

DECEMBER 2023



1903  
THE BRITISH CLUB  
BANGKOK

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

# OUTPOST

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## OUTPOST

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### Chairman

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### Vice Chairman

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### Honorary Secretary

Paul Cheesman  
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### Honorary Treasurer

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BritishClub1903

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## Front Cover

Merry Christmas 2023

## This Month

The festival season has arrived, insight from the British HM Consul, our chairman talks club matters, the Fry Group look at investment funds, words from the GM, past participle returns to the year 1967, Paul & Jack review Gremio Literario Lisbon Portugal, events in pictures, our sections have their say, we welcome our new members and membership partners.

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THE FRY  
GROUP  
ESTD 1898

OUTPOST is the monthly magazine of THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK, the social sports and cultural centre for the English-speaking community in Bangkok

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Outpost welcomes contributions from Members, email [outpost@britishclubbangkok.org](mailto:outpost@britishclubbangkok.org)

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## THE CONSULAR SECTION OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY

### Hello again!

This month, the British Embassy is pleased to provide an overview of our work and a bit of up to date information on [www.GOV.UK](http://www.GOV.UK).

In October, we managed 117 urgent assistance cases, including arrests and detentions, welfare support, and hospitalizations for various reasons. We extended support to a total of 37 families following the loss of their loved ones, which involved a mixture of deaths in hospitals and at home. Most were from natural causes. Additionally, we issued 33 Emergency Travel Documents (ETDs) and offered 198 documentary services (allowing British nationals to get married in Thailand).

As you can see, we dealt with a high number of deaths, this is common each month. Apart from providing support to the bereaved families, we also issue a Consular letter for Thai local authorities or hospitals to release the body for burial, cremation, or repatriation. This consular letter is issued free of charge.

While we cannot pay any burial, cremation, or repatriation expenses ourselves or settle any debts (especially hospital bills), we can help transfer money from friends and relatives in the UK to pay any necessary costs here in Thailand. We have to hand details of local and international funeral directors and are constantly up-dating the list. More information about what to do when a British person dies in Thailand can be found on [www.GOV.UK](http://www.GOV.UK).

The Consular Section of the British Embassy would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Safe Christmas. If you plan to travel during the Christmas holiday, please ensure you get travel insurance and sign up for the Travel Advice for the country you will be visiting if leaving Thailand. And do remember to check that your passport is valid before you travel (and also that the back page is filled in with details of who should be contacted in an emergency).

*Happy Christmas and safe travels*

*Joanne*

**Joanne Fynamore-Crokin**  
HM Consul, British Embassy, Thailand



Simon P. Davies

## Chairman's Message

As we approach Christmas, and the end of 2023 draws near, I take this opportunity of extending Seasons Greetings and best wishes for a Happy New Year to all members, your families and likewise to the Management and staff of our wonderful Club who have collectively served us so well throughout the year.

On the 12th November, 2023 supported by The British Embassy, there was time for quiet reflection and respect for the fallen as over three hundred participants including representatives from within from The Thai Military, The Diplomatic community, British Club members, Associated groups and guests gathered on the front lawn of The Club in a moving Remembrance Day service .....Lest we forget.

The new members evening held in November saw a lively gathering with over sixty five attendees and congratulations to Mr Stanley Khaing who won a bottle of wine in the lucky draw. Pleasing to note that the fiftieth member of The Seniors Section was signed up and

well done to Terry Adams who is driving this excellent initiative. In a couple of months time we will host the annual gathering of those who have been members of the club for twenty plus years and will combine this event with the next New members evening.

At long last, and indeed a very long last, the upgrading of the cricket nets has finally been completed and our cricketers are able to now practice under cover all year round. To the Cricket Section I say thank you for your patience, practice well and have a great season ahead.

At the time of writing, work in the Games Room located in the main Clubhouse is nearly completed as we await delivery of the pool tables along with installation of Televisions and dart boards so the facility will be fully functional during December.

In signing off I would like to confirm the comments made last month in that we will be closing the November accounts with the financial year having significantly outperformed the budgeted revenue and cash surplus. A key highlight is that the good financial result has been achieved without raising any F&B menu prices and with The Club having a record number of over 1,450 members we can look forward to many good times ahead.

I sincerely thank everyone who has supported the Club throughout the year and contributed to its continued success.

**Cheers  
Simon**



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# Types of Investment Funds

By Martin Wright, The Fry Group

With so many investment fund options available it's important to understand the main differences in what is a fairly wide and often confusing marketplace.

## UNIT TRUSTS (UTS) & OPEN-ENDED INVESTMENT COMPANIES (OEICs)

Two of the most common types of fund are unit trusts and open-ended investment companies (OEICs). They share many traits but they also have some important differences.

Because they will always accept more cash from investors – they just become bigger to accommodate the demand. On the flip side, if there are more sellers than buyers, the fund will become smaller.

The price of a fund always reflects the value of its holdings. When more investors want to buy into the fund than sell, the manager issues more units. When the opposite is true, the manager cancels units.

They are more widely used even though some are more expensive than their investment trust alternatives. The great advantages of open-ended funds are their flexibility to make more units, as well as the fact there are more funds available meaning a greater choice for investors. This differs from a closed-ended fund, which issues a fixed number of non-redeemable shares like an Investment Trust which are closed-ended funds.

### What is a Unit Trust?

Unit trusts were the first real “open-ended” investment fund in the UK, termed so because the fund manager can create new units (similar to shares) in the fund to meet investor

demand. These units can be bought or sold at any time. This differs from a closed-ended fund, which issues a fixed number of non-redeemable shares. Investment trusts are closed-ended funds.

### What is an OEIC?

In 1997, laws were introduced allowing the creation of OEICs, which are also open-ended. Over the last few decades OEICs have become a lot more common and many unit trusts have converted to the OEIC structure. This is due to the relative simplicity of OEICs and the fact they can broadly be sold into different countries across Europe.

Most new funds that are launched are structured as OEICs particularly in the UK.

### What's the difference between UT's and OEICs?

In many respects unit trusts and OEICs are the same. They are both open-ended and the price of each unit depends on the net asset value of the fund's investment portfolio. Both allow you to choose to have dividends paid to you as income or reinvested in the fund and both can invest in a wide range of asset classes, geographies and sectors.

A subtle difference is a unit trust is governed by trust law, whereas an OEIC is governed by company law. Technically, this means investors in a unit trust are not owners of the underlying assets, unlike investors in an OEIC although in reality this makes little difference to investors. If you invest in a unit trust you buy units whereas if you invest in an OEIC you buy shares.

The major difference between unit trusts and OEICs is the way they're priced. Unit trusts quote a bid price and an offer

price; OEICs only quote one price. With unit trusts, the bid price is the per-unit price you'll receive if you sell your units back to the fund company. It's usually based on the bid price of the underlying securities held by the fund.

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Investment trusts are effectively companies that hold assets such as shares. They are run by a fund manager and is backed by an independent board acting in the best interests of shareholders. The company itself is listed on the London Stock Exchange. While investment trusts predominantly invest in the shares of other companies, they can also invest in other financial assets.

As a closed ended fund, investment trusts have a fixed number of shares in an issue. This allows managers to take a longer-term view because they do not have to sell assets when investors sell their shares. Investment trusts suit a number of different types of investors thanks to some of the unique features that set them aside from other types of funds.

Income seekers may be interested to know that investment trusts can hold back up to 15% of income generated by underlying assets each year to build up a reserve to be used to smooth dividend payments in tougher times. This means investors can enjoy a steady income when markets are performing. In certain circumstances, investment company boards may elect to pay income out of capital. While this can erode the long-term capital returns generated by the funds many investors are happy to prioritise short-term income payments over longer term growth.

Growth investors might be interested in another unusual feature which allows investment trusts to borrow. This means that if managers think there is value in a particular market, they can borrow money to use for further investments, known as “gearing”.

In a rising market, returns from an investment trust can be magnified because gearing means managers are better able

to take advantage of rising share prices. However, when share prices fall, the losses of geared funds can be exaggerated. The pricing of investment trusts works in a unique way to. When the price is greater than the value of the assets held in the company, this is known as a premium. At a time it is lower it is known as a discount.

## EXCHANGE-TRADED FUNDS (ETFs)

An ETF is called an exchange-traded fund because it's traded on an exchange just like stocks. The price of an ETF's shares will change throughout the trading day as the shares are bought and sold on the market. This is unlike mutual funds, which are not traded on an exchange, and which trade only once per day after the markets close. Additionally, ETFs tend to be cheaper and more liquid when compared to mutual funds like UTs and OEICs.

An ETF can also hold multiple underlying assets and as such are also a popular choice for diversification. The assets can include stocks, commodities, bonds, or a mixture of investment types. Some ETFs focus on only U.S. offerings, while others have a global outlook.

There are many investment options available and a number of ways of holding these investments. They can be purchased by the public directly through Trading Accounts or through Investment Advisers.

For whatever reason you are thinking about investing do research the options to understand the key considerations which may affect you. We would always suggest that you seek professional advice from a company you can trust.



**Martin Wright**  
Senior Financial Planner

#### 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.

# SPARKLES & STRIPES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December | 6:00pm till Late



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## GM's Bulletin

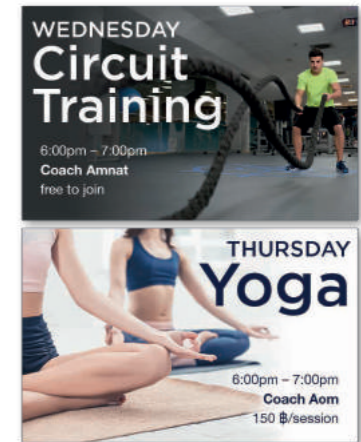


Tim Vongswang

### Behind the Scenes

From a productive 'Townhall meeting' to upcoming renovations and new additions, there is much to be excited about. This month's article will provide an overview of the topics covered in the meeting, as well as share some exciting new developments on the horizon.

- Town Hall Meeting:** A 'town hall' meeting was recently held, fostering open communication between approximately 40 of our staff members and management. The meeting covered various topics, such as the club's finances, member feedback, the recent staff health checks and addressing suggestions from the staff suggestion box. This two-way communication process called for everyone involved to express their ideas and concerns, resulting in a positive outcome.
- Staff Annual Appraisals:** During this period, as the end of the club's fiscal year passes, staff members are currently engaged in our annual appraisals. These appraisals serve as another excellent tool for personal communication between the staff and their direct line managers, providing an opportunity for feedback and discussion regarding performance and growth.
- Addressing Staff Challenges:** The ongoing challenge of acquiring sufficient Food & Beverage staff continues, however, we have collaborated with 'Job Worker Agency' and Ramkhamhaeng University. As a result, we are anticipating the arrival of approximately 15 full-time staff from this partnership, which will ensure that our outlets are fully manned. We are looking forward to and excited to welcome these new team members.
- Weatherproof Blinds:** I appreciate that many of you had to 'weather out' the many storms we had recently. As such, I am pleased to announce that the installation of all new weatherproof blinds is scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2024 (once they clear customs). These blinds will replace the current sunshades, offering enhanced protection and comfort for all while enjoying The Sala and the Jubilee Bar.
- Poolside Cabanas:** To further enhance members' leisure experience, the Club will soon introduce small 'cabana-style' seating around the poolside. These new furnishings will offer more 'shaded seating' options, providing a relaxing and comfortable environment for members to unwind and socialize.
- Renovation of the Wordsworth Lounge:** After several meetings with members of the General Committee, the go ahead has been given to start making plans to enhance and improve the Wordsworth Lounge. We are confident that the refreshed lounge will provide an even more enjoyable experience for all members.
- High Quality Grill and Smoked Meats:** Starting next month, our culinary team led by Chef Laak will introduce an additional menu featuring high-quality grilled and smoked steaks. This addition aims to satisfy the diverse tastes of our members and provide a wider range of dining options.
- Exercise:** Just a reminder that our club continues to offer Yoga and Circuit Training classes which are currently being enjoyed by just a handful of our members. For information and bookings, please check in with our sports desk. This is an excellent opportunity to stay active and healthy while enjoying the club's facilities.



As the Christmas season approaches, we hope you have a safe and enjoyable time. Do not forget to place your Christmas food orders with us. Thank you for your continued support and look forward to making your club experience even better with these small but exciting updates and improvements. Speak soon.



Paul Cheesman

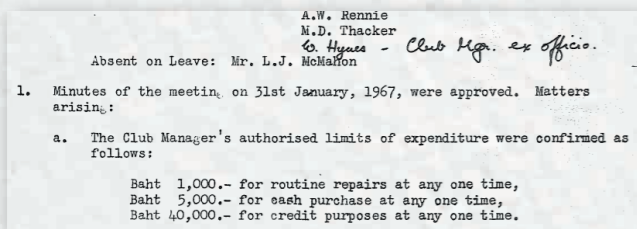
# ~~~PAST PARTICIPLE~~~ *Auspiciam Melioris Ævi*

*We continue the story of  
the British Club Bangkok ... 1967*

## I am the Manager!

The Club had been 'managed' since its 1946 re-founding by the Committee, with a Butler running operations and a Permanent Assistant Secretary doing the accounts (see *Past Participle, March 2022*). Late in 1966, the Committee used the occasion of the leaving of Mrs. Kay Madar, our Permanent Assistant Secretary since 1956, to seek to appoint a Club Manager (see *Past Participle, October 2023*).

Thus, on 9<sup>th</sup> March, Mr. W. Hynes was appointed as our first Club Manager ... Sadly, our records show very little about him except that he resigned on 10<sup>th</sup> July! As a stop-gap Mrs. V. Asbee, a previous Permanent Assistant Secretary (see *Past Participle, November 2023*) stepped in as Club Manager until the Club found a replacement.



### ▲ New Manager

## Our Naval Year

From 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July, the Club extended to the crew and Royal Marines on board of HMS Bulwark (R08), a 22,000 tonne Centaur-class light fleet aircraft carrier, use of the Club facilities during their exercises with the Royal Thai Marine Corp. However, as the numbers were so large (HMS Bulwark had a capacity of 1,200), each group was limited to 40 in number. The plaque of HMS Bulwark is on display in the Churchill Bar.

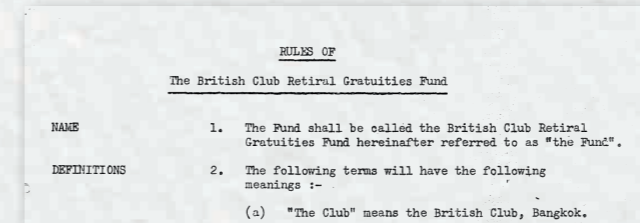


▲ *Under thy wings I will trust*

## Staff Strike

Staff relations plummeted during this year with an unprecedented number of incidents included a Strike! First of all, incidents between members and two of the "Boys" (see *Past Participle, November 2023*) on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup> led to one being paid off and the other warned; then a circular was sent from the staff to the Committee threatening a strike on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June due to unpaid overtime; the Club then had three "Boys" resign because of a new staff rota; and finally, the Labour Ministry cautioned the Club for not giving the "Boy who was paid off" any gratuity!

Things did improve with a new set of rules governing hours of work (now reduced to 41 hours per week), overtime paid in month of earning not when the member paid his bill and extra allowances were paid for fares for the few who lived off premises, and those who worked "until dawn" because members were still drinking on the premises! In addition, the year-end saw the legal founding of the 'British Club Retiral Gratuities Fund' which exists today as the old Staff Retirement Fund.

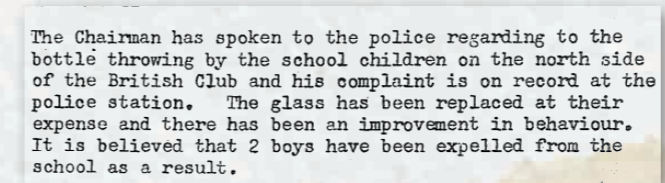


### ▲ Retiral Gratuities Fund

## Bad Neighbours

1967 was also not a good year for neighbourly relations either! The year started with the construction of the Narai Hotel (currently being rebuilt on Silom) but by August its contractors had knocked out our "Silom 18" side walls and repeatedly trespassed on our land. In order to remedy this, the Club had the Land Department remeasure the land exactly and after a round of negotiations, the Narai rebuilt our walls and agreed to lay a concrete surface on the roadway to Silom Road.

Relations with the Chinese School on our northern boundary, where the AIA Tower is now, were also bad. Boys from the school repeatedly threw bottles over the wall trying to get them into the pool, and often hitting and breaking furniture. Eventually Nai Mann, the school owner's son, issued an apology, repaired the damage, and expelled two boys!



### ▲ Kids Expelled

## Service

Godfrey A. Sommerfield, of the Anglo-Thai Corporation, was elected as chairman (see *Past Participle, February 2023*) whilst K.A. Page, of Colgate Palmolive, was elected as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Page served only this term. David Carpenter became Honorary Secretary (see *Past Participle, July 2023*) but the position of the Honorary Treasurer was left unfilled as no-one wanted the role!

Continuing their service were Leo J. McMahon, R.M. Gault, and Alexander W. Rennie. The new boys were J. Russell Greenwood, of British Information Service, who served this term only; Mr. M.D. Thacher, of Cathay Pacific Airways, who served part of this term before being relocated to Osaka in Japan, and was replaced by Mike Greenwood, who would service four more terms, once as Honorary Secretary and twice as Vice-Chairman; Mr F.D. Cran, of the Shell Company of Thailand and Mr. R.P. Evans, of Jardine Waugh, who would both serve this and part of the next term.

The vacant role of Honorary Treasurer was filled in late May by co-option of a new member, Mark Harding, of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, who had only joined that April and he served the next term as well. Strangely, no-one was asked to stand down from the Committee upon his co-option, thus the Committee ran as "eleven men" all year!

## 1967-68

- CHAIRMAN: **Godfrey A. Sommerfield**
- VICE-CHAIRMAN: **K.A. Page**
- HONORARY SECRETARY: **G. David Carpenter**
- HONORARY TREASURER: **C. Mark Harding** (co-opted 29.05.1967)
- MEMBERS:
- F.D. Cran**
- R.P. Evans**
- R.M. Gault**
- J. Russell Greenwood**
- Mike Greenwood** (co-opted 13.11.1967)
- Leo J. McMahon**
- Alexander W. Rennie**
- M.D. Thacker** (went Absent 30.10.1967)

### ▲ General Committee 1967-68

## Club News

The opening of our new Swimming pools was not as rosy as the Committee had hoped that it would be (see *Past Participle, November 2023*). Two major changes to improve the situation occurred in March: First of all, the pool was closed on 14<sup>th</sup> to allow for the complete replacement of the tiles, most of which had come adrift, and secondly on the 28<sup>th</sup> the Club agreed to allow guests of members to use the pool but at a price ... five Baht per child and 10 Baht per adult.

On 27<sup>th</sup> March, Mr. Sam G. Boyd donated a cup to the Club for the golf championship under Stableford Rules.

One very significant event in June was the signing of the Club's first ever Reciprocal Club agreement, with the Manila Club in the Philippines. This arrangement allowed all our ordinary and country members to use their Club and their Regular and Full members to use our facilities ... including the Swimming Pool!



On August 31<sup>st</sup>, the rigours of maintenance led the Club to employ its first full-time Odd-Job man!

A Members' survey on 18<sup>th</sup> September, gave these top three priorities for the Club:

1. Hard tennis courts
2. Second squash court
3. Air-conditioning for "The Bar"

On 23<sup>rd</sup> December, a Swimming Gala was held and was deemed so successful that, from March 1968, it became a monthly event with an Annual Gala & Family Day each August (see *Past Participle, January 2024*).

The Annual Accounts & Membership List for this year is the first the Club holds in its archive.



▲ The Sam Boyd Cup, seen many years later

On 8<sup>th</sup> August, ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) was founded with five nations initially signing the Bangkok Declaration.

On 4<sup>th</sup> October, Sir Neil Pritchard KCMG became the British Ambassador and accepted Honorary Membership of the Club.

Commander John D. Sayer RN became the British Naval Attaché and joined the Club on 28<sup>th</sup> October, and would become Club Chairman the following year! (see *Past Participle, January 2024*).

Thai Farmers Bank (TFB) moved their head office to a new building in Silom Road - although the branch remains, its head office has moved several times since then. In 2003 TFB's English name became Kasikorn Bank.

One of the first tenants of TFB Silom, above, was the first Canadian Embassy in Thailand, and on 7<sup>th</sup> December the first resident Canadian Ambassador, James Clelland Britton, accepted Honorary Membership of the Club. In 1997, the Canadian Embassy moved to Abdulrahim Place, in Rama IV Road.

On 27<sup>th</sup> November, the 'Bangkok Color Television Network' was founded, bringing colour TV to Bangkok for the first time. In 1972, it was broadcast nationwide and, in 1974, it was renamed as Channel 7.

4. Their Excellences, the British and Canadian Ambassadors have both accepted to become Honorary Members of the British Club.

▲ Honorary Members

Next month ...

**"Bye! Bye! Butler!"**

Paul Cheesman  
Honorary Secretary

*For Members interested in our Club's history, the Club Timeline has been fully revised with 2,122 entries including 455 pictures across 180 pages and can be found on the Website under 'The Club - History'.*

In Other News

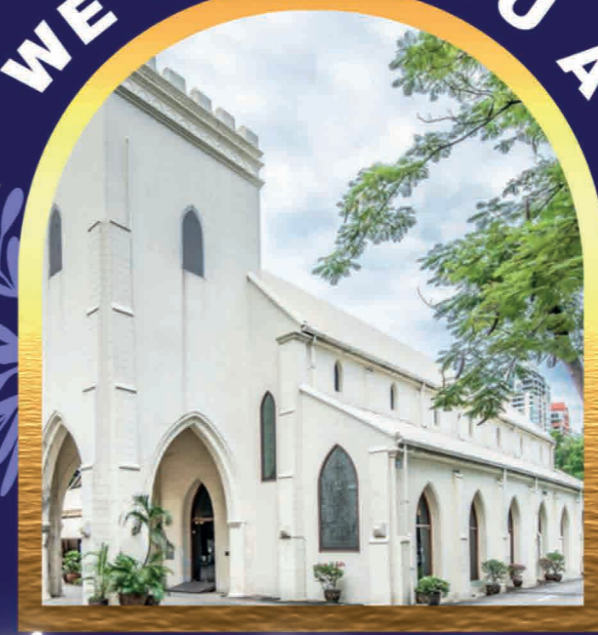
Valentine's Day saw the ceremonial opening by H.M. Queen Sirikit of Suriwongse Road's Montien Hotel.

On 17<sup>th</sup> March, American designer Jim Thompson opened the Suriwongse Road store of his Thai Silk Company ... he disappeared just nine days later whilst trekking in Malaysia's Cameron Highlands - still an unsolved mystery today!

Group Captain J.J. Barr became the British Air Attaché in July, but does not appear to have joined the Club.

CHRIST CHURCH BANGKOK

WE WISH YOU A

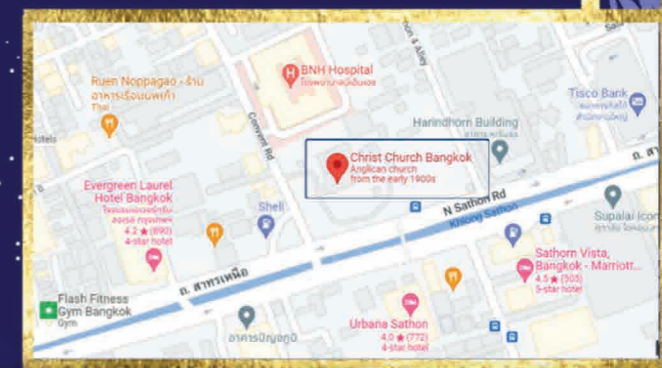


Merry Christmas  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

DATE/TIME	SERVICES
<b>SUNDAY</b> 17TH DECEMBER 6PM	<b>CAROL SERVICE</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 24TH DECEMBER 6PM	<b>CHRISTINGLE SERVICE</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 24TH DECEMBER 11PM	<b>MIDNIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE</b>
<b>MONDAY</b> 25TH DECEMBER 10AM	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION</b>

Christ Church Bangkok,  
11 Convent Road, Silom, Bang Rak,  
Bangkok 10500  
Nearest BTS: Sala Daeng.  
Nearest MRT: Silom  
Office tel. 02-234-3634  
Email: office@christchurchbangkok.org

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# Grémio Literário, Lisbon, Portugal

Visited in June 2022 by Paul Doust & Prasit Jangkamol (a.k.a. Jack)

**Grémio Literário** translates into English as "Literary Guild", and is a club that was created by royal charter in 1846. On holiday to Portugal last year, Lisbon was exceptionally busy with tourists following the relaxation of most Covid travel restrictions in Europe, but luckily we were able to escape the crowds for one evening because we had arranged to have dinner in the **Grémio Literário**.

Just uphill from central Lisbon's pedestrianised downtown area, the club's premises is a beautiful building, inside and out. It's called the Loures Palace and with its eclectic décor, was recently classified by the Portuguese Ministry for Culture as a Monument of Public Interest. Adjacent to the entrance hall on the ground floor is the Green Room for reading newspapers and magazines. Also on the ground floor are the bar and the restaurant, but weather permitting the verandah next

to the restaurant is where food is served. The verandah has a view of the river Tagus in the distance, and overlooks the club's garden too. The garden is accessible from the club's basement, and is quite a bit lower than the verandah because the clubhouse is on quite a steep hill. Some function rooms and the library are on the first floor, but the club has no accommodation or sports facilities. There was an event taking place in the library when we arrived, a talk by some person of note, and one of the adjacent rooms had been beautifully laid out for the dinner which followed the talk.

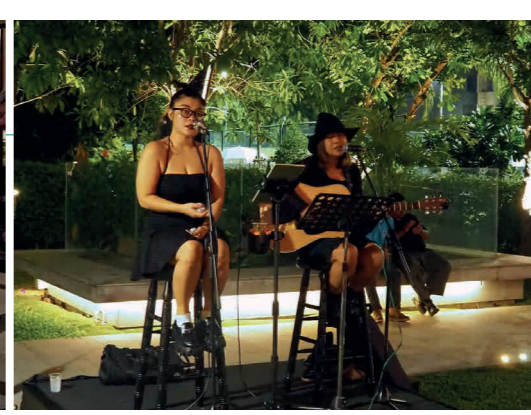
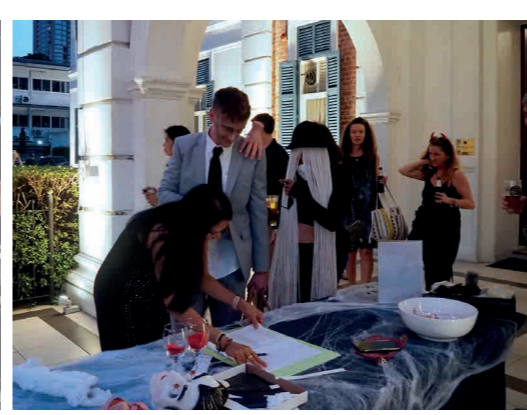
The club is open Monday to Friday, but closed at weekends, and the dress code for men is Jacket and tie. The "Member's privileges" section of the club's website lists discounts which are available at various hotels throughout Portugal, some of which can be used by reciprocal members.



We had dinner on the verandah, and the elderly waiter who served us was exceptionally helpful. There was no written menu, but the waiter spoke enough English to let us know what was available. On the night we were there, the only starter was a vegetable soup, but two fish dishes and two meat dishes were available for main course. The wine list was 100% Portuguese, but it was disappointing that vintages were not specified. However, with the helpful waiter available to answer questions, and with an average bottle price of less than €20 and with no wine costing more than €40, it was hard to complain. My fish main course was more "home cooking" than "fine dining" but it was delicious, and the low bill at the end of the evening confirmed that the club offers excellent value for money. Well worth a visit for anyone visiting Lisbon.

How to visit reciprocal clubs? visit <https://www.britishclubbangkok.org/reciprocal-clubs/>





**Kids Halloween**  
**28/10/23**  
 A ghostly fun evening for all the little ones. Fantastic costumes along with exciting games made this year's Halloween party one of the best.

**Witches & Wine Tasting**  
**28/10/23**  
 150 members arrived on the front for the first ever Witches & Wine Tasting, many of which had gone all out to win the best dressed Halloween costume on the night.





13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 | 6:00pm

# Christmas Carols

Come and join the festive fun with a talented line of top international school choirs performing traditional and modern Christmas carols

Live cooking stations, bubble beverages, mince pies, mulled wine and much more

FREE for members / 50 ฿ for non-members adults & kids



Bookings & Info Via: The British Club Line Official  
**Add LINE ID @britishclubbkk**  
 by attending you agree to the Club P.D.P.A



## New Members Night 9/11/23

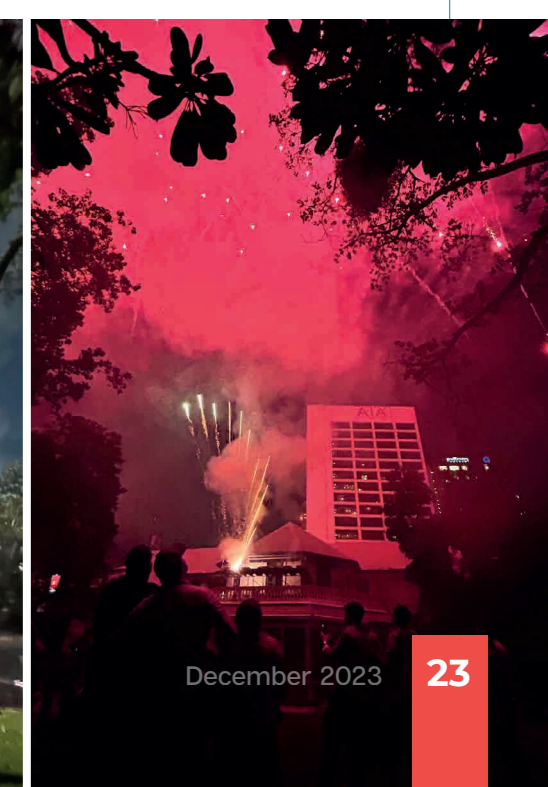
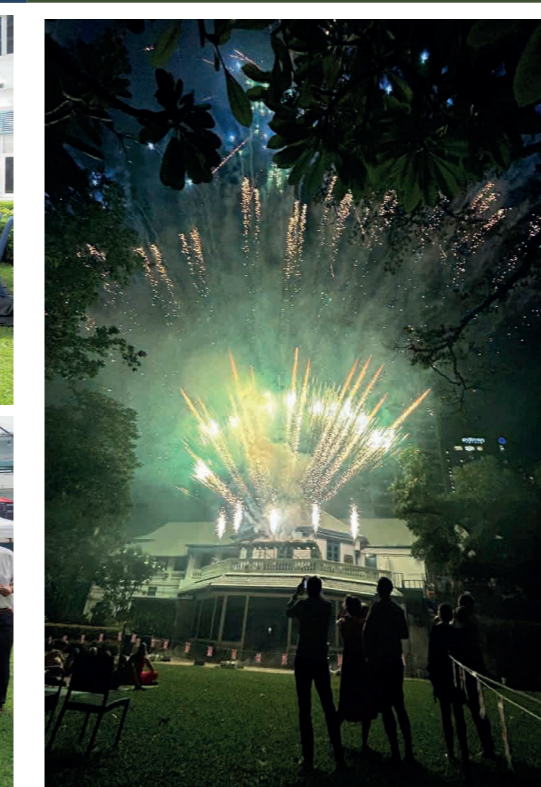
The second in the series of our new members nights welcomed more than 30 new members who were greeted by the managements team, general committee and section heads.





**Remembrance Service 2023**  
**12/11/23**  
 The Club was proud and honoured to host this year's Remembrance Day for over 300 attendees.

**Guy Fawkes Night**  
**12/11/23**  
 Our first attempt to host the event this year was sadly rained off by a huge storm that lasted the full night on the 5th November. Thank you to everyone that returned for the rescheduled night that took place on the front lawn, the evening with completed with our firework display on the back lawn.



# Christmas Menu

## STARTERS

- Winter Vegetable Lentil Soup 120 ฿  
*homemade to perfection*
- Pancetta, Cheddar & Cranberry Croquettes 160 ฿
- Goat Cheese & Cranberry Tartlets 140 ฿
- Halloumi, Carrots & Orange Salad 160 ฿

## MAINS

- Roast Turkey 350 ฿  
*with chestnut stuffing, roasted pumpkin, brussels sprouts, cauliflower broccoli cheese, pigs in blankets, & cranberry sauce*
- BBQ Ham 350 ฿  
*with grilled pineapple, savoyard potatoes, steamed vegetables and cranberry sauce*
- Poached Salmon 350 ฿  
*with organic baby carrots, boiled potatoes, & spinach served with orange butter sauce*
- Beef Fillet 350 ฿  
*with chestnut stuffing, roasted pumpkin, brussels sprouts, cauliflower broccoli cheese, pigs in blankets, & cranberry sauce*

## DESSERTS

- Christmas Pudding 180 ฿  
*with vanilla sauce*
- Pumpkin & Pecan Cheesecake Pie 150 ฿
- Christmas Crumble 150 ฿
- Classic Sherry Trifle 150 ฿



## Quiz Night

14/11/23

A big thank you to our stand-in quiz master Mr Vice Chairman David Williamson who took centre stage and took the teams through their paces with some brainteasing questions. Well done to the winners Spin Doctors and second place Under Par



# Christmas Lunch & Dinner 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



Lunch - 11:00am - 3:00pm | Dinner - 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Veranda | Suriwongse Room | Churchill Bar | Back Lawn | Jubilee Bar

Members: 1,300 ฿, Kids 700 ฿

Guests: 1,500 ฿, Kids 900 ฿



Bookings & Info Via: The British Club Line Official  
**Add LINE ID @britishclubbkk**  
by attending you agree to the Club P.D.P.A



THE BRITISH CLUB  
BANGKOK

# Christmas Lunch & Dinner 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



## CHRISTMAS DAY PROGRAMME

11:00am – 3:00pm	Christmas Lunch seating	All outlets
11:30am – 11:45am	Free Christmas Bingo Card	Suriwongse room
11:45am – 12:00pm	Free Christmas Bingo Card	Veranda
12:00pm – 12:15pm	Free Christmas Bingo Card	Churchill Bar
12:15pm – 12:30pm	Free Christmas Bingo Card	Back Lawn
12:30pm – 12:45pm	Free Christmas Bingo Card	Jubilee
12:00pm – 2:00pm	Close up table Magician	All outlets
12:00pm – 3:00pm	Bouncy Castle opens	Back lawn
1:00pm – 3:00pm	Arts & Crafts for kids	Back lawn
1:30pm – 2:30pm	Santa & Presents	All outlets
2:30pm – 6:30pm	Live Band	Back lawn
5:00pm – 9:00pm	Christmas Dinner seating	Veranda & B-Lawn
6:00pm – 6:15pm	Free Christmas Raffle Draw	Back lawn



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THE BRITISH CLUB  
BANGKOK

## Coming Events

### December 2023

- 9th Sat Kids Christmas Party
- 9th Sat Sparkles & Stripes Christmas Party
- 12th Tue Quiz Night
- 13th Wed Carol Night
- 25th Mon Christmas Lunch & Dinner
- 31st Sun New Years Eve Cruise

### January 2024

- 1st Mon Polar Swim
- 9th Tue Quiz Night
- 13th Sat Madagascar Pool Party  
Thai Kids Day
- 19th Fri An Intimate Wine Night
- 27th Sat Wine Tasting

### February 2024

- 10th Sat Chinese New Year
- 11th Sun Super Bowl
- 13th Tue Quiz Night
- 14th Wed Valentine's Day
- 17th Sat Wine Tasting
- 18th Sun Great British Festival

## Event & Activities 2023 DECEMBER Highlights



**Kids Christmas Party - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Probably one of Bangkok's largest Kids Christmas parties to take place this year with over 300 attending



**Christmas Carols - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

This year we have the unique talent from 4 international schools performing live on stage, St Andrews Sathorn, Bangkok Prep, KIS, Bromsgrove.



**Christmas Lunch & Dinner - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

Arguably the closest thing to celebrating Christmas at your hometown, 49 nationalities and up to 600 people celebrating the special day together with a surprise visit from Santa





## An Intimate Wine Night – New Zealand 17/11/23

Enoteca Wines and sommelier Khun Net took a selected group of members through the vineyards of New Zealand, treating them to a delightful selection of Red & White wines perfectly paired with the tailor-made menu from our executive chef Laak.





# DECEMBER 2023

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b> Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Junior tennis coaching 4.00pm - 5.00pm Junior cricket 5.15pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	<b>2</b> Kids Activities 12.00pm - 4.00pm Squash Mixed-in 1.30pm - 6.45pm Cricket Team Practice 2.30pm - 6.00pm Annual XMas Wine Tasting 2.30pm - 6.00pm
 THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK	<b>3</b> Football academy 9.00pm - 10.30pm Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 10.00am - 1.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.30am - 3.00pm Kids Activities 11.00am - 3.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm	<b>4</b> Tennis Mixed Doubles Team practice 7.00pm - 10.00pm Squash Mixed-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Squash Mix-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm Circuit Training 6.00pm - 6.45pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	<b>7</b> Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	<b>8</b> Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Junior tennis coaching 4.00pm - 5.00pm Junior cricket 5.15pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	<b>9</b> Kids Activities 12.00pm - 4.00pm Squash Mixed-in 1.30pm - 6.45pm Cricket Team Practice 2.30pm - 6.00pm Kids Christmas Party 2.00pm - 6.00pm Sparkles & Stripes Christmas Party 6.00pm - 11.00pm
 THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK GOLF SECTION	<b>10</b> Football academy 9.00pm - 10.30pm Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 10.00am - 1.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.30am - 3.00pm Kids Activities 11.00am - 3.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm	<b>11</b> Tennis Mixed Doubles Team practice 7.00pm - 10.00pm Squash Mixed-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm	<b>12</b> Quiz Night 7.15pm - 9.30pm	<b>13</b> Squash Mix-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm Circuit Training 6.00pm - 6.45pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm Christmas Carols 6.00pm - 9.00pm	<b>14</b> Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	<b>15</b> Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Junior tennis coaching 4.00pm - 5.00pm Junior cricket 5.15pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	<b>16</b> Kids Activities 12.00pm - 4.00pm Squash Mixed-in 1.30pm - 6.45pm Cricket Team Practice 2.30pm - 6.00pm
 THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK CRICKET SECTION	<b>17</b> Football academy 9.00pm - 10.30pm Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 10.00am - 1.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.30am - 3.00pm Kids Activities 11.00am - 3.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm	<b>18</b> Tennis Mixed Doubles Team practice 7.00pm - 10.00pm Squash Mixed-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Squash Mix-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm Circuit Training 6.00pm - 6.45pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	<b>21</b> Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	<b>22</b> Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Junior cricket 5.15pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	<b>23</b> Kids Activities 12.00pm - 4.00pm Squash Mixed-in 1.30pm - 6.45pm Cricket Team Practice 2.30pm - 6.00pm
 BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK RUNNING TEAM	<b>24</b> Football academy 9.00pm - 10.30pm Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 10.00am - 1.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.30am - 3.00pm Kids Activities 11.00am - 3.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm	<b>25</b> Tennis Mixed Doubles Team practice 7.00pm - 10.00pm Squash Mixed-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm Christmas Lunch & Dinner 11.00am - 3.00pm 5.00pm - 9.00pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Squash Mix-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm Circuit Training 6.00pm - 6.45pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	<b>28</b> Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	<b>29</b> Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Junior cricket 5.15pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	<b>30</b> Kids Activities 12.00pm - 4.00pm Squash Mixed-in 1.30pm - 6.45pm Cricket Team Practice 2.30pm - 6.00pm
	<b>31</b> Football academy 9.00pm - 10.30pm Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 10.00am - 1.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.30am - 3.00pm Kids Activities 11.00am - 3.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm						



Terry Adams



# Seniors Section

## SECTION UPDATE:

Seniors Section Membership is open to ALL Club Members and their Spouses/ Partners irrespective of age. The Section's objectives are to engender continuous learning, mild activity, and most certainly good socializing. So, come along to your first Seniors Section event: we are confident that having done so, you will then be attending others.

We continue working to provide two events each month (Christmas/New Year and Chinese New Year excepted), with events already at various stages of progression and finalization to March 2024.

Interested to become a SECTION MEMBER or just wanting to discuss or make enquiry, or to suggest a possible Section event please call Terry Adams on 081 750 1087 or email him at: [terry.adamsbkk@gmail.com](mailto:terry.adamsbkk@gmail.com)

### SECTION FUTURE EVENTS:

#### SENIORS SECTION

### "FIRST ANNIVERSARY THANK YOU PARTY"

In conjunction with  
**1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Enjoy the Club's:

- Tasty Canapes
- Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, plus
- Free Raffle Draw & Prizes

**ATTENDANCE:**  
SENIORS SECTION MEMBERS ONLY

Each of whom may bring a Spouse or a Guest

Date: **Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
 Party Time: 6.00pm to 8.30pm + in the Suriwongse Room  
 AGM Time: 6.00pm in the Wordsworth Room, will finish by 6.30pm for sure  
 Charge: NO CHARGE

To register please phone Terry Adams on 081 750 1087 or email to [terry.adamsbkk@gmail.com](mailto:terry.adamsbkk@gmail.com)  
 Seniors Section Website: <https://www.britishclubbangkok.org/seniors-section/>

#### COOL CROQUET

### FLOODLIT CROQUET ON THE FRONT LAWN

Starts as dusk sets in

- All equipment provided
- Bring only a willingness to have fun whilst enjoying gentle exercise
- Food & Drinks Service on the Front Lawn (To individual accounts)
- Prizes to be won

**OPEN TO SENIORS SECTION MEMBERS, CLUB MEMBERS, AND GUESTS**

Date: **Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
 Time: 6.00pm onwards  
 Charge: Section Members Baht 100  
 Club Members Baht 125  
 Guests Baht 150

To register please phone Terry Adams on 081 750 1087 or email to [terry.adamsbkk@gmail.com](mailto:terry.adamsbkk@gmail.com)  
 Seniors Section Website: <https://www.britishclubbangkok.org/seniors-section/>

## EVENT REPORT:

**Can we beat Cancer? Immunotherapy's potential : Thursday, 26th October 2023.**  
**A presentation by Dr. Do Tran from world leading Gilead Sciences Inc.**

Chairperson Terry introduced our distinguished speaker to an almost record level attendance of Seniors Section members, Club members, and their Guests. Dr Do started by asking the question: who thought that we will eventually cure cancer, with a very mixed result. He would at the end, pose the same question and we could thus make a judgement on how perceptions may have changed. He started by outlining the massive numbers of deaths globally from non-communicable diseases (including Cancer), some 41 million people each year. Thailand alone suffers some 400,000 such deaths per year! He went on to cover the different types of cancer and the statistics (from the USA) of their current survivability rates. Turning next to treatments he outlined the limitations of current treatments (surgery, then chemotherapy, then radiation) to remove or kill cancer cells and tumours.

Dr Do then turned to the body's immune system and what it does to protect the body. He then set out the differences between innate and adaptive immune systems, leading on to how "immunotherapy" is the use of the immune system's ability to fight cancer by activating or suppressing the immune system. He set out the different types of research that is being undertaken using newly developed drugs to manipulate the immune system to target specific cancers. Noting also that cancer cells 'fight back' through mutations, means that this massive research 'thrust' also needs to in its own way 'mutate' their efforts to combat and eventually overcome the cancerous cells. He mentioned some of the successes, an example being that in trials, some 90% of children and adults with B-Cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (B All) achieved remission after receiving 'CAR-T Cell Therapy'. The fight goes on, death rates are reducing despite the fact that people are living longer. He concluded by outlining the areas where future research and developments are likely to be heading: diagnostics, imaging, immunotherapy, personalised treatments, off-the-shelf immunotherapies, and accessibility.

An enthralling presentation by someone who really does know what he is talking about. There were a number of helpful interventions as well as many questions from the audience, before the Chairperson closed the presentation and called for thanks in the usual manner.

## EVENT REPORT:

**Learn the Implications of the new Income Tax Regulations in Thailand : Thursday, 9th November 2023.**  
**A presentation by Kiatchai Sophastienphong, Thailand's ex-Vice Minister of Finance and so much more.**

A record turnout for this event showed just how worried both expats and locals are regarding what might be included in the changing regulations (not the Law) that the Revenue Department are currently working on for implementation from 1st January 2024. Khun Kiatchai took us through the realities of the now and then explored what he thought, based on what he knows, might be included in the new regulations and how this might impact on all Thailand's residents for tax purposes (ie being in the Kingdom for 180 days or more in any one year). As of early November, the reality is that we know what we don't know until clarifications are set out, and we don't know when that will be!

The numerous questions from the attendees, which were well answered by Kiatchai, mirrored the probability that most attendees could well be significantly impacted, even though not the primary target of the Revenue Department, ie we 'fall through the cracks', and that there is no entity that can 'speak for us' as a very large group of individuals in Thailand!

Given the sophistication of the technology and synchronicity that now exists between the Revenue Department and Thailand's Banks, Kiatchai's suggestion was that everyone who is resident in Thailand for tax purposes should, if they haven't already, obtain a Tax ID and submit an online Tax Return, as from 30th March 2025 every resident for tax purposes will be required to submit their Tax Return.

32 December 2023

December 2023 33



Sunil Mehra

# TENNIS

**Even** at my 'young' age I am surprised that I can learn something new that research has caused. Some of the tussles between the old – what we k-new then; and the new – what we k-now now, are often the cause of intrafamily spiced debates; for example, my 'better-half' often could prove that tennis was not aerobic enough for maintaining a healthy heart; and I need something more aerobic to survive from young age into old! Well, that changed recently when the doctor suggested that my better-half could join when the results of my health checkup were discussed. That turned out to be a blessing in disguise as the doctor discussed my condition and physical activity and on learning that I play doubles tennis 3-4 times a week; she said that is very good!!! That put a big smile on my face as I turned to look at my other half who looked incredulous! So, the doctor turned her screen to show us the USA/CDC guidelines that says, "Aerobic activity or "cardio" gets you breathing harder and your heart beating faster.... (when) you're doing physical activities at a moderate or vigorous intensity. One way to tell if it's a moderate-intensity aerobic activity is that *you'll be able to talk, but not sing the words to your favourite song* (I love this, but not sure if Henry does). Here are some examples of activities:

- Walking fast
- Doing water aerobics
- Riding a bike on level ground or with few hills
- **Playing doubles tennis**
- *Pushing a lawn mower"*

I reckon playing doubles tennis is definitely more fun than pushing a lawn mower; so, my choice has been made with the up-to-date evidence from the Fauci Institute. That is a good example 'change' that relates quite well to ancient knowledge – the two features about all phenomena (a) 'change' is the only constant in life and (b) 'returning to source'. The next section is all about both these features.

## Comings and Goings

We've had both, coming and going news, in the same month. **Goings** – *change and returning to source* - the story about Raja Natesan's move to southern India with his talented linguistic better half, Roopa. I thought one way to wish them adieu or 'piriyavital' is his intermittent flirtations with tennis (sor-Raja has become a respected member of deft hands and this crafty ball placement; tennis) amongst the ladies. And how did of 11 he was 'grabbed by the arm' by this Sport (NIS) in Delhi to learn the elite sport focus on your individual development rath-like cricket" – these were his father's words. hardly held a tennis racquet before, yet, it the 'individual' within 5-6 years, followed by at State and Regional levels and almost an explosive first set in the bag at 6-0. The learning significance – an indelible lesson and not anger and arrogance even when the tricks in Djokovic's book to deflect and extent that he was offered a full scholarship to NIS in Patiala, now considered the largest sports institute in Asia (sans China). Again, Raja's dad provided the sagacious advice that it was impossible to make a career out of tennis (in India those days) so Raja returned to serious studies to become an engineer and the rest is almost history.



share a few passages from Raja's life and ry Roopa). In five years at the British Club, the tennis section for his tennis prowess, his he is also the favourite partner (for doubles he get to such estimable status. At the age father and taken to the National Institute of of tennis to and "play something which will er than what you get from a team sport, It must have been a challenge as Raja had didn't take him long to master the sport and highlights such as winning tournaments beating the junior national champion with 'almost beating' has had a special lifelong that you win with control of your senses it was against a young guy emulating all distract. He mastered the sport to such an extent that he was offered a full scholarship to NIS in Patiala, now considered the largest sports institute in Asia (sans China). Again, Raja's dad provided the sagacious advice that it was impossible to make a career out of tennis (in India those days) so Raja returned to serious studies to become an engineer and the rest is almost history.

Since Raja joined the Tennis Section his first and lasting impressions of the club have remained consistent – "a welcoming cosmopolitan environment more than any other club in Bangkok including those with much bigger facilities; and, more importantly – the people at this club are the friendliest." As Raja says, "my first encounter with tennis at the club was showing up courtside to watch and without a racquet but yet within a few minutes I had been welcomed, given a racquet and was on court. Raja continued to excel on the tennis court, always with a generous smile. We will miss all of that and more of his presence and participation in the Tennis section. We wish him well in his next journey and flirtation with tennis for him and French for Roopa in southern India.

**The Comings** – We welcome to our tennis family from Germany, an explosive tennis player with a 'booming' serve, nurtured into tennis from an early age, Daniil Klimov, only 24 years old, and his wonderful wife, Plang with a fabulous voice of a successful opera singer. Daniil's story in his own words – "I started playing tennis at 6 years old and my first and main coach was my dad Yury Klimov who coached players like Marina Zanevska and was assistant coach to Maria Sharapova for four years. Then I trained in the German Federation from the age of 12 years and then went to Club Montemar, Alicante, Spain and trained with Ivan Navarro (not Ferrero, like Carlos the Great) but it's in same 'tennis' city."



▲ Daniil & Plang



▲ Daniil welcomed by Tennis Captain Enrique

Daniil's best ATP Singles ranking at 19 years old was 1324 ATP and ATP Doubles ranking of 1495. He has some memorable wins over top ATP Players such as Jack Draper (ATP 82 – for British fans), Zsombor Piros (ATP 121) and many others. After his professional career he began coaching kids, adults and junior competition players in Germany, Spain and USA. Daniil played College Tennis at William Carey University and at Boise State University, USA and became in 2019 the NAIA Doubles National Champion and Number 1 in the Nation in NAIA Division. He competed at the 2020 NCAA Singles National Championship in Orlando, Florida. Daniil graduated with honours in Business Administration and Spanish Language and Literature at William Carey University, USA, where he was the captain of the tennis team. He is passionate for tennis and sports development and enjoys all kind of sports including Pickleball and Trailrunning.

## Royal Bangkok Sports Club Friendly Match From a Report by Raquel Evans



This Pre-Inter Club friendly match at RBSC on 21st October was meant to prepare us for the Interclub tournament to be held the following week. There was a warm and collegial feeling created by amazing hosts. We played indoors because of 'wet' grass courts. The match ups were generally great, and the British Club managed to secure a fantastic win at 6-3. Hurrah!! We are looking forward to the real competitive games to begin the following week against five super teams. We would like to express our gratitude to RBSC for great hospitality, with food and drink laid out all through the evening, and for being such wonderful and acqui-

escent rivals for the day! We look forward to hosting RBSC at our club for a friendly match in the near future. Big thanks to our Captain Enrique Calvo for organising and leading the team.

Lastly, a special thanks to Marcel Petit Tennis Lab and Head2toe Salon for teaming up and sponsoring our Tennis Inter Club team shirts designed by our Chairman Christopher Watt. You can pick one up at the Sports Desk for a very good price.

## Interclub Tournament 2023 at RBSC

Many thanks to Enrique and Raquel for the information



A week later the real games and matches began in the Interclub Tournament 2023 at the Royal Bangkok Sports Club. The Mixed Inter-club tournament team tennis tournament was held on 29th October 2023. The BCB Tennis Section participated on the prestigious inter-club tennis tournament. This is a mixed doubles tournament (by invitation only) with round-robin format where the strongest tennis clubs in Bangkok compete annually. The club teams that participated in this event were **Group A** – RBSC Polo Blue, Pyramid, British Club; and **Group B** RBSC Polo Gold, Rama United and Japanese.

BC played in **Group A** and our first match was against Pyramid, that we lost 1-5. Next, we played against RBSC Polo Blue and we lost 2-4. We played the last match against the Japanese team and we finally won 6-0. Our team fought bravely as it does every year. There were some good matches, we know that we have very strong players to compete in this tournament, and next year we will come back and fight again and hopefully get closer to the trophy. Many thanks to all the people who played during these 2 days, and to our captain Enrique who makes sure that BC is always well represented. We are already looking forward to play again next year and try to achieve a better result.



▲ Oh God help us next time!

## The Dutch Invasion

The highly anticipated Orange Brigade Dutch participants forgot the custom – see if you can spot the real Dutch tennis tournament on invaders were so generous BCB to win almost thank them for their generous to achieve a much – thus welcome our Dutch

Many thanks to Willem ing the visiting team and Dutch invasion possibly



never quite materialised as most ary orange gear with one exception in the photos from an ultra-friendly 27 October. The Dutch ous that they happily all the matches. We erosity as BC team were needed 12-2 victory! and friends anytime.

Pentermann for organis- to all participants. Next 24 February 2024.



A Friendly visit by the Noah Club

The Friendly Winners

Wonderful photographs from American style friendly tournament during the visit by players from the Noah Club tell a better story than words. Special thanks to Ni Nengah Bonnel for organising the Noah Team Friendly Match and congratulations to SP Chong

## Update on BCB Tennis League 2023 Season 2

The BCB Tennis League 2023 Season 2, sponsored by Head2Toe, has been extended until 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 so matches can be finished more quickly, making the most of the start of the dry season. We encourage all the players to play the matches, as soon as possible and most importantly, please have fun.

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Why save the best for the last! Raja's final comment was "what I will miss the most from Bangkok is the British Club (Tennis Section implied!)." The 'goings' are always sad and parting with anything or anyone is usually a challenge for us humans but memories are what keep the partings from parting.

# SQUASHY BITS



**Don Johnston** was a BCB Squashy from before. He was brilliant. An annual squash competition was made up, his name put on it, and this is it...

Round One: all male competitors, the majority old and ugly. No women or children. Not a regulation, just circumstance. If you're attractive, under 40, female, trans, or even a disabled giraffe, don't fear the Squashies; we are inclusive and accommodating. Back to the squash: at this stage and all thereafter, certain individuals performed, while others didn't, with the winners dropping to their knees to kiss their opponents' feet. Those that lost cared not one bit in the main, yet one sorry soul took defeat earnestly enough to defect to tennis. He wasn't popular and won't be missed. Anyway, still in the DJ round one and a fantastical encounter had a tall player with a red racket defeating a shorter one with

a blue racket because the tall one scored more points than the shorter one. Squash is intricate. A hard rain also fell during this time rousing the local toads chanting their soothing, monotone chorus.

Round two: by now things had moved forward considerably, so much so that a bizarre incident occurred in which one of the club cats had turned up for a Wednesday evening mix-in looking for a game. The oddity? The mix-in had been cancelled to accommodate overdue DJ matches, thus leaving the cat disappointed and at a loose end, yet understanding, apologetic and determined to pay closer attention to the Squashies' WhatsApp chatter which he conceded he'd been largely ignoring of late due to pressure from the wife to spend less time on social media and greater time with the family. A familiar domestic tale there upon

which we could not dwell as we had the Don Johnston to complete where the matches came and went producing further festivity of such enormity a written description here could never suffice. So we won't bother.

Semi-finals: prior to this bit, there might have been a round three and some quarterfinals, too, but...well...we don't know. An investigation was ordered and an on-site cleaning lady brought forward as a potential witness to claim she'd not had a new mop in two years and was hunting for a foreign toy boy. If anyone under 50 is keen, her first date will be at the hardware store. There ended the investigation. The semi-final results? They were jotted down on a piece of paper which Dean Thompson took home and reused in his lavatory. Nevertheless, it can be reported that a new carpet was laid upstairs in the gallery above our courts. It's a delightful shade of blue and on an overcast day when the clouds are low and heavy with rain, it serves as an ample substitute for a beautiful summer sky.

Finals day...but before the action, a photo shoot of the Squashies in their pretty new outfits. Delightful. And another before because before we congratulate the three who could return home with a title, a note that at least ten times that number contributed to something of perhaps even greater value...the participation. For without such there is no competition, no squash, no Squashies. Thanks is, frankly, too feeble, but it's all we have to offer.

In the Peter Cornflakes Bowl Final, Mike Lewis and Duncan. Big fellas with lashings of impact, so much so that the court had to be replaced soon after for which they will be billed. The colossal standard of play here was

colossal, with Mike Lewis seemingly taking the win, as it is he in the photo holding the cheap, plastic bowl/cup/trophy thingy. Witnesses claimed the sight of a Welshman in tears at the final whistle as emotional.

The Plate Final: Chetan vs Paul. Chetan reads the game well. A distant relative called in saying he's always read well: comic books, magazines, cheap romantic novels and financial reports. Paul, an Arsenal fan from Birmingham and an active retriever and hard hitter; so hard that the ball penetrated the side wall, raced across the kids' pool, rebounded off the Clubhouse wall, streaked back to the squash arena, through the very hole it had made on its way out landing straight in the nick winning Paul match point and the title. Those that saw it say they didn't even see it. Perhaps they didn't and it's just something made up to fill these pages. In any case, photographic evidence has Paul Smith as the DJ Plate Champ 2023.

The Cup. Nanu: tall, dark, exotic, an easy smile on a graceful player, a kind, gentle soul. Steve: shorter, paler, more ragged in his looks and mood, can play a bit, and very well at times. Nanu won 3-0 with a game - not far removed from the pro level - that few in Thailand can match: sublime movement, shot making, retrieval, hold and deception giving him an advantage that poor old Bussey could not match. Nanu Devalia, British Club Bangkok Squash Champion 2023.

*Until next year's Don Johnston...*





# BRITISH CLUB GOLF



The golf section played their October monthly medal on Sunday 22nd at Subhapruek. Again, we had a slightly lower turn out this month with 14 players joining the group and two match play competitions taking place. We were very fortunate with the course and the weather because it had rained very heavily over the preceding few days. However, the course had drained well and although a little bit soggy in places, it was very playable.

**Congratulations to the winners of the technical prizes, all winning a golf ball:**

**NEAR PINS** – Mark Adderley, Paul Carnell, John Bell, Clive Bucknall and Becky Adderley

**LONG DRIVES** – Robert Gray and Penny Booth

**LONG PUTTS** – Neil Davis and Clive Bucknall

For Division 1 the overall winner was Mark Adderley with a net 74 and the runner up was Robert Gray also with a net 74. For Division 2 the overall winner was John Bell with a net 72 (and the only player to play to his handicap) and the runner up was Gareth Knight with a net 74.

One of the two match play competitions was between Paul Carnell and Becky Adderley and although a closely fought match coming down to the final hole,



▲ Pictured left to right: John Bell (winner of Division 2), Neil Davis (acting Captain) and Mark Adderley (winner of Division 1)

Paul Carnell was the victor. The other match play was between Penny Booth and John Virtue and was even more closely fought. The end result was a draw and so Penny and John will be playing again to see who will be the winner. Congratulations to Paul as he progresses into the semi-finals of the match play competition.

Our last event in October was the Dunlop Cup which is a very much looked forward to event sponsored by David Lamb. Many of our golf section members have numerous fond memories of participating in this annual event and this year it was held at the Royal Hills Golf Resort and Spa. This year we had 26 players competing for the trophy.



The Dunlop Cup competition is a two day pairs event where on Day 1 we all play Stableford. Then, on the second day, the two winning pairs from Day 1 have a match play competition to win the Dunlop Cup whilst the rest of the field compete for the Dunlop Cup Plate. As always, Royal Hills was an excellent venue and all of the group thoroughly enjoyed the golf and leisure opportunities. The course was in very good condition even though it had experienced a lot of rain in recent days. The later start on Day 1 meant that we all had to take a break and shelter during a thunderstorm, but we were all able to return to the course after about 30 minutes.

The early start on Day 2 meant that all groups missed the rain, even though the thunder had begun to rumble as the last groups came in.



▲ Players sheltering from the rain.

**Congratulations to the winners of the technical prizes on Day 1 who all won a golf ball:**

**NEAR PINS** – Arunya Somnam, John Sargison, Chris Brader, Steven Waldmeyer, Bryan Dodd and Mark Adderley

**MEN'S LONG DRIVE** – Andrew Stray

**LADIES LONG DRIVE** – Becky Adderley

**LONGEST PUTT** – John Sargison and Barbara Frank

**Congratulations to the winners of the technical prizes on Day 2 who all won a golf ball:**

**NEAR PINS** – Bryan Dodd, Neil Davis, Peter Frank, Varghese Rose, Mark Adderley

**MEN'S LONG DRIVE** – Jamie Angus

**LADIES LONG DRIVE** – Arunya Somnam

**LONGEST PUTT** – Barbara Frank

The Day 1 winners on count back were Brian and Yurachatr Brook



Day 2 winners on count back were Bally Gudail and Damien Sutton



*Commiserations to Chris Maclarty and Danny Bean who lost out on count back on Day 1 and 2.*

Dunlop Cup Plate runners up were Mark and Becky Adderley



Dunlop Cup Plate winners were Neil Davis and John Sargison



Dunlop Cup runners up were John Bell and Frank Fawkes



The winners of the Dunlop Cup 2023 were Peter and Barbara Frank



Congratulations to all of our winners and particularly to Peter and Barbara who were both thrilled to receive their trophies and I'm sure that they will be back next year to defend their title.

***Our next major British Club Golf Section fixture is the Club Championships which will take place at Banyan Golf Club, Hua Hin Golf Club on the 25th and 26th November.***



# BALUT



Maybe it's style - how do you throw? Some give it a few shakes, some rattle away for half a minute. Some tip gently onto the mat, some bring the cup down forcefully. DQ shakes slowly, rhythmically, hypnotically. The Jackal used to claim you could hear the number you wanted by listening oh so closely. TC backs a few shakes, then a short sharp shock to release the dice. The confident player just throws as if without a care, which may result in buying the round of drinks.

It made me quibble with the Maths teacher decades ago, as the frequency the stile on the Quantocks was impassable due to the thick muddy pool on either side (and underneath) bore no relation to the weather. And who would water a stile? "You're forgetting external influences" he said, and laughed. So what about the applicability and reliability of probability?

*"How likely an event is to occur, expressed as a ratio of the favourable cases to the whole number of cases possible"*

I was reminded of this exchange last week in the Churchill Bar, here on the other side of the world, when I heard "How likely am I to get another 4 or 5? The probability must be low." We were mid-game of Balut, a game of chance, and the mat showed 2 fours and 2 fives, with one throw of a single die to go. It didn't materialise, yet again, and several times more during the three games of our Wednesday session.

It's so often painfully difficult to get the last correct number for a low or high Straight (card-players think 'flush') that there is the widely adopted proverb "Never chase a Straight", which can be complicated by some facetious little troglodyte saying 'Just don't throw a one'.

But throwing ones has become a slight speciality for DQ. Last week in the first game, he was holding 4 ones with a single throw to go. And he threw another, cheering a Balut early in the evening. Then the next game, he again was holding 4 ones, for which he threw another, marking his second Balut in as many games.



▲ Top Straight!

In December we will be welcoming players visiting from other S E Asian clubs' Balut sections. So come and develop your shaking and delivery skills with us, and bend probability to your advantageous pride. 6pm on Wednesdays in The Churchill - it's simple, fun, and friendly, and everyone is welcome.



▲ Balut representatives from around the region

# HARD BALLS



Ben Eastwell



▲ CC delivers the quiz



▲ Awards night under the new nets roof



▲ Dilip and Dale, Pavilionaires bowler and batsman of the season



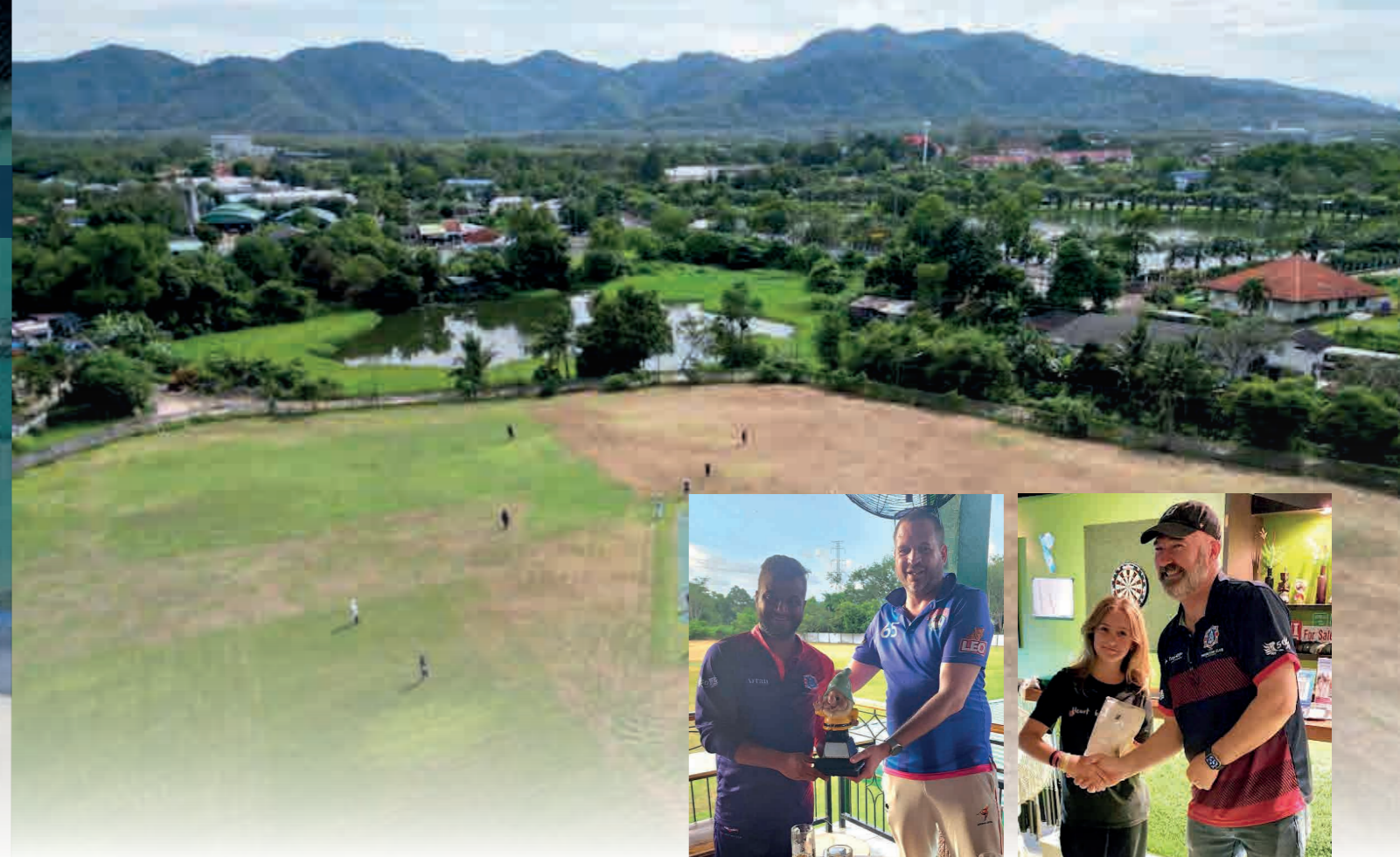
▲ Pramodh A Division bowler of the season

**The British Club cricket section** has started strong - both respective captains took on their first game of the season successfully, Pramodh down in Phuket and Ed in the opening game of the BCA Challengers league, whilst the 22/23 season was given a proper send off with a fire-ball doubles tournament and awards dinner at the club at the start of this month. With the schedule loaded and the nets finally finished, I'd like to wish everyone happy holidays and a positive end to the year.

## Phuket Tour - 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

With the first game of the season approaching, a last minute phone call threatened to pull the plug on the tour. There was no pitch and the grass was overgrown, the ground not ready in time for Phuket's first tour of the season. But a last minute delivery of an artificial pitch saved the day, and the tourists were able to settle into Bang Tao before the return of the mini golf competition on Friday night.

The opening game the next morning was against the Patong Penguins for 'The Dunford' trophy, and the team somehow found themselves one short after what was dubbed weeks before as 'the most well attended tour ever',



▲ ACG and its new pitch



▲ Pramodh takes the Dunford



▲ Ellie with a hole-in-one

Pramodh leading out his X for the first time as freshly appointed A div captain. After an unsuccessful toss, BC found themselves batting first on the undulating hills of the experimental new playing surface - hitting out into a spongy outfield. Denzyl top scored in the difficult conditions, supported by Chef on a cautious rate and some late aggression from the skipper. A large helping of extras (44) helped the tourists to a modest total of 138 from their 25 overs, though the home team were also experiencing the new wicket for the first time.

A 5-wicket haul from everybody's favourite vegetable helped set up a 49 run win, with Pramodh, Rahul and Denzyl contributing the rest of the wickets in a con-

vincing victory, although the hosts were kind enough to rest Pancake who had been awarded with most of the BC's merchandise from previous player of the match performances. A dinner on the beach concluded Saturday's play, with cricket, rugby and Dilip's choice on the sporting agenda for the rest of the evening.

After 11 years of consecutive encounters, The Village sadly announced that they would be pulling up stumps and the Sunday tour fixture would be their last match in what has been a legendary series. They came together in true Village fashion, a little bit late and still scrambling for players at the 11th hour, but hosted another fantastic match despite some expected scepticism of 'the pitch'.



▲ Phuket tour 2023



▲ The Village, Phuket





▲ Beach cuisine



▲ Friday night golf

The day was set out as a game of two 12 over innings where extras shone as the star at the halfway stage as the Villagers carried a 20 run lead after chasing an undercooked 49 from BC. Second innings highlights from the tourists included double figures from the captain and a gutsy knock from BC's aspiring junior, Ellie - still flying high from the hole-in-one at the golf on Friday. With 47 required from the final 12 overs, Pramodh and Denzyl kept the Villagers in check with 2 wickets each but after almost avoiding what were supposed to be torrential storms the whole weekend, a downpour in the closing overs lead to a mutually agreed draw. A fitting way to close the 'Ooh Ahh Cup' before a fines session honoured all those involved over the years. A big thanks to all the Villagers who have provided some great touring memories and of course to Ian for another expertly organised trip. Next stop, Chiang Mai (26-28 Jan).

### Pavilionaires V Siam CC - 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023



▲ BC V Siam BCA Challengers 2023

BC were drawn for the opening game of the Bangkok Cricket Academy (BCA) Challengers Division against arch rivals and friends, Siam CC. Ed won the toss and had a bowl at the Parrots who put on 191 -7 after 25 overs, which seemed to be above par on the outfield still affected by the relentless seasonal rain. Denz, Ravi and Chan picked up a wicket each, and Pramodh 2-26 to reign in a positive start from the Parrots' openers - thoroughly testing out the new season playing kits for the first time.



▲ Chef player of match



▲ Back on to the league

Ben and Rahul put on a hundred partnership to keep the chase within reach until Chef decided it was time to preserve the average when pulling up with cramp suspiciously soon after bring up an assuring 50. There was a brief interruption when Siam's premier slow bowler took a nasty blow to the head in a freak accident but fortunately making a speedy recovery, followed by Ravi and Pramodh on hand to push the win over the line, guiding BC to a comfortable 6 wicket victory with 29 balls to spare.



## CHAO PHRAYA PRINCESS

Celebrate New Year's Eve countdown and welcome the year 2024 on Chao Phraya Princess with International Seafood Buffet, free flow open bar drinks throughout the night, and unobstructed views of the largest firework display in Bangkok! (Programs A and B only)

Book now as there are limited seats available!

### Program A

ADULT 4,200 THB

Child (4-10 yrs) 3,700 THB

- Special Show
- Free flow whiskey, wine, beer and soft drinks
- International & Seafood Buffet
- Countdown fireworks display!
- Lucky Draw
- New Year Gift
- Live Music

### Available Piers

ICONSIAM

20:00 - 00:30

ASIATIQUE

19:30 - 00:15



Bookings & Info Via: The British Club Line Official  
Add LINE ID @britishclubbkk  
by attending you agree to the Club P.D.P.A

# MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT

# MEMBERSHIP PARTNERS

GET MORE INFORMATIONS SCAN HERE:



Kannikar J.



▲ Jacob Overbye

### Member Review:

We have been looking for an outdoor oasis to go to with our 3 kids. Good friends introduced us to The British Club, which turned out to be the perfect place to spend time with all the kids. We especially appreciate the opportunity to meet other families, the friendly staff as well as the events and activities for children.



▲ Daniil Klimov and Phitchaya Klimov



▲ Zhongwei



▲ Michael

### Member Review:

We are delighted to be a part of the British Club Bangkok. As a couple who values cultural diversity and enjoys connecting with people from different backgrounds, joining this club was a natural choice for us. The British Club Bangkok offers a unique platform for us to engage in various social, recreational, and cultural activities, and the people we met so far were awesome. We are excited to be a part of this vibrant community and look forward to the enriching experiences and friendships that await us.

### Member Review:

My wife Fon's impression is that the food and services are good. And she really likes the idea of treating members equally.

I used to major in history and know some history about the British Club in Shanghai. My impression is how does the British Club in Bangkok last for so long and still operate well, and how does it adapt to the changing environment and keep its core mission. I also like the ideas of making the British Club like a family.

### Member Review:

Over the years I had missed a couple of chances to visit The British Club Bangkok when friends invited us to some events, hearing a lot about the amazing foods and good variety of sports facilities. When I finally set foot on the premises for the first time in October, immediately felt like entering an oasis in the concrete jungle, contrary to the surrounding busy streets and high rises, The British Club is the perfect place for our children to play sports and spend the afternoon with some good mates, on that instant we knew that we had to join and be a part of this friendly community. We look forward to participating in the events and meeting new friends.



Exclusive 20% discount for Pro Shop merchandise.  
Exclusive 15% discount for the Worry-Free Golf Package (From normal price)



Exclusive membership "Evergreen" to receive special privileges benefits.  

- Private Lounge / A Privilege Parking Service
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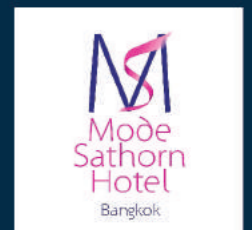
ASCOTT AND SOMERSET GROUP :  
Exclusive rates for accommodations of their properties in Bangkok and Pattaya



Special rate THB 500 NET per hours



Special Room Rate with free upgrade to Deluxe High Floor



Exclusive offer for Deluxe Mode at 2,500 NET and Executive Mode 3,700 NET with breakfast included



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- 40 days complimentary storage in Thailand on international move
- Special insurance rate at 3% instead of 3.5% for international move
- USD 100 off on international move (minimum 10 cbm)
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- USD 75 off on pet shipment services (Door-to-Door only)



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- 1 free tray of golf balls per visit, 4 times a month (regular price)
- 50% off golf club rental fee
- 20% discount food voucher for every purchase of Golf ball coupon packs



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Huge blocks of ice will be dropped in the pool like **icebergs floating** in The Arctic Waters.

The **pool water** gets pretty chilly and is invigorating for those who swim amongst the icebergs, mince pies are also available, desserts with **mulled wine** plus all your favourite food & drinks as usual

**FREE !!!** shaved ice for swimmers only



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