

DECEMBER 2021



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Each month we like to introduce some of the New Members who have recently joined the Culb. These are some of the Members who joined during the last few months



▲ Colin, Lisa and Freddie Ayliffe



▲ Norman and Susan Jones



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BritishClub1903



Front Cover

Christmas day is fast approaching, and the British Club celebrations are among the best in Bangkok, make sure you don't miss out.

This Month

The club hold Remembrance Day for the 3rd time, events get back underway, we sadly lose our oldest member, wine tasting, and Loy Krathong are a huge success, the kids love Halloween, phase 2 gets ever closer, words from our chairman and GM.



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Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Club. All events, dates and times are correct at the time of press.

Outpost welcomes contributions from Members, email outpost@britishclubbangkok.org

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"The British Club Bangkok is a registered Association in accordance with the Thai Civil & Commercial Code"

Chairman's Message



James Crossley-Smith

▲ View from the balcony at the Alan Cook Ground, Phuket

We were surprised by the decision to allow the consumption of alcohol in restaurants (with SHA certification) from the 1st November.

Fortunately, we had predicted SHA certification would be useful, as well as reassuring to Members and to the authorities, and management had taken steps to ensure we were certified from the start of November. It was also predictable that, with the return of an alcohol service, member visits to the Club and patronage of the Clubs outlets would see healthy increases. It has been great to see more people back in the Club and to see people getting back together.

There is still a significant percentage of Members, compared to this time last year, that have not visited the club and we should understand that better. The management would welcome any comments if you are de-

ciding to stay away. We do appreciate that Members habits and routines have changed and for some that may be a permanent change.

The decision to relax more restrictions from the 1st November did mean we could have a full Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 14th November with 300 attendees. There is a report and pictures further into the magazine. We also remember the life of Dr Patrick (Paddy) Dickson who sadly died in November. He was our oldest Member and joined the Club in 1959. This magazine is too small to fully remember his life but there is a very interesting eulogy in the following pages.

Joining In

I was very happy to join the cricket section on their tour to Phuket and to play at the Alan Cook Ground. Back at the Club it is great to see the Clubs' sports facilities in use and we welcome back the hockey players to the multipurpose court. We would like to see football and rugby return to the Club, as well as other team sports and are happy to hear from anyone with the enthusiasm or leadership to get these going. We have a nice arrangement with Wellington College to work with them where a sports field may be required.

Now that we can, we should ! Events are a great part of our social scene and we have held many great events in November and very much look forward to what December will bring. I am sure you have booked in already but if not please see our what's on. A kids Halloween party was held at the end of October with Remembrance Day, Quiz night, Wine tasting, Loy Kratong and



▲ SHA certificate for the Club



Firework Night in November.

The Veranda has been very popular, and we intend to keep developing the restaurant to serve great food with great service in a great facility. We are busy rebuilding our capacity throughout the Club and we will not be too adventurous before the New Year. However, in 2022 we aim to develop this into a restaurant we are very proud of.

Phase 2

Activity on Phase 2 of the poolside redevelopment is a bit out of sight behind the safety curtains and the hoardings as the contractor develops the interior spaces. The schedule has drifted, and it looks like we will not open any sections to Members in December although we do expect the kitchen to be functional. We have shelved ideas of opening until New Year. There is an update further into the magazine.

Covid-19

Covid-19 is still with us and we should be cautious. We continue to have what are isolated cases in the Club but there has been no hint of infection, or transmission,



within the Club. Transmission is highly unpredictable; we all know the precautions we should individually take and we appreciate you showing care and consideration, especially when using the Club. For clarity of our approach, we have developed a Covid-19 protocol so that our response is more transparent to Members. Please look out for this on page 9 and in our circulars.

It is still important that Members inform the Club of infection and that the Club can develop a timeline to inform those at risk and in turn try to avoid further transmissions and manage risk. We are particularly focused on keeping the staff safe, and for them to feel as safe as possible, as they go about their roles within the Club.

Merry Christmas

Thank you for the support in 2021, it is not quite over but it has been a tough year and I wish you now a very happy and joyous Christmas and year end. I am sure many will be seeing family and friends, here or there, after a long break and I wish you a warm and very happy time. Best wishes to all.



What do you know about ‘domicile’?

By Martin Wright, The Fry Group

HOW DO WE GET OUR DOMICILE?

A domicile of origin is acquired at birth and is generally that of the child’s father (where the parents were married), and of the child’s mother (where the parents were not). Then at the age of 16 in England and Wales a child can choose another domicile if they wish.

For non-British nationals, it was not always that simple, for women born before 1 January 1974 they took their husband’s domicile, after that date they kept their own domicile.

DOMICILE

When it comes to working with British expatriates a major consideration is their domicile status, since it drives the extent of their UK Inheritance Tax (IHT) liabilities. Determining this and developing advice around this is hugely important.

Many people are unsure if UK IHT rules apply to them. The key to understanding whether you are liable to IHT is the concept of domicile. If you are domiciled in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, UK IHT applies to your global assets.

If you are domiciled elsewhere, UK IHT is only charged on assets held in the UK.

It is important to note that long-term UK absence does not mean a domicile of choice has been acquired

somewhere else, i.e. other than the UK. This is a common misconception as severing connections with the UK and making it clear you will never live in the UK again is actually what HMRC are looking to see in these cases.

By example, we often meet individuals who have lived and worked in numerous locations around the world, perhaps being outside of the UK for over 25 years, and who have now settled in Thailand.

The previous periods of non-UK residency may be broadly irrelevant. Although it could have been the case that during that time the individual had acquired a domicile of choice in another location, as perhaps it was their intention to remain there permanently at that point, as things do change of course.

This is where understanding one’s domicile position is highly important, and subject to change. These confusing aspects can lead to HMRC taking a negative view of the position on death, possibly resulting in significant tax bills for Estate beneficiaries.

To further expand on the example above; an individual has moved around different locations and finally settles in Thailand with the intention to remain permanently. This is the most important aspect (permanency). Even if that means his or her stay is based on a yearly renewable/reviewable retirement Visa, any type of ‘stay’ other than permanent residency or citizenship. It may not be linked to the inability to

stay without pass reviews and renewals, it is the intention of the individual which is probably more important.

There is no distinct timeline of how long one must be in a location where they wish to remain permanently, to determine whether a domicile of choice has been acquired or not.

It is more how serious the intent is and what steps have been taken to show that. This may, with the right steps, be a relatively short period of time. That is, if all the significant logical and viable steps have been taken.

Historically, it was possible to make an application to HMRC to change one’s domicile, but this is no longer the case. The way to understand one’s domicile position now is to have a professional review carried out by a sufficiently experienced and authorised individual. This will only provide an opinion and while it is not to be relied upon it may strengthen the case of an individual on death, when it most matters.

With IHT on death charged at 40% over the current Nil Rate Band (£325,000) it is important to understand the position for the next generation as there could be an unpleasant tax bill on the Estate of the individual who passes away.

For a British couple transferring assets between them on death there is no UK IHT.

For a married couple with different domiciles (UK to a non-UK domiciled spouse) the amount is restricted to the normal £325,000 Nil Rate Band, plus a further £325,000 (a maximum of £650,000) that can currently be passed UK IHT free.

It can be possible to overcome this with an election in lifetime or on the death of the UK domiciled spouse for the non-UK spouse to adopt a UK domicile. However,

care is needed to understand if this will be most effective in overall UK IHT planning as it does bring the non-British spouse into the UK IHT regime themselves with the Estate value, for a minimum period at least.

UK IHT CHANGES?

Following requests from the previous Chancellor and Financial Secretary to HM Treasury, Phillip Hammond, the Office of Tax Simplification (OTS is an independent arm of the Treasury) carried out two reports in recent years on the UK’s IHT system, because they feel it may be too complex and outdated.

The latest plan for a shake-up would “increase fairness, cut complexity and reduce avoidance”, according to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Inheritance & Intergenerational Fairness, led by Tory John Stevenson who represents Carlisle.

The APPG compiled its report in February 2020 although no proposals have made it to legislation just yet but it could be another tax grab for HMRC to deal with the COVID-19 stimulus package costs, perhaps? Only time will tell.

It remains sensible to seek professional advice and review your circumstances and plan-ahead as best you can as tax legislation, rates and allowances can change swiftly and sometimes retrospectively.



Martin Wright
Senior Financial Planner
The Fry Group (Singapore)



Disclaimer

The information in this article aims to provide information. However, this is not intended to form professional advice nor should it be relied upon as such and before taking any particular action, specific and personal advice should be obtained. All levels and basis of, and relief from taxation illustrated here are subject to change. The Fry Group (Singapore) Pte Ltd is authorised to act as a financial adviser by the Monetary Authority of Singapore - licence number FA100057.

REPORTINGS



Premrudee Tanyaluck

Letter From The General Manager

We are pleased to let you know that prior to the BMA announcement that SHA (Safety and Health Administration) certificated restaurants can sell Alcohol from 1st November, we had already registered with TAT for the Club to receive a SHA Certificate. The Club has once again opened fully for Members, guests, and reciprocal clubs, and is now 99% back to normal operation, only the restricted timing of 9:00pm for the consumption of alcohol remains.

On Saturday 30th October, we had our first Club event of the year "The Kids Halloween Party". Over 50 kids attended while their parents enjoyed dinner downstairs in Veranda and Churchill Bar. The night was a great successful, the highlight was playing red light green light from the Squid Games, to which many kids had dressed up as.

The Club was extremely proud and honoured to host its 3rd Remembrance Day service. More than 20 Ambassadors and 300 guests attended to pay their respects. We were able to repeat the event combination of the annual wine tasting and Loy Krathong, hosted at the poolside members enjoyed the Thai tradition of floating their krathong while sampling different imported wines for four of Bangkok's top wine suppliers. Our chefs created a delicious Thai/Western buffet which showcased their signature sushi display. It doesn't stop here our events team have created a fun packed calendar from now to the end of 2022 for members to attend and enjoy, make sure to stay up to date with all the current and future events via our website event pages: <https://www.britishclubbangkok.org/this-month-events/>



The festive season is almost here which will include the Children Christmas Party on 19th, and our Christmas Lunch & Dinner on 25th, we expect the number for Christmas day will not less than other year as a lot of Members have started booking in advance. Make sure you have your place booked so as not to miss out

From 1st December we will start our Christmas Menu, Mince Pies and Mulled wine in every outlet. Also, to save you time cooking in the kitchen we have created the Christmas take away menu for you. Please download the order form from our website or reception desk.

We now have a new facility for reading over 7,000 Newspapers and Magazines from around the world via "PressReader", Members can read from our tablets or their own devices at the Clubhouse or Poolside. Please ask our service staff for details.

For Members who will go back to their hometown or visit other country in the winter break, you can use our reciprocal club which we have 434 clubs around the world. Please ask our membership department for introduction letters or more details.

Looking forward to seeing you around and wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK : COVID-19 Case Response

ATK Positive Member / Staff / Guest ("Case")

- Duty Manager will ask Covid positive Member, Staff or Guest for 14 days Club timeline and to isolate from the Club. The Case should confirm their status with a RT-PCR test.
- Duty Manager will check timeline and categorise risk level of people who have been close to the Case. Report the Case to Bangrak district and receive the procedure guideline.
- Based on the timeline, the Duty Manager will inform high and low risk contacts from the Club to monitoring themselves

HIGH RISK

Those identified as HIGH RISK will be asked to isolate from the Club for 7 days since their contact with the Case and monitor their health. They should initially check their Covid status with an ATK but will not be allowed to return to the Club until a negative ATK test on the 7th day since contact. Proof of a negative test is required to return to the Club.

Where their ATK shows positive, they should seek medical help and take a RT-PCR for confirmation. They should also inform the Club. Where positive, they should not return to the Club until 14 days and only with Doctor certificate or negative RT-PCR test.

LOW RISK and ATK Negative

Duty Manager will inform low risk individuals to take an ATK test. If the ATK test is negative there is no need to isolate from the Club. Low risk individuals should still monitor themselves for 7 days, any symptoms should be reported to the Club and continue to test with ATK. If the ATK is positive please refer to the above protocol.

High Risk Contact:

- Members/ Staffs who work at the same table with a Covid-19 patient
- Members/ Staffs who do not wear a mask and have a conversation with a Covid-19 patient within a distance of 1 meter or less for more than 5 minutes

Low Risk Contact:

- Members/ Staffs who have close contact with high risk contact person.
- Members/ Staffs who participate in other activities with a Covid-19 patient but not meet any of the high risk criteria.

Very Low Risk Contact:

- Members/Staffs who have close contact with low risk contact person.

CLUB PROCEDURE

1. Deep clean an infected area by housekeeping team
2. Duty manager informs members
 1. High Risk - Isolate from the Club for 7 days and test as above for High Risk
 2. Low Risk - Self monitor for 7 days
3. Duty Manager calls individual member of high risk person
4. Update timeline of Covid-19 patient on website

REMARKS:

Covid-19 patient in the Club, Club will close the certain area 1 day for deep clean

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Phase 2: Poolside Redevelopment Project Update

by Jack Dunford MBE



▲ Staircase and Kitchen Entrance



▲ Lift Shaft and Staircase by Suriwongse Sala

Progress has been slow on Phase 2 of the Poolside Redevelopment project this month. It might even be difficult to spot the differences from last month's pictures! Nevertheless there has been a lot of work going on in different parts of the project. Most of the plastering is now complete and a lot of tiling has been done in the kitchen, toilets, showers and massage rooms. Most of the electrics are in place but a start has yet to made on laying the floors. Preparations are also still being made for the installation of the lift and the special floor-to-ceiling windows that will be major features of the Sports Bar and the Gym.

It remains to be seen whether it is possible to open any of the new facilities in December, but we are getting

closer. Some of the delays have been due to labour shortages but there were also some last minute design changes. We all want to see the job done but the philosophy quite sensibly is not to rush, but make sure it is done properly.

It is only just over four years since the hoardings went up and work started knocking down the old buildings where the Silom Wing now stands. Since that time the new Soi 18 Entrance and the Pool Deck were also built,

the Front Lawn and tennis courts refurbished and the War Memorial Terrace installed. There has been hardly a day without contractors on site, areas fenced off and a hammer or drill banging away somewhere in the background.

There should be much more progress to report next month and we will soon be enjoying the new facilities without any of the noise and inconvenience. Something to look forward to.



▲ Ground Floor Walkway



▲ Locker Room



▲ Kitchen



▲ Sports Bar



▲ New Gym



▲ Entrance to Sports Bar



Paul Cheesman

~~~PAST PARTICIPLE~~~ *Auspicium Melioris Ævi*

We continue the story of the British Club Bangkok from 1924 to 1930

We are on the map!

The existence of the British Club had featured in many directories of the twenties (including the famous annual series "*The Directory and Chronicle for China, Japan, Corea, Indo-China, Straits Settlements, Malay States, Siam, Netherlands India, Borneo, the Philippines, etc*" and the annual "*Directory of Siam & Bangkok*") but street maps were rare. It was thus pleasing that the Royal State Railways of Siam printed a Guide to Bangkok, written by Erik Seidenfaden. The Club, numbered 100, had a new neighbour of the Italian Legation which had moved from Poh Yome (now Sathorn) Road into houses on British Club Lane (now the Narai Hotel Car Park, Soi 18).



▲ "British Club in Bangrak"

Sporting Time

In the June of 1925, the pre-Great War English Billiards champion, Harry W. Stevenson, visited the Club to give a demonstration match but, although he won, he blamed his

inability to break more than 99 on an 'unfavourable table'. The Straits Times reported that this has been his excuse at the Royal Bangkok Sports Club two days before having only scored 144. A few days later, however, at an unnamed location, he scored 154, 116 and 102 in three consecutive breaks.

The British Club, now boasting eight tennis courts, made it an obvious candidate to play a part in the founding of the of the Lawn Tennis Association of Siam under His Majesty's Patronage. Seven associations, including the British Club, met on 12th October 1927 to establish the LTAS, which is now, of course, the Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand under His Majesty's Patronage.



▲ "Anyone for Tennis?"

Hold very tight please!

The Club was on the 'outskirts' of Bangkok where Public transport was mainly limited to rickshaws although the *Nai Lert* Bus Service, founded by Nai Lert Setthabutr (who in 1925 was ennobled as Phra-

ya Phakdi Noraset), was starting routes all over the city. The transport situation changed dramatically in 1925 when the electric tram network expanded from Hua Lam-phong station to Klong Toey and also along Silom Road to the water gate (Pratunam) at Khlong San Sap. The service ran from 6am to midnight, from Bangrak Intersection to either Yotse or Pratunam Pier and connected with other Tramways lines at Bangrak and Sala Daeng. It was accessible from the Club via British Club Lane.

The aforementioned Nai Lert was also the owner of a huge sway of land, and a lake, from Ploenchit Road to the newly renamed Phetchaburi Road. He sold part of this to enable the British Legation to move there, funded by the sale of its second home in Chareon Krung Soi 32 (see *Past Participle*, June 2021). In September 1926, the new Legation opened, having already become home to the Queen Victoria statue (see *Past Participle*, June 2021) and the British War Memorial (see *Past Participle*, November 2021).



▲ "Bangkok Trams – the Silom Line"

Dinners Galore

The 'Roaring Twenties' were infamous in Britain and the Americas for song and dance, but life in Siam seemed to be more civilised, where dinner parties and dinner dances were most common. The British Club hosted a number of these ... with many a renowned guest ... In 1924, on 24th November, the Natural History Society of Siam hosted a farewell dinner for its President Dr. Malcolm A. Smith, and Mrs Smith, on their leaving Siam. On 26th February 1926, the British Association of Siam and the Club hosted a Farewell Dinner for outgoing H.B.M. Minister, Robert Greg.

A Supper & Dance was held on 11th February 1928 on the occasion of an official visit to Siam of the Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner for the Federated Malay States, H.E. Sir Hugh C. Clifford GCMG GBE, and his wife Lady Elizabeth.

On 31st May 1929 a dinner talk was hosted by H.B.M. Minister, Charles J. F. R. Wingfield CMG with guest speaker, Lt-Colonel Frederick J. M. Stratton DSO OBE DL TD FRS PRAS, Professor of Astrophysics and Director of the Solar Physics Observatory at the University of Cambridge, talking on the British Eclipse Expedition to Pattani; and on 25th April 1930 on the eve of his departure from Siam, Sir Edward Cook CSI CIE, Advisor to the Siamese Finance Ministry, was entertained at a private dinner at the British Club Bangkok thrown by his friends.



▲ "H.E. Sir Hugh C. Clifford GCMG GBE"

Club Service & the Mortgage Lifeline

Richard Dudley Craig saw long service in Siam, ending up as Director-General of the Land Records Department. As a Club member, he served on its committee seven times between 1920 and 1929, serving as Chairman in 1927-1928. In what was probably a routine

financial act during his chairmanship, he ensured the Club's long-term future ...

On 20th February 1927, in his role as Chairman, Richard redeemed the clubhouse land from a mortgage under Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China (see *Past Participle*, October 2021), redeemed the poolside land from a loan with the Siam Electricity Corporation (see *Past Participle*, November 2021) and re-mortgaged both to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Unbeknown to him, and his committee, at the time this enabled the land deeds (Chanotes) to be safely in the bank when World War II started, and thus the Club could reclaim the land after the war (see *Past Participle*, March 2022).

A biography of Richard Dudley Craig, including his service to H.M. King Prajadhipok, is published on the Club website under 'The Club – History – Club Official Documents & Photographs'.



Richard Dudley Craig – the story

Richard Dudley Craig ... the story – A short Biography of the 1927-28 Chairman

▲ "Richard Dudley Craig"

Service to the Club

There were six committees over this period, which saw service by 22 Gentlemen, only six of whom had done service before. As well as Richard Dudley Craig (above) some of the 'new' guys were

Hubert C. Aspinall, who was Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, served eight times on the Committee and was Club Chairman in 1929/30 – one assumes he aided the grant of the land mortgages. Also with eight terms of service was **Charles D. Gee**, Deputy Manager of the Royal Irrigation Depart-

ment, and from the Borneo Company Mr. **A. Harvey**.

A couple of diplomats served on the committee: **Hugh Rudolph Bird** was Honorary Secretary in 1924-25 although his fame would come in 1945 after the Japanese surrender (see *Past Participle*, February 2022); **Ernest William Meiklereid**, who was Honorary Secretary 1925-1927 whilst an Interpreter and junior in the British Legation, went on to become a consul in many places in Siam, then Consul-General in Dakar, Saigon and San Francisco, which were finally rewarded with elevation to the rank of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Cuthbert Levick Crawhall-Wilson, who served five times on the committee, once as Honorary Secretary, was born in 1897, in Willesden, Middlesex, England and educated at Sherborne School from which he went on to serve as a Lieutenant in the Bedfordshire Regiment in the Great War. He married Helen Irene Wearne in 1936 back in the UK where he died in 1983 at the age of 86. Mr. **Egbert Wyon Smith**, Superintendent Engineer of the Royal State Railways of Siam served twice on the committee.

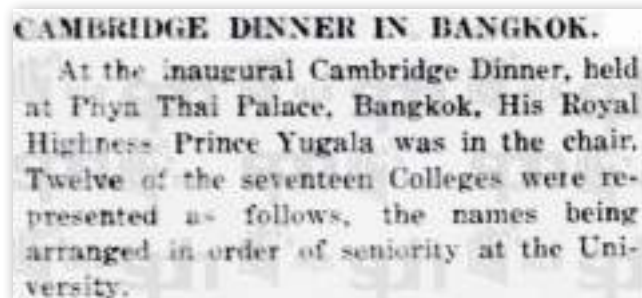
Service

An Honorary Secretary on one occasion was **Ralph Hastings Vawdrey**, educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, who served as a second Lieutenant in the Hampshire Regiment in the Great War – he, along with many Club members, were guests at the inaugural *Cambridge Dinner*, hosted in February 1927 at Phayathai Palace, by His Royal Highness Yugala Dighambara, Prince of Lopburi. Also at this dinner was **Albert Victor Rooth**, Kings College, who served four times on the Committee and was listed as part of the Indian Army Reserve of Officers.

John Hunter Maxwell McDonald served in 1926-27, having been Chieftain of the St. Andrew's Society a few years before and he worked for D. Couper-Johnston. Sadly, he died from multiple heart attacks in 1935, aged only 45, and was buried in Bangkok Protestant Cemetery. The life of **Reginald Stuart Le May**, a Royal Siamese Government advisor, who served also only once on the committee, can be found in the Siam Society on-line register.

World's first aircraft carrier & the RAF visit

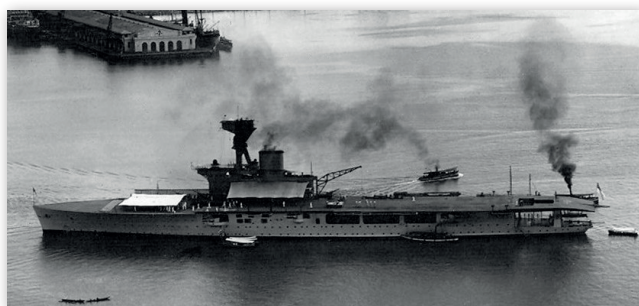
The first record of the over 160 naval ships whose officers have visited the British Club was in March 1928, when the Club served tiffin to Captain Geoffrey Hopwood RN and the officers of HMS Hermes (95) whilst it docked in Bangkok. HMS Hermes was the world's



▲ "The Inaugural Cambridge Dinner"

first ship to be designed as an aircraft carrier and carried 20 aircraft in her hold. During her stay in Bangkok she was honoured by a Royal visit from H.M. King Prajadhipok.

On 7th November 1930, an afternoon reception was held at the British Club for Air Marshal Sir William Geoffrey Hanson Salmond KCB KCMG DSO on the occasion of an RAF visit to Siam. Sir Geoffrey, as he preferred to be known, was Air Officer Commanding India and he was accompanied by H.B.M. Minister, Cecil F. J. Dormer MVO and Colonel John F. Turner, Chief Ground Engineer of the Royal Air Force, India. In 1940, Colonel Sir John F. Turner, as he had become, was responsible for the masterminding the creation of UK Decoy Sites and 'Starfish' dummy towns to lure away German bombers.



▲ "World's first aircraft carrier"

Next month ...

The Thirties

Paul Cheesman
Honorary Secretary

For Members interested in our Club's history, the timeline is updated each month end, and can be found on the Website under 'The Club – History'.

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

"The interactions I had with the various teachers and coaches at Bangkok Patana gave me a good foundation on how I approach learning. I benefitted the most from the various activities I could participate in, which translated to 'real world' skills."

Kyle Harrison, Grad '13, Aerodynamicist



Read about how Kyle went from IBDP to Formula 1



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Obituary

Dr John Patrick 'Paddy' Dickson
1 May 1929 – 11 November 2021, RIP



▲ Paddy Dickson, 89th birthday lunch.

At 92, Paddy Dickson was the oldest member of the British Club, and had been one for over 62 years. This is the eulogy delivered by his son in law, Dominic Faulder, at his cremation on 15 November 2021.

A few weeks ago, I visited Paddy and Chalernsri Dickson, my in-laws of nearly 40 years, in their Soi Soonwichai home, which they have occupied since the late 1960s. As I was leaving, Paddy handed me a copy of his autobiography, 'Dr Paddy spills the beans,' a title that should rightly alarm many in Bangkok. I first attempted to edit a much earlier draft in about 2012, and my daughter Catherine had another shot a few years later. We both gave up because it was an unending work in progress, and in true Paddy style completely unlike any autobiography anyone has ever seen. For starters, the index is at the beginning.

Paddy's life was long, brilliant and unique.

His father, Stanley, was sponsored through the Royal Naval College Dartmouth by Guglielmo Marconi, the Italian inventor of the wave-based wireless telegraph system – or radio as most of us know it. Stanley Dickson had been taken on as an apprentice by Marconi in 1911 after his father's death, and during World War I traveled the world as a junior officer installing radio

communications for the Royal Navy. He communicated with Marconi each day from as far off as Singapore by morse code.

Stanley married Mary Duxfield in Loughborough in 1923. Mollie, as she was known, was a teacher with a keen sense of fun who at 16 had somehow been identified as "Britain's best scholar" by the Daily Sketch, a popular newspaper.

Older brother Roger arrived in 1926, three years before Paddy.

In 1940, during the London Blitz of World War II, Paddy was on a visit to his father's office in London when the American Officers' Club next door took a direct hit from a German bomb. The pair had to be dug out from under the stairs by air raid rescue teams.

Both Roger, an air force cadet during the war, and Paddy learned to fly. Paddy became an accomplished glider pilot. He attended Repton, a well-known, 400-year-old boarding school for boys. A truly gifted



▲ Paddy Dickson in his prime in the 1960s.

musician, he nevertheless realized that life as a concert pianist would be precarious. Instead, he opted to study medicine at Clare College, Cambridge. He joined the Clare Music Society, and played piano at the legendary Footlights Dramatic Club's annual comedy revue.

In 1950, he became a medical student at St Thomas' Hospital, the famous London teaching hospital with a problematic apostrophe and links to Florence Nightingale, among many.

In early 1954, Paddy was back visiting Cambridge unexpectedly one night. Hearing muffled voices, he stepped through a hidden door at a house in Jordan's Yard, the home of his lifelong friend John Brickell, to find a late-night party going on.

"I looked across the room," Paddy later recalled. "In the far corner near the door stood a girl such as I had never seen before. She was so attractive it took my breath away."

On March 31, 1956, Paddy married that girl, Chalernsri Punyanitya. The Siamese beauty had decided

she would marry him the moment she laid eyes on him. After all, he was the only man in the room wearing a suit -- albeit a brown one.

This was post-war Britain, and Paddy kept secret his forbidden love. After qualifying as a doctor, he saw off his two-year national service in the Royal Air Force as Flying Officer Dr J.P. Dickson. When the story inevitably emerged of his secret

marriage, he was cut off by his English family.

The Thai side weren't too impressed by all this either. His father in law, Tonglaw Punyanitya, had warned his daughter that he would shoot her if she ever married a foreigner. Aware of this, she arranged for her father -- who was visiting London on business -- to meet Paddy at midnight in a Buddhist 'temple' in Kensington. They met, both thought better of the situation, had a cigarette and went on to become devoted friends.

When Paddy arrived in Thailand for a visit in 1958, Khun Tonglaw told him that there had not been an English doctor in Bangkok since

the early 1940s when World War II reached Thailand. His father in law personally broached the matter with the British ambassador, Sir Richard Whittington, who was also keen to see Paddy stay. So was the British business community and other expatriates.

To practise, Paddy had to qualify as a Thai doctor and that meant learning the language. It took him a year to gain his license. There was to be a long association with the Bangkok Nursing Home, and in time a surgery was established over the British Dispensary on Sukhumvit Road with Drs Peter Comer and Colin Britton.

Comer, an expert in malaria, was known for his directness. He was once summoned to the British Club after the British naval attaché collapsed during a pantomime rehearsal. "He's dead," Comer declared. "I am afraid you need an undertaker, not a doctor."

Paddy and Poo, as Chalernsri is usually known, raised their two daughters, Fiona, who had been born in 1958, and Caroline, who followed in 1960, in the freewheeling 1960s. Paddy turned his musical talents to Dixieland jazz, playing at various venues including the Starlight Club opposite the General Post Office on New Road.

His great friend, Lachie Thomson, the Thai-fluent Australian military attaché who did four tours in Thailand, also performed. They would later play Sunday night jazz at the Napoleon on Patpong Road and after that in Bobby's Arms nearby. Paddy also played the organ at Christ Church and formed the Thai



▲ Rome, 1966: Paddy and Chalernsri spoof Federico Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*.



▲ True love: Paddy and Chalernsri's secret wedding on March 31, 1956.



▲ Paddy and Chalerm Sri Dickson with their daughters, Fiona (right) and Caroline, in the early 1960s.

Internationals to perform abroad for the national airline.

In 1959, Paddy joined the British Club, which had nearly 300 male members at the time -- only three of whom had Thai wives. He served on the main committee when the decision was taken to build a swimming pool. "To supplement our cash, we for some reason borrowed a tidy sum in Swiss francs, 12 baht to the franc," Paddy later recalled. "When the time came to repay the loan, the exchange rate had moved to 19 baht. That was a painful experience in foreign exchange risk."

Paddy became a bulwark of the expatriate community. He would often rush out to deal with medical emergencies in the dead of night. He made a policy decision at 50 to stop delivering babies as it was all too inconvenient and exhausting.

Paddy tended the dying, cured the living and cheered the sad. He did locums in Laos, and at one stage assisted the US military medical

corps in Thailand, which served up to 60,000 mostly air force personnel stationed here during the Vietnam War. An expert in the field, Paddy once told me that there was not a single case of the fabled Saigon Rose STD that could not be cured.

Paddy contributed so much to the community that has been forgotten. He was chairman of Bangkok Patana School from 1964 to 1968 when the headcount rose from 150 to 420 and considerable ground-work was laid. Today the primary and secondary schools have around 2,250 pupils. The experience put him off any further committee work, however.

Paddy was loved by his daughters, admired by his sons in law, and adored by his grandchildren, Patrick, Ajay, Catherine, Madeleine and Dylan.

He was calm in a storm, invariably optimistic and always full of stories and anecdotes. When his impressive temper flared, it would usual-



▲ Chalerm Sri Dickson with daughter Fiona in England.

ly subside completely in a minute. There was nobody he would not offer consolation and support. He had the most astonishing memory I have ever encountered for poems, limericks and lyrics, and his store of jokes and yarns was limitless. He was addicted to Mars bars.

Any patient of Paddy's you ever meet will praise his medical skills, but it was his unique bedside manner that always remains with them. With his extrovert, gregarious personality, he was everything a family doctor should be. And he was always genuinely interested in people and their stories.

I could keep you here all afternoon telling wonderful tales from this long and colourful existence. While we mourn his passing today, we should also celebrate a long and exceptionally well-lived life that generated so much happiness and so many genuinely good times.

Thank you all for being here today, and thank you, Paddy, for everything you gave to so many.



▲ Paddy and Stanley Dickson in one of his father's self-built boats.



▲ Paddy Dickson with Caroline, his younger daughter, February 2020.



▲ Paddy Dickson with his great friend Colonel Lachie Thomson in 2014.

Sri panwa

PHUKET

Our New Membership Partner



Sri panwa is pleased to offer an 18% discount on F&B at Baba Poolclub, Baba IKI, Baba Chino, Baba Hotbox and Baba Soulfood.

Campaign Period: 1 November 2021 - 31 October 2022



More information : reception@britishclubbangkok.org T&C apply



LEST WE FORGET!

NOVEMBER 14th saw 294 people from Thailand pay their respects to the fallen of two World Wars and other conflicts, in the third Remembrance Service held at the Club since the British War Memorial was moved here in 2019. After the Act of Remembrance, and the two minutes silence, the wreath laying was led by Alexandra McKenzie, British Chargée d'Affaires, Colonel Tony Stern, British Defence Attaché, and Mark Bowling, President of the Royal British Legion, Thailand.

The Club wreath was laid by Chairman, James Crossley-Smith and there were representatives from the Royal British Legion, the War Veterans Organisation, the Operation Crown Association, the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Thai Ministry of Defence, the Royal Thai Navy, the Royal Thai Airforce and the Royal Thai Army, numerous community organisations and representatives of International Schools.

The service was led by the Reverend Norman Jones, the acting Vicar of Christ Church.

Of course, this was the 'Service That Nearly Wasn't' ... until the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration relaxed the event attendance rules on 1st November, it was going to be limited by Covid-19 to just 25 persons ... with private 'acts of remembrance' to be scattering throughout the afternoon. Mindful of Covid, however, masks were worn, temperatures tests undertaken, the British Club Pipe & Drum Band and the Shrewsbury International School musicians both reduced to five each,



and their repertoire similarly reduced. Covid-19 did hit, however ... at least one Club organiser caught it a week prior, causing Club members to isolate then a diplomat tested positive forcing embassy staff to do likewise.

2021's service was a special one, of course, even without Covid. The British Legion was formed in the UK, on 15th May 1921, bringing together four national organisations of ex-Servicemen that had established themselves after the Great War: The National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers, the British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers, the Comrades of The Great War and the Officers' Association. It obtained its Royal Charter in 1925.

Organisation of this event was jointly undertaken by the British Club and the British Embassy Defence Section: too many to thank in full but special mention must go to Warrant Officer Clare Mckune, RAF (Assistant Defence Attaché), Khun Suthathip Sararith (Executive & Research Assistant to the DA), all the planned embassy staff, who had to stay away, all the 'last minute staff' from the Embassy who came to help when their colleagues were isolating, and to all the staff of the Club from engineering, kitchens, security and service.

For the fallen ... At the going down of the sun and in the morning - We will remember them.





Halloween Kids Party

Trick or treat, Halloween Kids Party was the first event since the lockdown in August. Event received the great supported from members with fully booked. Kids were enjoying with activities, games, and the magic show. Highlight was the red-light green-light from the squid game movie and lots of candies.



Quiz Night

Quiz Night was back on Tuesday 9th November at the Churchill Bar, with three regular teams plus one new team the "Three Amigo" joined us this month. Congrats to the Spin Doctor team who won the first prize and Spoof Team who won the 8,500 THB Jackpot!!



Wine Tasting & Loy Krathong

Loy Krathong is a traditional Thai festival, rumoured to come from the Sukhothai era (1238-1438) but is probably much more modern, that on the full moon of the Twelfth Lunar month after you have completed the rice harvest, you thank the River Goddess for her blessing. Traditionally you build a small float or raft (Krathong) with lotus leaves and add a candle to also venerate Buddha, place in it, symbolically, all your bad luck, anger and troubles and then put the Krathong in a river and let them float (Loy) away!

With the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration literally clearing up nearly a million Krathongs from Bangkok's rivers, lakes, and ponds in the days and weeks after each festival, the Club uses the Swimming Pool for the floating part and organises for the Krathongs to be made from natural materials, where possible, on site with the help of members' children.

For 2021, we were fortune that the 'event' restrictions were eased from November 1st to allow us to hold the festival this year and combine it with the First Wine-tasting since ... well, we don't remember when! Over 170 gathered at the Pool Deck to celebrate both Loy Krathong and the wine, letting their bad luck drift away in the pool and then celebrating that it was complete.

*November full moon shines,
Loy Krathong, Loy Krathong,
and the water's high
in the river and local klong,*

*Loy, Loy Krathong,
Loy, Loy Krathong,
Loy Krathong is here and everybody's full of cheer,*

*We're together at the klong,
We're together at the klong,*

*Each one with this Krathong,
As we push away, we pray,
We can see a better day.*



MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT



Ammy Aphinya

Hello Members!

Good news! The British Club is almost back to normal and we can now serve alcohol in every outlet, Members can bring in guests again and all our popular events are back. The curfew still requires us to close early but hopefully this will also soon be lifted. Thank you to everyone who came along to the November Wine Tasting, Loy Krathong, Remembrance Day, Thanksgiving and Bonfire Night events. Please book early for all our Christmas celebrations.

Phase 2 of the Poolside Redevelopment is getting near to completion and we hope that some of the facilities will be open in December. This amazing new project will be fully open in the new year for everyone's enjoyment

I am excited that we have 40 new members this month after lockdown, including a new slate of 20 Shrewsbury School teachers. Welcome them back and now we have 47 Nationalities in the British Club. It's the biggest expats community in a central business district.



▲ Colin, Jane and Freddie Ayliffe

Member Review:

When we were moving to Bangkok from the UK we were all very excited as it offers so much in terms of culture, things to learn and new experiences. Since joining the British Club we now feel a sense of community and a feeling of home. It offers a destination to go to where we can make lots of friends and the staff are very attentive and always friendly. It is also nice that there are members from lots of different nationalities which offers a truly international feel. There are many activities for the children to enjoy for a range of ages, which is important as a family. We also get involved in the social events and this is a unique opportunity to mix with others outside of work. Khun Ammy has made us all feel welcome and she is always on hand if we need any help or support. Being a member of the British Club makes living in Bangkok even better!



▲ Bobbi, Hwa and Ara, Sera Lee

Member Review:

As newcomers to beautiful Bangkok, we fell in love instantly but coming from Manhattan, needed somewhere we could retreat from our prolonged exposure to the big city life, stay healthy and become a member of a community that is welcoming of our two girls and embraces diversity. After Ammy showed us around, we couldn't wait and the rest is history, a short one but already full of great encounters and opportunities to appreciate the fantastic British Club staff and members. We are co excited to get involved more in the various clubs and enjoy the amazing food after a family game of tennis or squash.

Christmas Lunch & Dinner

11.00AM-3.00PM

5.00PM-9.00PM

Members 1,200 ฿, Kids 650 ฿, below 3 300 ฿
Guests 1,400 ฿, Kids 850 ฿, below 3 300 ฿
bookings: reception@britishclubbangkok.org T&C apply





STUNNING NEW SENIOR SCHOOL OPENS AT SHREWSBURY, RIVERSIDE – THAILAND'S LEADING INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

▲ *Shrewsbury's new Senior School, named after Chairman of the Board of Governors; The Sir David Lee's Innovation Centre*

Shrewsbury International School Bangkok Riverside has set a new benchmark with their ambitious 1.1 billion Thai Baht Senior school. The culmination of *Project 2021* dramatically increases the provision for Science, Mathematics, Computing, Innovation, Robotics, Sixth-Form, Higher Education counselling, dining and sport at Thailand's leading independent international school. Nestled on the banks of the famed Chao Phraya River, the sleek, modern *Sir David Lees Innovation Centre*, incorporating the *Stephen Holroyd Sixth Form Commons* and the world-class *Sports Performance Complex*, will ensure the school and its community continue to thrive well into the future.

Named after the respected Chairman of the Board of Governors and admired UK businessman, Sir David Lees, the Innovation Centre is as impressive inside as it is to look upon. Shrewsbury students and the School's superb teaching staff have an abundance of new creative spaces, learning environments, and facilities to enable them to extend them-

selves fully. Sixteen Mathematics classrooms will increase provision in a subject where Shrewsbury students regularly achieve extraordinary outcomes. Meanwhile, the Science department benefits from 18 university-standard laboratories – a dramatic boost to a faculty that regularly sends students to premier medical schools in Thailand and abroad.

In partnership with lead architect Robert Philip Holmes of City Realty Company Ltd. and DWP Architects, the Shrewsbury community has designed an incredible 17,000 sqm learning environment with space to house over 1000 Senior School-aged students. It is anticipated that these additional spaces will be in high de-

mand by Thai and international families.

On the ground floor, a 700-seat air-conditioned dining hall greets visitors. Take an elevator to the top, and an entirely different environment emerges – the multi-level 4000 sqm *Stephen Holroyd Sixth Form Commons*. Here, the foundations are laid for tertiary education with Shrewsbury's award-winning Higher Education Team. With a cafe, numerous breakout spaces, and quiet, flexible working areas, all with stunning views of the magnificent Chao Phraya River, the School's talented and dedicated students will thrive in such an inspiring environment that offers space to think and collaborate.



▲ *4 new Computing suites fitted with the latest technology*



▲ *16 new Mathematics classrooms for the most successful maths department in Asia, designed to fully combine maths and technology*



▲ *New dining hall with space for 700 students, fully air-conditioned with views across the campus*



▲ *4000sqm space for A-Level Students; The Stephen Holroyd Commons, named after Shrewsbury's former Principal*



▲ *bespoke robotics and innovation labs designed to enable students to explore the latest technologies and enhance their practical skills*

Supported by the Sophonpanich family and excellent governance linked to Shrewsbury School in the UK, this new development delivers new and exciting opportunities for aspirational parents, staff and students alike. There is no better example of this than the investment in new and emerging technology. Shrewsbury have elected to create four new computing suites, a Robotics lab and an innovation space which will bring together elements of the computing and design technology department all under one roof. Here students will be exposed to university-like facilities and resources, expertly preparing them for the next phase in their education.

Sport at Shrewsbury is also being given an enormous boost, with the completion of an additional sports hall complete with a peerless Strength and Conditioning (S&C) Zone. Two basketball courts have been added to the existing three in the original sports hall, giving added provision to the School's burgeoning netball, badminton, and volleyball programmes. The School's elite athletes, also known as 'Team Shrewsbury', will be particularly fond of the 80 sqm Yoga and Spin bike rooms. However, the jewel in the crown is undoubtedly the S&C Zone, which was modelled on

the Powerbase concept from Loughborough University, where many of the UK's finest Olympians and elite athletes train and develop.

Owner of Shrewsbury, Riverside, Khun Chali Sophonpanich, rightly believes that the Sir David Lees Innovation Centre, the Stephen Holroyd Sixth Form Commons and the adjacent Sports Performance Complex are places students will discover, develop and prosper in their learning journeys. *"We are proud to be delivering two wonderful buildings that, for years to come, will continue to offer Shrewsbury students a chance to find and fulfil their potential – particularly in the Sciences, Mathematics, Computing and Sport – and ultimately to secure places at world-leading universities of their choice,"* he commented.

Principal Chris Seal echoed K. Sophonpanich's sentiments and gave thanks to the whole school community for its input to this fantastic new facility. *"Shrewsbury Riverside is built on aspiration. The Sophonpanich family and the governing body showed foresight and ambition in launching this project before my appointment. I have thoroughly enjoyed bringing it to fruition and look forward to seeing the impact of*

these amazing spaces on our young people and their learning," he insisted.

With *Project 2021* now at an end, the School looks toward its new goal: *Towards 2026*. Plans are already underway, which will see further developments in the remainder of the Senior School departments (including a new world-class Art facility by Christmas 2021) and renewal of the Prep and Pre-Prep buildings.

This ongoing development at Riverside, coupled with the beautiful, age-specific Shrewsbury City Campus in Rama 9, further guarantees Shrewsbury International School, Bangkok's position at the very pinnacle of international education in Thailand.

If you want to find out more regarding the world-class facilities now open at Shrewsbury, Riverside – please visit <https://www.shrewsbury.ac.th/riverside/our-school/development>



▲ *18 new science labs fitted by university-grade suppliers S&B from the UK*





▲ *A new fully air-conditioned sports hall on the second floor of the Sports Performance Complex boasts olympic-sized courts, the perfect place for some of Thailand's national teams to train.*



▲ *Our new 340sqm Strength and Conditioning Zone mirrors the facilities found at leading athletic universities around the world.*

DECEMBER 2021

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 1903 THE BRITISH CLUB PANGLOSS				1 Squash Mix-in 4.30pm - 8.15pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	2 Swimming Lesson Tony 7.00am - 8.00am Yoga Flow Streching 8.00am - 9.00am Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.30pm	3 Junior tennis 4.00pm - 5.00pm Senior Cricket 6.00pm - 7.00pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	4 Yoga Flow Energy 10.00am - 11.00am Junior Squash 10.30am - 12.00pm Squash Mixed-in 1.30pm - 6.45pm Cricket Team Praticce 2.30pm - 6.00pm Wine Tasting 6.00pm - 10.00pm
 BRITISH CLUB HOME DELIVERY	5 Junior Cricket 9.00am - 10.00am Swimming Coaching 9.00am - 12.00pm Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 9.00am - 1.00pm Squash Mix-in 10.30am - 12.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.30am - 3.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm	6 Yoga Flow Vinyasa 8.00am - 9.00am Tennis Mixed Doubles Team practice 7.00pm - 10.00pm	7 Pilates 10.30am - 11.30am Football 7.00pm - 9.00pm Quiz Night 7.15pm - 9.00pm	8 Squash Mix-in 4.30pm - 8.15pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm Christmas Carol 6.00pm - 8.00pm	9 Swimming Lesson Tony 7.00am - 8.00am Yoga Flow Streching 8.00am - 9.00am Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.30pm	10 Junior tennis 4.00pm - 5.00pm Senior Cricket 6.00pm - 7.00pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	11 Yoga Flow Energy 10.00am - 11.00am Junior Squash 10.30am - 12.00pm Squash Mixed-in 1.30pm - 6.45pm Cricket Team Praticce 2.30pm - 6.00pm
 1903 THE BRITISH CLUB PANGLOSS	12 Junior Cricket 9.00am - 10.00am Swimming Coaching 9.00am - 12.00pm Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 9.00am - 1.00pm Squash Mix-in 10.30am - 12.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.30am - 3.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm	13 Yoga Flow Vinyasa 8.00am - 9.00am Tennis Mixed Doubles Team practice 7.00pm - 10.00pm	14 Pilates 10.30am - 11.30am Football 7.00pm - 9.00pm	15 Squash Mix-in 4.30pm - 8.15pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	16 Swimming Lesson Tony 7.00am - 8.00am Yoga Flow Streching 8.00am - 9.00am Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.30pm	17 Junior tennis 4.00pm - 5.00pm Senior Cricket 6.00pm - 7.00pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm Mad Hatter Christmas Party 6.00pm - 11.00pm	18 Yoga Flow Energy 10.00am - 11.00am Junior Squash 10.30am - 12.00pm Balut Cup Tournament 1.00pm - 5.00pm Squash Mixed-in 1.30pm - 6.45pm Cricket Team Praticce 2.30pm - 6.00pm
 1903 THE BRITISH CLUB PANGLOSS	19 Junior Cricket 9.00am - 10.00am Swimming Coaching 9.00am - 12.00pm Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 9.00am - 1.00pm Squash Mix-in 10.30am - 12.00pm Children Christmas 11.00am - 4.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm	20 Yoga Flow Vinyasa 8.00am - 9.00am Tennis Mixed Doubles Team practice 7.00pm - 10.00pm	21 Football 7.00pm - 9.00pm	22 Squash Mix-in 4.30pm - 8.15pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	23 Swimming Lesson Tony 7.00am - 8.00am Yoga Flow Streching 8.00am - 9.00am Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.30pm	24 Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	25 Yoga Flow Energy 10.00am - 11.00am Christmas Lunch & Dinner 11.00am - 9.00pm Squash Mixed-in 1.30pm - 6.45pm Cricket Team Praticce 2.30pm - 6.00pm
 1903 THE BRITISH CLUB PANGLOSS	26 Swimming Coaching 9.00am - 12.00pm Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 9.00am - 1.00pm Squash Mix-in 10.30am - 12.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.30am - 3.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm Boxing Day 6.00pm - 9.00pm	27 Yoga Flow Vinyasa 8.00am - 9.00am Tennis Mixed Doubles Team practice 7.00pm - 10.00pm	28 Football 7.00pm - 9.00pm	29 Squash Mix-in 4.30pm - 8.15pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	30 Swimming Lesson Tony 7.00am - 8.00am Yoga Flow Streching 8.00am - 9.00am Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.30pm	31 Senior Cricket 6.00pm - 7.00pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm New Year Eve 6.00pm - 12.00am	

TENNIS



Graham Johnston

Dear Members

Merry Christmas Tennis Baubles to y'all

As things continue to move towards the old/new normal tennis tournaments across Bangkok have resumed and it didn't take long for some of our members to put in some big performances and get their hands on some silverware. This month we look at some of those performances and we also have the first installment of our new feature "Gary's Tales from the Tour" by Gary Sakuma.

"GARY'S TALES FROM THE TOUR"

The Singha TATP Tour is a 500,000-baht tennis tournament, the premier pro tennis tournament in Thailand,

spanning ten days, it has professional level Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles followed by a Senior 90 plus (The combined age is 90 or over with a minimum age of 40) and Senior 115 plus. There is also a junior event with the winners travelling to the Australian Open for a Grand Slam Experience (due to COVID, this year that will not happen). RS Tennis Black Edition is the official tennis ball of the Singha Circuit and is available for purchase at the British Club Sports Desk.

The excitement begins by entering for 500 baht. The tournament checks your ATP points, LTAT ranking, and Singha points then places you in the Pre-qualifying, Qualifying, or Main Draw. Points are earned at Singha for playing through the Prequalifying, which is normally four rounds—two rounds on Saturday and two rounds

on Sunday. Then, you win a point for each round of the qualifying—two rounds on Monday. The Main Draw starts on Tuesday and is followed by the doubles qualifying. There is no pre-qualifying for doubles, it is entry only by points in singles or doubles.

Christian Roland entered the Pre-qualifying Singles. He won the first round 6-0, 6-1 but had a heart-breaking second match on Saturday, the grueling first set tiebreak had our hero throwing a spectacular dropshot on set point at 6-7 to tie it up 7-7 but succumb to youth and heat, losing 7-6(9), 6-4.

Jennifer Brown entered the Women's Qualifying but drew the fourth seed and did not advance.

Pierre Sequier earned the first seed in the Qualifying and handily dispatched



▲ Andrey & Pum



▲ Raquel & Pum



▲ Gary & Nat



▲ Puak

his first opponent in straight sets 6-0, 6-0. In his second match, he quickly outclassed his opponent 6-2, 6-3. In the Main draw, he vanquished the seventh seed 7-6(2), 6-2, but he lost in the Quarterfinals 6-3, 6-4. This was a great accomplishment. Congratulations to Pierre.

For the Senior 90 plus, matches are eight game pro sets with no ad scoring. The Seniors have Qualifying which starts on Friday with a round robin followed by a Group Stage Round Robin on Saturday with the top two teams of each group advancing to a quarterfinal knock-out stage. Andrei Ivanov and his partner advanced through the qualifying on Friday by winning three tough matches. In the group stage on Saturday, he got through as the second-place team by pulling through a 9-7 set in the third round. His loss to the first-place team in his group was 8-6.

Akkasit "Pum" and Andrey Kornilov advanced as second in their group with Sorasak "Puak" and his partner finishing first.

Gary Sakuma and Jim Frailik and Sirimongkol "Nueng" with his partner did not advance past the group stage.

In the knockout Quarterfinal round,



▲ Andrei



▲ Jim & Gary

Pum and Andrei suffered a loss with a 9-8(4) tiebreaker loss to the past Champion K. Bao and K. Moo.

Andrei Ivanov upset the first seed team of Ekkarin and Chanun, who have never lost in Singha, 8-6 but ran into the team of Sorasak "Puak" and Judge Choy the eventual Champions, losing a tough one in the semi-finals.

Coach Puak defeated the coaches from Royal Bangkok Sports Club K. Bang and K. Aun 8-5 earning his fourth Singha Championships in the last calendar year.

Congratulations to Coach Puak for winning the Singha 90 plus Senior Tournament. Stay tuned for the next Singha which starts Oct 30 and concludes with a master's Event December 4.

On Sunday 31st October Gray was back in action this time competing with Nattaya in the Thailand Senior Tennis Association Mixed Doubles 90s BC And, of course with 4 wins from 4 tough sets, they brought home the trophy!

The following week it was the turn of Pum and Raquel to compete in the Lawyers Friendship Mixed Doubles



▲ Christain



▲ Pierre

80s AB and once again the trophy was on its way back to the British Club!

And finally ... not to be dine by the oldies, young Ace, son of coach Kwan, was victorious in the LTAT Pyramid 10s tournament!

Well done all competitors. Happy Christmas all members! See you in 2022!

Graham Johnston
British Club Tennis Section Chairman



▲ Ace



▲ Jen

SQUASHY BITS



▲ Future generation warming up to play Ranjan in a decade or two



▲ Waynes freak show

Well, we are all getting older, ain't that a fact! Other than Ranjan of course – where the term “when time stood still” springs to mind and is no greater personification in human form! Our South Indian Peter Pan friend that graces the courts in 1980's Brazilian mini short a la Zico is ageless. Cut one of his legs off and count the rings there would be a plenty, but he remains as sprightly around the court as young whipper snapper Henry, well over half his age.

The rest of us succumb to the ravages of time – aches and pains all over, pulled muscles (John V), slipped discs, worn away knees (me), erectile dysfunction (Bruce), and strange, rather off-putting, lumps (Wayne – more to come on that later). However, one of the younger crew had good reason to limp rather badly at the Super Mix-in this month and that was our very own ‘septic tank’ Brad!

Stepping onto court for a warmup with yours truly and The Bussey, Brad took an almighty swipe at the ball, missed completely and made full contact with his shin! Within seconds a huge ugly welt had formed on the shin which needed ice urgently! After a few minutes bringing the swelling down Brad then proceeded, much to our surprise, to put the bag of ice down his shorts and let out a relieved ‘ahhhhhh’ – he later explained that he had just had the ‘snip’ and hadn't fully settled into his ‘blanks firing’ chapter in life!

Any way this super mix in was a call to arms to re-invigorate the section now that the leagues will be soft re-starting and more importantly alcohol can freely be



▲ Brad quietly nursing his nuts

served in the club again. Expecting a stampede of attendees, the committee members were debating how many drinks and pizzas should be offered! The highest estimate from Bart of 20 pizzas (with a Buy one get one free offering) was as accurate as his serves (hopeless). Clearly many people had deleted the group chat during COVID lockdown and therefore didn't turn up! Nevertheless, the stalwarts were there, and a merry time was had by all! The squash was decidedly average, but we put that down to the long squash layoff. Robin showed up to charge around the court and bounce off the walls like a crazed madman in an asylum at Full Moon. He bought Queen Victoria with him for the after party given we all know she likes a tipple!

Following the mix in the exhausted players retired to the lounge area on the second floor for some appalling music from Wayne (next time DJ'ing is definitely being taken out of his hands). Conversation roamed eclectically from ‘group chat’ debacles, to Wayne's odd lump on his leg (which he seemed to be firstly oblivious to and then rather proud of) and onto Brad telling us circumcision is very common in the States (Note from editor: Circumcision in US is between 76 and 92% whereas less than 20% in most European countries). Given this and Brad's ‘snip’ we are all surprised he has much left ‘down there’!

Any way plenty of beers were drunk which is the main thing and whilst the older generation talked their nonsense the future generation of squashies were warming up downstairs on court! – one day they can carry on the mix- in tradition and they too can play Ranjan in years to come in place of us!



▲ Robin – madman in asylum during full moon impression



▲ Mix in carnage

SPORTS

BRITISH CLUB GOLF



▲ They call her the par 3 queen but sadly for Suzie Standen her partner the captain brought his D game to the Dunlop cup



▲ Mark Adderley, winner of Flight A of the October monthly medal



▲ Martin Finn, winner of Flight B of the October Monthly medal

October saw British Club golf back in full swing (Oh dear!).

On 23rd and 24th October the Dunlop Cup was held at Rancho Charnvee in Khao Yai, with David Lamb as principal sponsor. The event is a pairs betterball Stableford on day 1, with the best two pairs then match playing for the Cup on day 2, whilst the remaining pairs continue with betterball Stableford as they contest the plate. Rancho Charnvee is a high class resort with a long and challenging course, made all the more difficult by the rainy season weather with little "run" on the ball and fairways which showed no sign of having been cut recently. That said, there were many excellent scores recorded over the two days of the competition.

Charles Marques and Graham Hill scored 45 points on day 1 with Martin Finn and Danny Bean scoring 42 points getting into the final on countback over Pete Gale and Gordon Milne. On the second day fortunes were reversed with Martin and Danny recording a 6 and 5 win over Charles and Graham to win the Dunlop Cup. Mark and Becky Adderley's score of 41 points on day 1 was supplemented with 45 points on day 2, so they won the Plate competition. Of note on the second day was Karen Holloway's eagle on the par 4 16th, her approach shot from about 130 yards going straight in, for five Stableford points!

SPORTS



▲ Club championship players: Graham "Taliban" Johnston, Bally Gudail, Gordon Milne and Martin Weber

Green Me Organic kindly sponsored the near pin on 7 on day 2, which saw James Lawden win a night there. We thank Green Me for their generosity and David Lamb too, whose birthday fell on day 2, as our principal sponsor for his ongoing support of the competition.

The weather was dry and cool, the company enjoyed by all was humorous and warm! Proceedings were enlivened at the Saturday evening dinner at Green Me by Andrew Stray's guitar playing and the accompanying sing along.

The usual monthly medal at Royal on 31st October saw Mark Adderley win flight A, with Graham Johnston second and Robert Gray third. Flight B was won by the in-form Martin Finn, Andrew Stray coming second and Stephen Taylor and Bally Gudail tying for third. Two matches in the club championship were also played, Graham Johnston defeated Martin Weber and Gordon Milne clawed his way back against Bally Gudail to win on the 18th green, his winning putt being the first time he had been ahead all the match.



▲ Frank Fawkes driving on 18th tee at Rancho Charnvee



▲ David Lamb, sponsor of the Dunlop Cup, and wife Cheryl



▲ Danny Bean, Charles Marques, Graham Hill and Martin Finn, the Dunlop Cup finalists



▲ Mark and Becky Adderley, winners of the Dunlop Cup plate

PILATES AND WELL-BEING



Karen Dawber

Wrist care

We don't tend to give our hands and wrists much thought when it comes to exercise. They aren't full of big muscles or extra flesh we think we want to tone or train, however our hands literally are our greatest tool. We use them in everything we do. Fastening buttons, writing a note, typing a text, writing an e-mail, tying our laces, taking a photo, cooking, eating a meal, driving, catching a ball, holding a racquet, carrying a bag, holding a hand, practically every action we take involves our hands. Some of these actions we repeat over and over for many hours a day, so it is not such a surprise when we feel pain at times in our wrists. Pain can also occur when we do something we maybe don't do so often, like exercise in a four point kneeling position such as swimming prep or cat/cow, or holding a plank, both are common positions in Pilates and Yoga.

Our wrists, arms and shoulder complex are all interconnected. So that shoulder tightness or that arm ache may also be helped by spending a bit of time stretching out and releasing tension from the whole arm including the wrists.

So let's show our hands and wrists some love and care with these few simple stretches that you can do anywhere at any time.

Inner forearm and hand stretch

Hold your right arm outstretched in front of you at shoulder height palm facing up. With your left hand pull back your little finger down and back towards your forearm, stretching the palm away from you. Hold for a couple of breaths, then move to stretch back the ring finger, hold for a few breaths, move to the middle finger, pointer finger and finally the thumb. Lastly pull all the fingers together and feel a nice stretch.

Repeat on the left hand.



Upper back shoulder stretch

Reach your arms in front of you at shoulder height, Place your right arm over the top of the left, bring the palms together and interlock the fingers, draw the elbows apart and feel a stretch across your upper back, now reach the hands forwards and round the spine forwards pulling your belly back creating a c curve of the spine, look down at the floor/your lap if seated, hold for a couple of breaths. Drop the shoulders away from the ears as you hold the stretch.

Repeat but starting with your left arm on top of the right.



Outer forearm and upper chest stretch

Interlock your hands at your lower back, roll your shoulders up and back then straighten and reach your arms long behind you. Aim to keep a neutral spine and the crown of your head reaching to the ceiling. Hold for a few breaths.

Repeat but with the hands interlocked with the opposite pointer finger at the top of the interlock (one way will feel automatic and natural, the second time you pause and need to consider placing the opposite finger on top).



Arm cogs and wrist/chest stretch

Raise arms out into a T position, reach through the fingertips and turn one hand up and the other down, now rotate the arms in opposite directions 10 times. A bit like you are trying to turn a door knob with the hands, reaching wide as if the doorknob is just out of reach. After the 10th time pause with the arms long, then flex the wrist on each arm and reach your fingers towards your forearms, one hand should be palm up one palm down, to maximise the stretch take your arms just slightly behind you. Repeat a few times. (It is a nice little arm toning exercise too).



These exercises are just a few of my favourites for the wrists and ones I have found work when I personally have experienced bouts of wrist pain. They are also a great antidote to any period of time spent working at a desk.

Top tip

Then the next time you come to do a four point kneeling or plank position take a moment to carefully place your hands down. I like to place the outer edge of my pinky finger down on the mat first and then roll in through the base of all the fingers, stretching the palm wide and reaching the fingers long as you go, lastly placing the thumb on the mat. This allows you to spread the weight through the whole base of the hand and not just dump all the weight into the base of the wrist.





Ben Eastwell

HARD BALLS

PHUKET TOUR 5-7 NOVEMBER 2021

Fortunate to pull off an away trip after months of restrictions, the BC cricket section kicked the 2021/22 season in style for the first weekend in November as a 17 strong party took to the shores of Phuket for a double-header of matches at a rain-affected Alan Cooke Ground. Local sides, 'Patong Penguins Invitational XI' and 'The Village' hosted the British club at the cricketers' paradisiacal venue located North of the island - the first time both teams had welcomed a touring side since the start of the lockdown period.

With tourism still stuttering back to its former bustle, it was no surprise that the team was treated to the accommodation for themselves, serving the perfect spot to ease into the weekend with a few beers looking out over Kamala beach on Friday afternoon. Later, a lively team dinner was rudely interrupted by an angry tropical storm, which despite some wishful thinking, had also dropped gallons of water over the ACG for the next day.



Beach beers



Friday night dinner



Discussing where it went wrong

Whilst perfect for the local rugby group who were making use of the facility in the morning, and considerably less swampy than last year's encounter; the slow outfield gave both teams something to think about in a match where runs proved hard to come by, though the Penguins were undeterred by familiar conditions - winning the toss and electing to bat first for the 30

over game. Dilip (2-40, 6 overs) opened his account for the season and the match by removing 2 of the home side's top order in quick succession which saw 'Pancake', their on form batsman to the crease who reached 50 retirement in just 20 balls and put the tourists on the back foot - so much so that Dilip mistakenly later denied an incoming batsman entry to the field as



The heavy stuff not coming down for a while

he happened to look vaguely similar to the retired aggressor. Nadeem (2-25, 4 overs) chipped in with a useful spell and Jon dismissed Patong's skipper with a long-range direct hit before the drinks break, which was mostly spent trying to calculate a missing over on the scorecard. With the hosts resuming on 106/6 at the halfway stage, another heavy downpour forced an early lunch between an effective spell of slow bowling from Ben (1-24, 6 overs) and Chan (1-25, 6 overs), which pulled the run rate back into more comfortable territory with the assistance of a clinical throw from Denzyl in the deep. But (the real) Pancake wasted no opportunity on his eventual return to the crease - sending 2 of the 3 remaining deliveries for maximums.

Set a target of 187 to win, British Club quickly came under pressure from an outfield which had slowed even further and the home side



Vaughan shows how it's done

quickly settled into a tight spell of bowling on a tricky wicket. Following a double-wicket maiden in the 8th over - BC found themselves in trouble having made just 23 runs in spite of a helping of extras. Rahul (10) the only batsman in the top 7 to make double figures and Coco the team mascot spoilt for choice as to her new guardian as 3 of the tourists failed to make a run. A late burst from Uncle V (43) and Chan (13*) did give the crowd something to cheer about and helped take the sting out of an inevitable defeat, but an incredibly lacklustre display of batting gave the touring side plenty to think about going into Sunday's game and the rest of the season. Needless to say, the day's play was expertly recounted by Denz in a turbulent fines session before an attempt to find somewhere to watch the world cup in an unusually deserted town topped off an eventful day.



Dilip gets his man



Lenny on debut



ACG Phuket



Dressed to impress



Jack passes over The Dunford



▲ Village slammers



▲ Ooh Ahh cup handover



▲ Ben 3-29



▲ Manish 2-18



▲ Sunday Squad



▲ Some Brewis magic

After the dilemma over breakfast to determine who was most injured to qualify for a rest in the second game, vans set off for the second and final match of the weekend. This was the 10th year The Village had hosted BC and were also celebrating their personal 15 year anniversary. Helped by the absence of any late night activity, the earlier start time forced by an unexpected change of flight schedule, was surprisingly well heeded and the 25 over cup match began on time – this time the British Club opting to bat first.

Keen to correct the errors from the day before and in similar conditions, the top order all made positive starts but none managed to dig in for a big score – Rahul high scoring with 26 from 38 balls. That being said, everyone did get the chance to bat over the weekend, even if it was very brief in the case of Ian losing his middle stump first ball and Nadeem who completed a pair for the weekend. BC eventually crawled to a modest score of 127,

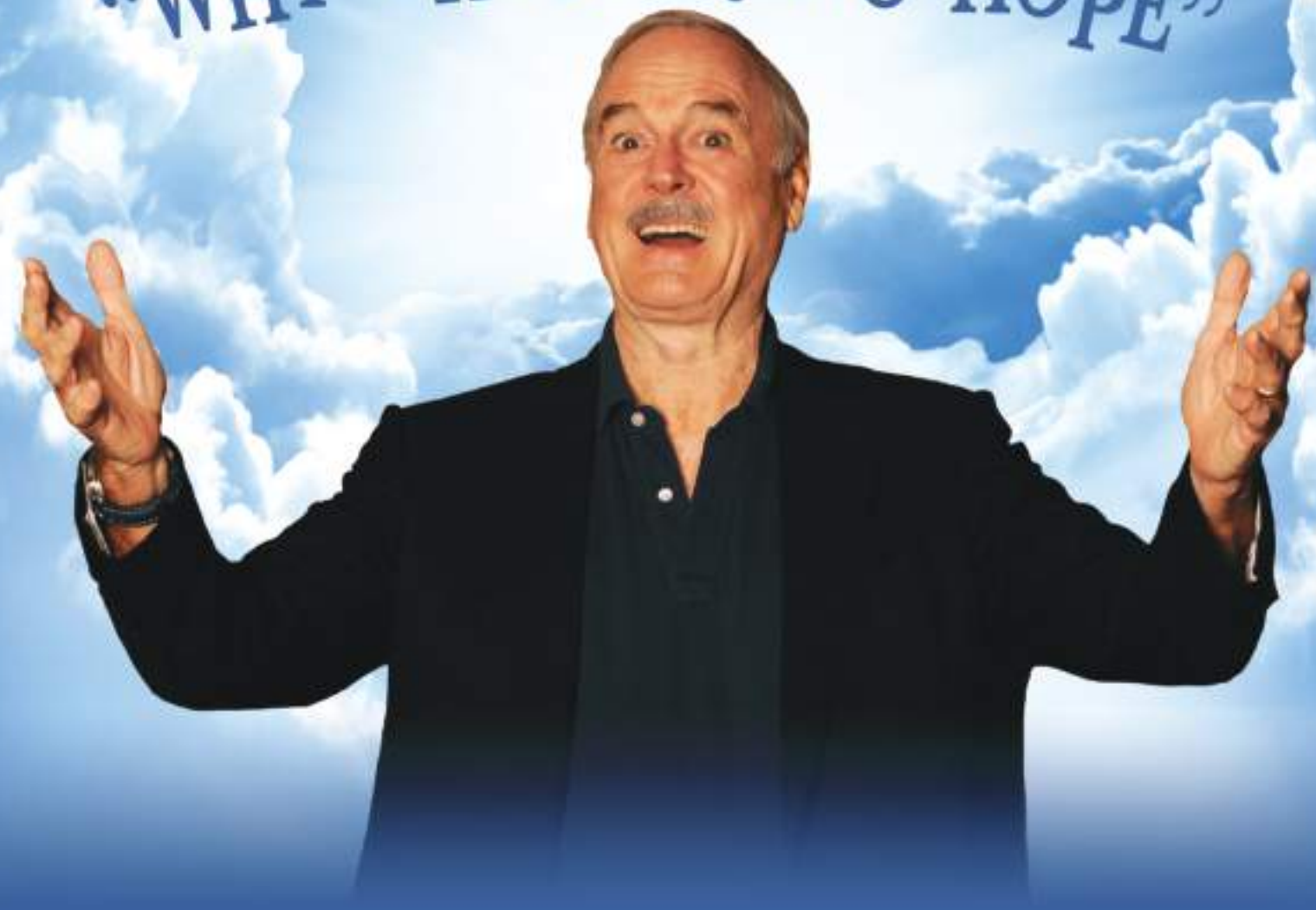
assisted again by a flurry of extras from the home side.

A maiden from Dilip (0-14, 4 overs) ticked off the perfect start in defending the low total but it wasn't until a turn to Manish (2-18, 4 overs) and Ben (3-29, 5 overs) for a touch of spin and some magic from Ian (3-18, 3 overs), that the wickets were sent tumbling before the drinks break. The Village resumed requiring 68 from 10 overs with 6 wickets in hand and despite BC's best efforts, they managed to hang on and took the game to the last over – eventually snatching up victory with 3 balls and 2 wickets to spare to get their name on the trophy again after 5 years. A signature haka from Mossy and slammers session closed out the fantastic weekend – the section looking forward to a week off until the opening league game on the 20th November. Many thanks again to Ian for organising, Jack for providing photos and to everyone who made it another weekend to remember.

JOHN CLEESE

AT HIS FUNNIEST

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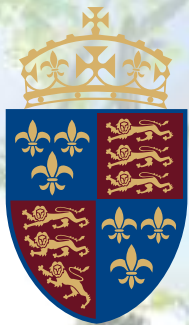
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