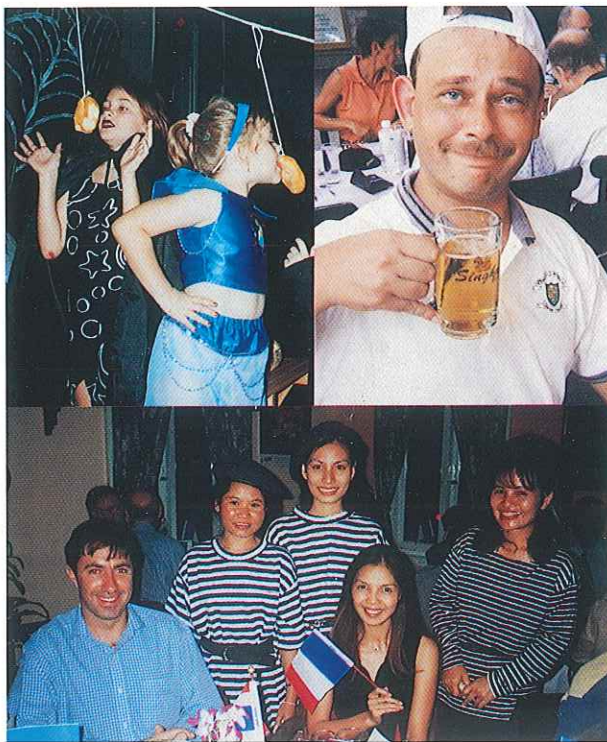




Outpost

M A G A Z I N E



- A New Rod Carter Open Champion after 10 Years!
- Cricket Are Back and Looking to Go One Better
- Eating, Dancing and Floating at the Loy Krathong Night
- Doughnuts and Wicked Witch Wendy at Halloween

Make the most of your British Expatriate Status

Many expatriates believe, mistakenly, that UK tax concerns only UK residents – **a misconception which can prove expensive**. It is essential to receive expert professional advice if you are to be free of the UK tax net and capitalise on being an expatriate.

Examples of costly mistakes include:

- ◆ Failing to claim the tax refund due for the year of departure.
- ◆ Falling foul of the complicated residence rules which determine UK tax status.
- ◆ Wasting the potential benefit of independent taxation of husband and wife.
- ◆ Misunderstanding the new Self-Assessment system.
- ◆ Failing to plan for a return to the UK.



Head Office:
Crescent House, Crescent Road
Worthing, Sussex, BN11 1RN, England
Tel: Worthing (01903) 231545
Fax: (01903) 200868. Offices in Exeter

Established in 1898, we provide a comprehensive tax advisory and compliance service which has helped more than 200,000 British Expatriates to reduce their tax liabilities.

Our booklet "**The British Expatriate**" provides a guide to the most important ways to make the most of your expatriate status. For your **free copy** simply complete and return the coupon below.



**To: Wilfred T. Fry Limited, Crescent House,
Crescent Road, Worthing, Sussex, BN11 1RN, England.**

Please send me more details of your personal tax advisory service, together with my free copy of "The British Expatriate".

Name

Address

Date of intended return to UK

APB/KEV/BKBC

Advertising design too expensive?

Perhaps you're talking to the
wrong people

The Creative Partnership
2240/3-4 Chankaow Road, Chongnontri,
Yannawa, Bangkok 10120, Thailand
Telephone: (662) 285 4721-2
Facsimile: (662) 285 4723
E-mail: creativ@loxinfo.co.th





“And he thought
HIS
delivery schedules
were impeccable...”





British Club

is a family, sporting and social club with an international membership.

For details about the Club contact the Membership Marketing Manager at 189 Surawong Road, Bangkok 10500
Tel: 234-0247, 234-2592, 266 4734 or 266 0597 Fax: 235-1560
Email: britclub@loxinfo.co.th



Contributions

If you would like to contribute to Outpost please contact Gaynor on
Tel/Fax: 237-4031 (home) or Tel: 2854721-2
and Fax: 285 4723 (day)



The Outpost Magazine

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



Contents

Regular Features

- 7 From the Editor
- 8 From the Manager
- 9 Management News
- 10 New Members
- 12 From the Chairman
- 18 Calendar
- 20 From the Sport & Recreation Coordinator
- 30 Crossword
- 35 Committee Page

Sports Sections

- 14 Golf
- 16 Squash
- 21 Junior Tennis
- 22 Football
- 23 Cricket

Specials

- 9 Letter to the Editor
- 24 Short Story (part II) - The Gentleman's Agreement
- 26 Halloween - Wicked Witch Wendy with her Peter
- 28 Loy Krathong - Traditional Deliciousness!
- 33 French Food and Wine Promotion



Outpost Magazine

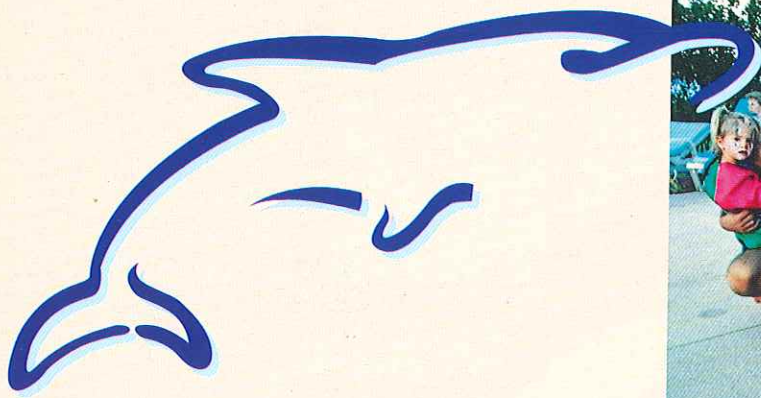
is produced on behalf of the British Club by
The Creative Partnership.

To advertise

contact the Advertising Sales Director at The Creative Partnership
on tel: 285-4721/2 fax: 285-4723 email: creativ@loxinfo.co.th



How Much FUN Can You Have?



Find Out at Club Aldiana Siam!

For the Active Holiday-Maker...



Aerobics • Aqua Aerobics • Archery • Banana Riding • Beach Volleyball • Billiards • Boccia • Body Shaping • Card Games • Cycling • Dance Lessons • Darts • Fitness Training • Pool Games • Sailing • Snooker • Step Aerobics • Stretching • Surfing • Water Skiing • Table Tennis • Tennis • Water Volleyball • Windsurfing



... and for the Less Energetic

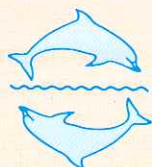


Basking in the pool • Collecting sea shells
Lying on a sunlounger • Paddling in the sea
Relaxing in the sauna • Sipping a fresh fruit drink • Strolling along the beach
Sunbathing • and Much More!



With 3 superb international buffets daily and plenty of activities organised for the kids, Club Aldiana Siam is the ideal beach holiday for the whole family.

And It's ALL INCLUDED in the Price!!



Club Aldiana Siam

International Club Hotel Aldiana Siam

The All-Inclusive Club — No Membership Required

For more information contact our Bangkok sales office at:

117/125 Moo 6 Soi Chinket 2, Ngamwongwan Road, Donmuang, Bangkok

Tel: (02) 954 7156-8 Fax: (02) 954 7155 Email: aldianasiam@prachuab.la-net.net.th

It's that time of year again, when the geese are getting fat and the rest of us are desperately trying to avoid it; that last-minute panic buying of presents and writing cards in order to catch overseas post dates. Don'tcha just love it? Hopefully by the time you read this you will have signed up for a table at the Christmas Ball, the open-air event of the year in Bangkok, on Saturday 12th.

To start with, I'd like to wish a Happy Birthday to His Majesty the King for the 5th. This has been quite a year for Thailand and it will be interesting to see how the country faces up to managing the crisis. My first toast will be for continued stability here, that which some of our neighbours have been lacking this year.

I'd like to apologise for the late appearance of *Outpost* last month; it was delayed thanks to a spell I had in hospital in mid-October (compilation time) with enteric fever which laid me out for a couple of weeks. This has not been the best of years for me on the health front.

Indeed, it is due to my health regularly going on the slide this year, along with work and other reasons, that I have decided to hand over the editorship of *Outpost* in the New Year to my colleague, Sherry Conisbee (see photo), to give me a well-deserved break. The Creative Partnership will continue to publish the *Outpost* magazine with Sherry kicking off as editor with next month's issue. A fresh start for the New Year!

I have several big thank yous to say: to the **contributors**, for their time and dedication in writing up events, taking photos and usually getting it all to me as near as dammit to the deadline (10th)—those who enjoy reading the reports about sports goings-on or all the other social, sporting, food and entertainment events that go on at this Club should be aware of the effort that goes into producing them, especially the monthly reports. A special mention goes to Margaret Miller, who not only dreams up the crosswords you see in every issue, but has also contributed a couple of great short stories this year to add a little variety to the magazine.

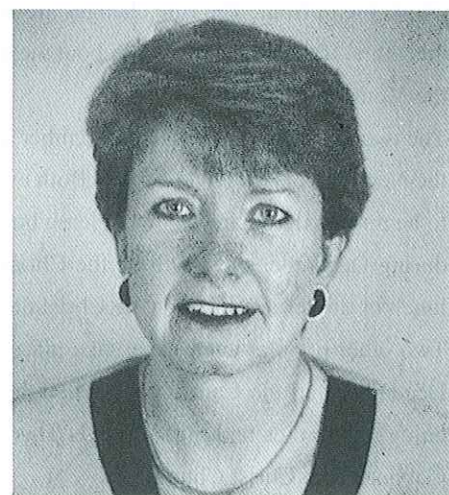
The **advertisers** need our considerable gratitude for their invaluable support for the magazine and for allowing us to continue publishing to a reasonable standard. I ask this every year, but it's always relevant: if your company would like to support the *Outpost* magazine, please get in contact with David at The Creative Partnership (tel: 285 4721-2) or email us at creativ@loxinfo.co.th.

And last but not least, thank you to the **members**, for the encouragement I have received during the more than three years I have been editor.

Otherwise, it only remains for me to say, on behalf of the whole team at The Creative Partnership, a Merry Christmas to you all and a prosperous, fun and healthy 1999!



Gaynor de Wit - Editor-for-now



Sherry Conisbee - Editor-to-be

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gaynor de Wit'.

Gaynor de Wit
Editor

A very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all our members and their families. I certainly hope 1998 has been a good year for you. I trust the festive season will be happy for you whether you are here in Thailand or in some other part of the world. Last but not least I certainly hope 1999 will be a great year for you.

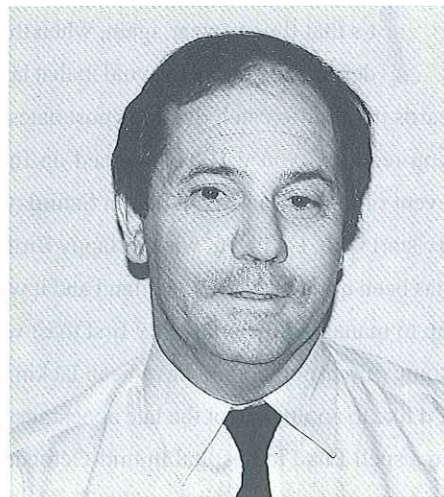
As I write this I have just returned from the elephant round-up trip in Surin. Eighty-plus guests attended this year and I think they had an enjoyable time. It's quite something to see the BC staff set up their catering operations in the middle of Isaan, almost as good as the 200-plus elephants at the show! We also had a great fireworks night, Loy Krathong show and numerous other very successful events. It shows the Club is very active with many members participating in Club events.

During November the Club held an EGM and a number of membership rules were changed. Perhaps the most significant of these is that candidates for Associate Membership will be able to pay joining fees over 24 months instead of having to pay the whole fee upfront. The rule changes are fully explained in the Chairman's message in this issue. If there are questions about these rule changes please contact either myself or the Membership staff.

The two major Club events in December are the Christmas Ball on 12th December and the New Year's Eve River Cruise. Both events are highlights of the Club's year and not to be missed if you are in town. Please book early as both events are very popular. Also during December there will be the Christmas Menu in Lords. Please come along for lunch or dinner and enjoy some Christmas Fayre.

Two other popular events that take place are the Children's Christmas Party on 22nd December and the Carols by Candlelight on 23rd December. Come to the carols and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine. This year the carols will be organised by Rev. S. Gabbott from Christ Church.

For those of you staying in Thailand at Christmas I look forward to seeing you at the Club during the festive season, and for those going away have a great time and see you at the Club in 1999.



Thomas Bain - General Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Bain". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Tom Bain
General Manager

Christmas Supplies

Contact Barry or Khun Dong for your Christmas supplies, including turkey, stuffing, ham, mince pies, shortbread and other goodies. Give us a call, fax or email your order.

Children's Christmas Party

Bring the kids along to see Santa and enjoy this traditional Club party. It starts at 3pm on 22nd December 1998. Don't forget to bring a present for Santa to give your child. Please book at Reception.

Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 23rd December is the date for this year's carol service. This year it will be hosted by the Rev. Stephen Gabbott

from Christchurch. Come along and enjoy carols under the stars on the back lawn, followed by mince pies, shortbread and mulled wine.

Christmas in Lords

A special Christmas menu commences in Lords from Monday 7th December. Please come along for traditional festive fayre in the cosy Lords atmosphere. Bookings are advisable for lunch and dinner. Please note that bookings for Christmas Day are already full!

Christmas Ball

This year the Ball is being catered by the Dusit Thani Hotel, so we're anticipating five-star food! The venue on the back lawn

is excellent. This year we are aiming for 550 places, and they are selling fast, so please book up if you haven't already!

New Year's Eve River Cruise

The final event of the year is the River Cruise: travelling up and down the tranquil Chao Phraya River by moonlight, ending up anchored off the Royal Orchid Sheraton to watch the spectacular fireworks at midnight. Just the way to spend the last few hours of 1998!

Letter

To the Editor,

I understand that Lisa, our Sport and Recreation Coordinator (SRC) is going to leave the Club before the end of the year. I notice that the British Club has advertised itself as the "best family club in town" in the CSB newsletter. If this is true (I have no idea what the other clubs are like) then Lisa must take some of the credit. She has organised many great events and activities for children and made the BC a wonderful place for children. My family has particularly appreciated the holiday activities, which have helped keep us all sane during school holidays.

I hope the Committee will waste no time in recruiting a new SRC who will ensure that the BC will continue to be the best family club in town.

To Lisa I would like to say, "Thank you, good luck in your new job, and we will miss you." A grateful parent!

Janet Sparks (S271)

Reply from the General Manager

Thank you for your comments about Lisa, she will be missed (see my Manager's message in November issue). The General Committee decided at the October meeting that Lisa will be replaced and we are seeking suitable candidates.

Tom Bain, General Manager

Nigel and Helen Hazell



Nigel and Helen

Nigel and Helen were first in Taiwan and then in Hong Kong for four years, which is where Kelly, 2, and Ryan, 3 months, were born, and they expect to be here between three and five years. Nigel is the CFO of Ayudhya CMG Life Assurance, and is a squash and golf player and lists his hobbies as food, dining and drink (in that order!), while Helen enjoys swimming, mah-jong, bridge (just learnt), crafts and spending time with the children, and has ambitions to play tennis and golf.

Alfonsus and Mariska van der Heijden



Fons and Mariska

Fons, or "the Fonz" to the Tennis Section, is the IT Director of Philips Semiconductors out here for around four years while Mariska is a freelance sports teacher. Both are a force to be reckoned with on the BC tennis courts; they also play hockey and golf and Fons plays squash and badminton as well. Previously in Singapore, Brussels and Taipei, they have two daughters: Iris, 6, and Peggy, 5, at ISB and ELC. Hobbies include each other and travel, and Mariska also enjoys photography; as for 'party pieces',

well, "we will talk about that later"...

Christopher and Annabelle Johnson



Christopher and Annabelle

In Singapore for three years before arriving here for another 3-year stint, Brits Christopher and Annabelle both swim, scuba dive and play tennis (after a fashion). Christopher is a keen sailor (Lasers and offshore cruising) and enjoys jogging, walking and listening to classical music; he's also the Deputy Bureau Chief of Reuters. They have two children: Olivia, 5, and Sam, 3, who was born in previous posting Amsterdam.

Aart and Clare Jongejans



Clare and Aart

On secondment from ABN AMRO as Senior VP at Bank of Asia for 4-5 years, Aart is an avid "bikie" and already misses his motorcycles being stored in Holland and previous posting Sydney. For a "stuffy old risk manager" (as he describes himself) he's a real "thrill-seeker" (read: nutter) with a "high need for speed" and daft stunts like bungee jumping. Back down to earth, both he and Clare would like to pick up golf again. Clare has saner hobbies which include

making clothes and quilting. They have two children: Liselotte, 9, and Albertine, 8.

Damian Jaume and Jackie Laiw



Damian

Damian is the Quality Admin Director with Capetronic Computers for a couple of years and is a football, tennis, squash and cricket player. He also enjoys photography, music and militaria, and plays the sax and the piano. Jackie was at home this evening looking after their 10-day-old baby Oskar, who "sleeps, cries, suckles and defaecates", according to Damian. Jackie's hobbies were listed as "swimming, handicrafts, cooking computers", but it wasn't clear whether there was supposed to be a comma in between those last two!

Wallace and Supa Gowin



Wallace

Previously in Guam and here for over five years already, Wallace is the Operations and Technical Director of Securicor and expects to be here "forever". He and wife Supa have two children listed on

their form, Supon, 8, and Erika, nearly 2, but Supa's got another one due this month, so fingers crossed for an easy time of it for her! When not having children, Supa enjoys knitting and crochet, whereas Wallace is into golf, weight-lifting, martial arts, scuba diving, computers and working on cars as well as helping raise money for poor villages and wats.

Ken and Mai McKechnie



Ken

Retired draughtsman Ken travelled all the way from Ubon Ratchathani for this New Members Night! Previously in Papua New Guinea, Aussie Ken says he came here for a holiday and stayed; he's been here nine years now and has no plans to leave. He's married to Mai up in Ubon, and his hobbies include gardening, DIY and cleaning out the fish pond(!) as well as travelling around Thailand.

Raymond and Joy Keys



Joy and Raymond

In the 9 months they have been in Bangkok Raymond has joined the Hash House Bikers with his mountain bike while Joy is a fully qualified leader of La Leche League and is involved with BAMBI. Raymond is the MD at Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, he's also a golfer, swimmer, photographer and would like to learn tennis; Joy was a geography teacher and enjoys walking, swimming, reading, sightseeing, travelling and dance for fitness. They have two sons: Rory, 5, at NIST and Stuart, 3, who was born in previous posting Budapest.

Twich Kanchananaga and Saranya Chatiyononda



Twich

This charming guy is Twich, who is a Visa Officer at the New Zealand Embassy, and a keen stamp collector in his spare time. Saranya couldn't make it this evening as she was looking after their two children, Korakot, 6, and Phak, 3; both he and Saranya enjoy swimming, table tennis, tennis, badminton and other sports.

Derrin Johnson and Beth Hunt



Derrin

Just got around to joining after over a year here, Aussie Derrin is the Marketing Director for Sara Lee Trading and this is his first overseas posting for at least 3 years. He and Beth have two children: Gracie, nearly 3, and Patrick, 6 months. Derrin and Beth are into swimming and tennis; Derrin also plays squash, music and with the kids while Beth enjoys running, reading, antiques and art as well as playing with the kids.

Jason and Florence Marchant



Jason and Florence

Brit Jason is a Manager at Baker Hughes and expects to be here for another four years on top of the year he has been here already; he and French wife Florence have two children: Lucie, 5, and Léon, 2. Jason is a golfer while Florence listed no sporting or casual pursuits. Their last posting was in Vietnam.

Augusto and Maguy Miranda



Augusto and Maguy

Augusto is an Attaché at the French Embassy for a 3-year stint, of which he has completed one year already; he and Maguy have previously been posted to Panama and Colombia, and it was in the latter country that Romain, now 6, was born, while Emeline, 1 1/2, was born in their home country France. Augusto plays squash and tennis, Maguy loves crosswords and both enjoy reading.

Ashok and Khoty Mathur



Ashok

Ashok is 'Mr Y2K' for Siam Unisys, or Senior Millennium Consultant to you and me, and arrived here with his wife Khoty almost a year ago for a long time. They have two children, Ashwin, 12, and Sabrina, 8, both born in Bombay, and previous postings have included London and Wellington, NZ. Ashok claims to play "a bit of golf" (he stops counting after 155!) as well as tennis, horse-riding and hang-gliding. As for hobbies, Khoty enjoys music and plays the piano but I'm not sure about Ashok accompanying as he says he plays the guitar like he plays golf!

Mike Joyce



Mike

Canadian Mike is the CFO for Chrysler Sales and Service and is here indefinitely; he's a diverse sportsman listing tennis, hockey, lacrosse, golf and white water rafting among his sports, while hobbies include symphony, plays, concerts and reading. Previous postings have included Vietnam (as a US soldier), the North Pole and the US; he has two grown children, one a speech pathologist and the other a physicist.

On behalf of the General Committee I would like to wish all members a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Lisa Fitzpatrick

As many of you will know, Lisa Fitzpatrick will be leaving the BC in mid December to pursue career opportunities in the UK. Lisa has been the inaugural Sports and Recreation Co-ordinator at the British Club. When she was appointed in February 1997 the General Committee had a view on the skills required of the individual and the anticipated benefits to the Club. As is nearly always the case on these occasions, the reality of the situation transpired to be somewhat different. It is to Lisa's great credit that she persevered with the task and adapted to the role as it evolved. Lisa brought many new skills to the BC and her enthusiastic and caring nature resulted in the very successful and varied programme of events the Club provides these days. I'm sure I speak for all the Membership in thanking Lisa for her hard work and wishing her the very best of good fortune for the future.

Looking to the future, the General Committee has reviewed the role of the SRC to ensure that Lisa's initiatives are maintained and, where appropriate, expanded. We are currently actively seeking a replacement in order to ensure that any disruption is minimised.

Extra-ordinary General Meeting

On November 6th, an EGM was held in the Surawongse room at the BC. There were 37 members present with another 23 indicating their view via proxy votes. Fortunately the meeting was quorate and I will provide here a précis of my opening remarks, the rules as accepted by the meeting and the implications of the adopted changes.

Opening remarks

"The General Committee decided earlier this year that there was a need to review

the Rules of the Club, to see that they are appropriate for today's environment. We are happy to say that generally they are. One area we decided to look at in more depth was Membership. We felt there were some anomalies and we also wanted to examine the possibility of new categories of membership, a complete thorough review. Ultimately, new categories were not felt to be appropriate at this time and thus we arrived at the agenda you have before you, which we, your General Committee, commend to you in order to provide a more consistent approach to Membership.

It is worth stating at this point that within this review, the need to maintain the traditions and ambience of the British Club have been paramount in our thinking. Also, there are almost certainly issues or areas of concern to many members. It is important that these areas are debated in full and any changes adopted, obviously, should reflect the wishes of the majority of members. We sincerely hope that our proposals both meet with your approval and at the same time bring the Rules up to date in order to provide greater consistency.

As we all know, the British Club is in effect a non-profit making organization that exists for the benefit of the Members. As such, our financial position is usually finely balanced. For several years now we have been unable to do more than maintain the existing Club facilities because of a revenue shortfall, which has been exacerbated by the loss of Members during the current economic problems in the region. Successive General Committees have strived to minimise the impact through prudent management. It is for this reason a Membership Marketing campaign was introduced. This has been successful in that since its inception in February we have achieved a net gain of 77 members, which, with the increase in subscriptions to be introduced at the end of this year, should enable us to meet our monthly operating costs. We are presently evaluating the medium to long term financial requirements of the British Club,

a 3-5 year view. Clearly, we need to accrue a fund to meet the costs of basic maintenance and refurbishment as a minimum, and we will be bringing this matter to the next AGM for discussion."

Rule changes

Rule 30:

'Each candidate for election must be nominated by two Ordinary or Country Members who have been members for a period of at least 6 months. Applicants shall be furnished with a copy of the Rules and required to complete an application form, which must be signed by their Proposer and Seconder.'

In practice Applications for Membership will be collated and presented to the next meeting of the General Committee. Once accepted by the GC, the usual summary of every application will be posted on the Noticeboard. The GC will vote on the acceptance of these applications at their subsequent meeting, taking account of any objections received.

Rule 31:

'At the time of submitting the application form candidates for Ordinary, Country or Non-Voting Membership will be required to pay the entrance fee, and deposit one months subscription. The candidate will also be required to complete a Bankers Order covering monthly subscriptions. On receipt of these a Club Number will be allocated which must be used when signing Club bills.'

The change was required for clarity. Now all Associate Membership payment requirements will be covered under Rule 46.

Rule 37:

'A Country Member shall automatically become an Ordinary Member on transfer to a residence within a radius of eighty kilometres from the Club, unless the Club is notified in writing within one month of transfer that the Member resigns.'

Upon transfer the member shall be liable to pay the appropriate monthly subscriptions

for an Ordinary Member from the first day of the month following the transfer. Should a transferring member have joined the Club as a Country Member then, upon first transfer, he/she shall be liable for payment of the balance between a Country Member's entrance fee and an Ordinary Member's entrance fee based upon rates prevailing at the time of transfer. Under the old wording it could be construed that a Member going Up-Country might be required to pay the difference in entry fees on return to a residence in Bangkok. Clarification was therefore required.

Rule 44:

'Associate Membership will be limited to one third of the total Membership of the Club (excluding Absent Members). No more than one third of Associate Members may be of any one nationality. Temporary exceptions to these provisions are permitted under rules 55bii and 59bii.' I think this one is self-explanatory but was the subject of much debate. It was clarified to the meeting on several occasions, from both the Chair and the Floor, that the intent of the change was that a maximum of one third of active members should be Associate Members and a maximum of one third of that third, one ninth of the total, could be of a single nationality. In the event of total Membership Numbers falling, individual categories would be deemed full and no further recruitment permitted until such time that the required overall number once again permitted new members. This might be through a reversal of the recruitment trend or natural attrition.

Rule 46:

'Associate members will be eligible for the equivalent categories of membership as Ordinary Members. At the time of submitting an application form, Associate Members will pay the same entrance fee, monthly subscription and deposit as persons eligible for equivalent membership categories and will be required to complete a Bankers Order

covering monthly subscriptions. On receipt of these a Club number will be allocated which must be used when signing Club bills. However, applicants joining a waiting list will not be required to make any payments and will not be allocated a Club number until there is a vacancy in the category for which they have applied.' Simply, Associate Members are now able to take advantage of similar payment concessions that are available to Ordinary Members.

Rule 55:

'a) An Ordinary or Country Member may transfer his/her membership to his/her spouse on application to and approval by the General Committee and the payment of the fee laid down in the scale of fees. The Ordinary or Country Member must be paying subscriptions at the rate applicable to married members, and the spouse must be eligible for Ordinary or Country Membership in his/her own right.

bi) In the event of the death of the principal card holder, the bereaved spouse may apply for the membership to be transferred to his/her own name as an individual, provided it is requested within a period of 12 months. The applicant can only apply to transfer the membership to that which he/she is eligible for in his/her own right. bii) In the event there is a waiting list for the particular category for which membership transfer is applied, the bereaved spouse may transfer membership immediately, creating an exception to rule 44 which shall be redressed with the next resignation in that category or by an appropriate increase in total membership numbers.'

We felt that it is necessary to ensure that a bereaved spouse should sensitively and swiftly be permitted to continue to use the Club.

Rule 59:

'a) The children of all Ordinary, Country, Honorary and Associate Members wishing to use the Club facilities shall, upon reaching the age of 21 years, apply for

membership in their own right.

b) If this application is made within 12 months of the applicant's 21st birthday and the member has paid subscriptions at the rate applicable to a married member for a minimum of 5 years, then:

i) The applicant shall, if elected, pay an entrance fee at a rate equivalent to 25% of the applicable full rate.

ii) In the event there is a waiting list for the particular category for which this membership is applied, applicants may join the Club immediately subject to rules 29, 30 and 31 creating an exception to rule 44 which shall be redressed with the next resignation in that category or by an appropriate increase in total membership numbers.'

In practice, the Club General Manager will inform both Members and their sons/daughters who reach 21 that they can if desired apply for Membership under this concession. The application should be made to the General Committee within 12 months of the 21st birthday. If the son or daughter is perhaps residing overseas, the actual processing of the membership (and payment) may be delayed and established on their return to Thailand provided their application was lodged in accordance with this rule.

The absolute interpretation of the changes, and particularly the proposal amended at the EGM itself will be subject to discussion at forthcoming meetings of the General Committee. The outcome of these deliberations will be laid out in the form of a series of 'Policies and Procedures', which serve as an ongoing reference for both the Management and General Committee.

Next month, David Turner, who holds the portfolio for Policies and Procedures on the General Committee, will explain these responsibilities more fully.

James Young
Chairman



Roger's Antics & the Eminently Makeables

"Sorry girls, I thought I was on rugby tour"

No, Roger did not put a condom on his head in the bar... but more of that later.



Securing the Volvo Cup

Snows Blizzard Course

On their first outing with the British Club at Thana City, Guy and Bridget Snow showed their true potential by posting very respectable net scores in spite of the heat and copious amounts of water. Welcome to them both. Using System 36 the eventual winner was Dick Blackmore with 38 points with Peter Williams and Gareth Sampson in second and third place with 37 points.

You Win Some... You Lose Some

The British Club were handsomely beaten by a small turnout of top GeeGees at Pattaya (probably because I wasn't there). Honour was restored when we thrashed the Scandinavians by a margin of two shots per player, securing the Volvo Cup for a second year. Not known for our consistent

play, we lost to the British Embassy in the **BUPA Blue Cross** sponsored match held at Green Valley, Bangna... no, your policy does not cover injured pride. Congratulations though to Dugal Forrest for coming first with 40 stableford points. The match was followed by a splendid barbecue back at the BC and thanks go to Barry and the catering staff for putting on such a good spread.

We Wuz Robbed

The Japanese dropped out of the league at the last moment, robbing the British Club of a mathematical chance of gaining second place. The team remained in third place after drawing the last match with the Golfers' Cocktail Lounge, who remained unbeaten this season.

Chiang Mai Weekend

On Chulalongkorn weekend 25 intrepid squash, tennis and golf players with their families set off for Chiang Mai. There was something for everyone and the weather was perfect. You could choose your preferred sport, go sightseeing or lie by the pool. Two club days of golf were organised. Winners on the first day were Roger Fitzgerald (1st), Judy Fitzgerald (2nd) and Me (3rd). The Gymkhana Club was the venue for the second day. Winners of the pairs event were Roger Fitzgerald (again) and Jo Goodliffe with Pat Dean and Joom White second. Alcohol obviously does wonders for Roger's game. He managed to disgrace himself on the Friday night and was subsequently taken to the cleaners by all the ladies present, being forced to buy two rounds of cocktails at the Regent Chiang Mai hotel (the mark-up there for a Singha beer is 700%). Roger was also heard whingeing about the new club shirt because he wouldn't wear anything with an inverted pocket... but he doesn't mind wearing a poofy shirt with a big pink elephant on it. A big thank you to Bernie for organising what was voted one of the best weekends ever. And we can all vouch for the fact that Angel Airways really does exist.



Thana City winner Dick Blackmore



Bridget gets a welcome kiss and prize from Bernie



Dugal back on form



Those Three or Four Footers

We manfully stride up to the “eminently makeable” short putt; we affect a debonair little half-smile as if to say “Nothing to it”. But the butterflies in the stomach have hatched, and as we take our stance the line of the putt wriggles and slips around like a snake on glass. We somehow can’t see it. If the putt were shorter, we would ram it to the back of the cup; longer, and the break of the green would be obvious. But at this maddening in-between length all systems break down. Typically we decide to aim at the right edge, hit it a tad too firm, and watch it in sickening slow motion catch the right edge and twirl out, while our partner suppresses a groan and our opponents exchange a silent wink. Or correcting for this scenario, we go for the dead middle, hit the ball a bit tentatively, and see it wobble off to the left in the last six inches.

John Updike

Next Outings

Saturday 5th December at noon, Match vs Cocktail Lounge at Lakeside, Cha-am.

Sunday 6th December, 8am, Deemed Trophy at Majestic, Hua Hin

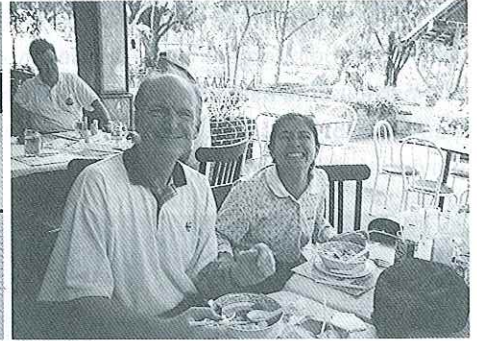
Sunday 13th December, 11.42am, Medal Final at Royal Lad Krabang

Thursday 31st December, 9.40am, Club Day at Vintage

Karen Carter



If I squeeze hard enough my balls will pop back in



I love playing golf with Nick



I didn't come first!



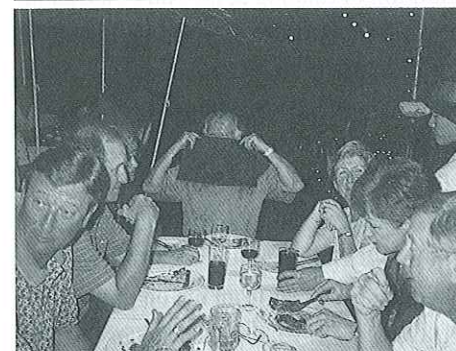
Please, Roger, NO



Martin masters mud



Runner-up Judy gets a kiss



Gerry and the dance of the seven veils

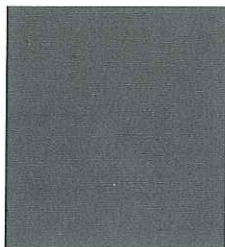


What's that on his shirt?

Calendar

British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - December

Sunday



Sports - Contact the following:

Aquatics	Liz Beal	262-9351
Badminton	Anant	654-0002-29
	Leighrahathorn	
Crickit	Nick White	246-0832
Football	Matt Duke	545-5555
Golf	Bernie Adams	861-0608
Rugby	Jon Prichard	712-1650
Scuba	Cheryl Lamb	258-1382
Squash	Peter Corney	712-4398-9
Tennis	David Blowers	285-4721-2

6

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

Monday



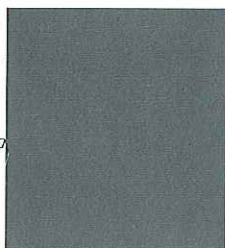
**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
to all our readers!**

7

8am	BWG Mahjong
6-8pm	Squash Coaching
7-9pm	Tennis Team Training
7pm	Scottish Dancing - front lawn

Christmas Dinner Menu starts in Lords

Tuesday



1

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

8

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

Wednes day



2

5-8pm	Squash Coaching
6-9pm	Tennis Mix-In
6-9pm	Squash Teams competition

9

5-8pm	Squash Coaching
6-9pm	Tennis Mix-In
6-9pm	Squash Teams competition

Thurs day



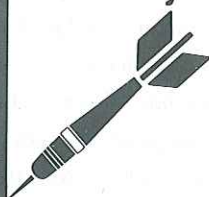
3

8-10am	Ladies Tennis
12.30-1pm	Abdominal Work-out
6-9pm	Squash Mix-In
7pm	Ten-Pin Bowling - Cosmo Bowl
7-9pm	Rugby Training
9-10pm	Hockey

10

8-10am	Ladies Tennis
12.30-1pm	Abdominal Work-out
6-9pm	Squash Mix-In
7pm	Ten-Pin Bowling - Cosmo Bowl
7-9pm	Rugby Training
9-10pm	Hockey

Friday



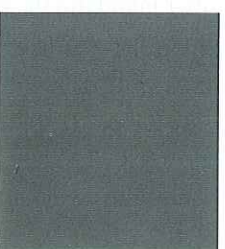
4

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

11

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

Satur day



5

8am	Junior Tennis
9am-12pm	Squash Coaching
12 noon	Golf - Lakeside
8-11am	Tennis Coaching
4.30pm	Casuals Football - Soi 15
6-9pm	FAMILY BBQ

12

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

CHRISTMAS BALL

Don't Forget !!

- Get in practice for the big binge - the full festive menu starts in Lords on the 7th!
- Warm up that singing voice with mulled wine and mince pies at the Carols by Candlelight on the 23rd
- Have a good time but don't go overboard on the New Year River Cruise!

13

11am-1pm
11.42am
12-2pm
3-5pm
3-6pm
5.30pm

Badminton - Soi Nares
Golf - Royal Lad Krabang
Sunday Carvery - Lords
Volleyball
Tennis Mix - In
Sunday Carvery - Lords

20

11am-1pm
12-2pm
3-5pm
3-6pm
5.30pm

Badminton - Soi Nares
Sunday Carvery - Lords
Volleyball
Tennis Mix - In
Sunday Carvery - Lords

27

11am-1pm
12-2pm
3-5pm
3-6pm
5.30pm

Badminton - Soi Nares
Sunday Carvery - Lords
Volleyball
Tennis Mix - In
Sunday Carvery - Lords

14

8am
6-8pm
7-9pm
7pm

BWG Mahjong
Squash Coaching
Tennis Team Training
Scottish Dancing - front lawn

21

8am
6-8pm
7-9pm
7pm

BWG Mahjong
Squash Coaching
Tennis Team Training
Scottish Dancing - front lawn

28

8am
6-8pm
7-9pm

BWG Mahjong
Squash Coaching
Tennis Team Training

15

7am
8-10am
12.30-1pm
7pm
7-9pm
8-11pm
9pm

Ladies Golf
Ladies Tennis
Abdominal Work-out
Latin American Dancing
Soccer Training
Friendly Bridge
Gentlemen's Spoof

22

7am
8-10am
12.30-1pm
7-9pm
8-11pm
9pm

Ladies Golf
Ladies Tennis
Abdominal Work-out
Soccer Training
Friendly Bridge
Gentlemen's Spoof

29

7am
8-10am
12.30-1pm
7-9pm
8-11pm
9pm

Ladies Golf
Ladies Tennis
Abdominal Work-out
Soccer Training
Friendly Bridge
Gentlemen's Spoof

16

5-8pm
6-9pm
6-9pm

Squash Coaching
Tennis Mix-In
Squash Teams competition

23

5-8pm
6-9pm
6-9pm

Squash Coaching
Tennis Mix-In
Squash Teams competition

30

5-8pm
6-9pm
6-9pm

Squash Coaching
Tennis Mix-In
Squash Teams competition

17

8-10am
12.30-1pm
6-9pm
7pm
7-9pm
9-10pm

Ladies Tennis
Abdominal Work-out
Squash Mix-In
Ten-Pin Bowling - Cosmo Bowl
Rugby Training
Hockey

24

8-10am
12.30-1pm
6-9pm
7pm
7-9pm
9-10pm

Ladies Tennis
Abdominal Work-out
Squash Mix-In
Ten-Pin Bowling - Cosmo Bowl
Rugby Training
Hockey

31

8-10am
9.40am
12.30-1pm
6-9pm
7pm
7-9pm
9-10pm

Ladies Tennis
Golf - Vintage
Abdominal Work-out
Squash Mix-In
Ten-Pin Bowling - Cosmo Bowl
Rugby Training
Hockey

NEW YEAR RIVER CRUISE**18**

5-7pm
6-9pm
7pm

Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
FAMILY BBQ
Social Darts

25

5-7pm
6-9pm

Happy Hour! Churchill Bar
FAMILY BBQ

Venues

Soi 15
Soi Nares
Cosmo Bowl
Aerobics
Golf

NIST grounds
Behind Bangrak Police Station
Central Plaza Rama III
Surawong Room
As advertised

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**19**

8am
9am-12pm
4.30pm
6-9pm

Junior Tennis
Squash Coaching
Casuals Football - Soi 15
FAMILY BBQ

26

8am
9am-12pm
4.30pm
6-9pm

Junior Tennis
Squash Coaching
Casuals Football - Soi 15
FAMILY BBQ

Opening Times

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

It's hard to believe this is my last contribution to the *Outpost* magazine after almost two years at the British Club. What can I say? I have had a wonderful time at the Club and in Bangkok and will be sad to leave.



Lisa Fitzpatrick - SRC

However, it is time to move on and time to venture to that place where the sun doesn't shine that often — yes, England! I will be leaving Thailand on December 14th to go to Perth, Australia, for two weeks, then to Brighton, UK, to commence work in January 1999.

Thank you to all the Members who have made my stay here a most welcome and pleasurable one. I trust I will be keeping in contact with several of you. Thank you

to the Management and Committee for giving me the opportunity to develop many areas of the Club's sporting activities, and thank you to the British Club staff for their happy and helpful attitude. They are always eager to do their best, especially my own Fitness Centre staff, who have really shown themselves to be capable organisers in their own right.

I wish you all the very best for Christmas and New Year. I hope to see many of you at the **British Club Christmas Ball** on December 12th. It should be a great night, with a new band, catering by the Dusit Thani Hotel and an estimated 500 guests. All organised coaching classes have finished from the end of November. Private coaching is still available from me until I leave. Both **Tennis** and **Swimming Coaching** courses will re-commence at the end of the second week of January. Likewise, **Aerobics** and **Aqua Aerobics** classes will re-commence in the second week of January. See noticeboards for details closer

to the New Year (or call the Fitness Centre for any sports-related information).

There was a great deal of positive feedback and interest in the **Ballroom Dancing** and **Latin American Dance** classes. Another course is likely to be held in February/March. Details will be posted around the Club and in *Outpost*.

Finally, great Christmas presents for Members or their families are the **NEW BC sports bags**. These are on sale in the Fitness Centre for a *special price* of just Bt 560 (regular price from January 1999 will be Bt 620). Stock up for Christmas with this larger, more functional sports bag. Don't forget the variety of BC sportswear in the Fitness Centre for your Christmas purchases (shirts, caps, headbands, swimwear and much more).

That is all from me for now... until I pop in for the occasional visit en route to Australia!

Sawasdi kha

Lisa Fitzpatrick
Sport & Recreation Coordinator

Running for More Good Cholesterol

(Source: CVR&R, August 1995)

Regular exercise is an effective way to increase your good HDL-cholesterol by a modest amount, which lowers your risk of heart disease. It doesn't take much exercise to begin to make a difference. Just seven to 14 miles of jogging a week at 10 to 15 minutes a mile causes an increase of 7-11% in HDL-cholesterol, compared to inactive controls, according to a study from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

As weekly mileage increased to just over 30 miles a week, HDL-cholesterol increased by 19% and showed no signs of levelling off. You really don't have to work out hard in order to reduce your risk of heart disease.



Juniors Resurgence

Sunday 4th October

We feared that Junior tennis at the British Club had run out of steam, and out of players, but decided it was worth holding another tournament for those who were left!



Alice Rodwell and Laura Hughes

Twelve keen players appeared - not a large number, but in the early days of these tournaments that was a good number. The energy levels remained high for most and play kept going for the full four hours. We were really pleased to welcome two new players, Mark Rydon, and Annelies Bontje, and look forward to seeing both of them at future competitions. Competition was close in a round robin, and everyone got to play at least 3 sets. Overall winner was James Lanham, who must have quite a collection of **Asiapac** winner's shirts in his wardrobe! Competition was keen, and even the little ones maintained their enthusiasm, with the odd cooling swim and ice cream in

between to keep them going. In the hope of harnessing this enthusiasm and perhaps encouraging it to grow again, we held another Junior Tournament on Sunday 01 November, again starting at 8am. This time Juniors were requested to sign in a tennis playing guest to boost numbers and increase competition.

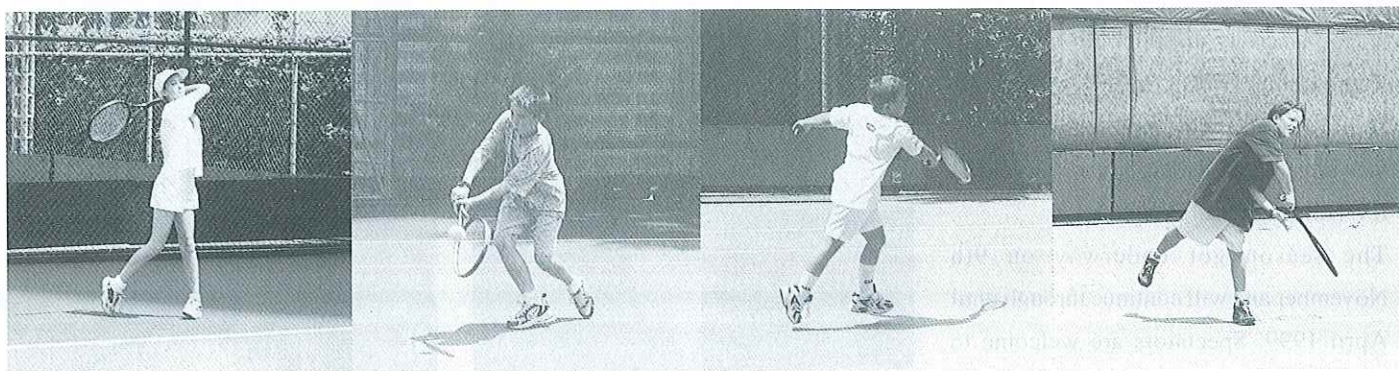
Sunday 1st November

When weekends are filling up with Halloween parties, football, swimming and rugby competitions, it is hard to lure the Juniors back out onto the tennis court. October's enthusiasm did not last to bring us greater numbers in November. However, nine Juniors turned up and

played and played and played. Newcomer, Annabelle Gibney, for whom it was a first ever tournament, must have thought she had come to stamina training rather than a fun tennis event. However, she survived, and expressed an interest in playing again. Another new player was Ineke Bontje, sister of Annelies who joined in last month, and who went through to win the competition, narrowly followed by James Lanham (surviving on less than 3 hours sleep!). Everyone deserves a mention this time, Yhevin and Yanik Tissera for their good humour and sportsmanship, David and Tim Weekes for enthusiasm and determination, George Henton for those cracking good shots which appear just in time! The next Junior tournament will be at the beginning of February. Meanwhile, watch this space or the noticeboard for developments on Friday nights. By the time this goes to print we hope to have added some sparkle to the coaching sessions for Juniors, either in the form of a different style of coaching or of a mix-in event for Junior players.

Happy Christmas! See you in the New Year!

Shelagh Weekes



Annelies Bontje

David Weekes

James Rodwell

Mark Rydon



'Ere We Go Again with the New Season

To herald the start of the 1998/99 Bangkok Farang Football League, a party was hosted last week by the league's new sponsors, Global Silverhawk, at the British Club. Guest of honour was former Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest and England striker, Peter Withe.



Recently confirmed as the new chief coach of the Thai national team, Mr Withe presented medals to last season's Farang League champions, the Bull's Head Brazilians, and runners-up, the Royal Bangkok Sports Club.

The newly-named **Global Silverhawk Farang League** - known last season as the International League - announced two new teams this year, the Japan All Stars and August (from ABAC college) and welcomes back one of the league's founder members, the German All Stars. New league chairman Neil Amas introduced the evening's proceedings which included a speech from former Thailand international Sukit Chitranukroh, who has refereed the league since its inception 30 years ago. Representing Global Silverhawk was Mr Daniel Poole, who said he is looking forward to establishing one of the oldest football leagues in Bangkok.

The season got underway on 9th November and will continue through until April 1999. Spectators are welcome to attend matches which will take place at

7pm on Mondays and Thursdays at the New International School on Sukhumvit Soi 15, and 4.30pm on Saturdays at Bangkok Patana School on Sukhumvit soi 105. Weekly coverage of the games will feature in the Bangkok Post (and hopefully some reports in *Outpost* too!—G.)





Looking to Go One Better in 1998/99

With an injection of new players in 1998/99, the BC Cricket Section, winners of the inaugural Hua Hin Triangular Series and runners-up in the Thailand Cricket League 40-overs competition in 1997/98, are looking to go one better in the new season, which begins in late November.



Members of the successful BC side at the inaugural Hua Hin Triangular Series in February 1998: (back row, 1 to r) Steve Canham, David Nockels, Marc Innes-Brown, Lou Coulthard, Phil McCommish, Dave Curry; (front row, 1 to r) John Williams and Andy Wright (c)

Having gone through the previous season undefeated, only to see the Club's premiership aspirations destroyed by early rain, the BC recovered from a devastating early loss to YTSA to win all remaining round-robin matches last year.

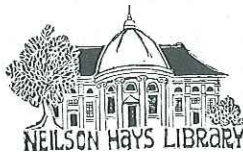
The 211-run win against Southerners was a highlight of the preliminary games. The match featured outstanding performances with the bat by Nick White (95 runs), Marc Innes-Brown (84 n.o.) and Andre Tissera (43), and by John Williams (3-20), Derek Clark (2-10) and David Nockels (3-1) with the ball. A both satisfying and conclusive 108-run

victory over YTSA in the semi final (Trent Ley 96, Andre T. 34 and 2-2, Derek C. 3-27) set up a challenging final in April against title favourites, the Royal Bangkok Sports Club. However, despite amassing 273 runs in 40 overs in the final (Andre T. 114 n.o., Marc I-B. 47, Michael Dukker 33), poor fielding and a mixed bowling performance saw the BC lose the match narrowly by 4 wickets, marking a disappointing end to an otherwise successful season.

A highlight of 1997/98 was the Club's comprehensive win in the inaugural Hua Hin 25-over Triangular Tournament in

February. A conclusive victory over the local side in the first round was followed by an even more comprehensive win over Southerners in the final. The tournament provided the impetus for the BC's successful run into the TCL finals series, before the disappointment of the final against RBSC. Captain Andy Wright, who has since returned to the UK, was named Player of the Tournament at Hua Hin for his success with both bat and ball.

The 1997/98 season featured a number of outstanding individual performances. Andre Tissera was named TCL's Batsman of the Year for the 40-over League, and would have also qualified as best all-rounder had the TCL not introduced a rule forbidding players to win more than one individual award. John Williams won the best bowler award, while Derek Clark, Nick White and Bharat Jogi also had successful seasons with the ball. Other outstanding batsmen for 1997/98 included Marc Innes-Brown, Nick White, Trent Ley and Phil McCommish. The BC Cricket Section welcomes all new players for the 1998/99 season, in which the Club will field a side in the revamped TCL 50-overs league. Net practices are held weekly at the British Club from 7.30pm. For further information please contact Steve Duckworth (tel 261 8457 x15, fax 261 8460, email: ermthai@mozart.inet.co.th) or John Williams (tel 287 2680 x4812, fax 287 1891, email: john.o.williams@dfat.gov.au).



"Asia and other Places" Through a Lens

From Saturday 12th December until Thursday 14th January the Rotunda Gallery is delighted to exhibit some of the work of Michon Semon, an American woman whose photographs have been exhibited in private galleries and museums throughout the US. An artist and commercial photographer for 38 years, Michon attempts to capture the essence of the person/place seen through the lens to express more than physical reality. The exhibition consists of images taken over the past three years while travelling through Southeast Asia, Africa and Israel. Many of the photographs are black and white and hand-coloured.

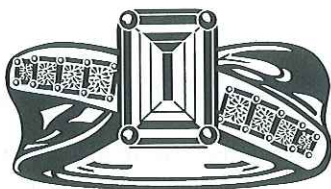
The Rotunda Gallery is open from Tuesday to Saturday 9.30am-4pm and Sunday 9.30am-2pm. For more information please contact Pascuala Robert, Curator, on tel/fax 424 1566.

The Gentleman's Agreement

*The second part of a short story by
Margaret Miller*

The story so far: Somchai, whose main motivation for working in the art department of Regal Department Stores is his huge motorbike, had helped his English boss, Mr John, realise a fantastic Christmas promotion of Aladdin's Cave in the toy department of the company's flagship store, Regal Rose. However, he had reluctantly stepped into the boots of the grotto's Santa when his friend Charley, a shady character who had been admirably playing the part, was unexpectedly held by police for questioning over a jewellery theft, along with his brother. While in costume, Somchai noticed how life-like was some of the costume jewellery his art department had created, and decided to take a few items....

On his way into town that evening, Somchai stopped at a small shop in Pratunam and bought three tiny, purse-like sachets, beautifully made from rich, royal blue silk. He put one of the rings from the tree into each, then took a bus to Patpong. A bus indeed! — he dared not use the bike. He made his way to Tom's Tavern where, as he had expected, there were quite a lot of tourists and regulars playing darts or video games, or just chatting and enjoying the beer. Tom's was always popular with visitors and locals alike. Somchai collected a beer from the bar and carried it over to a table where three men were sitting with pint mugs and talking



loudly together, a most winning smile fixed on his face.

"May I sit here, sir?" he asked a fat man with a red face wearing a shirt which sported fire-breathing dragons up the front. "It's a bit crowded round the bar."

"Sure, mate," came the reply in a broad Australian accent. "Help yourself!"

Ten minutes and another round of beers later, Somchai knew all about Bernie, Fred and Joe who were up from Perth with fifteen other members of the Punters Club to attend a Bangkok race meeting.

"Are your wives with you too?" Somchai enquired politely, as if he were really interested.

"Nah!" Bernie chuckled, "Racing's not much in their line. Left 'em at home to spend our money while we're out of the way! Don't need wives along in this place anyway!" He winked at Somchai. "Carrying coals to Newcastle, as they say in Pommiland!" All three laughed loudly.

"What about you, son?" Joe asked, "You're a Thai aren't you? Got a job here, have you?" "Oh yes, I work for my father." Somchai put on what he hoped was a suitably modest expression. "He owns one of the biggest lapidaries in town and I am his assistant. I'm a qualified gemologist, you see." His imagination soared. "I've attended gemology conferences and jewellery exhibitions in San Francisco and the Hague as well as in London and New York. There is not much I don't know about precious stones."

"Jewellery, eh?" Bernie said thoughtfully. "The tour guide at our hotel is taking us to a place he knows tomorrow. Got to take a little something back for the missus — peace offering, you know!" He winked again at Somchai, who fixed his expression into one of great earnestness.

"Forgive me, sir," he said. "Please don't think me presumptuous, but I must warn you not to buy jewellery from shops recommended by tour guides. I am a Thai and in the gem business myself, and I know what I am talking about. These guides get commission on every sale which is added

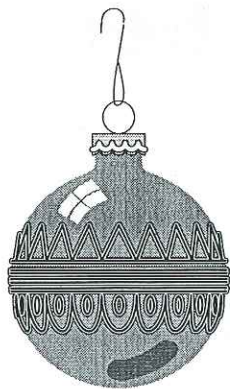
on to your bill. Please let me show you what I mean..." From his pocket he took the three little blue silk sachets.

"It so happens," he went on, "that I am on my way to show these to a client of my father's — an old and respected customer. Now look..." He showed the first ring, a deep blue stone surrounded by sparkling diamonds. "Guys like you are not wanting to buy as an investment to a future sale — you want a nice pretty ring with good stones that your wives can wear and show off to their friends. Now, this is a lovely ring." He handed it over to Bernie. "It is worth 2,500 baht — that's about 100 Australian dollars. But at any shop a tour guide would take you to, you would have to pay another 1,000 baht! Now, in my father's business we deal direct with the customer — you would be able to get this for, say, 2,300 baht with the little discount we would allow you..."

Half an hour and another few beers later, Somchai reluctantly agreed that as Bernie, Fred and Joe had to join their party and could not wait, he would let them have these rings and return to his father's lapidaries to collect three more rings to take to the client. No trouble at all! It wouldn't take long! Anything to oblige his good friends!

He handed over the sapphire ring to Bernie, the ruby to Joe and the opal to Fred, who said his wife's birthday was in October and it would be lucky. Then he pocketed the 7,000 baht, shook hands all round took the bus to the cycle store. There, he handed over the next two instalments on his bike with a warning, delivered in his grandest manner, that he would tell all his friends not to patronise a shop where the dealer was so disobliging!

It was a happy Somchai who roared up to Regal Rose on his bike next morning. He was even happier when Mr John greeted him with the news that Charley was back! "The police found nothing on him," he explained. "Henley is in for trouble though — they found some of the rings and



bracelets in his apartment. But Charley was clean — they had to let him go.”

Somchai went into the cave where Charley was completing his transformation into Santa Claus. “Only two more days now,” Charley greeted. “Then Christmas Eve and no more whispering into my ear what they want me to bring, the little darlings! How’ve you been then?” He moved over to his chair and sat down to put on his black boots. Then he reached for the little crystal tree. Suddenly his eyes widened and his mouth dropped open as his fingers groped at the delicate branches.

“Where are they?” he hissed at Somchai. “Three rings on this branch at the back! Where are they?”

“For goodness sake keep your voice down!” Somchai whispered. “I know they are only cheap paste, but I don’t want Mr John to know I took them. He smiled at Charley. “Did a pretty good deal with them too — got 7,000 baht from three Aussie tourist mugs.”

Charley stared at him in horror. “Paste?” he shrieked, “Seven thousand baht? You blithering bloody idiot! You cork-brained son of a monkey!” He was almost foaming with rage. Those rings are worth the best part of 120,000 baht!”

Somchai felt his knees giving way under him and sat down heavily on one of the treasure chests. He gaped at Charley in utter consternation. A hundred-and-twenty-thousand baht? What on earth...? He felt sick...

“The Paragon Jewellers job, you fool!” Charley raged on, “That imbecile brother of mine took his loot home — and I had the wit to stash mine away until the heat was off! And where better to hide it than here among all your lousy junk?”

In the kitchen of a small house in Perth, Bernie confronted his grim-faced wife across the table. “Come on,” she snapped. “Let’s have the truth: where did you get it?” She held up the sapphire ring, the stones flashing fire.

“I told you, love,” Bernie pleaded unhappily, “I got it off a fellow in that pub in Bangkok. I told you! His father owned a jewellery business. S’t ruth!”

“Maybe you did!” she glared at him. “And maybe you paid a hundred dollars for it like you said you did! What I’d like to know is what you had to do to get it for a hundred dollars! For your information, I have just been over to Arcade Jewellers and Mr Wright there says it is a superb sapphire worth at least 5,000 dollars!”

Bernie felt faint. Five-thousand dollars! He sat down abruptly and stared at his wife. “Honest, love, I swear that’s how it was!” he whispered. “I swear it! That young fellow said it was worth a hundred dollars and that’s what I gave him — nothing else! You can ask Fred and Joe — they were there! They paid the same!” He brightened at the thought that Fred and Joe could confirm his innocence. “It must have been a mistake, love. Poor young fellow — I just hope he didn’t get into too much trouble when his father found out.”

Mollified, almost convinced, his wife looked from him to the ring and back again. Then she turned away and put on her coat. “You going out, then? Bernie asked anxiously. “You bet I am,” was the reply. “Straight back to Mr Wright to get 5,000 dollars before he changes his mind.” She paused in the doorway. “I’ll give you a hundred dollars of it to get me a new ring, and as for the rest... you can stay here in your blasted Punters Club. I’m taking a round-the-world trip... *first class!*”

In the Regal Rose coffee-shop, Somchai and Charley sat over beers. Snowflakes and Santas dangled from the ceiling above their heads while Jingle Bells blasted through the loudspeakers. They had more or less patched up their quarrel, and

Charley had managed to make a little on the few remaining genuine items on the little tree. But he was still hard up! Ah well, Mr John had asked Somchai to book him as the Grand Mandarin at the Chinese New Year promotion and for the Great Bunny at Easter. Great Bunny... jeeze! But a job was a job! He sighed deeply. A hundred-and-twenty-thousand baht! Well, it was about time he got together with Henley again organised another *real* job! He sighed again.

Somchai sighed too. Seven-thousand baht for 120,000! He would never get over it — never! But at least he had his precious motorbike.

“You know, Charley,” he said, “it was all your fault really. It would never have happened if you hadn’t broken our gentleman’s agreement. You promised you wouldn’t try any of your tricks here.”

Charley’s eyes gleamed as he took a long swig of beer. “You’re a bloody idiot, that’s what! I never broke our gentleman’s agreement... I promised not to take anything out of this store and I kept my word! I never promised not to bring anything in...!”



Wicked Witch Wendy with her Peter

On Saturday 31st October the Children's Halloween party took place in the Surawongse Room. It was a spooky dress party and the children did a really great job with their costumes, all 56 of them, ranging from toddlers to teens!



The afternoon commenced with a scary story from Wicked Witch Wendy (see below), which set the spooky scene. There was a fancy dress competition and many party games.

At the end of the afternoon the kids all tucked into BC hotdogs, chips and much else, with a Casper cake to conclude the proceedings. A good party was had by all!

Barry Osborne

Peter the Pumpkin

Lucy was fed up and feeling really lonely. Her friends had left her and gone to a haunted Halloween party. So in revenge she'd spent the day digging up the plants in the garden, pulling the clean clothes off the washing line and hiding all the shoes. Exhausted, she was now lying on the doormat watching the stars in the sky.

She watched one star slowly move across the sky; closer and closer as it began to descend into the garden. It finally landed in front of Lucy with a little puff and a hiss. "Hello, I'm looking for Peter the Pumpkin," the five-pointed person said. Wow, thought Lucy, Peter must be a cool chap. "I'm not sure where he is," said Lucy and the Star looked bored. "Maybe he's in the kitchen with the vegetables," suggested

Lucy. "Follow me, I'll show you where." They both strolled around to the kitchen, where there was a low rumble of voices. The vegetables were all upset, Barry and his gang of Brussels Sprouts had kidnapped Peter Pumpkin so he couldn't be No. 1 vegetable on Halloween Night.

"We need to go and get him" - "Let's squash them" - "Yeah, I don't like the Brussels" Lucy began to get worried with all these strong, angry voices, because deep down Lucy only enjoyed having fun and hated getting into trouble. She suggested to the crowd that she and Star go and find Peter, then call for reinforcements. This decided, Lucy and Star set off into the night.

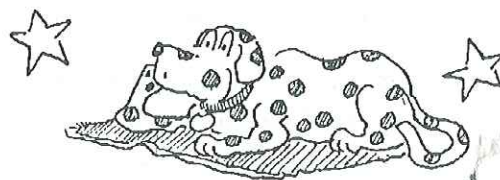
Down the soi, round the corner, over the khlung and up the hill. They came to a clearing where there were several abandoned noodle stands. Everyone had gone home, but the noise come from the carts indicated something was happening. Lucy and Star watched as the Brussels and their friends the Cauliflowers pulled a frightened Peter Pumpkin into the middle of the angry crowd, where there was a cauldron of water boiling over a fire.

"Heck, they're going to boil him," whispered Lucy to Star. "We've got to do something quick." She turned to Star who

was flickering like a torch with a flat battery. "Gosh, she's not much help - I'm on my own." Lucy realised, "There's only one thing for it." Lucy clenched her toes, arched her back, shook her head and bounded into the circle of murderous vegetables. The surprise of an enormous spot bounding out of the dark barking scared the Brussels into dropping Peter. In one bound Lucy was over to Peter, bending down and picking him up. Second bound quick exit out of the party.

Chaos erupted - those vegetables were not happy! They grabbed their fighting gear and made off after Lucy. Lucy was running quicker than she'd ever run before... Down the hill. Over the khlung. Round the corner, the angry vegetables were getting close. Lucy was almost out of puff as she turned into her soi. Suddenly a noodle stand owner pulled into the soi, and in true Thai-style saw immediately all the vegetables. She picked them up and threw them into her ever-ready frying pan where she made them all into a delicious meal. What a close escape for Peter and Lucy.

Lucy feeling rather more confident now trotted into her garden and delivered an exhausted Peter to his friends. "Umm, I'll just sit down here for a rest, after all that excitement," thought Lucy. In the distance a car door went slam, "Oh no, they've come with fresh troops to get me" thought Lucy. A voice quietly whispered, "Lucy, you are lying in front of the door again." "Oh gosh, it's all been a dream," thought Lucy. "Here are my family back from their Halloween party." Lucy got up from her resting place and wobbled over to have a drink. Strange, there was a Brussels sprout lying face down in her water bowl.





Celebration of Nations

The Community Services of Bangkok will hold their annual **Celebration of Nations** on Thursday 10th December at the Hilton International Hotel at Nai Lert Park from 11am to 3pm.

This fun filled event for the whole family will feature holiday displays, vendors, live performances, Santa Claus, various children's activities and CSB's famous Talking Christmas Tree. Entry is Bt 100 for adults and Bt 50 for children under 12.

For further information please contact CSB on 258 4998/5652, or call in at the CSB offices at 15/1, Sukhumvit Soi 33.

Traditional Deliciousness!



The stunning outfits of the Best Dressed competition

The Loy Krathong festival is supposed to celebrate the end of the wet season, and this year the date was set at Tuesday 3rd November.

A total of 135 members signed up for the

event, which was due to start at 7.30pm under the stars on the front lawn. However it decided to rain (hardly the end of the wet season!—G) and we were forced to take cover in the salas. Proceedings

eventually got under way at about 8pm. On arrival the guests were presented with a *malai* (jasmine garland) and a moonlight cocktail. We also had Carlsberg draught - many thanks to Jim Napier of **Carlsberg**. There were several games to keep the kids amused, in which they could win a selection of Thai candies. The buffet comprised an assortment of Thai dishes from several regions of Thailand, including crab curry, duck curry, *yam moo manow*, *gaeng jued*, a variety of Thai desserts and, for the kids, ice cream sponsored by **Nestlé**, which were served Thai-style in bread - lovely!!

Barry Osborne





Float and Learn this Month on the Magic Eyes Barge

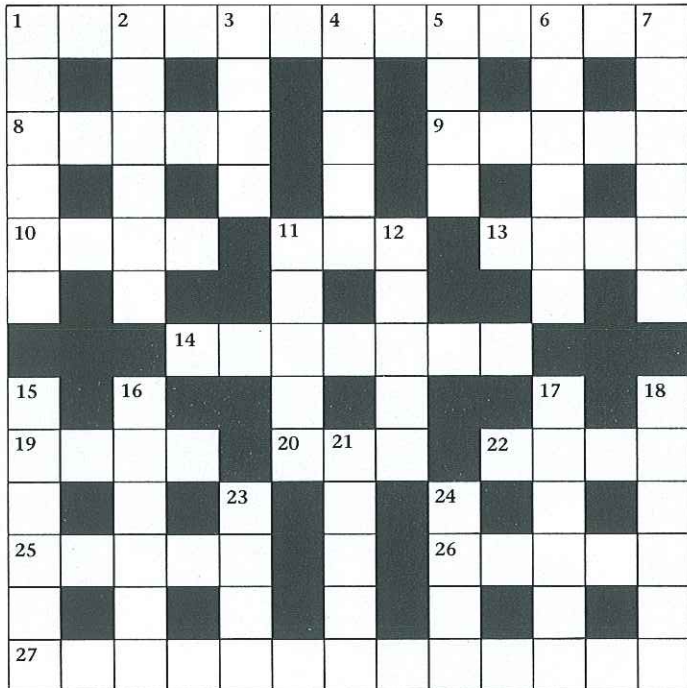
**Nancy Chandler's Floating Art Class - Tuesday 15th December and
Cooking on the Barge with Mrs Balbir - Sunday 20th December**

Two great programmes coming up this month on the Magic Eyes Chao Phraya Barge:

- Grandparents, parents and children alike have the opportunity to express your feelings creatively under the guidance of Nancy Chandler, "the Map Lady", after a pleasant journey upriver.
- Learn to cook the relaxed way, by taking this cooking class hosted by Mrs Balbir. Explore a local market and learn how to choose the freshest ingredients, then join in the hands-on cooking class.

Both tours cost just 1,800 baht per person and include an afternoon stop at Ko Kret to visit the potteries and shop for hand-made products in the quiet pottery-making community. Space is limited for both trips and tickets sell fast! For the art class trip please contact Sue at Magic Eyes Chao Phraya Barge Program on tel: 439 4748 or 439 4746, fax: 439 4754 or email: barge@loxinfo.co.th For the cooking class, please contact Mrs Balbir for information and tickets on 651 0019.

A Crossword for Christmas!



A puzzle with a seasonal theme; why not sit down on Christmas Day, after eating enough to feed the prodigal 5,000 in half an afternoon, and apply some brain power to this one? Aside from being a test to see if you're capable of staying awake after all that food, it will give you an excuse not to move from the comfy armchair for a good couple of hours...

Clues

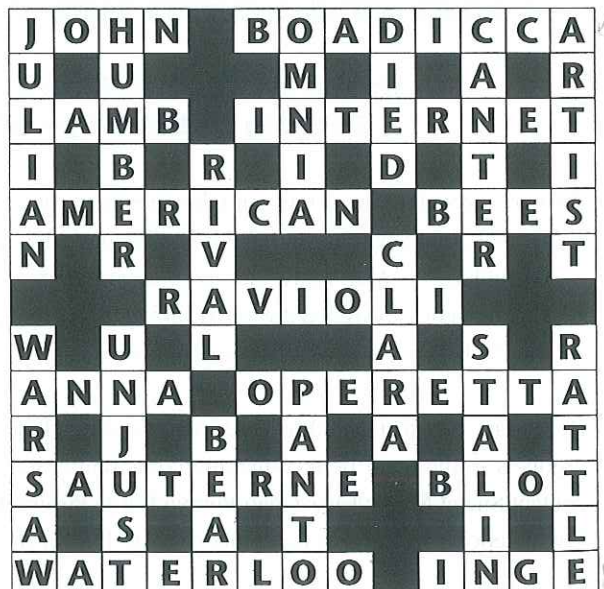
Across

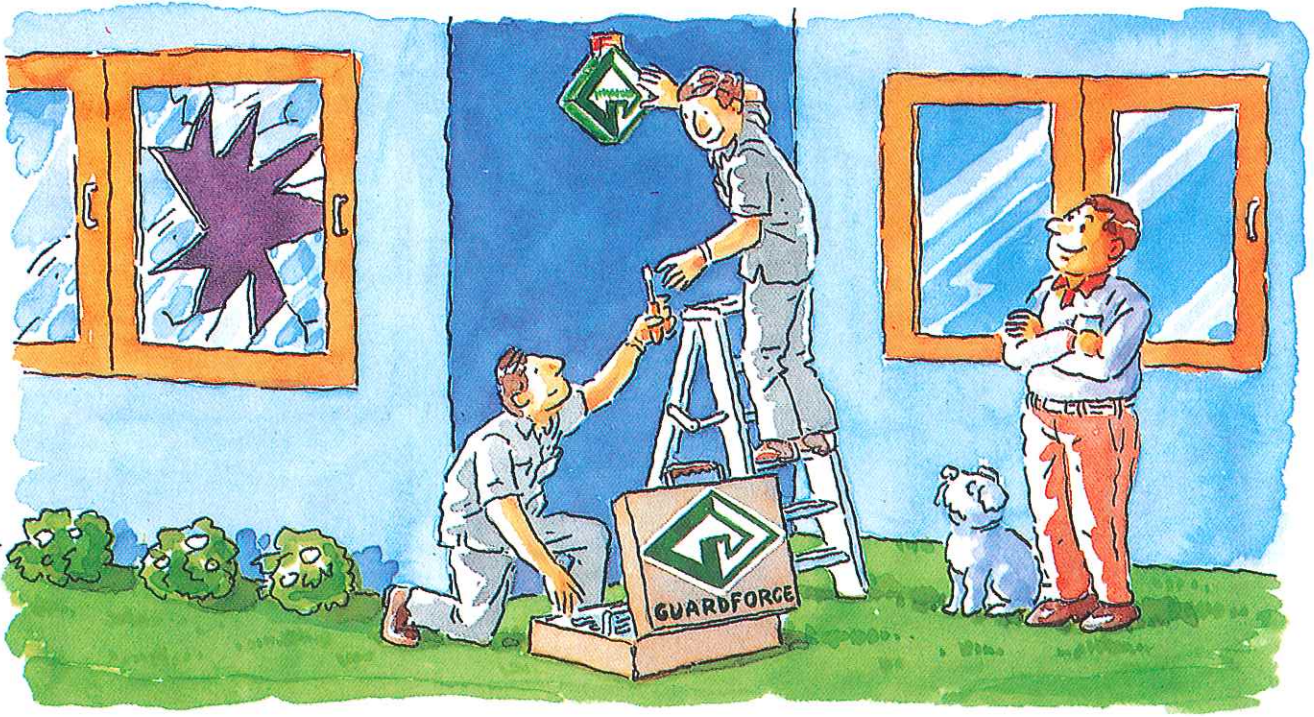
- 1 Gift on one of the Twelve Days of Christmas (4,4,5)
- 8 Essential ingredient in the turkey's savoury stuffing
- 9 This is the day of your birth
- 10 Christmas decoration introduced into England by Prince Albert in 1842
- 11 "I'm _____, Mary Ellen..." (Old Music Hall song)
- 13 The snow was when King Wenceslas
- 14 Might be on 10 Across - or ç_____ in the wind.é (1,6)
- 19 Britannia was urged to do it!
- 20 Drink back, my friend!
- 22 Compact way to enjoy some Christmas music
- 25 "Lift up your heads, O ye _____" (Book of Psalms)
- 26 See 7 Down
- 27 One American kid's sole Christmas wish in a song (3,5,5)

Down

- 1 In the song, this snowman was "a jolly, happy soul."
- 2 "Down on your knees, and hear the angel _____." (Christmas Carol)
- 3 With the wind?
- 4 "Miss Otis regrets she's unable to _____ today." (Old song)
- 5 "The _____ is but the guinea stamp." (Robert Burns)
- 6 I've a New Testament - indigenous!
- 7 With 26 Across, a favourite carol
- 11 A note that's not flat
- 12 Carol in Switzerland
- 15 In 26 Across and 7 Down, "All is _____."
- 16 Too much 18 Down will make you this!
- 17 What the bells do in the Christmas song
- 18 Nips of this will see in many a New Year!
- 21 Protection for Mother as she cooks the Christmas dinner
- 23 Nicholas was the last one
- 24 We're said to tie it when we marry!

Last Month's Solution





Crime is on the increase...
so why aren't you alarmed?

With a Guardforce Home Security Alarm,
your family and home couldn't be better protected.

How vulnerable are you to a burglary?*

Chances are, more open than you think - despite the number of padlocks and bolts on your front door.

Maybe it's time you looked into a reliable home security system - and invest in some extra peace of mind for you and your family.

But before you rush into anything, we suggest you find out more - from the region's best qualified home security

experts, Guardforce. Send away for our free, comprehensive guide and learn about commonsense precautions...alarm systems and how they work..and whether you really do have cause for alarm.

Simply mail or fax the coupon to us. If you prefer, just call 747-3081/7.

We'll be glad to arm you with the right answers.

*Prosecuted cases of breaking and entering in the 1990's are on the rise in Thailand...At approximately 15% per annum, this percentage will increase rather than decrease, if international statistical trends are taken into account.



GUARDFORCE GROUP LIMITED

42/14-15 Moo 5, Sukhumvit 103, Nongborn, Bangkok 10260

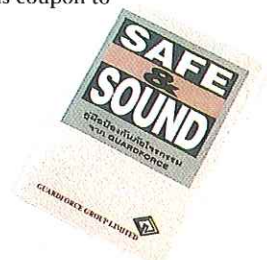
For your **FREE** copy of **SAFE & SOUND**, the Guardforce Guide to Home Security Systems, just complete and return this coupon to Guardforce, 42/14-15 Moo 5, Sukhumvit 103 Nongborn, Bangkok 10260. Fax: 398-9821

Name.....

Address.....

PostcodeOccupation.....

Home Tel.....Office Tel.....



For up to the
minute deals
www.klm.co.th

“Cost effective travel”

“KLM’s World Business Class”



Some times it pays to fly Business Class. We all know that we arrive in a better state of mind, fresher and more on the ball ! But in these tough times is it possible to justify the cost ? It is when you fly KLM... that's why our World Business class is fashionably affordable !

KLM has a service that's in a class of its own. Experience the comfort of more legroom, seats with better recline, gourmet meals plus personal phone and video. Experience World Business Class eight times a week to over 80 European destinations.

For reservations and more information contact your travel agent or KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Tel: 679-1100, Fax: 679-1416.


KLM uk

The Reliable Airline


KLM
Royal Dutch Airlines

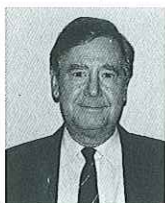
British Club General Committee



**James
Young**



**Nick
Bellamy**



**Dugal
Forrest**



**David
Henton**



**David
Turner**



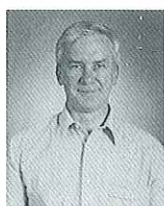
**Bernie
Adams**



**Colin
Hastings**



**Peter
Bond**



**James
Woodford**

The Committee is:

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

Club Staff



**Tom
Bain
General Manager**



**Barry
Osborne
Operations Manager**

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

Moving On...



to fresh fields and new pastures

How often do you move to a new home or country? You'll want your valuable and much loved possessions to pass through the safest possible hands. Choose wisely.

SANTA FE has been awarded the **ISO 9002** certificate for Household Moving and Storage. Proven recognition of World Class Quality assuring you service excellence. Be sure.

SANTA FE also has the industry's most modern equipment and facilities. Prove it for yourself and visit our Thailand Logistics Center. Be safe.



SANTA FE

Santa Fe (Thailand) Co., Ltd.

89/1 Moo 15, Watkingkaew Road, T. Bangpleeyai, A. Bangplee, Samuthprakarn 10540
Tel: (66-2) 750 2466 Fax: (66-2) 750 2467-8 E-mail: santafe@ksc7.th.com

ISO 9002



Quality Assured