



THE BRITISH CLUB  
BANGKOK



# OUTPOST



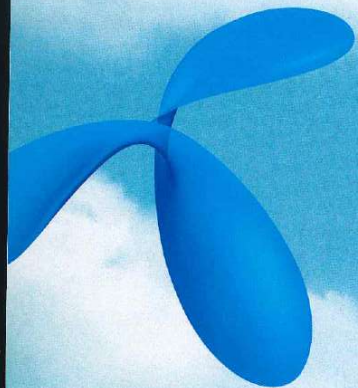
THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK



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THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

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Star Artist of the Month Natasha Sacchi (S484) brings us her winning design in the Kids Christmas Cover contest.

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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



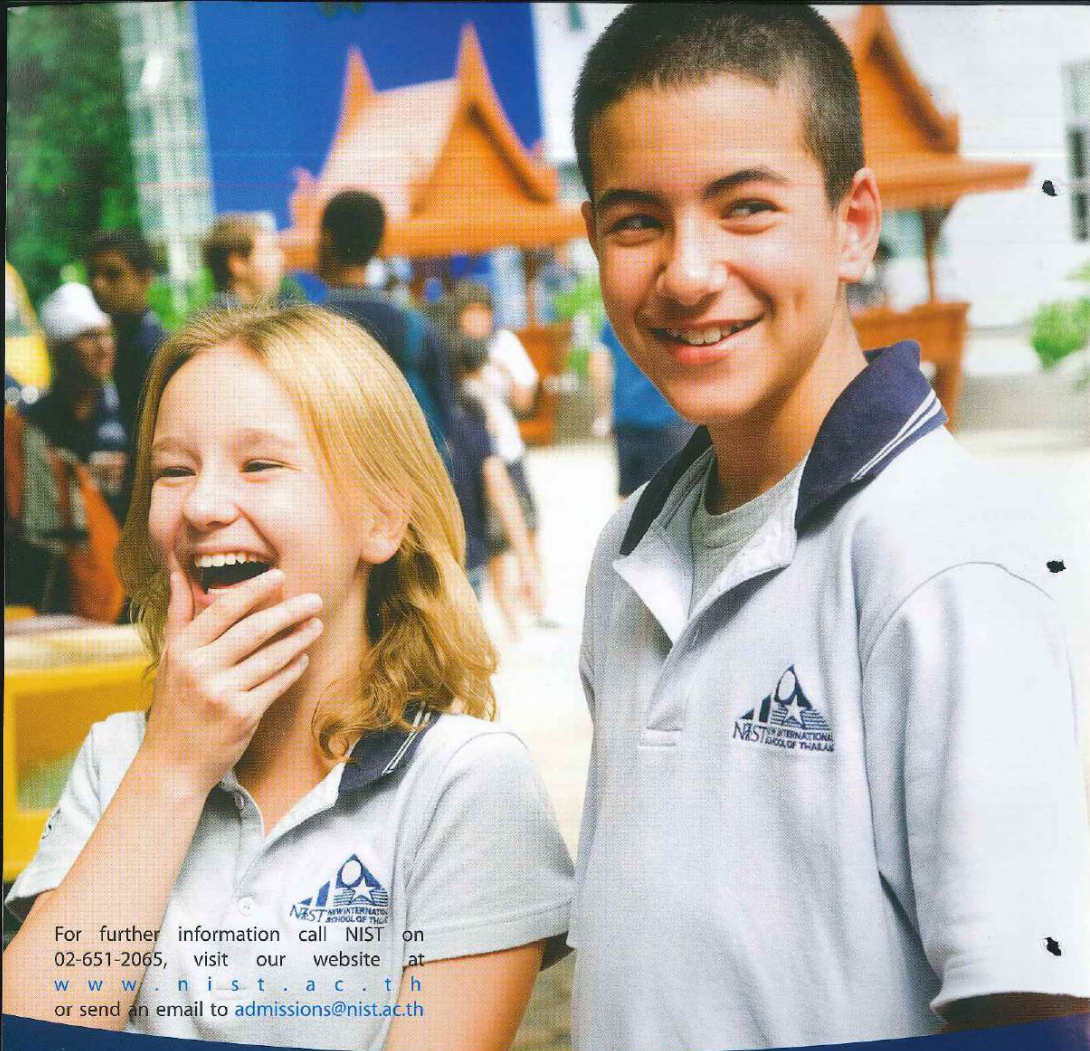
**Jonathan Truslow**  
Chairman - General  
Committee 2009/2010

At the 2008 AGM, members approved a lengthy motion dealing with the problems of Phase 1 of the Club's development plan (The Churchill Bar and the Verandah restaurant) as follows.

- (a) That the current Development Rolling Sub-Committee be disbanded
- (b) That a full and detailed financial statement be drawn up explaining and contrasting the original detailed budgets, as previously shown to the members, and the current outcome, and estimate the costs to complete and rectify the full scope of the original approved projects
- (c) That a new Development Oversight Sub-Committee, which will be required to contain a majority of building industry professionals, be established and be tasked to ensure to the best of their collective abilities
  1. That all contracts the Club enters into comply with the best common practice in construction contracts, thereby protecting the interests of the Club and its members.
  2. That should the budgets presented and approved be found to be inadequate, then before events proceed such as to make extending the budgets inevitable, the members are given an explanation of the overruns, or changes from the original budget, and are given realistic alternatives including reduction in scope, changes in design and approval of an increase in the budget.
- (d) That the new Sub-Committee and the incoming General Committee complete Phase 1 in its entirety and to the Members' satisfaction, to be evidenced by an EGM called expressly for that purpose, before commencing detailed consideration of any subsequent phase of development.
- (e) That ahead of any further development work on the Club site, that a survey of the site is carried out by competent professionals, and following this advice is taken on the current Building Code of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration taking into account the status of our Club House, in relation to possible future development work on our site.
- (f) That an architect [be] employed to prepare a preliminary design for modernization of the remainder of the Club site, taking into account availability of funds, needs of the Sports sections, and the need to continue providing services to continue providing services to the members throughout the Club as far as possible.
- (g) That when an EGM is called to authorize Phase 2 for members to agree a budget, that the new Sub-Committee has reviewed and approved the design and plans, and proposed contractual arrangements, and presents its report on these issues at the meeting.
- (h) That following the AGM's approval all contracts will be tendered; and that all tenders will require three valid competitive bids before being considered in accordance with Rule 16.
- (i) That this motion cannot be countermanded except by members at a duly called meeting with the purpose to do so."

In relation to point (d) of this resolution, the previous General Committee took the view that member satisfaction was unlikely to be achieved without considerable expenditure on the two outlets and commissioned Peter Harper to produce new conceptual designs. These however were not developed, and given the financial situation at the start of 2009, this year's Committee felt it would be imprudent to commit the Club to the likely levels of expenditure required to realize Peter's designs. It was also apparent that there were many areas of the Club in urgent need of maintenance, repair and refurbishment that we felt should take priority over a further radical redesign of our functional, if not universally popular, Clubhouse outlets. While proceeding with other necessary work around the Club, we opted to focus on fixing the worst problems of these outlets, i.e. the termite damage, safety aspects, features most disliked by members or those which were simply built incorrectly, rather than a comprehensive redesign.

Continued on page 4



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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Continued from page 3

We have therefore initiated a series of remedial works to the Verandah and Churchill Bar, which we expect to be completed within the term of the current GC, and which we consider sufficient to fulfil the requirements of the members motion, if not everyone's greatest dreams. An EGM can then be called, as required by the motion, to confirm this and allow future committees to continue with a development master plan. A full accounting of the original Phase 1 as required in point (b) will be presented at that meeting.

For the Verandah, this means new chairs and bar stools, replacing termite-damaged teak flooring and bar shelves, repainting the walls, improving the wall finishing, plus providing new artworks. By the time you read this, we expect the work to have been completed, although at the time of writing, there were concerns about the quality of the surface slab underneath the damaged wooden floor, which may necessitate further work.

The Churchill Bar will have a lesser amount of work to be carried out. The entrance steps were built with an irregular tread and will be rebuilt to comply with British Building Regulation requirements. We have looked at the possibility of providing disabled access, but while the suspended timber floor remains, it is not really a practical proposition. The ceramic flooring will be replaced with wood flooring around the bar and a suitable washable floor covering inside the bar. We have looked at options for installing a sink in the bar area, but again this is not practical. The red panels behind the trophy cabinets will be painted green. A new door will be built into the kitchen corridor wall to improve staff access and to act as a fire exit. The termite damage in the corridor will be repaired at the same time.

Regarding the other points of the motion, the DRSC was disbanded and a Development Special Interest Group established under the previous GC. This is currently dormant as John Boisclair, its chairman, has been taken on as the Club's Development and Facility Manager and no building industry professionals have volunteered their services at this time. I believe we continue to serve the spirit, if not the letter of the motion, in that all major works at the Club are properly priced, tendered and documented under the control of the Development and Facility Manager.

A full survey of the Club covering both topographical layout and elevations has now been completed as required in point (e). John Boisclair will be happy to show this to any interested members. We are now seeking an architect who can assist with point (f) and develop a master plan for the Club's premises. At this time however, the GC is not convinced that a grand "Phase 2" is the best route forward for the club. A process of gradual upgrade and refurbishment of facilities, as has been taking place over the last two years, appears less risky and more in line with the funding available. Some areas of the Club will require more radical redevelopment, and with a master plan in place, we can proceed to tackle these with confidence.

## 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.)

## HOUSE & GROUNDS

### The monthly report on Maintenance and Development



As reported last month, our maintenance staff are now carrying out the second stage of the electrical upgrading work by fitting 3-pin plugs on all the equipment and, where necessary, 3-core cables. As pointed out to me by some members, there are numerous old and broken electrical fittings around the Club. These will be replaced in due course as part of the same operation. We have now replaced the seals on all refrigerator doors and obtained quotations for replacement of all old A/C units. The units in the changing rooms and fitness centre will be replaced at the time of refurbishment. We have now checked all the emergency lighting and will rectify faults – and upgrade – where necessary. Fire equipment will be tested on a monthly basis.

The pest management company continues monitoring termite activity. When monitoring shows signs of new activity, the area that is infested is given an intense treatment. Remaining activity in the Verandah should be eliminated when the floors are treated before installation of the new teak finish. At the moment, the general situation appears to be under control.

The contractor started refurbishment of the Men's Changing Room on 12th October and, as I write, is on schedule to finish by 22nd November. We have relocated the entrance door and changed the internal layout; the hope is that this will be seen as a major improvement. Members who wish only to use the toilets will be able to gain immediate access at the top of the staircase without walking along the balcony or going through the area where people are changing. For use of members while the work is going on, we have done our best to provide temporary shower and changing facilities on the basketball court.

The contractor started work on the Verandah on 5th November. The work will be carried out at nights, after the Verandah has closed at 11pm, and in only one area at any time to minimize the loss of tables. As reported last month, we are replacing the termite-damaged floor with teak flooring and skirting. A waterproof membrane will be applied to the concrete floor, and a cement board underlay will be laid underneath the new teak floor. The bar shelves and the wall finishes in the dogleg will also be replaced. The new chairs and artwork are due to be delivered by the third week of November, when the area should be complete. We hope no unexpected difficulties arise after writing this report.

In planning some of these improvements, we have had very few Club records to refer to. There are, however, quite a few members who have been here for two or three decades, and we are trying to learn from their experiences of past work carried out in the Club, which was gained the hard way in years gone by. Their recollection has been invaluable in trying to assess the potential problems, particularly when dealing with the ground floor of the Clubhouse. An email from Brian Heath to Arthur Hawtin in Japan resulted in a very detailed description of the work carried out many years ago to replace sections of the floor with a lightweight concrete floor system. The dampness of the site and the high humidity level had very quickly destroyed some of the timber floors installed in the past.

Work in the Churchill Bar should also be carried out in November. The dangerous 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 vinyl floor covering inside the bar. A door will be added for staff access to the kitchen and also to serve as a secondary means of escape in an emergency. The red panels behind the trophy cabinets will be painted green. We have looked at the possibility of providing disabled access, but while the suspended timber floor remains, it is not really a practical proposition.

Minor maintenance items completed recently are the repair of the playground equipment and the refurbishment of the swimming pool start blocks. The Clubhouse kitchen exhaust fan is being replaced. Repair and maintenance items currently being arranged include the roof replacement at the Clubhouse kitchen and the repair of various roof leaks in other locations. The termite-damaged parquet flooring in the Clubhouse corridor will be replaced at the same time as the work in the Churchill Bar. A concrete slab will be constructed to avoid any future problems with dampness or termites. Our research into Club history revealed that the snooker room and the rest of the corridor have already been provided with a concrete floor.

We recently received the report from the technical representative of Greenset, the manufacturer of the tennis court surface, who inspected the tennis courts on 6th October. In his opinion, there are several causes of the flaking and rapid wear of the surface. We are currently trying to finalise a proposal for rectification that will mitigate our own financial exposure in carrying out the remedial work. The solution will probably include the installation of a waterproof layer of asphalt on top of the concrete slabs to deal with the rising damp. Our Club is located on a very wet plot of land that includes the site of an old khlong and various subsidiary water courses. A lot of the rainwater still chooses to take a path through our grounds.

Finally, a word about complaints. I am frequently receiving reports about maintenance issues via the Club grapevine. It would be better if members direct all complaints – or reports regarding broken equipment, etc. – to the manager responsible for the facility in question. For example, Reed is the point of communication for all sports facilities. If a quick minor repair is needed, he will contact Khun Adisorn for immediate action. If the problem is more serious, I will assist Khun Adisorn by calling in a specialist contractor. If the problem is a housekeeping one, the manager will call Khun Sumol to deal with it. Please bear in mind that we have only Khun Adisorn and Khun Prasert to deal with minor repair and maintenance jobs, and they have recently been handling a very heavy workload. This is in addition to setting up equipment for events and activities and working some nights to attend on the contractors working in the Verandah and Churchill Bar throughout November.

In the case of major issues, such as future development, I am always very happy to discuss members' suggestions, if they are put forward in a constructive spirit. All for now.

**John Boisclair, Development & Facility Manager**

# COMING UP IN DECEMBER

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th Father's Day Buffet

We celebrate Father's Day with a buffet and carvery available in the Verandah at lunch and dinner times. The buffet consists of soup of the day, a selection of salads, three roast meats, a selection of vegetables and potatoes, and a choice of homemade desserts and breads. The buffet costs 400 baht for adults and 200 baht for children. The buffet also includes a complimentary glass of draught Tiger Beer for Dads. To book your table, call the Verandah directly or send a fax or email to the Club.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9th A Celebration of Christmas at The Club

Sing along to your favourite carols with the orchestra and junior choir from Shrewsbury International School. Christmas spirits and mulled wine, mince pies and shortbread, carols by candlelight – start the Christmas season off with our festive sing-along that's fun for all the family. Drinks served from 5.45pm, music and carols start at 6.30pm. There's no charge for the event, however food and drinks are extra and charged individually to your account.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17th Children's Christmas Party

Activities include children's 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 for kids 2-12 years and 100 baht for under-2s and adults. Contact Khun Apple or Barry for further information; to book, send a fax or email to the Club or sign up at Clubhouse reception.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26th BC At The Movies: Sherlock Holmes

We are off once again at SF Cinema CentralWorld to see the latest movie with Britain's favourite detective, Sherlock Holmes. This version stars Robert Downey, Jr. and co-stars Jude Law as Dr Watson. We have booked for the 7pm showing on Boxing Day, so if you need to get out and do something after Christmas, come and join us for this new movie. The VIP tickets cost 1,000 baht each and include canapés and a glass of mulled wine or two. We will meet at 6pm, and the movie starts at 7pm. To book, simply send a fax or email to the Club or sign up at Clubhouse reception.

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## Dear Members,

Wow! The end of another year, and I know everybody says this, but this year has literally flown by. Here we are again, saying goodbye to another fun-packed, action-filled year at your Club. However, before we say farewell to it, we still have lots left in the month ahead to keep you busy.

On 4th December, we celebrate Christmas with our annual Children's Ball to be held in the Suriwongse Room from 6pm until 9pm, with no parents allowed. The cost is 750 baht per child, which includes a turkey roast dinner, mocktails, Santa's jingle bell disco led by Suzie and her team, and a visit from Santa himself. To keep the parents entertained, we have a curry buffet in the Verandah.

A week later, we celebrate with the Club's annual Christmas Ball for Mums and Dads. This really is the highlight of the calendar year, as we are the only ball in Bangkok to be held under the stars. The evening kicks off at 7pm with canapés and an open bar on the front lawn, followed by a four-course Christmas dinner on the back lawn with half a bottle of wine per person and Tiger draught beer included. Entertainment is provided by The Royal Thai Army Band, as well as disco by Paul Jackson. Breakfast will be served at 2am. Tickets include numbers for a lucky draw with lots of great prizes for hotel dinners and weekend breaks to be won. The cost is 3,000 baht each, and tables are of 10 or shared. This is a great event to get into the Christmas spirit, and last year's big event ended with the last members leaving at 6am! For more info, please give me a call.

We also have our Kids' Christmas Party for the Club's younger members on 17th December (please note the new date), starting at 2pm and going until 6pm. There is plenty for kids to do, including a giant slide, pony rides, the bouncy castle, arts and crafts and lots of games, as well as a magic show followed by dinner on the front lawn... and a visit from Santa, of course!

On Wednesday, 9th December, we celebrate Christmas on the back lawn with a celebration of carols and songs, led by the Shrewsbury School choirs and band. This is a new look with plenty of sing-along songs... and no readings or speeches. The good news is that there's no entry fee for this event; simply come along and sing along. However, we do ask that members please book in advance, as this helps us judge how many places to set. We will be selling the Club's homemade mince pies, shortbreads, mulled wine and lots more to warm us up on another 'chill' Bangkok night.



Christmas Day is already filling fast! At the time of writing, we have over 150 bookings, so please book now to avoid disappointment. Christmas Day and Night provide quite a contrast. At lunch time, it is organised chaos but also great, great fun. We have pony rides, kids activities, walkaround magic, the bouncy castle, a visit from Santa and, of course, the eat-as-much-as-you-can buffet (we do not do double bookings, so from 11.30am until 5.30pm, the table is yours!) with turkeys, hams, salmon, roast beef, even more mince pies and Christmas puddings and santal... we've even got some quality Street chocolates. There's plenty to entertain the kids to allow Mum and Dad at least a minute's peace. The evening is quite the opposite; there is still the great food and mulled wine, but the atmosphere is more subdued. So, if you're looking for a fun, noisy, action-packed Christmas, I recommend lunch; for a bit more quiet – even, dare I say, romantic – festive celebration, I'd recommend Christmas dinner at the Club.

You can even have Christmas at home and catered by the Club. Simply fill out your Christmas order forms that were in last month's Outpost. If you've lost that (the form, that is; never Outpost), then please contact Khun Apple, Somboon or me, and we will send you a new one. If you want help with amounts or weights, please give me a call. Christmas catering by the Club is very popular, so please fill in your order forms as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Finally, to round off the year, we have our annual New Year's cruise along the Chao Phraya river. The cost is 3,600 baht per person and includes a riverside cocktail reception and open bar from 9pm, setting sail at 10pm with the bar open to midnight, a full international buffet on board and Mike Allin's disco. After fireworks at midnight, we sail for another two hours with a pay-as-you-go bar. Numbers are limited to 180 passengers.

Please note that the Club will be closed on 11th January for the staff's annual holidays party.

And that's about it another year over, and we already have plenty lined up for you in 2010. From all the staff here at the Club and from me, we would like to thank all the members for their support in 2009 and wish you a very Merry Christmas with your families... and here's to a great 2010!

Merry Christmas!  
Regards,  
Baz

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**Turkey Pork and cranberry pie with branston 135.-**

**Turkey curry samosas with tamarind dip 145.-**

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# TASTY NEW BITES

By Warwick Newton, F&B Working Group

With the Christmas period only weeks away, Khun Laak and the Club's catering team have devised a truly splendid array of delicious bar snacks and seasonal offerings. And all of it is available as 'take away' from the Club, too, so relieve some of your catering stress by completing the Christmas order form (with last month's Outpost or available from Barry) and returning it to Clubhouse reception.

- Turkey curry samosa and tamarind
- Turkey cranberry walnut sausage roll
- Turkey poh pia sod – fresh spring rolls (a first in Thailand for turkey spring rolls)
- Turkey spring rolls – fried turkey spring rolls
- Turkey pork cranberry pie with Branston Pickle
- Tanon pang na turkey
- Mince pies – unbeatable in Thailand
- Ginger and chocolate petit fours
- and a highly-recommended beef and barley soup, already on the Club's menus and with a reputation for defeating head colds!!

And, of course, there are the healthy specials menus each week, the weekly red rice special and the popular theme buffets each Friday.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the F&B Working Group!



## WINE AND CHOCOLATE

Some say that it can't be done, pairing wine with chocolate, but one of the foremost wine and food experts says that "if you have the right wine to compliment the right chocolate, it can be a match made in heaven!"

Whether you are pairing a delicate white chocolate or a lively dark chocolate with wine, there are a few pairing tips to keep in mind:

Typically, the wine should be as sweet, if not a touch sweeter than the chocolate you are serving it with; otherwise, the taste may quickly veer towards bitter or sour. When pairing wines with chocolate, your best bet is to match lighter, more elegantly-flavoured chocolates with lighter-bodied wines; likewise, the stronger the chocolate, the more full-bodied the wine should be. For example, a bittersweet chocolate tends to pair well with an intense, in-your-face zinfandel. Similar to formal wine tastings, if you are experimenting with several varieties of chocolates, work from light to dark. Start with a subtle white chocolate and end on a dark bittersweet chocolate.

### White chocolate wine suggestions

White chocolate tends to be more mellow and buttery in flavour, making it an ideal candidate for a Sherry, for a Moscato d'Asti (which offers great bubbles to enhance the chocolate) from Italy's Piedmont region or an Orange Muscat. The Sherry and Moscato d'Asti will pick up the creaminess of the chocolates, and the Orange Muscat will pick up any fruit tones on the scene.

Another route for pairing wine with white chocolate is going for the contrast-pairing approach. This is a little riskier, but when you find a match, it can be exceptional. For example, taking a wine like a Zinfandel, which tends to have a heavier tannic content and often a higher alcohol level, and partnering it with a creamy white chocolate can have an unusual "melding" effect. It's like the tannins get softened by the fat content and make for a remarkably potential pairing.

### Milk chocolate wine suggestions

Pinot Noir or a lighter-bodied Merlot will complement a bar of milk chocolate, a creamy chocolate mousse or chocolate-accented cheesecake. Muscats or dessert wines tend to hold up well to mild chocolates. Also consider a sparkling wine or Champagne for pairing with milk chocolate-dipped strawberries. Last, but not least, a classic milk chocolate pairing to consider is a nice Ruby Port – a very safe bet when looking for a perfect wine to accent milk chocolates.

### Dark chocolate wine suggestions

Dark, or bittersweet, chocolates need a wine that offers a roasted, slightly robust flavour itself, with perhaps a hint of its own chocolate notes. Cabernets and Zinfandels have a history of perfecting the dark chocolate match, resulting in unparalleled taste combinations. This will more than fulfil your chocolate pairing expectations. Also consider a Pinot Noir or Merlot to handle dark chocolate around the 55% cocoa mark. Finally, give a Tawny or Vintage Port a go to offer a very well-balanced pairing approach to a dark chocolate dessert or truffle.

# AROUND THE CLUB



We had a great weekend here at the Club this past 30th October to 1st of November!



On Friday, 30th October, we celebrated Halloween one day early. We entertained over 100 children in the Sala for our spooky Halloween party, led by Khun Susie and the BC team. Activities included fancy dress, apple bobbing, face painting, doughnut games – and even jelly-eating games. The kids had a blast, as there was plenty to do to keep them occupied.



All the while, over 150 members and guests were occupied as they enjoyed our monthly wine tasting, which also took place between 6pm and 9pm. Four companies were on hand to offer specially discounted wines to the Club's members. Once again, Khun Laak created a wide range of canapés to accompany the wines.

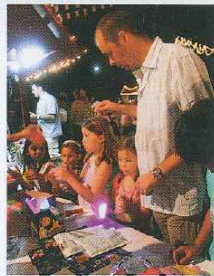


As if this wasn't enough to keep everyone busy, at the same time, the Verandah was transformed into Hogwarts for our Hogwarts Halloween buffet, created by our own celebrity chef, Khun Laak. Over 50 members enjoyed the buffet and the Hogwarts Butter Beer and 1903 vintage red and white wines. The Churchill bar was also filled with members after leaving the wine tasting. Despite the fact that the wine tasting and Kids' Halloween party finished at 9pm, the Churchill bar was still busy at midnight with a group of unnamed members singing songs by Mary Hopkin!



We were in bright-and-breezy the next day to help assist the Nielsen Hays with their Halloween party. The coffee shop was decorated in a similar style to the Sala the night before, and a special menu was created. The Club also loaned its bouncy castle for the event.

And finally, on Sunday 1st November, we celebrated Guy Fawkes here with a bang! Although numbers were slightly down on what we expected, the Members had a great time. Thankfully, it didn't rain – the old tried and tested lemongrass trick worked again. This year – as the following day was Loy Krathong – we invited the kids from Thungmahamek orphanage along to perform some traditional Thai Loy Krathong dances and acrobatics. Khun Laak once again came up trumps with the food, and Khun Somboon, who works so hard at all the functions and events, once again managed his team perfectly. Susie was the emcee for the event and also led the crafts section and Guy-making. The Guy Fawkes really is a team event, as all of the office staff, led by Khun Prem and her girls, came along to help out. The fireworks were amazing, but for 90,000 baht they should have been!



Somboon also managed to arrange parking at the Narai this year, which also helped us out a lot. At the end of the event, we had the Guy burning ceremony and the Club's logo, along with a final surprise laid on by Khun Chalor and the fireworks company. Just as we all thought things were over, two huge rockets suddenly shot in to the air! To say it was a surprise was an understatement. Next year, we have requested no extra free surprises!

I would like to thank all the members who attended the events over this busy but great fun weekend. In fact, our week really started on Thursday when we catered for 500 at The Last Night of the Proms at the Shrewsbury School and also catered for 180 students who took part in the event.

Many thanks to all the staff, who worked brilliantly – and were totally exhausted at the end. Also thanks to the members for the great feedback on these events. Don't forget: we still have lots more events lined up for you and your family over the next few months.

Regards,  
Baz

## Sore Throat? (7, 1, 6, 6)



We have the answer  
BNH Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat (EENT) Clinic

Choose Health



Be sure you are receiving the correct health care advice. Whether you have a persistent cough or are just not feeling 100%, the **BNH Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat (EENT) Clinic** specialist medical team applies the latest procedures and treatments for lifelong health for you and your family. From paediatrics to senior health care and every health need in between:

**Choose Health. Choose BNH** - the smart solution.

If you think you know the answer, log on to [www.BNHhospital.com/choosehealth](http://www.BNHhospital.com/choosehealth)

**BNH HOSPITAL (Sathorn - Convent)** 9/1 Convent Rd., Silom, Bangkok 10500 Tel. 02-686-2700 Fax. 02-632-0578-9  
[www.BNHhospital.com](http://www.BNHhospital.com) E-mail: [info@BNHhospital.com](mailto:info@BNHhospital.com)

# AROUND THE CLUB

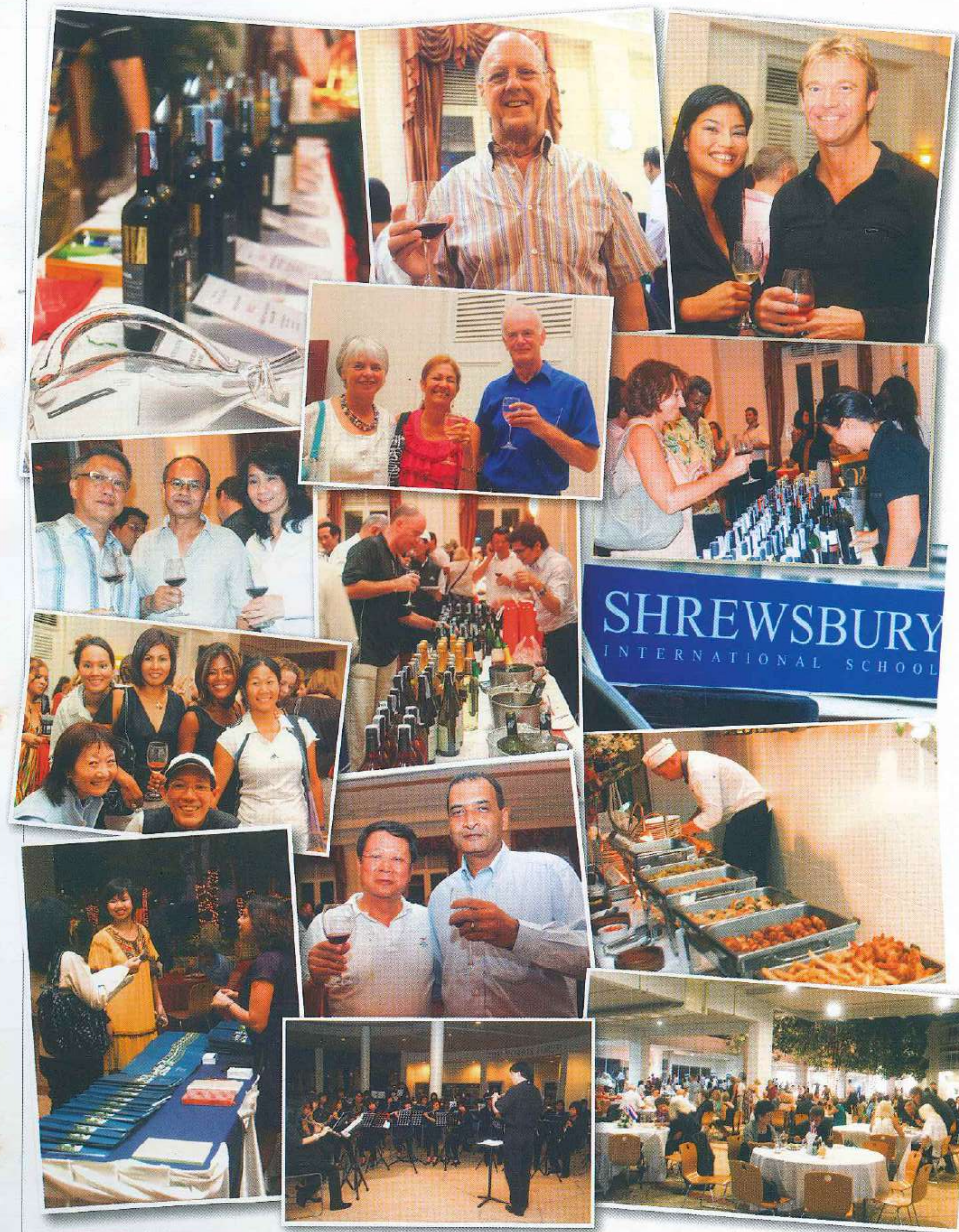
## WINE TASTING & SHREWSBURY'S LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

The British Club Bangkok  
cordially invites you to the  
**Annual Christmas Ball 2009**  
December 12th from 7.00 pm  
until the early hours of the morning!



Front lawn for 1 hour cocktail reception  
Back lawn for  
4 course Christmas dinner  
Half bottle of wine per person  
Door prizes ticket THB 3,000 per person

Please R.S.V.P. or sign up at  
Club reception  
or  
contact Khun Barry at  
[info@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:info@britishclubbangkok.org)  
Tel. 02-234-0247







# Children Christmas Party

Thursday, 17th December 2009



Children crafts

Bouncy Castle

Pony rides

Puppet show

Magic Show

Giant slide

And much more...

*A picnic tea follows at 4.45 pm at front lawn with Santa Clause*

**Thursday, 17th December 2009**

**Starts at 2.00 pm**

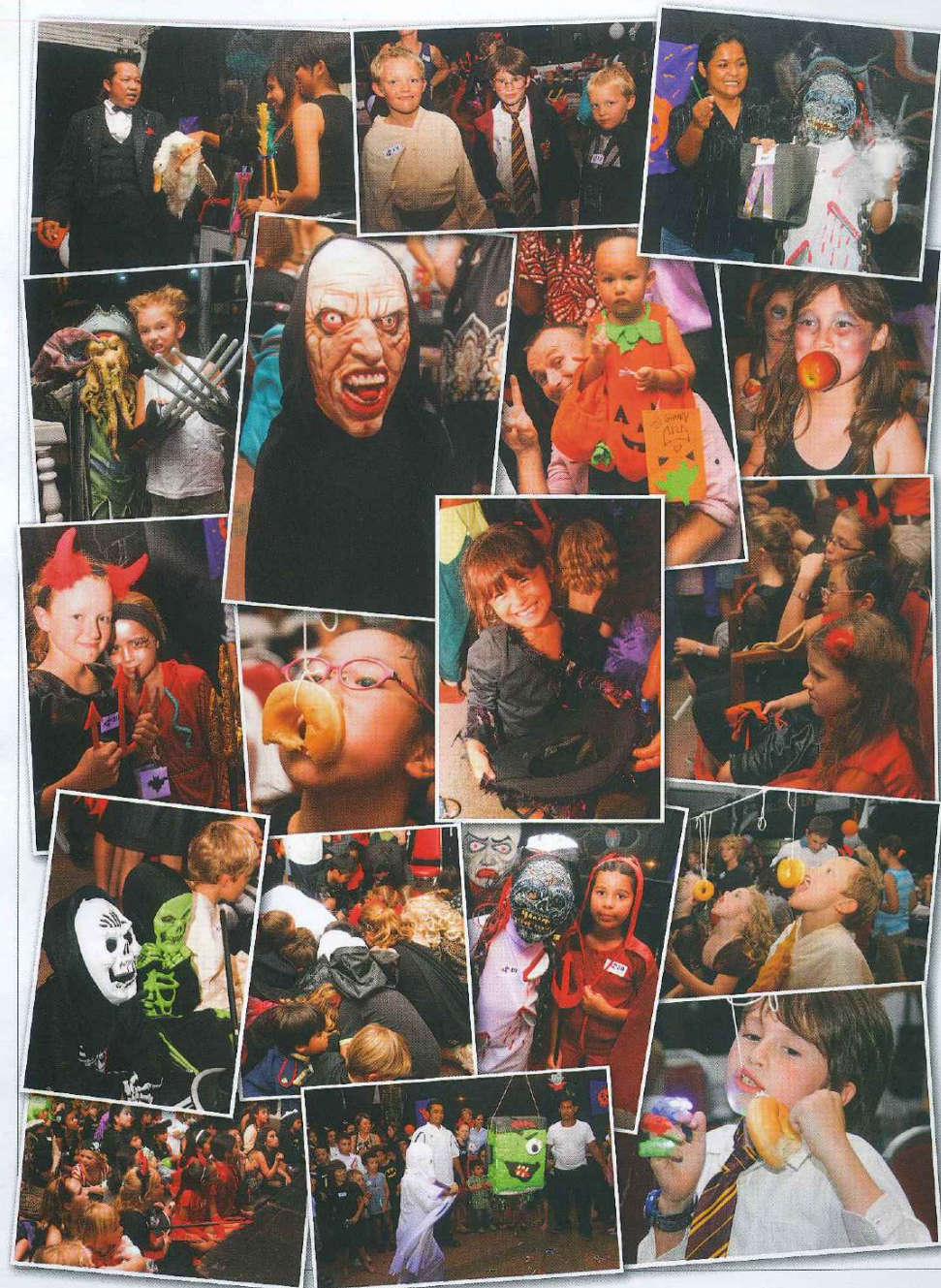
**THB 450 for 2-12 years**

**THB 150 for under 2 years and adults**

**Contact Khun Apple or Barry for further information  
To book this event, please contact the Clubhouse reception**

## AROUND THE CLUB

# HALLOWEEN PARTY



## AROUND THE CLUB A NEILSON HAYS HALLOWEEN



## Dr. Dentist Clinic



### Smiling Begins



- Cleaning and Polishing (Enjoy a Fresh Breath!)
- Dental Implant (Regain Your Confidence and Increase Quality of Life)
- Tooth Whitening (For a Brighter Smile)
- All Dental Treatment by over 20 Specialist Dentists.

Open Everyday, Call for Appointment TEL : 080 595 4448, 02 260 9566-7 Email : dr.dentist24@gmail.com

92 The Residence Tower, Sukhumvit Soi 24, Klongtoey, Bangkok 10110 (Near The Marriot Residence and The Davis Hotel)

## PAST PARTICIPLE *Auspicious Melioris Ævi*

By Paul Cheesman



The original British Club Bangkok ceased on 9th December 1941. The Far Eastern War led to its premises being used by Imperial Japanese forces as an Officers' Club, with the consequent loss of records and memorabilia. Upon the Japanese surrender in 1945, the newly renamed Siamese government allocated the premises in part to the reconstituted YMCA of Bangkok and in part as the headquarters of British troops in Siam. With the 1946 Anglo-Thai Treaty officially ending the state of war between Siam and the UK, progress could be made to rectify these matters.

We continue our series, thus, in 1946...

1. On 2nd May 1946, a group of 35 members of the British community in Siam met at Tanam Si Phraya (next to the Oriental Hotel), the local office of HSBC. This meeting voted unanimously to the re-establishment of the 'old' British Club, albeit as a members' club and not a debentures club, and elected a small Working Party of Victor Jacques (Chairman), R.W. Forthergill, R.E. Davy, C. Letts and J.H. Donofield to undertake this.

The Working Party worked swiftly in contacting the Siamese government, the British Delegation and HQBT Siam, all of whom responded positively; and on 29th May, a second meeting was held at Tanam Si Phraya to explain the then-position, that the Club's land was mortgaged, still owing 47,000 Ticals, and that a further 24,000 Ticals would be required just to get one or possibly two rooms of the old Club up and running. [The May 1946 exchange rate was 40 Ticals to one Pound Sterling.]

2. On 14th June 1946, a third meeting was held to officially reconstitute 'The British Club Bangkok'—sixty 'gentlemen of British descent' signed up as members, paying a 400-Ticals joining fee and a subscription of 40 Ticals per month. A new Committee was elected to bring the Club into physical being, as neither the YMCA nor HQBT Siam had left the premises yet. This consisted of Victor Jacques (who was subsequently elected Chairman), G.B. Adams, J.J. French, C. Letts and I.L. MacEwan.

This committee met on nine occasions over the next three months – taking control of the premises from late August; seeking official rehabilitation from the Siamese government; appointing a paid Secretary, a Mrs Tisseman, on a salary of 300 Ticals per month; borrowing furniture and a refrigerator from the (defunct) Allied Officers Club; decorating 'The Bar' and preparing for the Grand Re-Opening.

3. The Grand Re-Opening, if it can be classified as such, was at 5.30pm on Tuesday, 10th September 1946, and the only thing that was open was 'The Bar' (where the Verandah is now, minus the extension and dogleg of course). Employed by the Club were one butler, one bar boy, one coolie (as he was referred to in the minutes), a gardener and three watchmen, two of whom were on night duty.

Initially, the Club was open only on Tuesdays and Fridays from 5.30pm to 10.30pm, and payment for drinks was by a coupon system, with such coupons purchased from Mrs Tisseman in advance. The sixty paid-up members were augmented by a decision in November to allow all British Forces Officers to use the Club as honorary members. And in late December, the first absence rules were created – members going 'back home' could retain their membership by paying 4 Ticals each month of their absence. A rulebook, per se, would not exist until 1947.

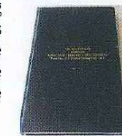
4. Events moved rapidly over the next quarter as the Club became more habitable – the meeting room (Suriwongse Room, as it is) was soon available for use, as was a front lounge (our current Membership & snooker rooms). In November, the bowling alley (where the cricket nets are now) was reopened, and by the end of the year, the Ministry of the Interior had supplied the Club with over 105,000 Ticals of furniture and fitting to compensate for all that lost during the war.

On 31st December 1946, a grand New Year's Eve party was held as the first major function in the new British Club Bangkok, attracting 200 members and friends to a supper with dance band – all for 25 Ticals!

5. One cannot end the story of 1946 without a few words about Victor Jacques, whose untiring efforts in 1946 and 1947 secured the Club and put it on the footing whereby it still survives today.

Brigadier Victor Henry Jacques CBE, DSO, MC & Bar (sometimes spelt Jacques) was born on the last day of 1896 and educated at Thame School, Oxfordshire. In 1914, he became a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Sussex Regiment, leaving in 1920 with the rank of Captain and with an MC. In 1924, he was called to the bar of the Inner Temple in London. He came to Siam in 1925, working for Siamese law firm Tilleke & Gibbon, where he stayed until 1940. He returned to the UK for a short time in 1930, however, where he married Dora Watson.

In 1940, he rejoined his old regiment and fought in Italy, where he was awarded a CBE, and then in India and Burma. In 1945, under code name 'Hector', he was a pivotal part of 'Operation Panicle' (under the direction of the Special Operations Executive's Force 136), infiltrating Siam. He worked with the 'Free Thai' movement, and immediately after the war ended, he was Commander of HQBT for a short while. He was awarded a DSO in 1946 and rejoined Tilleke & Gibbon the same year, returning to the UK in 1955, where he sadly passed on. He was survived by his wife, Dora, who died in 2003, aged 95.



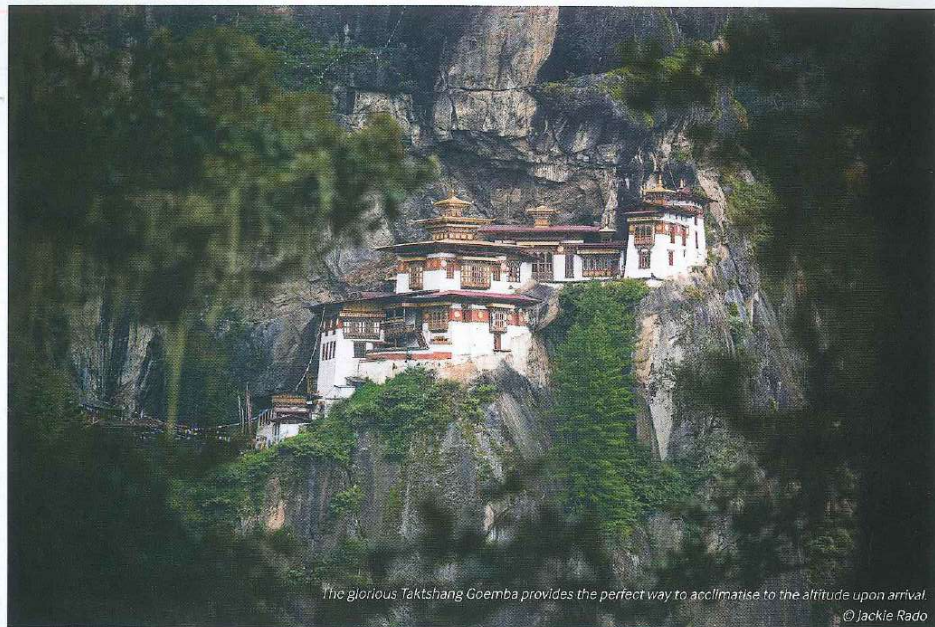
The first surviving book of minutes



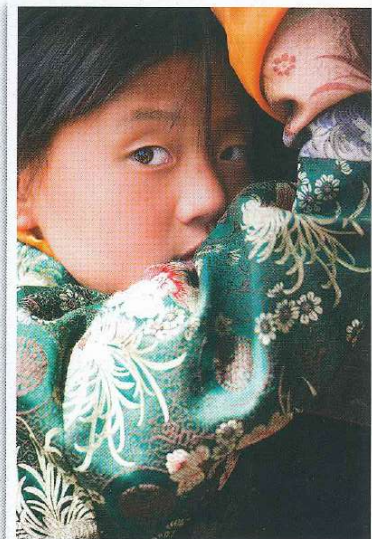
First post-war meeting—notice and short!

# BHUTAN PHOTO EXPEDITION

By Jackie Rado and Gavin Gough



The glorious Taktshang Goemba provides the perfect way to acclimatise to the altitude upon arrival.  
© Jackie Rado



Spectating at the Tamshingphala Tsechu, this girl's face is framed by the rich silk of her traditional dress.

© Jackie Rado

In September 2009, photographers Jackie Rado and Gavin Gough led a photographic expedition to Bhutan, the Land of the Thunder Dragon. Remote and still largely mysterious, this small, Eastern Himalayan kingdom sits between the Asian giants of China and India.

Until the early 1960s, Bhutan was accessible only through the high mountain passes of Tibet and across the plains of India. However, as transport links improved, it became increasingly accessible, until the only obstacles that remain today are the usual ones of time and cost.

Bhutan is perhaps best known for measuring the welfare of its population on a scale of GNH, or Gross National Happiness. Success is based on Buddhist spiritual values of well-being, where harmony between material and spiritual development is paramount.

Buddhism pervades every aspect of Bhutanese life – monks chant prayers in remote mountain refuges, glacial streams gently turn large prayer wheels and fluttering prayer flags release “wind horses” bearing prayers onto the crisp, Himalayan breeze.

Bhutanese people are engagingly warm and hospitable. English is spoken to a degree in even the remotest villages, and it is perfectly usual to be offered a cup of chai by someone you have only just met. Local people still wear traditional dress made of richly coloured woven textiles on a daily basis.



A Buddhist monk studies ancient prayer book texts.

© Gavin Gough



A young novice monk waits in the kitchen of the temple that is his home.

© Gavin Gough



A masked dancer at the Tamshingphala Tsechu.

© Gavin Gough



The terrifying mask of the Tungam Chham dancer wards off evil spirits.

© Gavin Gough



A dancer rehearses for the festival, entertaining a passing monk.

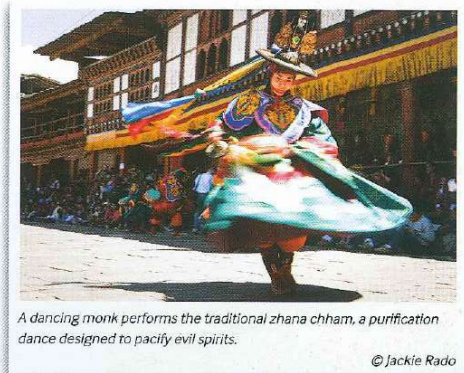
© Jackie Rado

Gavin and Jackie's photo expedition was planned to coincide with the colourful autumn dance festivals, or tsechus, held throughout Bhutan. They take place in temple courtyards and are a visual spectacle designed to impart moral and religious lessons to the audience, who will often travel for many miles to witness these enchanting events.

The festivals provide a colourful spectacle for visitors too, and especially for photographers who delight in the opportunity to capture something of a land that remains stubbornly devoid of western influence. In a world becoming increasingly homogenised, Bhutan offers a welcome escape.

Jackie Rado is a professional portrait photographer specialising in family, maternity and newborn portraiture. She also offers group and individual photo tuition. Please visit [www.jackieradophotography.com](http://www.jackieradophotography.com). Gavin Gough is a professional travel photographer offering practical photo workshops in Bangkok. He will be hosting photo tours in Thailand, Burma, India, Bhutan, Vietnam and Cambodia in 2010. Please visit [www.gavingough.com](http://www.gavingough.com).

Together, Jackie and Gavin run the Bangkok Photo School. Please visit [www.bangkokphotoschool.com](http://www.bangkokphotoschool.com).



A dancing monk performs the traditional zhana chham, a purification dance designed to pacify evil spirits.

© Jackie Rado

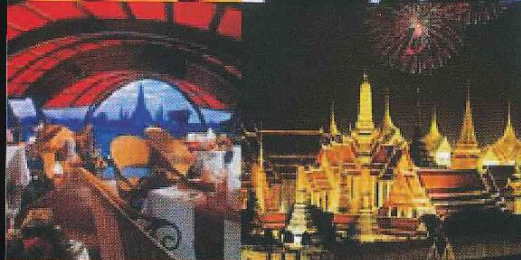
# BC CALENDAR - DECEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only.	30 New S.E.T. Specials Lunch and Dinner.	1 Tuesday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only.	2 BCB Balut Shield Wordsworth Lounge 7.05pm. 	3 New S.E.T. Specials Lunch and Dinner.	4 Curry Buffet The Verandah Lunch and Dinner.  Swimming Lessons 3-5.30pm Children's Christmas Ball Wordsworth Lounge 7pm. 	5 Father's Day Buffet The Verandah Lunch and Dinner. Swimming Lessons 10am-2pm. 
6 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only.	7 New S.E.T. Specials Lunch and Dinner.	8 Tuesday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only. 	9 Christmas Carol Sing Along Drinks at 5.45pm, Songs at 6.30pm.	10 New S.E.T. Specials Lunch and Dinner.	11 Jamie Oliver Buffet The Verandah Lunch and Dinner.  Swimming Lessons 3-5.30pm.	12 New S.E.T. Specials Lunch and Dinner. Swimming Lessons 10am-2pm. Annual Christmas Ball 7pm until late. 
13 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only. 	14 New S.E.T. Specials Lunch and Dinner.	15 Tuesday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only. Quiz Night Sponsored by Tetley's Smooth Flow The Verandah 7.30pm. 	16 BCB Balut Shield Wordsworth Lounge 7.05pm. 	17 Children's Christmas Party Back Lawn 2pm.  New S.E.T. Specials Lunch and Dinner.	18 Thai Buffet The Verandah Lunch and Dinner. 	19 New S.E.T. Specials Lunch and Dinner.
20 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only.	21 New S.E.T. Specials Lunch and Dinner. 	22 Tuesday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only.	23 	24 New S.E.T. Specials Lunch and Dinner.	25 Christmas Day at the Club The Club Starts 11.30am. 	26 New S.E.T. Specials Lunch and Dinner. BC @ The Movies Sherlock Holmes SF CentralWorld Meet at 6pm. 
27 Sunday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only.	28 New S.E.T. Specials Lunch and Dinner.	29 Tuesday Carvery The Verandah Lunch only. 	30	31 New Year's Eve Cruise Riverside 9pm. 	1	2

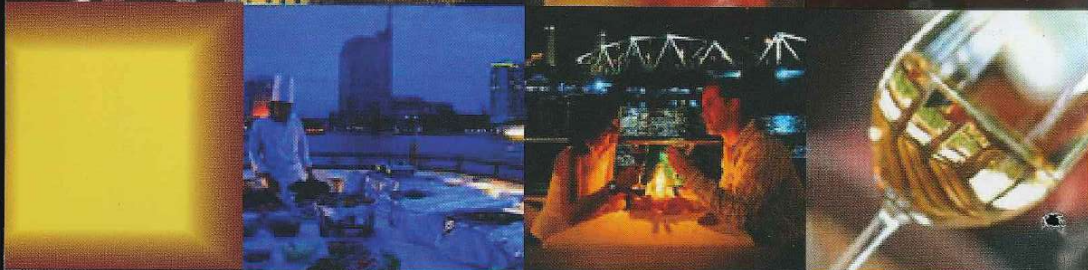
Join us



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

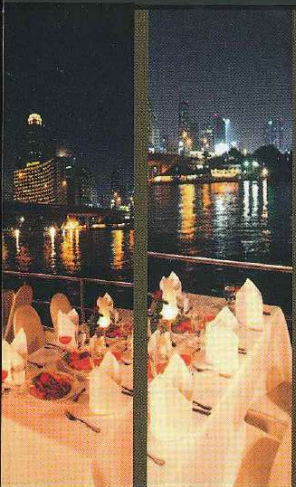
9.00 pm - 10.00 pm cocktail party

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.)



# 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 the British Club of Bahrain.*

## The British Club of Bahrain

Building 41,  
Ahmed Ali Kanoo Avenue,  
Manama 337  
Kingdom of Bahrain

Mailing address: PO Box 26401, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
Tel: 17728245 ext. 0  
Fax: 17728087  
Email: [britclub@batelco.com.bh](mailto:britclub@batelco.com.bh)  
Website: [www.britishclubbahrain.com](http://www.britishclubbahrain.com)

The British Club is one of the oldest and most popular clubs in Bahrain. The Club was founded in 1935 and was originally known as The Gymkhana Club. Since then, it has gone from strength to strength and currently boasts a membership of almost 1,800 members

The club offers a safe, friendly atmosphere for individuals and families to relax in, and has a wide range of facilities. These include a swimming pool, tennis courts, squash courts, coffee shop, first class restaurant and refreshment areas.

One of our main attractions is a fully equipped gym for all those who wish to get or remain fit. The gym provides some of the latest equipment for exercise and fitness sessions held on a regular basis.

The Club has probably the best-stocked English language Library in Bahrain, which includes a large selection of Children's books.

Regular and special events include live entertainment, drama/theatre productions, classical evenings, line dancing classes, tots & toddlers and many more.



# SPORTS & LEISURE

By Reed Passmore

## Eat right – Exercise regularly – Stay healthy – Enjoy life.

December is here – Christmas cheer and lots of beer. If you are like most of us, you will put on a pound or two around this time of year, thanks largely to work functions and parties... for Christmas, New Year's, farewells and so on, so break the trend and show off a leaner body for the new year. And that will be one less New Year's resolution you have to break.

Here are some great tips to combat the bulge.

- 1. Drink more water** -- between beers, with meals, between meals. Water hydrates you, makes you more alert, flushes the body of its toxins... and best of all, it's cheap.
- 2. Lay off the buffets.** Use a smaller plate so your meal looks larger, eat slowly and refuse seconds.
- 3. Cut back on sugar.** Sweets, fizzy drinks and sugary snacks are never a good idea. Period!
- 4. Exercise daily.** Make a habit of a little exercise a day – walking, running, stretches, pushups – a little goes a long way.

Looking back, October and November were huge months at the Club.

### October – Sports Camp:

There was another fun sports camp in the October break, with tennis, swimming and water activities. It's great seeing BC kids playing sports, interacting socially and having fun. Well done, Khun Rit, for running this great camp.

Sports Camps are always run over school breaks, end of terms and mid term. Look out for the next camp.

### October – Halloween:

Scary, busy and, at times, out of control. This was the busiest Halloween party I have witnessed. Over 100 participants dressed up, partied and were entertained by Suzie, BC staff and a great magic show.

## Results from Race Reed To Pattaya:

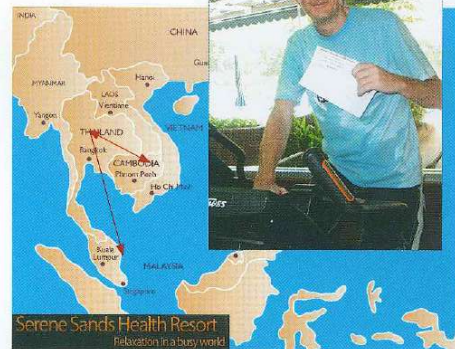
### WINNER: Paul Beckett!

Paul was the fastest to ride to Pattaya and back, and he has won a weekend at Serene Sands Health Resort. Congratulations to Paul, and have a great weekend away!

**Total kilometres travelled:** Over 1500 km in three weeks. That's from Bangkok to Ho Chi Minh City and back and further than Bangkok to Singapore... simply awesome!

### Approximately 55,000 calories burnt:

Total beer = 367 bottles of beer – that's over a bathtub of beer  
212 Snickers bars  
688 glasses of red wine  
16 pounds of fat burnt  
355 cans of Coke



### Upcoming Events:

**Bangkok Bike Tour** – Sunday, 13th December. Let's go for an early morning ride around Bangkok and discover some of the city's hidden secrets. Family, friends, individuals (children must be accompanied with an adult). Must book in advance.

# TENNIS

## Dear Members,

Welcome to the Tennis Section's latest updates. The last few months have been a busy time with matches at the Club and outside.

### Rajpruek Club – Outside event

Three clubs joined this great event – British Club, Lawyers Association and Rajpruek Club. The BC beat the Lawyers Association quite easily but couldn't quite finish off the hosts, the Rajpruek Club. The best match of the tournament was James Young and Phairoj beating the No. 1 seed from Rajpruek. All members enjoyed the games, good food and cold beer.

### Tennis League

The tennis league is going strong with Adam Head winning league 2 and league 1 in consecutive months. Khun Yubharet is playing well and winning, and we welcome young Ben Flaherty to the league. Ben is only 13 years old and wants to play some competitive tennis. We also welcome K. Chokchai, K. Amnat, Erick and Camille.

### Junior Coaching

The junior coaching with Pierre is going well, with numerous new players wanting to join the busy sessions. Great work Pierre!!

### Thai Open – 11th-13th December



## Dear Members,

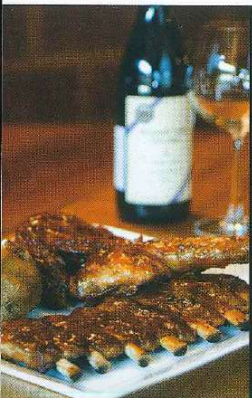
The tennis courts will be resurfaced towards year's end. We will post a re-surfacing schedule shortly. We expect the resurfacing will take 4-6 weeks as we plan to resurface the courts two at a time to cause minimal disruption. We thank members for their patience and understanding, and apologise for any disruption. On the plus side, we should have four top-notch surfaces ready for the BC Tennis Championships!

Beginning 1st January 2010, daytime court fees will increase to 50 baht per hour and nighttime fees to 100 baht per hour.

We remind members that all Club guests must be signed in before using BC facilities.

Thanks in advance for your help and cooperation. Please accept my wishes for a wonderful holiday season for you and your loved ones!

**Reed Passmore,**  
Sports & Fitness Manager



*What Are You Smoking?*

## ROADHOUSE BARBECUE SMOKEHOUSE & GRILL

Roadhouse is a great place to host a party or special event. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor is available for private functions up to 100 guests.

Contact our catering staff and begin the process of planning a great event at Roadhouse Barbecue.

LOCATED ON THE CORNER OF RAMA IV ROAD & SURAWONG ROAD, NEXT TO JIM THOMPSON STORE.

TEL: 02 236 8010 FAX: 02 236 8435

EMAIL: dana@roadhousebarbecue.com

www.roadhousebarbecue.com

# SQUASHY BITS

By Bruce Madge, bmadge@hotmail.com



## And then we went to Pattaya...

First time for a while, and as I used to live there, and as David wasn't going as he was off modeling for another Coke Zero commercial, I was made team captain and trip organizer. Fine by me, but this brought about pressure and heckling over whether Pattaya would have enough decent players -- or enough players at all -- and whether we were all going to get a good game and where we were going to stay and whether it was a lads' only weekend and... and... and... blahblahblah. Usual crew of Evans and Ross making things difficult, and as it turned out, the former decided to stay elsewhere from the team hotel as he'd invited his whole family, and the latter pulled out at the last minute citing a personal, family 'crisis'. Beyond words! Other late retirees were Chris V. (who had a salon appointment) and Mr. Ramsey (who said the shipping forecast didn't look favourable).

Thus, after all that it was BCB Squash not really having enough bodies with only six team players with Adam and H along to play an exhibition match. Lucky then that Pattaya had a few extra, so to make a team of 8, they gave us two tail enders both named John, who both miraculously lost, giving Pattaya a bit of an advantage. But that was later.

First: Nick Mellor up against Olaf, whose weight, fitness and form fluctuate depending on quantity of beer and cigarettes consumed. This time saw him lean, bouncy and lively while Nick was labouring massively due to being attacked by swarms of insects. Thus, Nick played like a man who'd been bitten by some ants, which everyone knows there is nothing worse, while Olaf didn't. Olaf won 3-0.

Next: BCB's Number 1 (for that day only), Neil, v Pattaya's top player, Eddie. Eddie was 61 that day and giving away 20 years to Neil, but he used to play county-level squash, whereas Neil just dreams of such heights. So Eddie found himself one game up and 7-0 up in the second. But this was where the age and fitness differences came in, and Neil clawed back to take that second game and went on to win, 3-1. Eddie still playing very, very good squash, and if their ages had been similar, Neil would not have overcome him. So, well done, Neil. Well done!

Marc Sayer eventually beat Bernard, 3-1, but not before Bernard, who doesn't know when to give up a point, had leapt and dived all around the court, like one might imagine a small, fluffy kitten would as it chased a ball of string. This erratic, kitten-like play drove Marc mad with frustration, but not because he doesn't like cats; on the contrary, he is very fond of them. Rather because Bernard, who isn't really a cat after all but instead a fellow from Austria, just doesn't seem to know when he's beaten and, so, is very hard to defeat. However, with both knees and elbows bleeding from sliding across the floor and smashing into the



walls, he was finally tamed... and the string gathered up and put away for another day.

Dean had brought along a friend, Tong from Vietnam, who quite comfortably beat Pattaya's Hans, 3-0, in a match that no one seemed to see, and Dean won, 3-1, against Dave, who is a very fine player but Dean had it on the day, whatever it was that he had.

That left Haroon v Adam and me against Charlie. Charlie was late, so H and Adam kicked off. Adam is just as good as H, but fitter, and H had been out the night before with me... so, was hungover. Everybody watching expected a cracking match, but H pulled out during the second game with some sort of highly dubious and ridiculous leg problem that left all in attendance rather deflated. H is a bit of a lightweight really. A talented wimp, shall we say? However, Marvyn stepped in to save the day, as it were, and with a face as red as baboon's bottom from drinking all day while watching the rugby, challenged H to return one of his super-lob serves that have embarrassed so many greats before. Hardly much of a challenge, however, as Marv could barely see the ball, let alone hit it; and after a couple of haphazard, but hilarious attempts, he wandered off to find another beer.

Charlie arrived at last, and as most had little else better to do, gathered round to watch this final, crucial game. If I lost, the event would be tied at 4-4, so victory rested in my hands. More flaming pressure! Yet, I won the first two games. Amazing! However, then I lost the third, as I started to do things like miss the ball completely, hit my left hand instead of the ball, stop watching where my opponent was hitting the ball, fall over, drop my racket and typically play like I usually do... that is to say, appallingly. I continued in this rather sad vein and looked like losing the fourth, too, but I hung in and made it 3-1. Charlie with some great touch play and lobs could just as easily have been victorious.



Final score: BCB 5-3 against Pattaya.

All matches played in great spirit. Lots of fine play and good competition. Enormous fun had by all including the plenty of spectators. Pattaya players are great sports and fine hosts. A mention to Cornio for also making the trip, even though he's not playing at the mo, and for refereeing a lot of the games. Many thanks to all involved.

Dinner at the team hotel, the Sea Falcon in Jorntien, was a very pleasant affair, with perhaps forty in attendance once both teams had brought all their WAGS and kids along. (I, of course, arrived WAGless and kidless, for I have no WAG due to excessive wind, and without a WAG, I can't produce a kid, can I?). Beachside tables, cold beer and fresh seafood, all reasonably priced with lots of beautiful, exotic local lasses there to break our hearts (well, they broke mine!).

After we'd eaten, a little speech was given, thanking all for a lovely weekend and vowing to hook up again back in Pattaya in the near future, when we may include some tennis and ten-pin bowling.

Things wrapped up 12ish, with most off to bed, but H, Nick, Dean and Tong -- oh, and me -- went off to watch football, with H (his first time in Pattaya) and I finding ourselves in Walking Street until 5am! I guess we got pretty drunk, but I can't remember. However, we did wake up in each other's arms. Very romantic!

Final note: On behalf of all members of the BCB Squash Section and, indeed, all members and staff of the BCB, may I wish our Chairman, Peter, the quickest of recoveries from his recent extensive surgery. He's had the world's first brain replacement operation! Yes, that's right. Due to far too many senior moments of late, when he has forgotten things such as his name or how to eat or get dressed, or has said bizarre things such as, 'Nokia make great sandwiches', he put himself forward to have his brain replaced with another, younger model. Unfortunately though, such is the experimental nature of this type of complex surgery, and with the lack of available donors, he wasn't entirely sure what type of new brain he was getting -- the gender, nationality and age of his new 'mind' are all a lottery. Thus, if you see him back at the Club in a few weeks wearing clogs and a frock, his hair in braids, talking Dutch, and playing with a doll, you'll know he's had an unlucky draw.

Only kidding. He's had his right hip replaced, as years of hockey, badminton and squash have worn it out. Let's all hope he heals quickly and returns soon to the squash courts in good health.

Until next time...



# GOLFING NEWS

By Ray Bloom

## Hapag Lloyd Trophy – Sunday, 11th October

This year's annual competition against the Londoners Golf Society was hosted by the BCGS and played at the beautiful Royal course, Lat Krabang. It has quite a long history, having been played in friendly rivalry since 1991.

After some pre-match banter, teamed-up groups embarked on a match play format, finding great golfing conditions with surprisingly dry fairways and giving some run on the drives. Looking particularly pleased with the conditions were BCGS players Gordon and Rose Milne, relaxing with Peter Gale and Bob Randle.



After much bonhomie and some great golf, it was evident everyone was enjoying their Sunday afternoon's sport. With group results filtering in, a tight finish was on the cards, and so it proved, with the finely-balanced outcome dependent on the result from the last group in.

After a buffet dinner at the British Club, the prize-giving began, with prizes for 'technicals' to David Humphreys, Fred May (Londoners), Karen Holloway (Londoners) and myself for Near-Pins; to Matt Chevis (Londoners) for the Longest Putt; to Tracy Birchall and Shaun Whelan for Near-Pins in two shots.

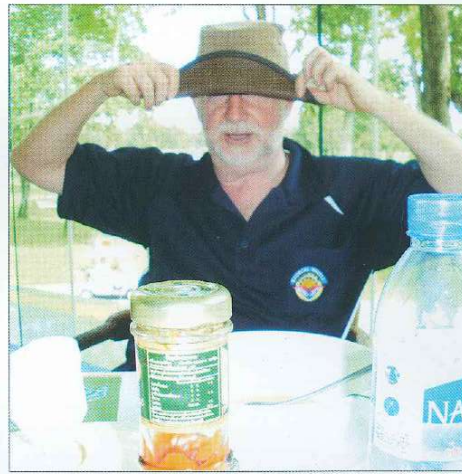
In an eagerly-awaited climax to the event, Club Captain Frank Fawkes announced the winners – the Londoners had triumphed by the close margin of 5½ wins to 4½, and so took possession of the Hapag Lloyd trophy for this year.

In accepting the trophy, the Londoners Captain, Barry Scaife, thanked the BCGS for its hospitality and looked forward to next year's competition in an attempt to make up the results balance of eleven BCGS victories to the six wins of the Londoners.

## Monthly Stableford Competition – Sunday, 18th October, at the Lam Lukka course

In great playing conditions on this beautiful course, three groups of four golfers drove off to find dry greens but quite holding fairways. Unusually, all players struggled to score well.

At the close, many players felt they would be way down the pecking order in the final analysis. Peter Bond found it too tough and simply lost it! However, the many tales of woe indicated it would be a low-scoring event. When all cards were handed in and scrutinised, there were three players on top-score of 31 points, definitely the lowest winning Stableford total for many years.



After a countback, Yurachtr Brook collected the bottle of wine when her 31 proved to be the best, with Peter Clark coming in second and Shaun Whelan making the third spot.

Technicals – John Bell hit the par-3 16th green nearer than anyone else for one Near-Pin award, and my shots to the 3rd and 12th greens were near enough for the other Near-Pin prizes. The longest drive for ladies went to Yurachtr, and to Peter Clark for the men, with John Bell making the longest putt on the 18th.



## October Medal competition – Sunday, 25th October, at the Royal course, Lat Krabang

As a prelude to the forthcoming.....Club Championship on the following weekend, some golfers might have been careful to protect their handicaps. However, this wasn't in Andrew (Pedro) McLean's mind as he scorched up the course to outclass the rest of the field and easily win the Flight B medal with a staggering net 63. Steve Waldmeyer and Peter Bond played well to finish on net 75s but couldn't match Andrew's great performance. Well done, Andrew!



The competition in Flight A was much tighter, with Robert Gray (net 70) edging out Gaew Gale and Club Captain Frank Fawkes, both with net 72. As he collected his medal from Frank, Robert was clearly delighted about his return to form.

Near-Pin prizes of golf balls were won by Robert, Paul Rogers, Frank and John Carter, whilst Tracy Birchall and John Carter picked up the respective Long Drive prizes. Vaughan Litton, making a rare appearance, sank the longest putt on the 18th green.

MBMG Club Championship 2009 – Saturday, 31st October, and Sunday, 1st November, at Springfield Golf and Country Club in Hua Hin

### Results:

	Men	Ladies
Champion	Mike Staples	Tracy Birchall
Best Net	Bryan Dodd	Gaew Gale
Runner-up (gross)	Frank Fawkes	Karen Carter
3rd place (gross)	John Carter	Belinda Skinner
1st day best net	John Bell	Yurachtr Brook
2nd day best net	Gareth Sampson	Val Ashman

### Technicals:

	Day 1	Day 2
Near pins	Andrew McLean Bryan Dodd	Bryan Dodd x 2 John Carter
Long Drives	John Bell x 2 Karen Carter	Gaew Gale Belinda Skinner
Long Putt	John Bell Mike Staples	Mike Staples John Bell

Congratulations to the Men's Champion, Mike Staples, and to the Ladies' Champion, Tracy Birchall, who collected their trophies from ex-Club Captain Maureen Gibson. Mike had a great battle against three-time Champion Bryan Dodd to recover from a 5-shot deficit on day one and win by the narrowest of margins, with the next placed player ten shots adrift. Tracy retained the title she won last year by a more comfortable margin, with Gaew Gale providing the closest challenge.



Obviously enjoying the weekend were Val, Maureen and Pete, whilst Club Captain Frank was wondering why he hadn't won the event.

Ensuring the next generation of BCGS golfers, Gaew introduced Matthew to the Club Championship atmosphere during a break from her rounds.



Altogether, a great weekend's golf. Thanks should go to Club Captain Frank and his team for organising the event, and to sponsors MBMG for their support.

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/bcgolfsociety](http://www.geocities.com/bcgolfsociety)  
Email: [bcgs2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bcgs2002@yahoo.co.uk)  
Phone: Frank Fawkes, Club Captain, on 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 [rbloom\\_364@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rbloom_364@yahoo.co.uk) or 087 051 3548.





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# BC BALUT

By Paul Cheesman



The first leg at Det 5 Bar & Restaurant.



The second leg at the British Club Bangkok.

## BCB Det 5 Challenge

In October 2009, the British Club Bangkok Balut section was challenged to a two-leg tournament against the Det 5 Bar & Restaurant in Sukhumvit Soi 8.

### STRANGE BEDFELLOWS?

One may think that this is a little strange – a “Bar & Restaurant” against the British Club, but it isn’t as strange as it seems, given our local circumstances. Although Balut is a popular game in many capitals of the world (Dubai, Tokyo, Copenhagen, Moscow, Singapore, Taipei and Bangkok), most play the IBF (International Balut Federation) rules version, whilst in the British Club Bangkok, we play the STC rules version, named after the now defunct Singapore Town Club. One might compare the two rules as the difference between Rugby League and Rugby Union! The STC rules are immensely popular in Members’ Clubs in Singapore and Malaysia, and have been the source of the Interport Competition held for the past 29 years.

It is, thus, quite rare for us to be playing against another team in Bangkok, so we leapt wholeheartedly into this Challenge Trophy!

### ROUND ONE

The first leg was held on Sunday, 11th October, at the premises of the Det 5 Bar & Restaurant in Sukhumvit Soi 8. Most travelled by car, being a Sunday, but a few used the Skytrain (via Nana station), and a few even cycled! For our inaugural tournament (and it is hoped to repeat this every six months), we agreed to limit each side to two teams, and in true tournament-style, players rotated each game. David Quine set up his Balut Internet Scoring System to allow real-time viewing of scores on the bar’s TV screens, and Paul Cheesman acted as Tournament Organiser.

Det 5 Bar & Restaurant, neatly decked out in their new red shirts, provided some delicious snacks to enable play to proceed at a slower pace than one would have played at BCB Monthly Tournaments, but it was a welcome canter, as opposed to a gallop, and made for a very relaxing sanuk afternoon. Spot prizes of a free drink from the bar for throwing a preset score in each game added to the general lubrication as people settled into two and one half hours of gentle Balut.

An early lead was taken by the British Club Bangkok by winning the first four games, and at end of play at the end of the first leg, the BCB was ahead by 3,985 points (52.8%) to 3,559 points



The British Club Bangkok takes the winning trophy.

(47.2%). Prizes for the event were provided by our sponsor, Outrigger Hotels & Resorts ([www.outrigger.com](http://www.outrigger.com)), who we thank for their enormous generosity. The highest aggregate went to Stephen Mallon (BCB) with 624; Stephen also won the highest single score with an amazing 155, but as no person can win two prizes, that award went to Roger Willbourn (BCB) with 134.

### ROUND TWO

The return leg was held in the Club’s Suriwongse Room on 25th October, where we tried to create the same intimate atmosphere – with a bar and a light buffet provided by the section. Two team changes were allowed (one for each side), and so battle commenced – well, really a gentle call to arms, nothing overtly disruptive other than the Club’s Wi-Fi system, which let us down badly. We were thankful for a flipchart and coloured markers!

The BCB fought hard but wasn’t on the winning side of most games – in fact, losing three of the five games to our challenger – but our losses weren’t enough to throw away our narrow lead, and in the end, the BCB triumphed by 7,733 points (51.2%) to 7,364 (48.8%). The highest aggregate went to Arnold Treoger (Det 5) on 535, and the highest single score to Ben Willbourn (BCB) with a 155, equaling Stephen Mallon’s first-leg record score. Our thanks, again, to our sponsor, Outrigger Hotels & Resorts.

BCB Balut Section Chairman Phil Alexander accepted the trophy, which we will keep for six months (on our Wall of Honour in the Churchill Bar), and we accept the next BCB Det 5 Challenge provisionally set for the 2nd & 16th of May next year.

# New Happier Hours

**Monday's Imported Beer**  
*from 6 pm—8 pm all outlets!*

**Draught imported beers**  
**discount THB 40/ pint**  
**THB 20/ 1/2 pint**

**Bottled imported beers**  
**discount THB 20/ bottle**

**Wednesday's Local Beers &  
House Pouring Spirits**  
*From 6pm—8 pm all outlets!*

**Draught local beers**  
**discount THB 40/pint**  
**THB 20/ 1/2 pint**

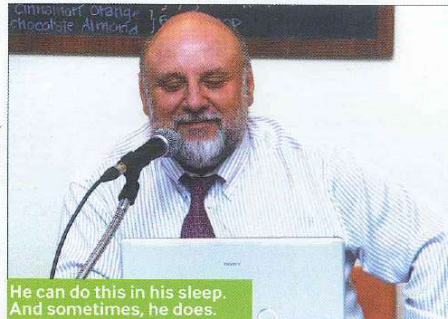
**House bottled local beers**  
**discount THB 20/bottle**

**Pouring spirits discount THB 20**  
*(Gin, whisky and vodka)*

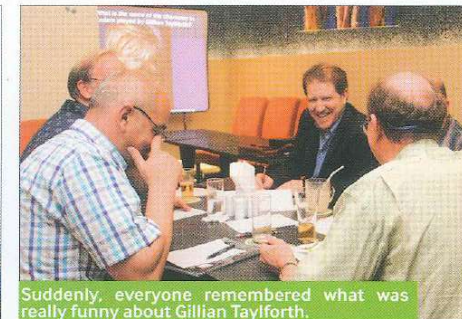
## QUIZ NIGHT

### Down to the wire

By Fingal O'Flahertie



He can do this in his sleep. And sometimes, he does.



Suddenly, everyone remembered what was really funny about Gillian T aylor.

It was a select crowd that made it to the Tetley's Smooth Flow Bar Quiz on 3rd November, with only four teams able to arrive at the starting post. Nevertheless, it was one of the tightest games in recent months, with never more than three points between the top two teams. Not a fingernail in the house remained unchewed.



I'm not cheating. I'm just changing my ring tone.

Chairman Rodney offered up his customary, judiciously seasoned mix of one part easy-peasy to about eight how-in-the-hell-are-we-supposed-to-even-guess-that? I mean, what was the name of Delta Goodrem's character in Neighbours? Which country grows half the world's pistachios? And what was the capital of England before London? There were less taxing teasers (Ronald Reagan; Only Fools and Horses) but more than a few little grey cells changed colour in the course of the conflict. As for the spot prizes, who knew there were so many (or alternatively, so few) Kenyans?



How to pick your nose without being spotted.

Hoping that the glasses/intelligence bluff will work one more time.

With all due respect to the plucky efforts of the Crown Southerners and Another Team, this was always a two-horse race. The Gentleman Spoofers led by a slim margin after Round One, but Jim's Junkies chiselled away, until the two teams were neck-and-neck after the penultimate round. At the close, the Junkies triumphed by a mere two points. It really could have gone either way.

But, hey, people! Four teams? Four? Even the Rugby League World Cup gets a bigger turnout, and the result of that one is set in stone. You know what to do; up to six people; idiotic name; think and drink, although not necessarily in that order. You have to be in it to win it. And also to lose it, of course.

#### Rodney's Nailbiters:

- Which mythical creature had the head and body of a woman and the feet and wings of a vulture?
- What is the name given to a Scottish dance for four couples in a line?
- Who was Britain's first Jewish MP?
- What was China's last imperial dynasty?
- Absolute zero is a temperature defined as "0" on what scale?
- Which author of many thrillers noted, "The target of my books lies somewhere between the solar plexus and the thigh"?

# A Celebration of Christmas at the British Club...

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Tel: 02 234 0247 or send a fax to 02 235 1560

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however food and drinks are extra and  
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# SUDOKU

The Sudoku Labs reviewed the members' entries for November's Sudoku, which promptly necessitated a holiday booking due to the lab team's resulting depression. With record times posted for both Puzzles #1 and 2 by Andrew Robertson (R87), and with close showings by Members Meilan Henderson (H243) and Roderick Turner (T116), it shows we've underestimated our audience (yet again).

So the Lab went off on their holiday and were amazed to discover an ancient text: an unpublished tome of Sudoku puzzles devised by the creator of Sudoku himself, Hiroku Takashirol. The master had deemed these puzzles so aggravatingly difficult that he decided they be shelved and locked away, never to be released to his followers. But, upon Hiroku's death, one of his servants purloined the treasure, and it quickly became lost as these things do.

Somehow, our team came across it while taking a break from their drunken misery caused by, well, you. Eyes gaping and mouths drooped (or is that the other way around), the lab quickly realized they had stumbled onto something that would change everything. Thus, the team has come back recharged and presents two of Hiroku's puzzles that will unnerve your neurons.

Send in your solution times by email, fax or in person (refer to page 2 on how to do that) so that we may tease you properly!

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

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

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS:

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

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

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# KHUN LAAK'S ON THE MENU

Some Christmas goodies just for you, but if you're too busy, too tired or just plain too lazy to make 'em all yourself, then pop into the Club – they are all on hand this December!



## Roast Turkey With Spiced Cranberry, Bacon And Walnut Stuffing

Serves 6-8.

1 tablespoon unsalted butter • 6 rashers good-quality bacon, sliced into thin strips • 3 shallots, peeled and finely chopped • 2 sticks of celery, trimmed and finely chopped • a sprig of fresh rosemary, leaves picked and chopped • a large handful of dried cranberries • 800ml dry cider • ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg • ½ teaspoon ground allspice • sea salt and freshly ground black pepper • a handful of chopped walnuts • zest of 1 orange • 300g good-quality pork sausage meat • 1 egg, free-range or organic • 2 big handfuls of breadcrumbs • 1 turkey (about 4kg), free-range or organic • 100g softened butter • 300ml tub of fresh chicken stock • 1 teaspoon cornflour

To make the stuffing, melt the unsalted butter in a saucepan and add the bacon, shallots, celery and rosemary. Cook gently with the lid on for about 10 minutes, until the vegetables are very soft, but not coloured. Add the cranberries and half the cider and turn up the heat a little. When the liquid has reduced to a third of its volume, set it aside to cool. Mix in the nutmeg, allspice, some salt and pepper, the walnuts, orange zest, sausage meat and egg, then fold in the breadcrumbs.

Preheat the oven to 240°C/475°F/gas 9. Pat the turkey's skin dry with kitchen paper, then stuff the neck end with half the stuffing. (You can cook the remaining stuffing separately or use it to make sausage rolls on Boxing Day.) Rub the bird with the softened butter and season well. Place in a roasting tin, cover with foil and pop in the preheated oven. After 15 minutes, turn down the heat to 150°C/300°F/gas 2. Baste, then roast for another 2 to 2¼ hours.

Remove the foil 1 hour before the end of cooking time. To check the bird is cooked, stick a fork into the thickest part of the thigh – the juices should run clear. Remove the turkey from the oven, lift out of the tin, cover with foil then leave to rest for 30 minutes.

Increase the oven temperature to 200°C/400°F/gas 6. Skim off the fat in the tin and use it to roast your potatoes. Add the rest of the cider to the meat juices in the tin, along with the meat off the turkey wings and enough stock to cover the bottom of the tin. Stir in the cornflour, dissolved in a little water, and simmer on the hob until thickened. Sieve into a jug and serve with your turkey, stuffing and some roast potatoes.

## Mrs Beeton's Traditional Christmas Plum Pudding

Makes two Christmas puddings, serves 8-9.

8 oz moist sugar (use soft brown) • 8 oz chopped suet or modern day equivalent • 8 oz sultanas cleaned • 8 oz raisins halved and stoned • 4 oz currants washed and dried • 4 oz shredded mixed candied peel – cut your own or use ready cut • 4 oz of plain flour • 4 oz breadcrumbs • 2 oz almonds blanched and shredded • grated rind of a 1 lemon • 3 eggs • salt spoonful of nutmeg grated • ½ tsp salt • quarter pint of milk • 1 small wine glassful of brandy (optional)

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



## Jamie's Leftover Christmas Pudding And Ice Cream Sundae

Serves 4.

• 200g leftover Christmas pudding • 6 tablespoons cranberry sauce • red wine or mulled wine • Optional: 2 teaspoons sugar, to taste • 1 x 500ml tub good-quality vanilla ice cream • a large handful of flaked almonds, toasted • 1 x 100g bar good-quality dark chocolate (70% cocoa solids)



Put a pan over a medium heat and crumble in your Christmas pudding. Squash it down a bit with a wooden spoon to help it heat up and get a bit crispy. Fry for about 4 to 5 minutes, stirring every so often so it doesn't catch. In another small pan on a low heat, add your cranberry sauce with a splash of red or mulled wine. Stir in and cook for a few minutes until warmed through. If your sauce is too tart for your liking, add a teaspoon or two of sugar.

Once your pudding is warm and slightly crispy and the sauce has heated up, divide half of your pudding between four glasses or bowls. Add a scoop of vanilla ice cream on top of the pudding, drizzle over your hot cranberry sauce, and a good sprinkling of toasted flaked almonds. Divide the remaining Christmas pud between your glasses and layer again with ice cream, cranberry sauce and flaked almonds. Finish the sundae off by grating over a bit of nice dark chocolate and dig in before the ice cream melts.

## Mulled Wine

Serves 4.

1½ litre red wine • 3-5 oranges • 1 lemon, quartered • cloves • sugar (brown or white)

Place into the saucepan the studded orange segments and the lemon quarters, and pour over the wine. Place the saucepan on medium heat. Add the sugar to the wine. Give it a good stir with spoon. Leave the wine to warm to just under a simmer, which is when you should see some bubbles and bit of steam rising. Stir well again. An important tip: Don't let it boil, or the alcohol will evaporate. Allow the flavour to infuse for twenty minutes. After this time, remove from the heat.



## Brandy Eggnog

Serves 1.

1 egg yolk • 1 tsp sugar • 1 oz brandy • 2 oz heavy cream

Shake all ingredients together, strain into cocktail glass, sprinkle nutmeg on top and serve.



## BRITISH CLUB SIGNATURE DISH

### Mulligatawny Soup

For the basic soup: 2 litres water • 4 organic chicken stock cubes • 1 large tin of coconut milk • 2 heaped teaspoons of ground cumin • 2 heaped teaspoons of ground coriander • 2 heaped teaspoons of chilli powder • 2 small tins of tomato puree • juice of 1 lime

For the flavouring ingredients: 2 finely chopped onions and fried in butter until soft and golden • 2 tablespoons mango chutney juice (from a jar of chutney, excluding any lumps of chutney) • salt & freshly ground black pepper • chopped bacon, fried in oil until crisp • chopped cucumber • chopped tomatoes

Boil the water, add the stock cubes and, once the stock cubes have dissolved, add the rest of the basic ingredients. Cover the pan and bring back to the boil, then simmer for 10 minutes with the pan still covered. Add the fried onions, chutney and salt and pepper. Adjust the seasoning if required, e.g. spices, lime, chutney, salt & pepper. Continue to simmer for another 5 minutes (pan still covered). Leave to cool for a while and then blend the soup in order to incorporate the onions fully.

If you prefer a thicker consistency, simmer the soup, uncovered, until it reduces as required. Serve the soup and add the bacon bits and the chopped cucumber and tomatoes into each bowl, garnish with some fresh coriander. Alternatively, serve the flavourings in separate bowls so that each person can add what they like.

If you'd like a more substantial meal you can use additional flavouring ingredients, e.g. quartered hard-boiled eggs, boiled rice, prawns, chopped spring onions, sliced chillies etc.

## Cranberry Milkshake

Serves 1.

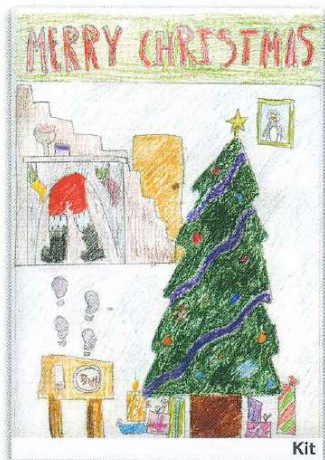
½ cup cranberries • 2 scoops vanilla ice cream • 6 oz fresh milk

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



# KIDS' CHRISTMAS COVERS

We had many great drawings to choose from for this month's Outpost cover, but we decided that Natasha Sacchi's (S484) was the one to go with. It was definitely hard to pick just one, and so we want to show off all the great artists that we know will be having gallery exhibitions at the Club before we know it!



Kit



Alexandra



Beth

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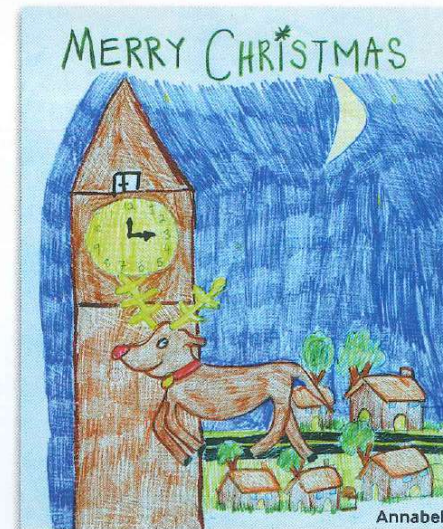


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Jessica



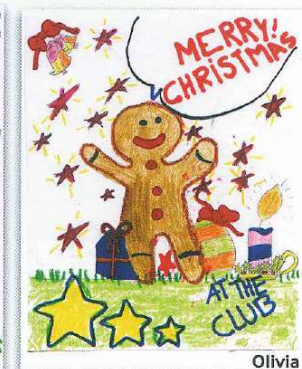
Annabel



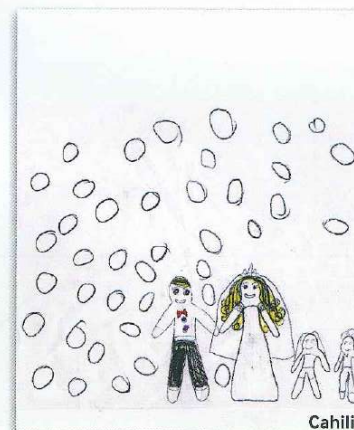
Liam



Poppy



Olivia



Cahilia

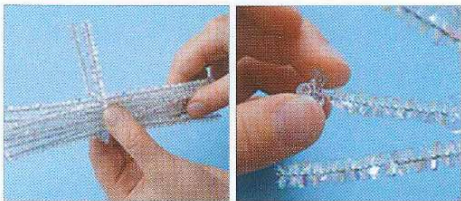


Gemma

# SUSIE'S Kids Korner



## Sparkling Ice Crystals



String up a few of these crystals, made of pipe cleaners and beads, and get ready for a flurry of compliments. For a cool twist, use silver pipe cleaners and pom-poms too.

### Craft Materials

- 12-inch white iridescent pipe cleaners
- Clear tri or sunburst beads
- Needle and fishing line
- White iridescent pom-poms

### Instructions

1. Cut 6 pipe cleaners in half to create 12 pieces. Hold 11 pieces together and tightly wrap the last piece around the middle of the bundle, as shown, twisting its ends to secure it.
2. Spread the pipe cleaner pieces into a starburst shape and thread about 5 beads onto each pipe cleaner half, as shown.
3. Using the needle, thread the pom-poms on the fishing line, and then tie the snowflake to one end of the line.



## Mice Ornaments

Sweeten up the Christmas tree with a collection of chocolate mice ornaments.

### Craft Materials

- Hershey's Kisses
- Pink felt
- Scissors
- Double-sided carpet tape
- Fishing line
- Self-adhesive googly eyes
- Curling ribbon



### Instructions

1. Remove the tags from two Hershey's Kisses. Cut out mouse ears from pink felt, about 3/8-inch high. Using double-sided carpet tape, affix the bottoms of the ears to the flat side of one of the Kisses.
2. Tape an 8-inch loop of fishing line behind the ears to form a hanger.
3. With more double-sided carpet tape, join together the two flat sides of the Hershey's Kisses, with the mouse ears and fishing line loop pointing up. Add a pair of self-adhesive googly eyes.
4. Slip a tail – a 4-inch piece of curling ribbon – under the foil. Now, see how they run (or disappear) from your tree.

## A Christmas Prayer

A few days before Christmas, two young brothers were spending the night at their grandparents' house. When it was time to go to bed, and anxious to do the right thing, they both knelt down to say their prayers.

Suddenly, the younger one began to do so in a very loud voice.

"Dear Lord, please ask Santa Claus to bring me a Playstation, a mountain bike and a telescope."

His older brother leaned over and nudged his brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf."

"I know," he replied. "But Grandma is!"

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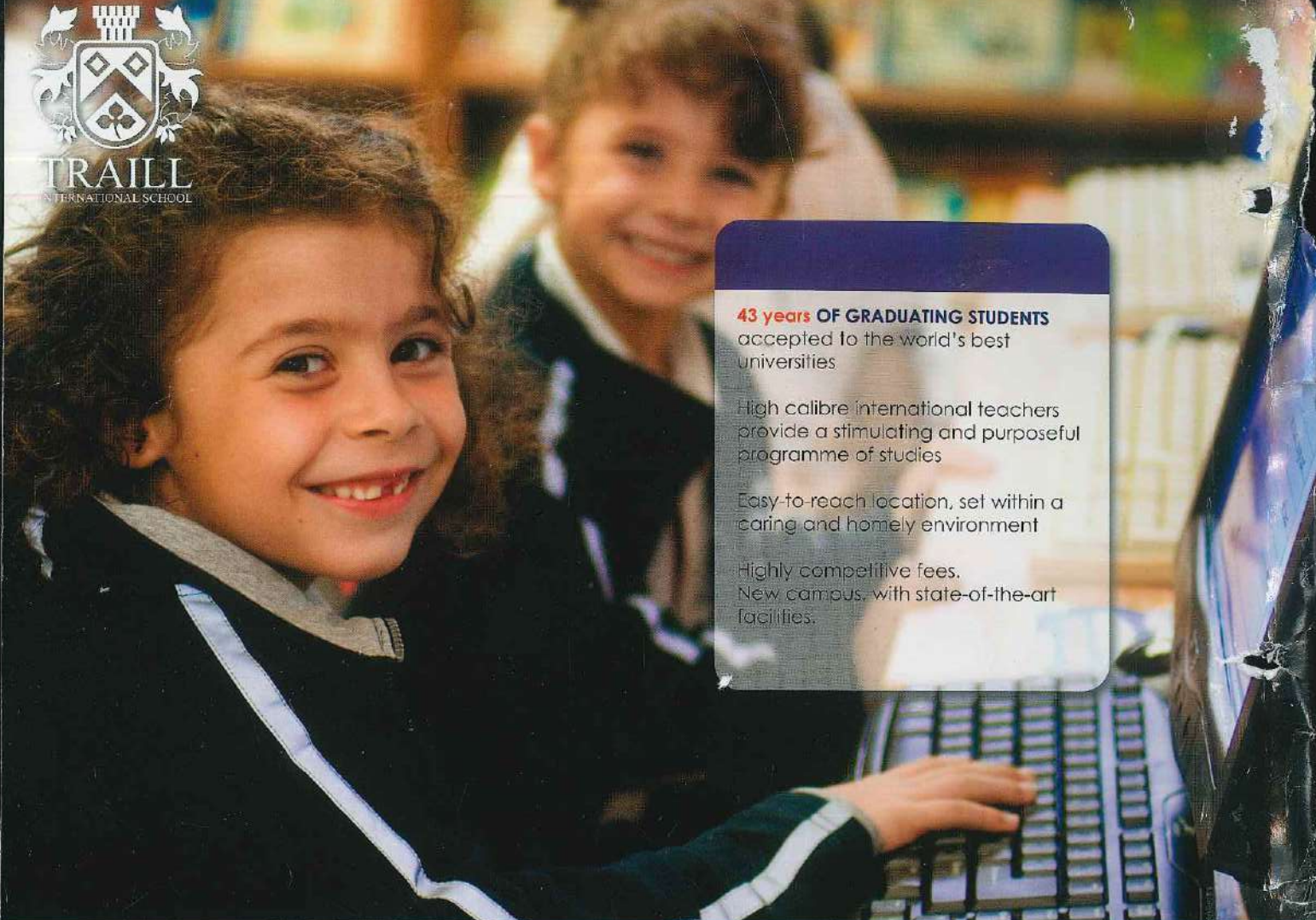
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