absorbed until 1972. The first road bridge between the two provinces was opened in 1932 as the Phra Buddha Yodfa bridge, now normally known as the Memorial bridge.

3 In the early evening of 8th December 1941, Sir Iosian Crosby, the British Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Siam, addressed many of the 200-plus British living in Bangkok in the grounds of the British Club to announce that the Japanese had invaded Malaya and that Japan had declared war on the British Empire. The next day, the British Embassy was surrounded and the Club grounds commandeered by the Japanese Army. Most members were interned, although it is recorded that 26 British citizens did escape captivity.

The British Club Bangkok was no more.

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RECIPROCAL CLUBS

As an active British Club member, you are entitled to enjoy the full use of other associated Club facilities around the world. This month, we feature University Club of San Francisco in California.

University Club Of San Francisco

800 Powell Street

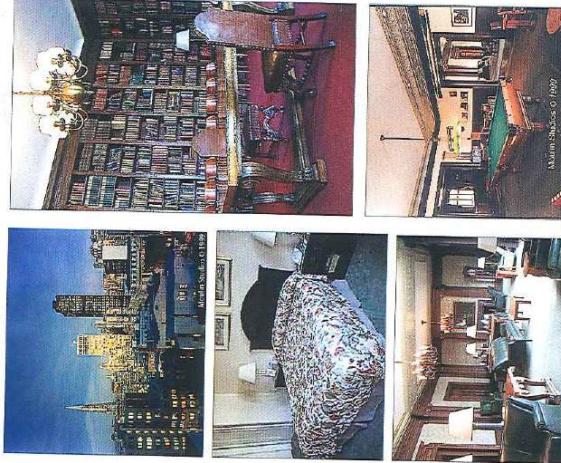
San Francisco, CA 94108

Tel.: +1 415 677 0900

Fax: +1 415 677 9323

Email: julleg@univclub.com

Website: www.univclub.com



The University Club takes pride in being one of San Francisco's oldest traditions, dating back to 1890. As one of the Bay Areas finest private city clubs, the Club is continuing to grow and evolve with the times, while retaining an old world atmosphere and charm.

Facilities

The University Club Bar

The fourth floor bar has remained unchanged for almost a century and yet is still the heart of the Club as a lively, convivial place for members to meet and relax for lunch, after work or before a night on the town.

The Dining Room

With its view of downtown financial district and the bay, the third floor dining room is a stunning setting for lunch, dinner and special events. The chef presents new specials every day for lunch and brings his creativity and skills to the table every Wednesday night for Club Night Dinners.

Oversight Accommodations

Sixteen overnight rooms are available, five suites and eleven standard rooms – each one comfortably outfitted with television, armoires, executive desks, coffee makers and CD players. Complimentary wireless Internet access is available to all overnight guests. The Club also offer complimentary continental breakfast.

The Lounge

The centre of the Club revolves around the lounge on the fourth floor, where the Club offers a sitting room with views of the financial district and the bay. This airy room offers daily papers, as well as monthly periodicals of an intellectually stimulating nature. It can also be used as a function space for larger events. Wireless Internet access is available.

Library

The Club's library is a wonderful setting for peaceful reading and houses a wonderful collection of U.S. and California history. With a fireplace and comfortable easy chairs, this is a lovely retreat within the Club. The Club is also able to host a variety of intimate functions in this room for members and sponsored guests. Wireless Internet access is available.

The Game Room
The University Club also features a comfortable and well-rounded game room. Whether your interest is in a game of billiards, bridge, dominoes or chess, the game room is ready for you. Lessons are also available for bridges on a regular basis, and complimentary pool lessons are given on the second Thursday of each month.

Note:

Please contact Membership Services for an introduction letter.
Tel. 02 234 0247. Email: membership@abitishclubbangkok.org

BC CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2009

SUNDAY

1
Guy Fawkes Fireworks Spectacular
Club Grounds
Starts 4pm.



Sunday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch only.

Sunday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch only.



**The Wedding of
Sarah Jane Smith**
Surwongse Room
11am.



Sunday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch only.

Sunday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch only.



Sunday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch only.



MONDAY

2
New S.E.T. Specials
Lunch and Dinner.



Loy Krathong
Dinner Cruise
Chao Phraya Princess Transport leaves
the Club at 6.30pm.

Monday Night Club
The Moving Finger
Wordsworth Lounge 7pm.

9
New S.E.T. Specials
Lunch and Dinner.

Monday Night Club
Death in the Clouds
Wordsworth Lounge
7pm.



New S.E.T. Specials
Lunch and Dinner.

Monday Night Club
Holmes Double Bill
Wordsworth Lounge
7pm.



23
New S.E.T. Specials
Lunch and Dinner.

Monday Night Club
At Bertram's Hotel
Wordsworth Lounge
7pm.



29
New S.E.T. Specials
Lunch and Dinner.



TUESDAY

3
Quiz Night
Sponsored by
Tetley's Smooth Flow
The Verandah
7.30pm.



Tuesday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch and Dinner.

Tuesday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch and Dinner.



Tuesday Carvery
The Verandah
Lunch and Dinner.



24
Pizza Lovers
All outlets.
Lunch and Dinner.



1

WEDN

3
Pizza Lovers
All outlets.
Lunch and Dinner.

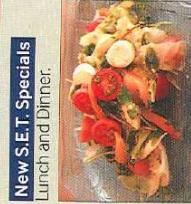
BCB Balut Shiel
Wordsworth Loun
7.05pm.



Pizza Lovers
All outlets.
Lunch and Dinner.

BCB Balut Shiel
Wordsworth Loun
7.05pm.



ESDAY**THURSDAY****FRIDAY****SATURDAY****4**New S.E.T. Specials
Lunch and Dinner.**5**
Curry Buffet
The Verandah
Lunch and Dinner.Swimming Lessons
10am-2pm.
7New S.E.T. Specials
Lunch and Dinner.**11**New S.E.T. Specials
Lunch and Dinner.Swimming Lessons
10am-2pm.
14New S.E.T. Specials
Lunch and Dinner.**18**New S.E.T. Specials
Lunch and Dinner.Swimming Lessons
10am-2pm.
21New S.E.T. Specials
Lunch and Dinner.**25**New S.E.T. Specials
Lunch and Dinner.Swimming Lessons
10am-2pm.
28New S.E.T. Specials
Lunch and Dinner.**2**New S.E.T. Specials
Lunch and Dinner.Swimming Lessons
10am-2pm.
5**3**

THE LANDMARK
BANGKOK

Presents

Fight Night

at the british club bangkok

**Friday, 27th November
@ 7:00 pm
8 GREAT FIGHTS!**



**Open air Fight Night on the Back Lawn
3 course sit down dinner. Beer and wine**

THB 2400

**Dress code: smart casual
For more enquiries, contact
Reed@britishclubbangkok.org
or call 080 770 6156
Book Now!!!**



SPORTS & LEISURE

By Reed Passmore

Dear Members,

Welcome to the November issue of sports and recreation. This issue we look at October's events, this month's upcoming events and some fitness issues to consider. Think balls, balls and more balls.

October was another great month at the Club with numerous activities for all.

Water polo: 25 people joined in the fun and activities poolside with a fun (family rules) game of water polo. This was set up so that only the children can score (and girls were awarded double points). Many members were disappointed we didn't play the following week, so look out for the next one.

Netball: The British Club and the BNL held a junior netball coaching event, followed by an exhibition match with members. This was a fantastic start to bring netball activities to the British Club. We are looking to start a junior netball coaching clinic early next year, plus a social netball league.



Upcoming activities and events:

November is full of events – one or more every weekend.

Saturday, 7th: Social tennis match at the British Club.

Friday, 13th: Harrow school invitation to tennis mix-in. This will be a very relaxed mix-in with our friends from Harrow International School. Starts 7pm.

Saturday, 21st: Discover Scuba. Ever wanted to learn scuba diving? Now will show you the basics. Free trial for all members. 3pm-5pm in the pool.

Saturday, 21st: 4-a-side football. Family football for all ages. Great afternoon and evening on the back lawn. Family rules: two children under 11, one female per team and one reserve, if needed.

Sunday, 22nd: Standard Chartered Fun Run. Join in the biggest-ever British Club health event. Run, walk or stroll in a 5-10km and 42km fun run. This is for all levels. Barry, Nat and myself are joining a staff team.

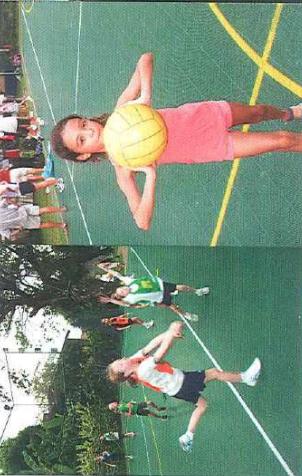
Friday, 27th: Fight Night – See flyer on opposite page.

Sunday, 29th: Swimming gala. Family swimming event. All levels from noodle races to adults. Sign up early. Starts 1pm.

Saturday, 5th December: Veterans 5-a-side football. The Club is hosting an invitational football match. 6-8 veteran teams make up a team and join in all players must be over 35 years old and it seems mandatory to also enjoy a beer.

Saturday, 19th December: B.C. Bangkok bike tour. Easy bike ride around some beautiful Bangkok sites. You will be surprised at the amount of countryside in the heart of Bangkok.

Also in December: we will run a Squash vs Tennis three-way competition, covering squash, tennis and table tennis. Modified rules will apply for faster games.



Give a gift for health this Christmas!

Available at the fitness centre:

Buy a personal training voucher.

10 sessions for 6,000 baht.

Buy a squash voucher.

10 sessions for 4,000 baht.

Fitball: This is a great low-weight high-repetition workout using the Fitball (what I am standing on in the photo). Fitballs make your platform unstable, so you need to control your core. This is a fantastic workout and great for any fitness level. First lesson free - please book your free lessons in advance.





SQUASHY BITS

By Bruce Madge, bmadge@hotmail.com

That Charles fellow is a strange character, isn't he? I've likened him to a fox and suggested he's rather dashing, but I was starting to think he's just a little peculiar. Let me explain: I was sitting in the Survivorse Sala a few days ago, enjoying the rain and a cup of tea, when in he came dressed in his best Friday tweeds yet sporting a face like thunder. His hair was unkempt, his eyes fashing left and right as he approached my table, where he sat down rather ceremoniously and without invitation. I expected a greeting, or at least some remark, yet he uttered not one word while maintaining his gaze firmly on the empty tennis courts. He then turned slowly towards me, leaned forward ever so slightly, fixed me with a steady stare, pointed his finger at me and said carefully, in a low voice, "There's nothing more exciting than excitement". And with that, he upped and left, and he hasn't spoken to me since!

I'm not sure if I'll ever get over that, and I suppose there's nothing more boring than boredom, eh, Charles? But while I try, read on about the Handicap Cup.

The Handicap Cup and Plate.

16 entrants, including me. Let's start with me, eh? Met Kenny G in round one. Kenny's handicap is that he's getting on a bit, and mine is that I'm short bald and ugly. Thus, we started on an almost equal footing, but Ken won 3-0 as he's much better than I am. 'cos I'm just plain rubbish. Into the Plate! Went where I was due to meet Da, but I had to withdraw at the last minute due to emotional difficulties and general uselessness – tensions on the Korean Peninsula! Ken, to his credit, valiantly went on to make the semi-finals of the Cup, where he was viciously nullified into submission by Neil, who is a bully. More about Neil and his bullying at a later date.

Still with the Plate: Da got lucky, as she then received another walkover as Mark Hagelaar pulled out, so she made the final having played only one game! The top half of the Plate draw saw Jonathon Loney also making it all the way to meet Da by offering his opponents money to let him win! Maybe I should have done that

15.00, Sunday, September, 13th. Handicap Plate Final: JLo versus Da. Only three points between them – minus 1 against plus 2, respectively, but determination, excellent length and sheer grit saw Game One go to JLo, 15-6. Da didn't really look that comfortable, and perhaps it was those missed matches in the run up to final that weren't helping her. Game Two, also to JLo. While Da began to improve and get more points on the board to find herself level at 10-10, JLo dug deep, found some more steel, the odd tin can or two and a few old bones, to take this game, 15-10. Game Three continued in a similar fashion with Jonathon playing very well, yet Da again came back to

make it 13-all. However, JLo had the shots, the hots, the lots, and the power and the glory, forever and ever, to win, 15-13, and his second winner's trophy this year to add to his Harold Mercer team title, that he won as a member of my team while I was Captain of the team that he was in earlier this year when I captained the Cheetah Team that won the team competition while I was Captain. Hard luck then for Da; not her day, but she has more than a few trophies in the cabinet already, and well done to JLo. Excellent performance.

The Cup. The point of this handicap tournament is to give likes of lower level players like Nick, Brian, Duncan, Rit, and even me (I guess) a chance to win a title. Hence the handicaps, which give us a fair crack at beating the top players, like Neil, Haroon, Chris, la, etc. However, this year, this handicap system failed (Peter's fault), as the final paired Neil and Haroon (aka H). Clearly the division 1 players' handicaps need reviewing for next year or they just can't play!

But let's go back a bit. Special mention must go to Shiraz, who managed to take a game from H in the earlier rounds. Duncan, who took 10 points from him; and poor Bob. Bob met H in the semis and started on +8 while H was on -13. Thus, Bob needed 7 points from each game to win. Surely possible? Well, I can tell you that Bob lost, 15-10, 15-9, 15-8, meaning that he managed just 3 points while H won 84! What's that all about, eh?

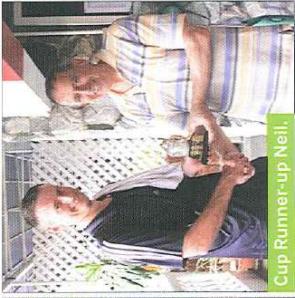
Well, I think it's unfair, cruel and just plain vicious. And once again, I blame Peter!

Cup final at 16.00. With plenty of spare time beforehand, we were all treated to an exhibition game between Tom and H – American scoring up to 21. Tom on +15 while H on scratch and not permitted to play any shot that wasn't straight back to Tom and plumb square on his racket. Tom got off to a massive start. Massive! Playing with flair, panache, grace, style, and two knee supports, he surged up to a 20-lead, completely flummoxing the cocky, young pretender. Tom then dramatically lost his way and a few points due to foul play by H that wasn't seen by the referee, me, as I was distracted by Nick while he was explaining to me that ants are the worse creatures in the world to get bitten by. So to even things up on H's very next save, he was spotted foot faulting, giving Tom the match. Schoolboy error from Haroon. Huge performance from Tom. Huge!

H vs Neil then for the Handicap Cup. -2 played +6. Pre-match comments from H: "Confident of victory." Neil: "Not a hope." First game to H, 15-9. Second game, 15-8. Third game, 14-all. Come on, Neil! Could he take a game from the Superstar? A packed gallery held its breath. Suharsh and Shiraz began to murmur, "Kabadi... Kabadi... Kabadi..." Neil's wife and kids looked



Handicap Winners Haroon and Jonathon.



Cup Runner-up Neil.

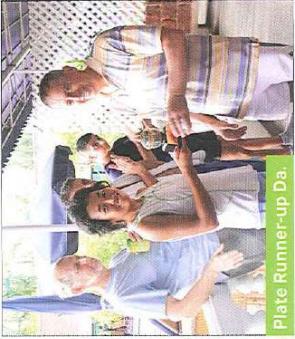


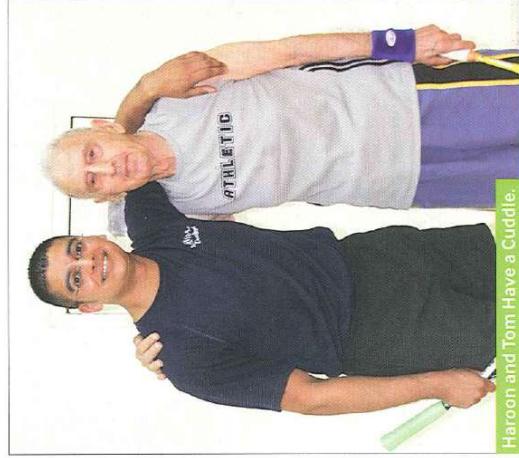
Plate Runner-up Da.

on anxiously "Come on daddy!" cried Neil's youngest, Naomi. (Few shouting for Haroon, though, as those watching had either been on the end of one of his thrashings or just felt sick with envy.) However, it could never be, not in a million years, and as expected, H won the third game, 15-14, and took the handicap title.

Poor old Neil. He's much improved; that is to say, he's playing much better now than he was before when he wasn't playing as well as he is at the moment. Yes, that's right. And he couldn't have played any better, and, in fact, he did very little wrong other than turn up, which was, I think, his undoing yet Haroon is just too darn good; everything about his game is far superior. Well played, Neil.

But H is in another class. Next year, he needs a real handicap to make things fairer. Suggestions forwarded are: banning him from entering, stealing all his kit, making him play blindfolded and, my favourite, poking him in the eye with a sharp pencil. That last one does seem a little harsh, yet no doubt, extremely effective.

Trophy presentation from Peter, when H was awarded a bright pink cup, which is just about what he deserved; and JLo received a smaller, yet nicer, scarlet thing.



Haroon and Tom Have a Cuddle.

DISCOVER SCUBA DIVING

British club Pool
time 3-5 pm

FREE Pool DIVE

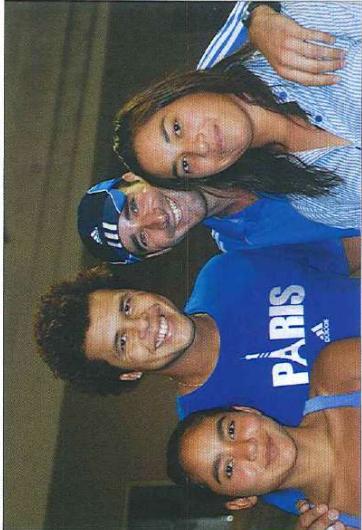
Let PADI Master Instructor
How Cuckson
introduce you to the under-
water world.

Come and join us on
Saturday 21st November
between 3 and 5pm
Open to non divers aged
10 and upwards. To
register or for more
details see Khun Reed in
the sports office

Have you ever thought you
may like to learn to dive. Well
now is your time, let me take you
into the pool and introduce you to
scuba diving

If you do enjoy your experience
you will have the chance to
sign up for a PADI open water
course with lessons right here
at the British club

TENNIS



November's upcoming events include:

Saturday, 7th – Social Club Match at the British Club
 Saturday, 14th – Mixed Doubles at Asia Academy
 Saturday, 28th – RBS/C British Club at the British Club

December's upcoming events include:

Friday, 4th – Family Event
 Saturday, 12th – Social Match at the British Club
 Saturday, 19th – Team Event
 Friday, 25th – Merry Christmas!

January's upcoming events include:

Sunday, 10th – Team Event
 Saturday, 16th – British Club Extravaganza
 Friday, 29th – Social Event at the British Club

Check out the Tennis Section Events Calendar posted on the notice boards!! A big thank you goes to Chris Watt for this great design.

THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

GOLFING NEWS

By Ray Bloom

Magpie Putter Annual Competition vs the Wanderers Golf Club – 13th September at the Bangkok Golf Club.

The Magpie Putter has been contested between Bangkok Wanderers Golf Society and BCGS since 1990. The format has evolved into a scramble event and up to this year, the Wanderers had won 10 matches, compared to 8 wins for BCGS. Last year the game was rained off.

Yesterday, BCGS narrowed the deficit by winning the game; the best 9 of 11 pairs achieved a total net score of 56 under par, compared to 47 under par for the Wanderers.



The respective Captains, David O'Callaghan and Frank Fawkes, held the trophy briefly before the victorious Captain Frank took possession until next year's challenge.

John Carter and Peter Skinner won prizes for the best net score (a splendid 10 under par) and by Andrew McLean, Bruce McLaren and Karen Carter (twice) for Near pins on Par 3s.

September Club Scramble – 20th September at Krung Kavee Golf Club.

This fun event composed of randomly selected teams of two or three players is a relaxed and friendly affair. The lovely course is one of the more mature courses around Bangkok but is noted mainly for its insistence that the caddies carry the bags. Some golfers have been known to take a cart to relieve the caddies of this burden.

The field comprised three groups of three golfers per group. The new member Brian Brook, Iain Guthrie (guest) and Shaun Wheelan gathered, were announced as winners and received their bottles of wine.

In second place came Steve Waldmeyer, Jason Tinges and Club Captain Frank, whilst Carol Ann Eastgate, Yurachair Brook and myself trailed in third place.

September Medal event – Sunday, 27th September at the Royal course, Lat Krabang.

In great golfing conditions on a lovely course, six groups contested the month's medals - one for Flight 1 (for golfers with handicaps under 18) and one for Flight 18 (over 18 handicappers). The 'on the side' competition between Mike Staples and George Krasas brought the best out of Georges game to give him the best net score of 68 to win Flight A, for which he received his first BCGS monthly medal from Captain Frank.



There was a tight finish in the relatively small Flight B field. Peter Bond's recent intensive swing coaching seems to be taking him to a higher level... or he's taking something illegal. Perhaps both, because he just pipped the in-form Andrew McLean to claim that flights medal with a net score of 70.

In quite a pensive mood, Andrew can be seen explaining to Roy Barrett the putting he missed out by a whisker; in comparison to those of Dead-Eye Bond, Steve Waldmeyer preferred to simply enjoy his well-earned beer.



Technicals – Near pins were won by Gordon Mine, the aforementioned George, Peter Gale and Andy Flynn. The Men's Long Drive prize went to Mike Staples, whilst Karen Carter hit the Ladies' Longest Drive. On Hole 18, Steve Waldmeyer sank the Longest Putt.

Guests and new members are welcome at all our events. Either email or phone for more information and to sign up for the next games.
Website: www.geocities.com/bcgsofsociety
Email: bcgs2002@yahoo.co.uk
Phone: Frank Fawkes, Captain at 089 165 1953

For the fortunate golfers who can and want to play a midweek round, there is friendly golf on offer every Wednesday morning with the Midweekers group. We play most weeks at Bangkok Golf Club Pathum Thani where we take advantage of preferential green fees, but also travel to other courses that offer good value. Contact me, Ray Bloom, on rblroom_364@yahoo.co.uk or 087 051 3548.

PLOENCHIT FAIR BY THE RIVER

AT SHREWSBURY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



SATURDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2009

วันเสาร์ที่ 28 พฤศจิกายน 2552

เริ่มบิน 10.00 น. - 20.00 น.

Gate open 10.00 am - 8.00 pm
All the Fun of the Fair, Christmas Shopping and Bargains Galore, Thousands of prizes to be won, Raffles, International & Pub Food, Fish & Chips and Champagne & Beer Bar, Entertainment by the River.

ADULTS 100 BAHT,
CHILDREN 50 BAHT

บัตรร้าว ผู้ใหญ่ 100 บาท
เด็ก 50 บาท

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โทรศัพท์: 02 204 1587

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DIRECTIONS:
Shrewsbury International School
1922 Charoen Krung Road
Skytrain to Taksin Station and
Free boat service to Shrewsbury.
Parking Available

For more help and directional map
Tel : BCTFN 02 204 1587

www.ploenchitfair.org www.bctfn.org www.bangkokhostit.com

MONDAY NIGHT CLUB

We continue our series of famous detectives TV movies every Monday throughout November.

This month we continue to feature HERCULE POOROT, as played by David Suchet; SHERLOCK HOLMES, as immortalized by Jeremy Brett; and JANE MARPLE, as played by Joan Hickson.

NOVEMBER

Each evening starts at 7pm in the Wordsworth Lounge with the full F&B Menu available.

2nd **The Moving Finger**

The problem with poison pen letters is that some people cannot cope with them and tragedy occurs. So who is our mystery writer – a case of “Find the Lady” one might suppose?



The anonymous
anonymous letter!



The anonymous
letter!

9th **Death in the Clouds**

A detective story about a fictional detective? A dead fly or two and certainly a dead body – but how and why? And more importantly, just how many people are actually involved?

16th **The Red-Headed League/The Naval Treaty**

A Holmes double bill:

- This is certainly a three-pipe problem when the only applicants must have red hair.

- Now you see it, and now you don't! Are we at war yet?



No flies on this body!



Is Holmes barking up
the wrong Street?

23rd **At Bertram's Hotel**

A judge who robs banks, a priest who robs trains, and a woman who climbs mountains –

surely they cannot all be guests at Bertram's; it's such a quaint place!



There will be no Monday Night Club on November 30th, but it will continue on Monday, 7th December.

DOCTOR WHO THE WEDDING OF SARAH JANE SMITH

Sunday, 15th November – A Doctor Who Special

David Tennant makes a guest appearance as ‘The Doctor’ in his new adventure of Sarah Jane Smith. This award-winning Children’s BBC spin-off series from Doctor Who is now in its third year and stars Elizabeth Sladen as Sarah Jane Smith, the journalist ex-companion of both the Third and Fourth Doctors, Jon Pertwee and Tom Baker.



In this story, Sarah Jane is joined by her adopted son, Luke (Tommy Knight), and his school friends, Clyde (Daniel Anthony) and Rani (Arijit Mohindra), with special guests David Tennant and Nigel Havers.

This adventure will be shown in the Suriwongse Room at 11am and, as part of CBBC, is suitable for children of all ages.



Sarah Jane & the Tenth Doctor

BC BRIDGE

By Martin Carter

The game has enjoyed a revival at the British Club having been placed on an organised footing by our two excellent bridge organisers, Mr. Winlock Hsu and his elegant wife, Chanlene. The Bridge Section hosts weekly duplicate bridge competitions and two open tournaments each year to wit; London Bridge and Tower Bridge. Club members and guests are welcomed by Treasurer Winlock, who collects our money and arranges partners for the singletons. If you play bridge, then please join us Sundays in the Surawit/Gee Room at 2.30pm. Afternoon tea with sandwiches is served at 4pm, and we normally finish at 6pm. The session cost is 100 baht. Many stay for dinner in the Yerandah, when and where a lively discussion of the day's play is conducted!

Duplicate bridge is played at three locations in Bangkok, in addition to the Internet. If you are interested, you may visit the free website – www.bridgebaseonline.com – and view games in progress. At present, the Polo Club and the Sports club host the largest competitions. Both clubs welcome our bridge members in their tournaments. We expect to increase our numbers with a mid-week competition, hopefully starting in 2010.

Tower Bridge Tournament Results

On Sunday, 8th March, we hosted an open pairs tournament with the catchy name "Tower Bridge". Good attendance numbers included players of National Standard. The winners were Doctor Prasert and Khun Prasert. These two gentlemen grace our tables on a regular basis and are well loved for their fair attitude and willingness to lose. The affable gentlemen accepted First Prize with their usual display of good grace and jocularity.

General Prizes, 8th March 2009

Category	Names	Prize	General Prizes, 27th September 2009
A) Guest Directors	Manthanee Helmier	crystal plate (2 pcs) crystal plate (2 pcs)	A) Bridge Promoter Manthanee B) Top Attendance
B) Top Attendance	= 2) Narongrit (19 times) July - December 2008 (19 times)	mug (Grand Canyon blue) mug (Grand Canyon moose)	= 1) Dr. Apithai (17 times) = 2) Parop (17 times) 1st) Geradine (18 times)
C) Tournaments	1st) Dr. Apithai (20 times); mug	(Rocky Mountain, 2 pcs)	D) Bridge Ladder (Rocky Mountain, 2 pcs)
D) Bridge Ladder July - December 2008	2) Prasert (1st) Helmier	mug (Rosennie, 2 pcs) mug (Blues Bar, 2 pcs)	E) Encouragement Award Master Charles note pad (large)

TOWER BRIDGE, 8th March 2009

Awards	Names	Prize	Awards	Names	Prize
Booby	Richard & Phillip Apisak & Kiravat	shooters (Wynn) mugs (half size mugs)	Booby	Usha & Lalit Jeremy & Maud	note pad (small) mugs (frog)
Average (50%)	Hanne & Arumanai	mugs (Crater Lake)	Average (50%)	Sunisa & Supang Pallin & Parich	mugs (Kiss)
Women	Manthanee & Supote	mugs (Lake Power)	Senior (combined age 120 yrs)	Kiatchai & Parop	mugs (Winchester House)
Mixed	Surawit & Montri	mugs	3rd runner up	Helmer & Hanee Khris & Sunida	crystal (glasses, 2 pc set)
Senior (combined age 120 yrs)			2nd runner up	Surawit & Montri	crystal (glasses, 4 pc set)
2nd runner up			1st runner up		crystal (pitcher)
1st runner up	Chakkorn & Virat Prasert & Dr. Prasert		Winner		



London Bridge Tournament Results

On Sunday, 27th September, was our second open pairs tournament for the year and again was very well supported by guest players, as well as our very own stars. Below are the results and prize winners.

General Prizes, 27th September 2009

Category	Names	Prize
A) Bridge Promoter	Manthanee	crystal vase
B) Top Attendance	= 1) Dr. Apithai (17 times) = 2) Parop (17 times)	mug (frog)
January - June, 2009		mug (frog)
(18 tournaments)		Picture frame
D) Bridge Ladder	2) Paisal (1st) Kiatchai (1st) Kiatchai	mug (frog) Picture frame
January - June, 2009 (at least 50% attendance)		
E) Encouragement Award Master Charles note pad (large)		

TOWER BRIDGE, 8th March 2009

A History of Bridge

Playing cards were used in China as long ago as AD 979, and the legend has it that they were invented by the Emperor to amuse his concubines. Some three hundred years later, they appeared in Venice, possibly introduced by Marco Polo on his return from China. Playing cards reached England in the early 15th century, and it was here that the ancestor of the modern game was born. This early game was variously described as 'Ruff and Honours', 'Whisk and Swabbers' and 'Whisk'. The earliest reference to the game is 1529, but it is clear that it had been played long before this.

By the 17th century, the game, by then named 'Whisk' or 'Whist' had become very popular, particularly in London. Just as today, four persons played the game, with the two sitting opposite as partners. Thirteen cards were dealt to each player, and the score was determined by the number of tricks above and beyond the first six tricks, which became known as the book. There was no bidding, and trump was determined by turning up the last card dealt. There was no dummy exposed so this made the game much more difficult than bridge.

During the coffee-house era in 18th century London, 'Whist' was played at Edward Lloyd's Coffee House whilst underwriters and brokers negotiated and wrote marine insurance contracts and founded the famous Lloyd's of London.

Towards the end of the 19th century, a variation of the game of whist was introduced named 'bridge'. The dealer chose trumps and the dummy was exposed. About 1904, the element of competitive bidding was introduced and players could bid as high as they wished for the privilege of naming the trump suit.

Further experiments, first by officers in the British Army serving in India and then in France during the Great War, resulted in changes to scoring, awarding bonus points for games and slams, but only when actually bid. In 1925, on an ocean cruise involving a passage through the Panama Canal, Harold S Vanderbilt combined this feature with a new scoring system, including the idea of part scores and vulnerability and renamed it 'Contract Bridge'. Thanks to Vanderbilt's enormous wealth and social position, the new system was rapidly adopted and supplanted all other forms of the game.



central computer by a Bluetooth short-range wireless transmitter. This is essentially a labour-saving device that will enable the system of central scoring to function without having an operator to key the score sheets from the tables into a computer. When operating as games are finished, the results will be keyed into a table-based console rather than using the old-fashioned pen-and-paper method. The computer will then keep the score and issue results at the end of the day's play, rather than having to wait two or three days.

Learn to Be Lucky

It is said that fortune only smiles on the brave... however, she positively beams on the skilful versed in the technique of wooing her! For to be lucky at bridge is an art that can be learned like any other. Bridge tuition is available for both beginners and intermediates from our President – and Bridge Guru – Jeremy Watson. Sally Watson, a leading player, has written a bridge tuition book, which is available as part of the beginners' course. Invest in some coaching, and watch your game improve by leaps and bounds.

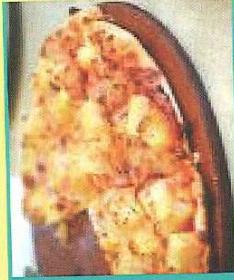
Buffett on Bridge

Bridge can lay claim to being the most popular card game in the world, with over 400,000 registered members in the U.S. alone. Berkshire Hathaway Chairman Warren Buffett, a keen player, has described it as "the most fun you can have with your clothes on". Rubber bridge is an inexpensive game with no special equipment needed, apart from two decks of cards. Its popularity can be attributed to many different appeals, including its ease to organize, a lack of special equipment, its very low cost, and its power to excite and provoke thought to name but just a few. It is not a game that appeals to snuffians, but snoberry has no place at the bridge table. Warren Buffett and Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates are regular bridge partners. Rich or poor; good or bad; beautiful or ugly – we meet as equals at bridge.

Into the Electronic Age

The British Club Bridge Section plans to go electronic with an automated wireless point of play scoring system connected to a

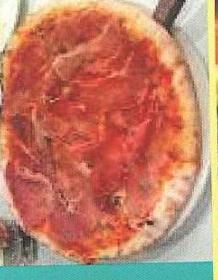
Pizza Lovers Menu



Seafood
Assorted seafood,
tomato sauce and
mozzarella cheese



Meat Lovers
Assorted meats and
sausages with
mozzarella cheese



Tom Yum Kung
Seafood and
mushroom in
spicy Thai style soup



Lamb Curry
Lamb curry and
mozzarella cheese



Mixed Salad



Garlic Bread

Vaiian
apple, ham,
on and
zzarella cheese

Chicken Trio
garlic chicken,
teriyaki chicken and
BBQ chicken

Pork Ham
pork ham,
mozzarella cheese,
gonzola and
sket salad

Lam Tok Pizza
lamb, mint leaves,
red chilli and
mozzarella cheese

Vegetarian
ratouille of
vegetables with
mozzarella cheese

BQ Chicken Wings
assorted chicken wings
in special BBQ sauce
pieces

All pizzas are thin crust only

BC BALUT

By Paul Cheeseman



INTERNAL COMPETITIONS

British Club Shield

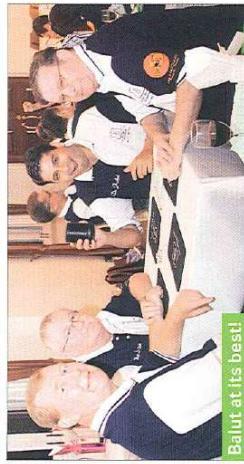
16th September saw the start of the Balut Shield 2009-10 season, and what a start it was with the previous year's champion, T.C. (Phil Alexander), taking an early lead of 116.6 with a score of 583 in Tournament 1, but having to settle for second place on average by tournament 2, as Bowing Ball (Bob van Es) scored an equally amazing 575 in his first tournament of the season.

The Balut Shield is played on the FIRST and THIRD Wednesdays of each month, starting at 7.05pm in the Wordsworth Lounge. After six tournaments, each player is leagued by the average of their best six results. Prizes go to the Highest Aggregate score each tournament and the highest single; this year's prizes are sponsored by OUTRIGGER HOTELS & RESORTS (www.outrigger.com).

Non-Section members are welcome at any Tournament. Your first tournament is **FREE**, but any subsequent tournaments are charged at 200 baht each. Section Membership is 300 baht per annum, which gives you a 50% discount on tournament fees. Please contact Mr.C. (Paul Cheeseman) on paulc@trueemail.co.th to join.

As of 8th October 2009, the Balut Shield league stands at:

Rank	Player	Tournaments Played	Best 6	Average
1	Bob van Es	1	115.00	93.70
2	Phil Alexander	2	109.70	93.20
3	Clive Butcher	1	98.20	91.00
4	Caroline Willbourn	1	97.60	90.20
5	Tomjakraphan Mertigan	2	96.30	90.10
6	Muntara Mertigan	2		88.20
7	George Okrasa	2		88.20
8	Tony Rodriguez	1		87.80
9	John Boisclair	2		87.00
10	Carlos Romero	2		86.60
11	Nick Pelly	1		85.20
12	Andrew McLean	2		82.80
13	Steve Eaton	2		82.00
14	Jonathan Loney	1		75.40
15	Jeremy Watson	1		
16	Paul Cheeseman	2		
17	Steve Mallon	1		
18	Roger Willbourn	1		



British Club Shield Cup

The BCB Balut Shield Cup will be awarded for the highest single score across all 24 Balut Shield tournaments. To date, the leader is T.C. (Phil Alexander) on 141.

British Club Cup & Junior Cup

Section members are reminded that the 2010 BCB Balut Cup, the BCB Balut Junior Cup and the BCB Balut All-Comers Cup will be played on Saturday, 27th February. The BCB Balut Cup is open to all BCB members and spouses, the BCB Junior Cup to all BCB members children and students under 25 years old and the BCB Balut All-Comers Cup to all non-BCB members.

EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

BCB Det 5 Challenge - Bangkok

This will have been played in two legs on 11th and 25th October (after the Outpost deadline), so a full report will appear in December's Outpost.

29th STC Interport Competition - Sabah

This year's Interport (pan-Asian) competition is being held at the Sabah Golf & Country Club, and the British Club Bangkok is sending four teams under the watchful guidance of our Interport "Wangler" Bowling Ball (Bob van Es). We wish all our teams good luck and hope to hear of some good results. A full report will appear in January's Outpost.

1st Hua Hin Invitational - Hua Hin

This will be held on Sunday, 28th February 2010. The BCB aims to run a coach from the Club to the venue at 10am and will return the same evening. More details as they come to us.

Join us

Luxury Diner along Chao Phraya River

New Year's Eve Cruise

Say Goodbye to 2009
and Hello to 2010

British Club Annual

New Year's Eve Cruise

9.00 pm - 10.00 pm cocktail party

10.00 pm - 2.00 am river cruise

THB 3600 per person

Includes disco, buffet dinner, open bar until midnight
and spectacular fireworks

(Seats are limited so please purchase quickly to avoid disappointment.)

QUIZ NIGHT

Pif, paf, pof!

By Fingal O'Flahertie

With the Teltie's Smooth Flow Quiz Night now comfortably ensconced in its new niche on the first Tuesday of the month, eight teams came along on 6th October, prepared to expose their intellects to the tender agony of Rodney Bain's remorseless, impulsive probing. Truly, he is the sociopathic dentist of intellectual jousting.

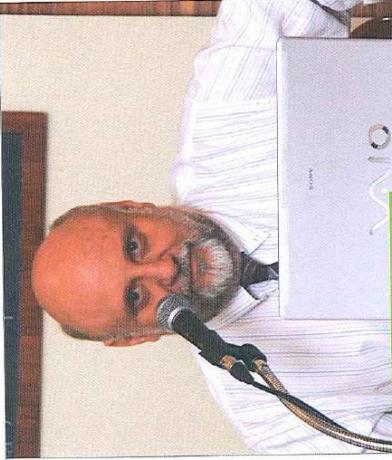
Successful participants needed to have access to a wide range of knowledge, from the survival skills of rats to the musical career of a French porn actress; jet engines to mini-skirts; prime numbers to Marks & Spencer; Richard Branson to the Aswan Dam. Moreover, Rodney kept us entertained with additional nuggets of supremely useless wisdom: for example, do you know the Dutch for "snap, crackle and pop"? We were wrong-footed by the question about Moses and the Ark Isid, and there were the customarily muted grumblies over the issue of whether Castleagh was ever Prime Minister, either before or after he killed himself.

At first, the scores were tight, with a mere eight points separating the top and bottom teams after the first round. But Under Par began to steam ahead, holding off spirited challenges from Shminky Binky Bang and the Gentleman Spoofers, and a last-minute charge from Jim's Junkies to triumph with an overall lead of 10 points. PH18 brought up the rear matron.

So c'mon, what are you waiting for? You must know the drill by now: Up to six people; profoundly stupid team name; all pencils provided by the management. The next quiz is on 3rd November. Be there. The dentist is in.

Six of the Dentist's Best

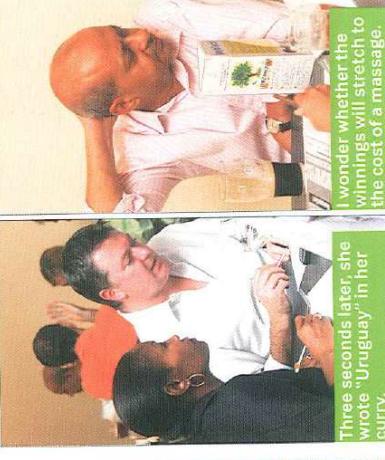
- Who founded the Boy Scouts in 1908?
In 1950, the first World Cup soccer tournament was held in which country?
- Who was nicknamed 'The Godfather of Soul'?
- When did Siam change its name to Thailand?
- To what family of trees does the juniper belong?
- By what name was the Confederate General Thomas Jonathan Jackson better known?



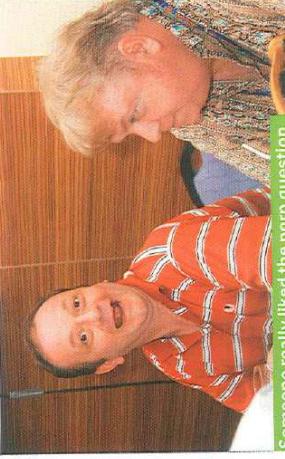
You'd like an anaesthetic? Pah!



It's on the tip of my... what do you call that fleshy thing in your mouth?



That's a funny place to write your crib notes.



Someone really liked the porn question.



I wonder whether the winnings will stretch to the cost of a massage.

Three seconds later, she wrote "Uruguay" in her curry.



ARTS FESTIVAL

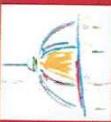
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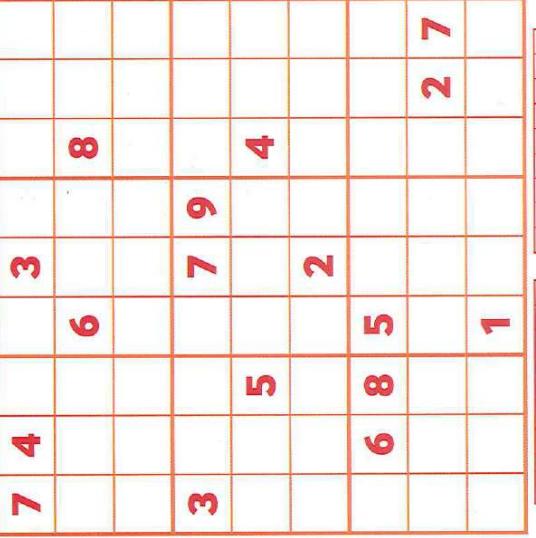
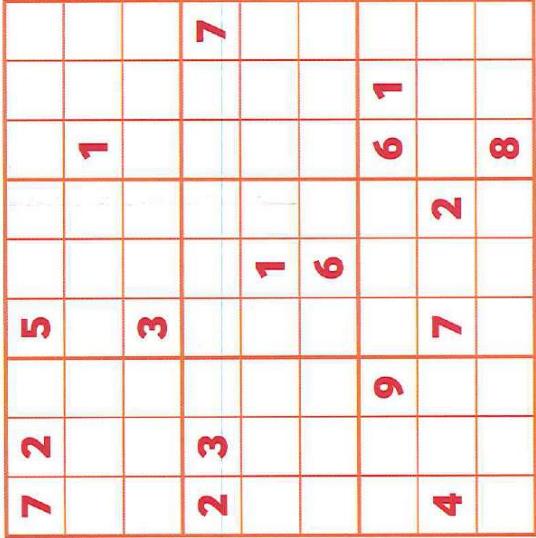
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SUDOKU

After poring over Club members' Sudoku results from last month for a matter of minute, it's quite clear that you definitely know what you are doing. I must tell you that this really chafes the team at the Sudoku Labs, so while I write up this witty (wo)w, they are hunched over their slide rules and abacuss (abacus? abaci?) feh, those number things), plotting their revenge. Back to the team in a moment.

Before we throw you into this month's snake pit, let's see whose neural net was on its game. Members Roderrick Turner (T116) and Meilan Henderson (I243) really showed those numbers and squares a thing or two, but the Champion(s) of the Month® were Hamish MacPherson (M454) for the second puzzle and an amazing 3-way tie for the first puzzle with Hamish (again!), Roger Winter (W26) and Andrew Robertson (R87) putting their pencils down at exactly the same time. Were these three slithering near each other at the Verandah whilst puzzling? Keep your eyes on these three people.

A-ha! The team has yelled over to me that their damage is complete. Here are two more Sudokus to tantalize your temporal. Send your solution times in by email, fax or in person (refer to page 2 on how to do that). Maybe you'll see your name mocked here next month!



7	5	4	3	9	1	8	6	2
3	9	8	6	5	2	7	4	1
1	6	2	8	7	4	9	3	5
2	4	9	7	6	8	5	1	3
8	7	1	4	3	5	6	2	9
6	3	5	1	2	9	4	7	8
4	8	3	9	1	6	2	5	7
5	1	6	2	8	7	3	1	5
9	2	7	5	4	3	1	8	6

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KHUN LAAK'S ON THE MENU



Chicken Shahi Korma

Serves 4-6.

1kg/2.2lbs boned chicken, fat trimmed and cut into 1½-in. cubes • 125g/5oz. thick set natural yogurt • ½-in. cube of root ginger, peeled and grated • 3-4 cloves of garlic, peeled and crushed • 50g/2oz. ghee or unsalted butter • 2 medium-sized onions, finely chopped • 3-4 tbsp chopped fresh mint or 1½ tsp dried or bottled mint • 50g/2oz. ground almonds • 300ml/10fl. oz. warm water • ½ tsp saffron strands, crushed • 1½ tsp salt or to taste • 50g/2oz. raw split cashews • 150ml/5fl. oz. single cream • 1 tbsp rosewater.

Grind the following ingredients in a coffee grinder:

2 tbsp coriander seeds • 8 green cardamoms with the skin on • 10 whole black peppercorns • 3-4 dried red chillies.

Mix the following 2 spices with the above ground ingredients:
1 tsp ground cinnamon • 1 tsp ground mace.

Put the meat into a bowl and add the yogurt, ginger and garlic. Mix thoroughly, cover the bowl with cling film and leave to marinate for 2-4 hours or overnight in the refrigerator. Put the marinated meat, along with any remaining marinade in the container in a heavy-based saucepan and place it over medium-low heat. Bring to a slow simmer, cover and cook the meat in its own juice for 45-50 minutes stirring occasionally. Remove the pan from the heat and lift the meat to another container and keep hot.

Melt the ghee over medium heat and fry the onions until they are lightly browned (8-9 minutes). Adjust heat to low and add the ground ingredients and the mint; stir and fry for 2-3 minutes. Add the half of the liquid in which the meat was cooked, stir and cook for 1-2 minutes. Add the ground almonds and mix thoroughly; add the remaining meat stock, stir and cook for a further 1-2 minutes.

Adjust heat to medium and add the meat, stir and fry the meat for 5-6 minutes. Add the water, saffron strands, salt and cashews. Bring the liquid to a slow boil, cover and simmer for 20 minutes.

Add the cream, stir and mix well, simmer uncovered for 6-8 minutes. Stir in the rosewater and remove from the heat.



Rogan Josh

Serves 4-6.

3 tbsp ghee or unsalted butter • 1kg/2.2lbs leg of lamb, without bones, cut into 1½-in. cubes • 1 tbsp ground cumin • 1 tbsp ground coriander • 1 tsp ground turmeric • 1 tsp chilli powder • 1-in. cube of root ginger, peeled and grated • 2-4 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed • 225g-275g/8-10oz. onions, finely sliced • 400g/14oz. tin of tomatoes, chopped or whole • 1 tbsp tomato purée • 125ml/4fl. oz. warm water • 1½ tsp salt or to taste • 90ml/3fl. oz. double cream • 2 tsp garam masala • 2 tbsp chopped coriander leaves

Melt 2 tbsp ghee or butter, from the specified amount, over medium heat and fry the meat in 2-3 batches until it changes colour. Remove each batch with a slotted spoon and keep aside. Lower heat to minimum and add the cumin, coriander, turmeric, chilli powder, ginger and garlic. Stir and fry for 30 seconds.

Adjust heat to medium and add the meat along with all the ghee and juice in the container. Stir and fry for 3-4 minutes and add the onions. Fry for 5-6 minutes stirring frequently. Now add the tomatoes and tomato purée – stir and cook for 2-3 minutes.

Add the water and salt, bring to a boil, cover and simmer until the meat is tender (about 60 minutes). Stir in the cream and remove from heat.

In a separate pan, melt the remaining ghee over medium heat and add the garam masala, stir briskly and add to the meat. Transfer a little meat gravy to the pan in which the garam masala was fried – stir thoroughly to ensure that any remaining garam masala and ghee mixture is fully incorporated into the gravy and add this to the meat. Mix well. Stir in the coriander leaves.

Seafood and Coconut Laksa

Serves 4.

24 raw tiger prawns • 500g/1lb 2oz. fresh mussels • 110g/4oz. medium-thickness white rice noodles • 400ml/14fl oz. tinned coconut milk • 50g/2oz. shelled, unsalted macadamia nuts or peanuts • 1 tbsp groundnut or other flavourless oil • 50g/2oz. piece of cucumber, peeled • 110g/4oz. bean sprouts • juice of 1 lime • small bunch of fresh basil, stalks discarded and leaves roughly shredded • small bunch of fresh mint, stalks discarded and leaves roughly shredded • sea salt.



For the paste:

3 medium red chillies, deseeded and chopped • 1 dessertspoon dried shrimp paste • 4 shallots, peeled • 2 stems of lemongrass, trimmed and outer layer removed, stems chopped • small piece of fresh galangal or root ginger, peeled and roughly chopped • 1 dessertspoon ground turmeric.

Peel the prawns, then run the point of a small, sharp knife along the back of each one and remove any black threads that may be present. Scrub the mussels under cold running water and remove any barnacles and pull off the little hairy 'beards'. Discard any mussels that are broken or don't close when given a sharp tap with a knife.

Place the rice noodles in a bowl and cover with boiling water, then leave to soak for 10 minutes. Drain the noodles in a colander, rinse in cold water and set aside.

To make the paste, place all of the paste ingredients, plus a tablespoon of water, into a blender or the bowl of a food processor and blend until smooth. Place the macadamias or peanuts in a medium saucepan and dry-roast over a medium heat until golden brown, then remove to a plate. Add the oil to the same pan and, when warm, add the prepared paste and cook over a medium heat for 2 minutes. Add the coconut milk and stir, then leave to simmer gently for 10 minutes.

Cut the cucumber into four slices lengthwise, then cut each into four long strips. Roughly chop the toasted nuts. When the coconut-milk mixture is ready, add the noodles, cucumber, three-quarters of the bean sprouts and the lime juice. Salt to taste and bring back to a simmer, add the prawns and mussels and cook for 3-5 minutes – the prawns should turn pink and all mussels should open. Discard any mussels that don't open during cooking. Add half the shredded herbs, then mix the remaining herbs with the chopped nuts. Ladle the laksa into four deep bowls, then sprinkle over remaining bean sprouts and the herb mixture.

BRITISH CLUB SIGNATURE DISH

Rhubarb and sticky stem ginger crumble
Serves 4 to 6.

1kg rhubarb, trimmed and sliced into large chunks • 200g soft brown sugar • zest and juice of 1 orange • 100g plain flour • 100g cold butter • 100g oats • 2 pieces of stem ginger, chopped.



Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F/gas 4. Put the rhubarb and half the sugar into a pan. Add the orange juice and zest, put a lid on top, bring to a boil and simmer for a few minutes. Remove the lid and simmer for around 5 more minutes, until the rhubarb has softened slightly. Spoon into an ovenproof baking dish or individual dishes and spread out evenly across the bottom.

To make your crumble topping, use your fingers to lightly rub together the flour and butter until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in the oats, the rest of the sugar and the stem ginger. (If you like, you can make the crumble topping in a food processor. Just whack in the flour, butter, sugar and stem ginger and whiz up. Add the oats for the last 10 seconds.) Sprinkle the crumble over the rhubarb and bake in the preheated oven for 40 to 45 minutes, or until the rhubarb is bubbling up and the crumble is golden.

Raspberry Smoothie

Serves 1.

1 tbsp raspberry • 1 tbsp honey • 3 oz. water • 1 scoop crushed ice.

Blend all ingredients together until smooth. Pour into a fancy glass and serve.



Kiwi Smoothie

Serves 1.

2 slices kiwifruit • 3 oz. kiwi juice • ½ oz. syrup • 1 scoop crushed ice.



Blend all ingredients together until smooth. Pour into a fancy glass and serve.



Kiwi Milkshake

Serves 1.

2 scoops kiwi ice cream • 6 oz. fresh milk

Blend all ingredients until smooth. Pour into a fancy glass and serve.

SUSIE'S Kids Korner

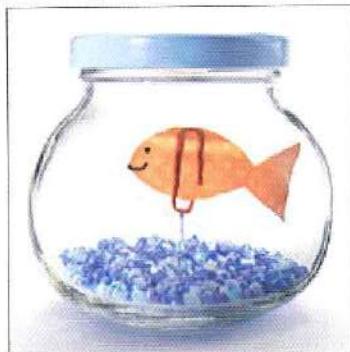


Things To Make With Jars

FLOAT A FISH

Thanks to magnets hidden under the lid, this goldfish shimmies, quivers, and floats in its jam-jar bowl... just like the real thing.

To make your own gravity-defying finned friend, cut a fish shape from paper and insert it into a paper clip. Measure the jar's height, cut a thread to match this measure and tie it to the clip. Tape the other end of the thread to the bottom of the inside of the jar.



Hold the jar upside down – the top of the fish should hang about an inch from the opening. Stack four strong button magnets onto the underside of the lid, then screw the lid into place.

Invert the jar again so that the clip is caught in the magnetic field, then turn the jar upright. Your fish will "float". You may need to tinker with the length of the thread or the number of magnets to get the effect just right.

Pour in some beads to create a pebbled bottom.

LIGHT THE NIGHT

These striped lanterns cast striking patterns and add a crafty touch to patio dinners.

Start with a pint-size canning jar – a safe choice because it's made from tempered glass. Apply glue with a glue stick to the undersides of three 11" x 1/2" strips of cotton fabric, then stick them to the jar. Wind 24-gauge wire three times around the neck of the jar, then twist the wire ends together and trim.



Cut three 12" lengths of wire, loop one end of each around the neck wire and twist to secure them. Thread on beads. Holding the three wires together, slide on a large bead, then twist the wires into a single strand. Wrap the strand around a fat marker to make a loop, twist the end around the strand and trim.

Put flat glass marbles and a tea light inside the jar. Tip: Use an uncooked spaghetti strand as a "match" to light the candle (a parent's job).

Kids' Proverbs

A first grade teacher collected well-known proverbs. She gave each child in her class the first half of a proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder. Their insight may surprise you.

Better to be safe than... punch a 5th grader.

Never underestimate the power of... termites.

You can lead a horse to water but... how?

Don't bite the hand that... looks dirty.

No news is... impossible.

A miss is as good as a... mister.

You can't teach an old dog new... math.

If you lie down with dogs, you'll... stink in the morning.

Love all; trust... me.

The pen is mightier than the... pigs.

An idle mind is... the best way to relax.

Where there's smoke, there's... pollution.

A penny saved is... not much.

Don't put off 'til tomorrow what... you put on to go to bed.

Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and... you have to blow your nose.

None are so blind as... Stevie Wonder.

Children should be seen and not... spanked or grounded.

If at first you don't succeed... get new batteries.

You get out of something what you... see pictured on the box.

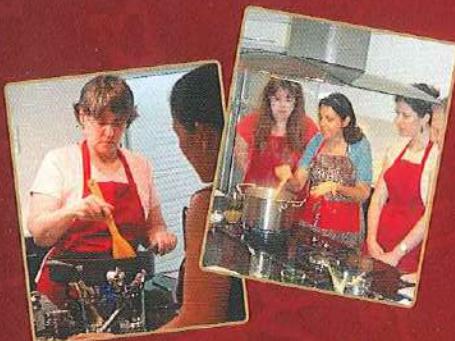
When the blind leadeth the blind... get out of the way.



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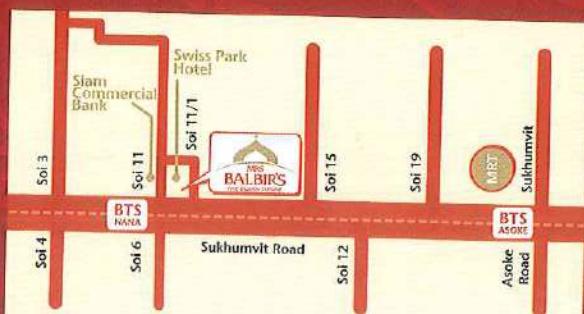
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