

JANUARY 2024



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THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

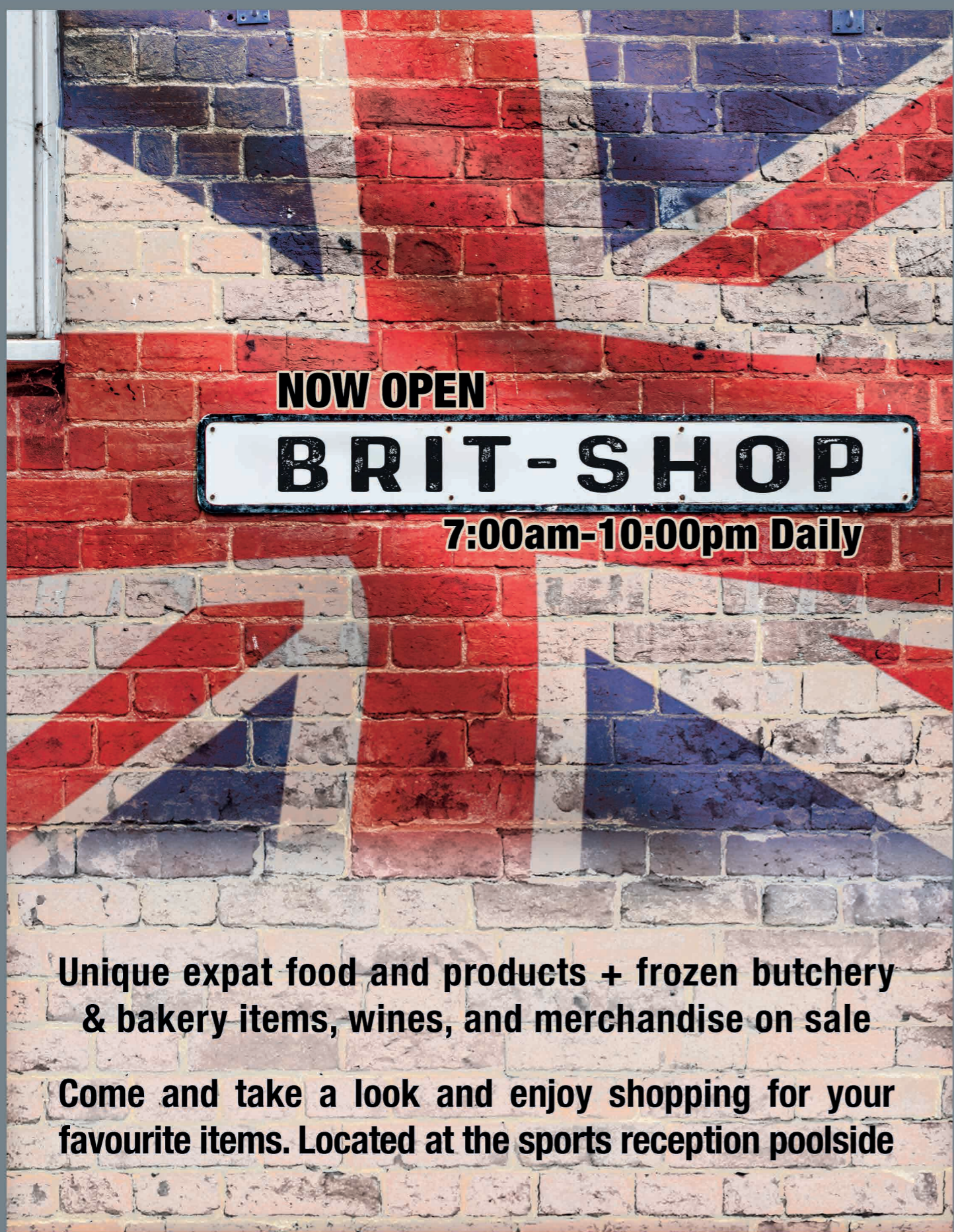
THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

OUTPOST

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Front Cover

A colourful 2024

This Month

We launch our first ever Club Shop, the consular section explains their services, words from the chairman, Fry Group assess the UK autumn statement, operations unknown reflects on 2023 partners and sponsors, past participle visits the year 1968, The Ladies Recreation Club Hong Kong is reviewed, events in pictures, long service awards presented, our sections have their say, we welcome our new members, and thank our partners.

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**THE FRY
GROUP**
ESTD 1898

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THE CONSULAR SECTION OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY

Greetings once again!

We're back with our usual update. In the past month, we provided Consular assistance to 115 urgent cases, including situations such as missing persons, welfare support, hospitalizations for various reasons, and arrests. Our assistance extended to 49 families coping with the loss of loved ones, involving a mix of hospital and home deaths, primarily from natural causes. Additionally, we issued 45 Emergency Travel Documents (ETDs) and provided 148 documentary services.

We've noticed a growing trend in elderly welfare in Thailand, especially among those vulnerable due to dementia. Many are under the care of care homes or caregivers. To ensure proper care for those with dementia, we partnered with **Dementia Carer Count** in the UK, delivering intensive two-day training sessions for care home service providers in Bangkok and Chiang Mai. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with participants expressing the value and knowledge gained in supporting individuals with dementia.

If you're planning to travel, remember to obtain travel insurance, sign up for **Travel Advice** for your destination if leaving Thailand, and check the validity of your passport (ensure the back page is filled with emergency contact details).

Joanne
Joanne Finnamore-Crorkin
HM Consul, British Embassy, Thailand



Simon P. Davies

Chairman's Message



To one and all I wish you a very Happy and Healthy New Year with hope that there can be a way to find peace amongst the various conflicts around the world.

It was wonderful to see the Club absolutely buzzing throughout December starting with the first weekend when Santas Helpers defeated The Elves in the annual Christmas Squash Tournament, Childrens parties on both the back lawn and Poolside Games Room, The Thai National Spooling Championship in The Suriwongse room with a very busy Veranda and Jubilee Bar. A special thank you to The Tennis Section who organized, along with The Squash Section, a party on the Front Lawn with live music including a rocking performance by the Bangkok Beatles.

Christmas Carols on the front lawn is always one of the highlight events and this year was no exception as on the 13th December over 450 people attended and enjoyed first class performances by several of the local schools and a big thank you to all of them for their continued participation.

Christmas Day lunch saw over 425 servings provided by Khun Laak and her team who never fail to provide exceptional Christmas fayre and again a big thank you

to all the management and staff who went the extra mile to ensure members had a most enjoyable and satisfying day.

The new Pool tables have been installed and the Games Room in the Clubhouse is fully operational with large screen televisions showing sport and full F&B service from The Churchill Bar.

To see the club being fully utilized during the month was fantastic and certainly looking forward to many more such months ahead.

To share with you, Key Performance Indicators and agreed objectives for the Senior Management team have been signed off and whilst achieving budgeted revenues is included there is a much greater emphasis on service enhancements across the club.

Once again I wish everyone all the best for the New Year and please do continue your good support for our wonderful club.

**Cheers
Simon**

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2023 UK Autumn Statement

By Martin Wright, The Fry Group

Jeremy Hunt's second Autumn Statement was set against a much less financially turbulent background than his first. However, politics still loomed large with a likely election in the next 12 months prompting calls for tax cuts from within the Conservative party. Until recently, the Chancellor had attempted to stall such demands with warnings of "difficult decisions" on the public finances owing to a worsened fiscal outlook since his Spring Budget. One reason that he highlighted for the deterioration was the sharply increased cost of government borrowing.

Nevertheless, the Chancellor, who had argued only two months ago that tax cuts were "virtually impossible", appears to have had a change of heart. Echoing the Prime Minister, Mr Hunt suggested that the achievement of halving inflation in 2023 marked an economic inflexion point that permitted a new policy approach. The outcome was an Autumn Statement that had been initially trailed as focusing on longer-term issues, but which prioritised short-term tax cuts over maintaining expenditure in later years.

On the long-term front, the Chancellor confirmed as expected that 'full expensing' of corporate investment in plant and machinery would be made permanent at a cost of £10.7 billion a year by 2027/28. The most headline-grabbing moves were cuts to National Insurance. Some of the rumours, such as IHT reform, did not come to fruition, but there is still a chance in March's Spring Budget.

ECONOMIC UPDATE

The economic backdrop to the Autumn Statement was not as bad as might have been expected from a reading of the March 2023 projections by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR).

In the spring, the OBR's first Economic and Fiscal Outlook of 2023 envisaged that the government would borrow £131.6 billion. Seven months into the financial year, the OBR's projection has dropped by about £16 billion because of stronger than expected tax revenue, giving the Chancellor some extra wiggle room.

This tax windfall owes much to the impact of both price inflation and earnings growth being higher than projected in March. Back then the OBR had suggested that CPI annual inflation would fall to around 3% in the final quarter of 2023 against its latest projection of about 4.5%. The higher-for-longer combination of inflation, earnings growth and interest rates has brought some significant changes to the OBR's projections for the economy:

- The OBR forecast says inflation will not now fall to 2% until the second quarter of 2025, a year later than previously forecast.
- The outlook for economic growth in the short term has improved, with +0.6% expected for 2023 against a 0.2% contraction in the March forecast. However, the OBR's growth projections for 2024 and 2025 are both 1.1% lower than their March figures.
- Ten-year government bond yields at 4.5% are 1.2% higher than the OBR's March projection. The OBR has now added this figure to its previous projections of government borrowing costs for the entire five-year forecast period. Base rate is now expected to average about 4% in 2027/28, just over 1% above the March projection.
- Government borrowing is projected to be £84.6 billion in 2024/25 and eventually to drop to just below £50 billion in 2027/28. But total government debt will then amount to £2,947 billion (93.2% of GDP) costing £98.4 billion a year to service.

The OBR says the Chancellor will meet his fiscal goal in 2028/29 by £13 billion (0.4% of GDP), double the amount it projected in March. That margin could prove a challenge to maintain for the next government.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The main UK personal allowance will remain at £12,570 for 2024/25 and the higher rate threshold will stay at £50,270, both levels that first took effect in 2021/22. The 45% additional rate threshold will stay at £125,140.
- In respect of Capital Gains Tax the annual exempt amount for individuals and personal representatives will be halved to £3,000 in 2024/25, as previously announced. The annual exempt amount for most trusts will be cut to £1,500 (minimum £300).
- For UK Inheritance Tax the nil rate band for 2024/25 will remain at £325,000, which was the level first set in 2009/10. The Residence Nil Rate Band (RNRB) will likewise stay at £175,000 and the RNRB taper will continue to apply where the value of the deceased's Estate is greater than £2 million.
- Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) The SDLT bands for residential property in England and Northern Ireland will remain unchanged until 1 April 2025. From that date, the 0% band threshold will be halved to £125,000 and a 2% rate applied between £125,000 and £250,000.
- The main rate of class 1 employee National Insurance contributions (NICs) will be reduced from 12% to 10% with effect from 6 January 2024. The main rate of class 4 self-employed NICs will be cut from 9% to 8% from 6 April 2024 and class 2 will no longer be required.

- Full expensing of investments made by companies in qualifying plant and machinery will be made permanent and will therefore continue after April 2026.
- The new and old State Pension as well as pension credit will rise by the full triple lock increase of 8.5% for 2024/25. Universal credit and most other benefits will increase by 6.7%.
- Investors will be allowed to make multiple subscriptions to ISAs of the same type each year from April 2024, when partial transfers of ISAs between providers will also be permitted.
- The national living wage will increase to £11.44 an hour. *All alcohol duties have been frozen until August 2024.*
- The government is seeking to persuade people with health conditions to find work. There is extra funding, as well as new sanctions for those who are found to be able to work but refuse to look for employment.

As with most UK tax matters the rules can be complicated and you should seek expert advice to make sure you understand the current laws and how this may affect you.



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.



SILOM MEETING ROOM



The British Club Meeting room located in the main clubhouse is fitted to make every meeting a success. The meeting room can be booked for a maximum of 12 people and includes a 65" smart TV, airdrop, HDMI cable, WIFI, glass wall white board & markers, and air conditioner for only 1,000 THB per hour along with half and full day packages. Coffee break. Lunch and dinner options are available

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*3 scholarships are available for the 2024-25 Academic Year
 **Scholarship recipients receive an annual scholarship amounting to a reduction of 150,000 THB from tuition fees





Tee Bale

Operations Unknown

Looking back at 2023, we were proud and honoured to partner with so many leading companies and organizations across all sectors in Thailand. Below are some of the amazing co-branded events we held and the sponsors that made it possible.

“Madagascar Pool Party 2023” – Denla International School played a key part in supplying our kids entertainment on the day and Piyavate Hospital made sure everyone stayed safe with their onsite first-aid team and ambulance.



“Great British Festival” – The first of our GBF events was put together with Patana International School, Fitness First, Raimon Land, Anantara Hotels, Med-Park Hospital, Bangkok Prep, and Vimut Hospital who all played a key roll in its success.

“Living in Bangkok 2023” – Our yearly trade fair event wouldn't be possible without so many vendors, sponsors, and partners. Special thanks go out to The British Embassy, Fry Group, Shrewsbury International School, Med-Park, Wellington College, Kings College, Bangkok Prep.



“Songkran 2023” – One of the wettest events we do all year had the needed support to make sure everyone enjoyed without injury, thank you Med-Park & Med Consult for another key partnership.



“The British Club Birthday 120 years” – A huge landmark for the club was kindly support by Palo Hospital who also rewarded 2 very lucky children on the day with special medical check-up vouchers

“UK Coronation Day” – A once in a lifetime experience for most people witnessing a UK coronation. This fabulous day was helped with the support of The British Embassy, Shrewsbury School, Tops, Triumph, Top Golf, Fitness First, Swiss Hotel Bangkok, 137 pillars



“Back 2 Skool Challenge 2023” – The clubs first ever back 2 to skool challenge had all the participating children involved with an array of special activities, challenges, and creations all from the 4 carefully selected partners, Aurum Art Gallery, Pratika, Raddison Blu, Med-Park



We look forward to so many more special partnerships throughout 2024.



Paul Cheesman

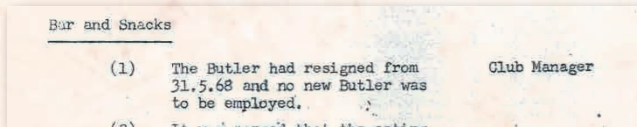
~~~PAST PARTICIPLE~~~ *Auspicious Melioris Ævi*

We continue the story of
the British Club Bangkok ... 1968

Bye! Bye! Butler!

There were two changes to management staff during the year: The first was the appointment of a new General Manager, Mr H.A. Traugott, being the third inside a year. Mr Traugott was, however, to stay for seven years and became the second longest serving General Manager of the Club.

Then Khun Sumeth Sumethrataniya, our Butler, resigned in the May after six months of being off due to an accident. The Committee decided not to replace him but instead create the new role of 'Head Bar Boy', which was given to Boy No.2. This ended the tradition, since at least 1919 of staff being managed by a Butler.



▲ No new Butler

Our Naval Year

1968 was a record year for Naval visits with the crews of eight ships and two submarines visiting us over the period – These were:

- The Daring class Destroyer HMS Defender.
- Three Frigates - the Leander class HMNZS Waikato, the Rothesay Class Type 12 HMNZS Otago and Leopard-class Type 41 HMS Puma.
- The Abdiel class Minesweeper HMS Manxman.
- Three Ton class minesweepers HMS Houghton, HMS Dartington and HMS Maxton.
- Two Submarines, the Oberon class HMS Onslaught and the Porpoise class HMS Cachalot.

The plaques of the HMS Onslaught, HMS Manxman, HMNZS Waikato, and HMNZS Otago are on display in the Churchill Bar.



▲ Ships (and Boats) Ahoy!

Gala!!

The first British Club Bangkok Annual Swimming Gala & Family Day was organised by a Swimming Sub-Committee on 25th August. This was deemed so successful that a monthly tournament was played with an Annual Gala to 'end the season'.

All in all, twelve cups were played for ... although the Club has no records of when each of the cups were donated, they were all in full swing a few years later!

Boys
 Aged 6 & under: TOM BARRATT CUP
 Aged 7 or 8: ROSS CLARK CUP
 Aged 9 or 10: LES ATCHESON CUP
 Aged 11 or 12: NESTLÉ CUP
 Aged 12 to 14: SANDY RENNIE CUP
 Aged 15 to 17: CHARTERED BANK CUP

Girls
 Aged 6 & under: LEONOWENS CUP
 Aged 7 or 8: LITE SOME CUP
 Aged 9 or 10: JIM HOLT CUP
 Aged 11 or 12: MEL TAYLOR CUP
 Aged 12 to 14: HEATH LANG CUP
 Aged 15 to 17: HONG KONG BANK CUP

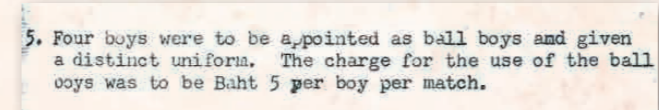
▲ Swimming Trophies

Staff Matters

Due to the high turnover of staff in 1967, it was agreed that the annual Staff Bonus, paid at Chinese New Year, would be given pro rata to the staff who had been with us less than a year.

In the February, the Committee agreed to set the number of 'public and traditional holidays' that staff enjoyed to 14 days in each year.

A change of tennis fees policy in September led to the employment of four uniformed Deks as ball boys at the rate of 5 Baht a match per boy payable by players not the Club!



▲ Ball Boys

Service

The 1968 Committee had the unfortunate distinction of being the least stable in the history of the British Club ... with five of its number leaving during the year necessitating five co-options!

Commander John D. Sayer RN, the British Naval Attaché, was elected as Chairman in his only service on the Committee and stayed the whole year as did Michael H. Pratt, who was Honorary Secretary, for this

and part of the next term, and Mark Harding who continued as Honorary Treasurer (see *Past Participle, December 2023*). The role of Vice-Chairman was initially Leo McMahon, who had served two previous terms of the committee but had to go Absent in December, and was replaced by A.J.M. McDonald, of the N.Z. Insurance Company, who served only this term.

Continuing their service were Mike Greenwood, Mr. R.P. Evans, and Brian P. Tomkins (both of whom went Absent), Mr F.D. Cran who had been co-opted back (see *Past Participle, December 2023*) and Brian Tomkins (see *Past Participle, July 2023*). Elected, but leaving part way, were Roy C. Howard, of Thai Airways, and Mr. K.G.J. Moore, of Ben Line Steamers. The other co-options were Mr. I.W. Garfoot, of Mechanical Equipment, who served this term and another in 1977; Mr. Ian L. James and Mr. T.E. Walton, both of the Australian Embassy, who served half, and one and a half terms respectively; and Alistair L. Lapping, of Jardine Waugh, who served this and two other terms.

1968-69

- CHAIRMAN:** Cmdr. John D. Sayer R.N.
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Leo J. McMahon (went Absent 06.12.1968)
 A.J.M. McDonald (from 06.12.1968)
HONORARY SECRETARY: Michael H. Pratt
HONORARY TREASURER: C. Mark Harding
MEMBERS:
 F.D. Cran (co-opted 06.12.1968)
 R.P. Evans (went Absent 14.08.1968)
 Roy C. Howard (went Absent 06.12.1968)
 I.W. Garfoot (co-opted 18.11.1968)
 Mike Greenwood
 Ian L. James (co-opted 14.08.1968)
 Alistair L. Lapping (co-opted 18.11.1968)
 A.J.M. McDonald (to Vice-Chairman 06.12.1968)
 K.G.J. Moore (went Absent 18.11.1968)
 Brian P. Tomkins (went Absent 18.11.1968)
 T.E. Walton (co-opted 18.11.1968)

▲ General Committee 1968-69

Club News

As reported last month, the Narai Hotel had built a permanent way along "Silom 18", however, the road built stopped 12 feet from the Club's Silom Gate and was about 12 inches higher than the Club car park. It was agreed thus to build a ramp to access this road and install a new gate with a Guard Box.

The Entertainments Sub-committee of 1968 boasted a Dramatic Section and it put on three very successful productions during the year. In March "The Boyfriend" took 28,000 Baht in income and with costs as low as 8,000 Baht, thus it was a financial success as well. In October, the play "The Duet For Two Hands" was produced over two nights and in December a one-night production of "The Drunkard" was attended by 200 people.

In the May, Vice-chairman, Leo J. McMahon, donated to the Club a cup to be played in conjunction with the Sam Boyd Cup for the golf championship under Stableford Rules.

Buoyed by the opening of the swimming pool the Committee set up a Development Committee to work on (in order of priority) - a Second Squash Court; an air-conditioned restaurant; hard tennis courts; floodlights for tennis; and an air-conditioned bar. This committee was made up of eight members in 'high standing' being past serving officers of the club.

After much discussion the following notice was proposed by M. Greenwood and seconded by L.J. McMahon.

" A Development advisory sub-committee be set up to advise the General Committee on long term development of the Club and this Committee should not consist of more than eight members."

This was carried by a majority vote 9 - 1.

It was then decided to leave the names of the members of this Committee until the next meeting when each Committee member should produce a list of eight names for members of this Committee.

▲ The Development Committee

In Other News

In the February, the Committee took the change of Ambassador at the New Zealand Embassy as an occasion to invite the new post holder to become an Honorary Member. H.E. Ian Stewart accepted the invitation and thus the tradition of offering such preferment on all four core nationality Ambassadors (Australian, British, Canadian and New Zealand) was duly started. There has, to the author's knowledge, only ever been one refusal of this offer but readers will have to wait until *Past Participle* in September 2026 to read all about it!

Major R.P.M. Oldfield replaced Colonel G.L.V. Pring as British Military Attaché but there is no record that he joined the Club.

Central Department Stores opened a multi-floor department store at 306 Silom Road – in 2009 the store closed, and the building converted to being Central Silom Tower.

On 11th October, the last two short stretches of Bangkok's electric tram network closed – at its peak, the network was over 53km long and had a branch running down Silom Road (see *Past Participle*, December 2021).

On 17th November, the Narai Hotel had its Grand Opening, complete with a revolving restaurant. In 2022, the hotel was demolished to make way for a new hybrid complex due to open in 2027!

On 21st December, astronauts William Anders, Frank Borman, and James Lovell, Jr. became the first humans to orbit another celestial body (i.e., the Moon) in Apollo 8.



▲ The Narai Hotel

Next month ...

"If Moses had been a Committee!"

Paul Cheesman
Honorary Secretary

For Members interested in our Club's history, the Club Timeline has been fully revised with 2,134 entries including 460 pictures across 182 pages and can be found on the Website under 'The Club – History'.

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The Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong

Visited in April 2023 by Paul Doust and Prasit Jangkamol (a.k.a. Jack)

The **Ladies Recreation Club** is a rather strange name for a club with both male and female members. These days it usually goes by the acronym LRC, but it was founded in 1883 as a club "for the purpose of health and recreation for ladies". A man is currently the club's president, but for a long time women were completely in charge. A display on the club's walls about the club's history notes that an Extraordinary General Meeting was held in May 1967 to consider an amendment to give "male members rights not only to vote but also to sit in the General Committee". The amendment was submitted by a man, but at that time it was rejected. These days the club has around 5000 members.

The LRC is located on a steep slope in the 'mid-levels' district on the north-western side of Hong Kong Island. Sports facilities include 8 outdoor and 2 indoor tennis courts, an indoor and an outdoor swimming pool, a gym, 2 squash courts, a multi-purpose sports hall where badminton can be played, and 4 ten-pin bowling lanes. There are lots of food and drink facilities too, including the Family Clubhouse, the Lotus Bistro + Verandah overlooking two of the outdoor tennis courts, a more formal Dining Room above the Lotus Bistro overlooking the same tennis courts, Harry's Sports Bar, and the Sundek Pizza and Grill overlooking the outdoor swimming pool. The club is very family oriented, although Harry's sports bar is an adult only area. The club has no accommodation, and when not using the sports facilities the dress code is smart casual.

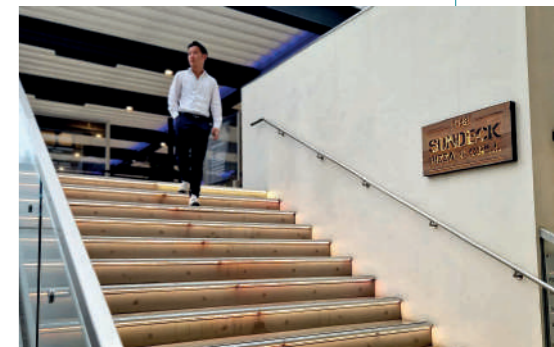


Coming from the Wan Chai district in Hong Kong, our Uber driver chose to drop us off at the first opportunity, which was at the entrance to the club's car park. That turned out to be slightly inconvenient because we had to find our way through the club to the reception desk, explaining why we didn't have membership cards to club staff on more than one occasion. Having seen the car park entrance, we should have asked the driver to continue a little way uphill along the side of the building, and then we would have arrived at the short driveway that leads to the club's main reception area.

Our letter of introduction had been emailed a few weeks in advance and I didn't need to produce a copy, but as usual for Hong Kong clubs, the club wanted to see proof of non-residency in Hong Kong as well as our British Club Bangkok membership cards. Having registered, we were given a debit card which works like the payment cards that one uses in food courts in Bangkok, i.e. one has to load money onto the card to pay for everything inside the club. Any money left on the card can be refunded at the end of one's visit. Note that the information sheet that we received in response to our letter of introduction says that a daily fee is payable by reciprocal members. However, thanks to the agreement that our club's Honorary Secretary negotiated, that fee doesn't apply to members of British Club Bangkok.

We spent a few hours in the club, relaxing on the Verandah for afternoon tea, looking around and talking to people. Of particular interest to me was their in-house shop called Gourmet 10, which had a large selection of wine. One section had a dozen LRC branded wines for sale, including the 2011 **Château Clinet** itself with a little red LRC symbol on its usual label, a syrah from Paul Jaboulet Aîné, and two white burgundies from **Bouchard Père et Fils**.

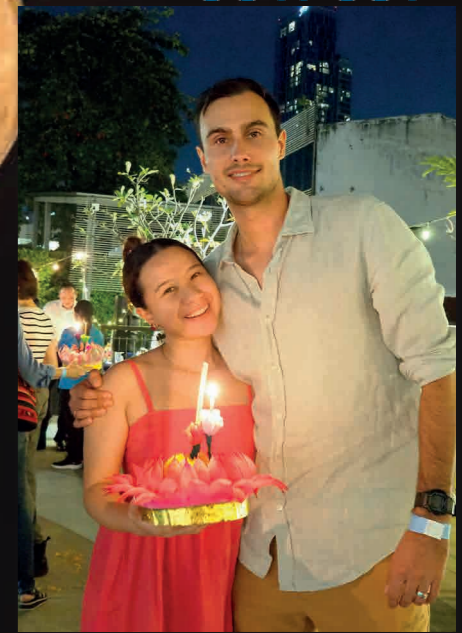
A friend who lives in Hong Kong told me that the LRC is popular with expats. Even though the club is slightly out of the way, it has a huge number of facilities, so it's a good club to have on our reciprocal club list.





Thanksgiving lunch & dinner
23/11/23

This year we were delighted to see Veranda fully booked at Lunch and Dinner for Thanksgiving.



Loy Krathong
27/11/23

One of the biggest festivals of the year in Thailand Loy Krathong was celebrated at the Club Poolside, members enjoyed a traditional Thai buffet, Thai dancing, live band, and amazing fire show.





Annual XMas Wine Tasting

2/12/23

This year the club hosted its first every Christmas Wine Tasting and themed the dress code Red White & Festive, members went to town on their outfits and there were some standout efforts. Congratulations to the lucky draw winners and best dressed winners who all won room night stays with our partner Somerset & Ascott hotel group.



Kids Christmas Party

9/12/23

Another fully booked Kids Christmas Party put a smile on all the little ones faces, more so when Santa surprised them all with a visit and sacks full of presents. Well done to Khun Amnat's Santas beating Khun Rit's Elves in the traditional yearly tug of war.





Sparkles & Stripes Christmas Party

9/12/23

The sections all came out to party under the stars to celebrate a fantastic year of sport and club activities, good times had by all.

Christmas Quiz Night

12/09/23

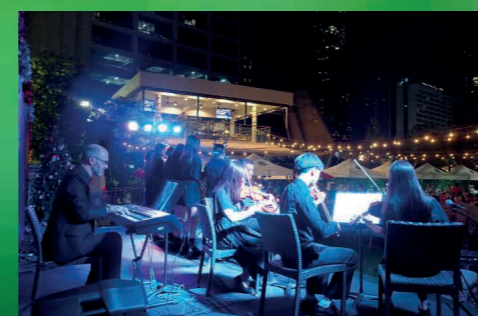
A record-breaking number of teams showed up to take part in the Christmas Quiz. Santa kindly played host as the quiz master and his two good-looking Elf's made sure things ran smoothly, or as smoothly as they could considering the lively bunch of teams taking part. Well done to X-Master team for winning first place.





Christmas carols 13/12/23

A big thank you to St Andrews Sathorn, KIS, Bangkok Prep, and Bromsgrove international schools for delivering such a special evening of Christmas Carols. Over 500 people came to watch making it the largest every Carol Night we have ever had.



WEDNESDAY Circuit Training

6:00pm – 7:00pm
Coach Amnat
free to join



THURSDAY Yoga

6:00pm – 7:00pm
Coach Aom
150 ฿/session



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



Coming Events

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

March 2023

- 5th Tue Quiz Night
- 10th Sun UK Mother's Day
- 13th Wed Pancake Day
- 15th Fri An Intimate Wine Night
- 23rd Fri Living in Bangkok
- 26th Fri AGM
- 30th Sat Wine Tasting
- 31st Sun Easter Day

Event & Activities 2024 JANUARY Highlights



Madagascar Pool Party - Saturday 13th January

Rapidly becoming known as our biggest kid's pool party of the year, Madagascar 2024 is set to sell out extremely fast, so make sure you book early to secure your places.



An Intimate Wine Night - Friday 19th January

A welcome return to one of our members' favourite events "An Intimate Wine Night" kicking off the year with a journey through the old-world vineyards of Spain.



Wine on the Lawn - Saturday 27th January

This is the new look and revamped previous wine tasting event we used to host. Get set for the new concept which will run periodically throughout 2024 with features such as, theme nights, introduction of specific regions, bubbles & bubbles, well-known live musicians, plus much more.

Long Service Awards 13/12/23

Congratulations and Thank You! to all the staff for the hard work and long service to the Club.



JANUARY 2024

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Tennis Mixed Doubles Team practice 7.00pm - 10.00pm Polar Swim 2.00pm - 4.00pm Squash Mix-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm	2	3 Squash Mix-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Circuit Training 6.00pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	4 Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	5 Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Junior Cricket Coaching 5.15pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	6 Kids Activities 12.00pm - 4.00pm Squash Mixed-in 1.30pm - 6.45pm Cricket Team Prctice 2.30pm - 6.00pm
	7 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	8 Tennis Mixed Doubles Team practice 7.00pm - 10.00pm Squash Mix-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm	9 Quiz Night 7.15pm - 9.30pm	10 Squash Mix-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Circuit Training 6.00pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	11 Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	12 Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Junior Tennis Coaching 4.00pm - 5.00pm Junior Cricket Coaching 5.15pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	13 Kids Activities 12.00pm - 4.00pm Madagascar Pool Party 1.00pm - 4.00pm Squash Mixed-in 1.30pm - 6.45pm Cricket Team Prctice 2.30pm - 6.00pm
	14 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	15 Tennis Mixed Doubles Team practice 7.00pm - 10.00pm Squash Mix-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm	16	17 Squash Mix-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Circuit Training 6.00pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	18 Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	19 Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Junior Tennis Coaching 4.00pm - 5.00pm Junior Cricket Coaching 5.15pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm An Intimate Wine Night 7.00pm - 10.00pm	20 Kids Activities 12.00pm - 4.00pm Squash Mixed-in 1.30pm - 6.45pm Cricket Team Prctice 2.30pm - 6.00pm
	21 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	22 Tennis Mixed Doubles Team practice 7.00pm - 10.00pm Squash Mix-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm	23	24 Squash Mix-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Circuit Training 6.00pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	25 Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	26 Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Junior Tennis Coaching 4.00pm - 5.00pm Junior Cricket Coaching 5.15pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	27 Kids Activities 12.00pm - 4.00pm Squash Mixed-in 1.30pm - 6.45pm Cricket Team Prctice 2.30pm - 6.00pm Wine Tasting 6.00pm - 10.00pm
	28 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	29 Tennis Mixed Doubles Team practice 7.00pm - 10.00pm Squash Mix-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm	30	31 Squash Mix-in 5.15pm - 7.30pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Circuit Training 6.00pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm			



Terry Adams



BRITISH CLUB
SENIORS SECTION

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.

SECTION FUTURE EVENTS:

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

Visit the Seniors Section website at:

<https://www.britishclubbangkok.org/seniors-section/>

for much more information on the Section and our Events.

Artificial Intelligence
Potentially bigger for humanity than:

- ✓ The Industrial Revolution
- ✓ Electricity & Computing
- ✓ Space Exploration

Journey into the AI era with AI expert Barbara Meynert who will explain why, and simplify the intricacies for us!

Date: Thursday, 11th January 2024
Time: 12.30pm
Venue: Suriwongse Room
Charges: Section Members Baht 400
Club Members Baht 450
Guests Baht 500

(Pre-order your choices of any 2 of the 3 courses options from the day's Business Lunch Menu along with water, tea or coffee)

Open to: Seniors Section Members, Club Members, Guests

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

WHY 'FACE' MATTERS
in Thai Social Exchanges

Learn the 'Ins and Outs' with Dr. Larry S Parsons

- ✓ Author
- ✓ Subject Matter Expert in multicultural contexts
- ✓ CEO CQ Leadership Consulting SASIN School of Management, Chulalongkorn University

Join us for Canapes with drinks of your choice from the Club bar (to your Club account)

Date: Wednesday, 24th January 2024
Time: 6.00pm onwards
Charges: Section Members Baht 325
Club Members Baht 375
Guests Baht 425

OPEN TO SENIORS SECTION MEMBERS, CLUB MEMBERS, AND GUESTS

Date is subject to change

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

EVENT REPORT:

Day Trip to Samut Prakan: Thursday, 23rd November 2023

A small group of 9 left the Club in our usual luxury minibus and in only 30 minutes arrived at the Royal Thai Navy Museum in Samut Prakan. We enjoyed a superb visit thanks to Khun Phanida's arranging for a very knowledgeable Guide to take us around this large Museum. He knew so much about Thailand's mainly river bound ancient history of warfare.



We learned that the military history of Thailand encompasses 1,000 years of armed struggle, from wars of independence from the Khmer Empire through to struggles with her regional rivals, Burma and Vietnam, and periods of conflict with Britain and France during the colonial era.



The Museum chronicles the history of the naval aspects of the Thai armed forces from the Ayutthaya period through its official founding as the Royal Thai Navy in 1906 and to the present day. Exhibits included examples of ancient river craft used for ceremonial purposes, lighthouse reflective glass (which provoked hilarity as Derek insisted on being photographed inside one of the glass' with obvious results, a large room displaying ancient through to relatively modern weapons, guns and mortars of various ages, other rooms describing and exhibiting major riverine 'engagements' with the Burmese, the French ships, and more, displays of figureheads on ancient Thai warships, plus navigation, weapons range finding and other examples from now decommissioned Thai warships, including the Ships Bell from the British R Class Destroyer HMS Radiant sold to the RTN in 1917. Models of numerous ships used by the Thai forces including Chinese Junks that supported the retaking of Ayutthaya by King Taksin in 1767, through to today's vessels. A really interesting and insightful visit enjoyed by all.

Then on to the nearby Wat Asokaram. Construction was started in 1955 and completed in 1962. The temple has two main buildings; the highlight being the beautiful Phra Thutangkha Chedi – a group of 13 stupas (chedis) that represent the 13 duties of a monk during any religious trip. We walked inside and visited the ground and second floors, but the highlight was very much seeing the Chedi from the outside. Some of us made the long and very hot climb up and down many steps to the main hall of the Wat located opposite to the 'White Chedi', where Buddhists meditate and chant. To the right of the main hall, we found an elevated statue dedicated to King Ashoka



the Great (268-232BC), the third Mauryan Emperor of Magadha in the Indian subcontinent, who spread Buddhism to Asia, and especially Thailand, and after whom the Temple is named.

A really tasty lunch at the lovely Baan Chidlom Restaurant located nearby at the Chao Phraya River estuary, was followed by a visit to the recently opened Samut Prakan Tower, where from the 23rd and 25th floors, amazing 360 views of the City and surrounds were seen and the various exhibitions on Samut Prakan and the work done by Royal Sponsored Projects were displayed, before we headed back to the Club.



EVENT REPORT:

Seniors Section 1st AGM and 1st Anniversary "Thank You" Party for Section Members: Wednesday, 6th December 2023



A record turnout of 23 of our 52 members plus a number of members' guests attended the section's first AGM and incorporated "1st Anniversary Thank You Party" in quite some style. The AGM was completed in the promised 30 minutes. During the year the Section provided 20 events for our Members and the various Club Members and Guests: 12 very varied events in our "Lifelong Learning" series, 6 one day trips to places of cultural and historical interest, and 2 fun light exercise social events. A new Seniors Section Committee was voted in: Terry Adams, Barbara Meynert, and Phanida Naviroj from the outgoing Committee, plus new Committee members who 'put their hands up on the night' Agnes Murray, Bob Elliott, and Bob Marchant – so many congratulations and many thanks to them all for 'answering the call!' Events through to April 2024 are already in the various planning stages, so all set to give the new Committee and all our Section Members a 'flying start' in the new year!

The free Raffle with 7 prizes thanks to Section Members Nisa Young, Raquel Evans, and William Ong, plus 2 prizes from the Club, massively enhanced by the magnificent work of Caroline Brown and Vicky Brader in dispensing arms-length raffle tickets to all, really got the party off to a flying start. The usual tasty Club canapes and free-flow bar significantly contributed to an excellent evening enjoyed by everyone.



We didn't quite consume and spend all of the financial surplus from our first year, but it was a close call! Many thanks to the Club Staff from the cooks in the kitchen to Khun Somboon's superb service staff and to the excellent sound technician!

Now Open

The Pool Room

10:00am - 11:00pm Daily

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



Sunil Mehra

TENNIS

WISHING EVERYONE THE HAPPIEST, HEALTHIEST AND LOVING NEW YEAR 2024

Best way to achieve that is to pick up that old racquet and show up by the tennis courts and some happy, healthy and loving person will get you on the court to enjoy life one more year at a time. So, wishing you happy and healthy court-ing 2024 at the British Club. That is about the least one can ask for after the way some parts of humanity hijacked the great loving humankind that emerged from under the dark clouds of COVID-19. We now need more compassion and caring. *Wishing you all the happiest, healthiest and kindest New Year.*

In real life, New Year never quite gets started without the unavoidable resolution or two - what you will do or not do, with more determination and resolve in the New Year; for example, 'I will always be kind to my friends, even when they beat us 6-0!' That is only one half; the other half is in reverse gear when you promise never to make those mistakes again; like mixing up your friends' better halves. These are grand faux pas or social mishaps that you hope are possible to overcome with a genuine apology in black and white - sincere apologies to both Kay and Roopa and lesser halves respectively, Raja and Hemant. Therefore, my new year resolution for sure will be that I will never mention two genders in one sentence again because two wrongs to do not make a right and as we all know, women are always 'right'.

For Your Tennis Resolution for 2024 - here is how to get going with A, B & C

A. Tennis Mix-ins four times a week! For everyone, every level, every week

A reminder especially to new members keen to enhance health and happiness in 2024. Please come along and join us for Mix-ins with fellow tennis players on the following weekdays and times:

- Sundays 4-7pm (or until the last one standing)
- Wednesdays 6-10pm
- Fridays 8-10am
- Fridays 6-10pm (or until you hear the Sala calling)

It's a great opportunity to socialise, improve your game and have some fun on the court. This is tennis to relax not to add stress! When joining mix in - please do not forget to sign up with your name and club number on sign-up sheet by the centre court. It is first-come-first-serve basis so get on court when it is your turn and enjoy. There will be also other friendly and competitive opportunities and tournaments during the year for you to join.

B. British Club Tennis Championships 2024

If you haven't signed in - it's never too late as long as it is January! Go for it!

2024 BRITISH CLUB Bangkok

Tennis Section
CHAMPIONSHIPS

BRITISH CLUB Bangkok Tennis Section
Saturday 23 March
Starting.. 08:00 am

- Ladies' Singles
- Ladies' Doubles
- Men's Singles
- Men's Doubles
- Mixed Doubles
- Seniors for the same as above

Follow the matches British Club Bangkok Tennis Section

C. Join up with Tennis and Tea Morning Group



For all those who like an early start every week-day morning, join up with the ever-present and happy and healthy, *Tea & Tennis Morning Group*. A friendly group of dedicated current tennis, table tennis and healthy life-stylers who are moving and shaking before dawn or before the first dash of the club's pet squirrel over the tennis fence.

On court at 6am! every Monday to Friday with the happiest smiles and hearts.

The Tennis Section Christmas Party – a grand and fabulous finale for 2023



For a happy ending to 2023 what everyone needed was a great party that kicked into dust everything that takes away the *joie de vie*. That is something the Tennis Section is always good at. Here is the evidence from 2023 Christmas party curated & choreographed by the tennis family on 9 December 2023, enjoyed also by Squash & Cricket teams, and others. Great way to kick out 2023 and a fabulous kick-off for 2024. The evening was full of fun and madness with great music and *all levels of dancing* until the night was blown away by fantastic singing by Pläng Phitchaya Klimov. Thank you all who made this an enjoyable and memorable evening.



Finally, a happy New Year Message from the Chairman of the Tennis Committee

Wishing all the Tennis Section Members, regardless of your level, the very best of tennis in the New Year. 2023 has been a great year of fun-filled tennis thanks to the dedication and contributions of the tennis committee members, all of you and our supportive sponsors. I would just like to wish you all the best for an exciting and more fun-filled tennis in **2024**. Keep up that happy and healthy tennis spirit...*vamos, vamos!*

SQUASHY BITS

This month's Squashie Bits is keeping with the tradition of the end of year bumper edition as the squash section managed to squeeze in a tour to Koh Samui and hold the festive Santas verses Elves tournament before the end of the year.

Those who have been to Koh Samui may be familiar with the fact that November is the wettest month of the year and the four BCB squash players, Marvyn, Rob, Steven and Neil, who traveled down from Bangkok on the 10th of November can fully attest to this fact. It rained, and it rained, and it rained. However, because squash is an indoor sport this presented no problem especially as we were special guests at the brand new Maraleina Sports Resort, a world class sports facility in Koh Samui featuring hotels, restaurants, football pitches, gyms and much more but most importantly two world class squash courts. The invite had been kindly extended by the BCB squash sections very own club champion, Nanu, who works on the management team at Maraleina. In addition, John Vivian and Ricky and Debbie Thompson were already in Koh Samui so there were plenty of familiar faces to greet us and play squash.

However, before we get to the squash we should rewind to the golf. Yes, a game that is very rain sensitive especially when played on the precipitous Royal Samui Golf course where fairway grass is kept in trim by mountain goats and bolts of lightening help illuminate the contours on the greens. This is where a cheerful five ball of Debbie, Ricky, Steven, Rob and Neil set off on Friday afternoon to see what course records could be broken. Unfortunately, the only thing that got broken was Ricky's spare driver as Rob managed to launch the head of the club down the fairway and into the nearest water hazard where it could not be found. The good news is that Royal Samui is only 9 holes so we were soon on

our way to the pub for a recovery pint. We travelled in style in Ricky and Debbie's WWII jeep and Ricky got some revenge by putting Rob in the back seat where he and Steven were forced to fold their legs in various unnatural directions thereby cutting off circulation.

Back to the main event on Saturday at Maraleina Sports Resort with circulation fully restored. After being treated to an impressive guided tour by Nanu we made our way to the courts and started the preparation for an epic squash encounter. It seems the BCB players were somewhat intimidated by the standard of the courts and the hospitality provided as we didn't reach the high performance so often associated with the squash section touring sides. Infact only Rob managed to win his game against Ricky. Marvyn lost to John, Debbie lost to Babytho (who was a lightening quick football player convert to squash) and Steven lost to Nanu. The final match saw Nanu play again against Neil, who benefited from a hefty points handicap. Unfortunately Neil was unable to convert one of 8 match points and the Maraleina Team claimed a 4-1 victory. The touring side were consoled by polishing off the food and beers at the buffet and headed for a shower and the prospect of a night on the town.

We won't go into the details of the night on the town but the highlights were definitely Rob consuming his own body weight in Brazilian BBQ washed down with liquid from a bottle labeled 'Dodgy Gin', Steven negotiating with a taxi driver resulting in the fare going up not down and a record number of 7-Eleven toasted sandwiches being consumed before bedtime.

An excellent weekend was had by all and special thanks go to Nanu and his team for making us feel so welcome. We are already planning a return but will be referring to the rainfall histogram before we book.



And so December arrived and it was time for the annual Santa verses Elves tournament. An event where one team wear green and transform into Elves and the other team wear red and magically become Santas. Dean Thompson captained the Santas, as the squash section Chairman, and Steven Bussey captained the Elves, as the squash Captain. This all seemed very straight forward until Dean turned up in glorious green outfit adorned with miles of green tinsel leading to some rumors amongst his team that his heart wasn't in the Clause camp and that his allegiances maybe more Elven. The Santas quickly got over that though and raced to an early lead. Some said this was a result of some dodgy points handicapping by red dressed Bart but we did not complain too loudly as Bart pretty much organizes everything and we do not want him getting the hump. Other Elves pointed to the disturbing effect of Santa Rob Lockhart's Dr Seuss inspired onesie with a back flap labeled 'To be opened at Christmas'. Despite the early setback, the Elves worked their way back into contention with Captain Steven leading from the front. After 33 hard fought games there were only a mere 10 points between the teams with the Santas taking the day. It was a great event and everyone had a good time. Most of the competitors moved across onto the front lawn and enjoyed the Sparkles and Stripes Christmas party with a surprise birthday party for Debbie Thompson mixed-in. Dean got the memo this time and was sporting a pair of USA flag boxer shorts. Rob had grown so attached to his onesie he could not bear to take it off although he kept his flap firmly secured. Much dancing, drinking and Elven debriefing took place late into the night. Until next year!





BRITISH CLUB GOLF

The golf section played their November monthly medal on Sunday 19th at Subhapruek. We had a slightly higher turn out this month with 22 players joining the group and one match play competition taking place. We welcomed a new member to the group, Arun Dhawan, who, I'm sure had a lovely time and we look forward to seeing him again at future fixtures. It was also lovely to see Stefano Kim playing with the group on Sunday. The weather was absolutely perfect for golf with a slight cooling breeze and our marginally later start of 12:05pm meant that the back nine holes had plenty of shade across the fairways. Welcome to the Thai winter!

Congratulations to the winners of the technical prizes:

Near pins – Stefano Kim, Peter Clark, Jamie Angus and Roy Robertson

Long Drives – Andy Woods and Penny Booth

Long Putts – Stefano Kim and Brian Brook



▲ Pictured left to right: Varghese Rose (Captain) and Roy Robertson (overall winner of the medal competition).



▲ Pictured left to right: Stefano Kim (winner of Division 1), Penny Booth (winner of Division 2), Varghese Rose (Captain), and Tad Han (runner up of Division 1).

For Division 1 the overall winner was Stefano Kim, winning a bottle of wine, and the runner up was Tad Han, winning a sleeve of British Club golf balls. For Division 2 the overall winner was Penny Booth followed as runner up by Becky Adderley both winning wine and golf balls respectively. The overall winner of the day was Roy Robertson who played beautifully and it was a well-deserved win.

The match play competition between Penny Booth and John Virtue was a replay after a draw in their previous match play competition. This time Penny was the winner and many congratulations to Penny as she progresses into the semi-final round as the last woman standing in the competition.

The Club Championships for the British Club Golf Section was a two-day medal event, held on the weekend of the 25th and 26th November at Banyan Golf Club in Hua Hin. 19 players took part in the competition and it was an excellent weekend of golf. The course was in really good condition but the weather conditions and the greens proved challenging for many. The greens were very fast and on both days the pins were in tricky positions. The blustery and swirling wind also added to the difficulties but these are the many joys of golf!



Congratulations to the winners of the technical prizes:

DAY 1

Near pins – Mark Adderley, Ian Brewis, Steve Farris, Bally Gudail and Andy Woods.

Long Drives – Becky Adderley and Steve Farris

Long Putts – Yurachatr Brook and Mark Adderley

DAY 2

Near pins – Mark Adderley, Becky Adderley, Frank Fawkes, Wanida Woods, Arun Dhawan and Ian Brewis.

Long Drives – Yurachatr Brook and Andy Woods.

Long Putts – Varghese Rose and Frank Fawkes.

The Men's Net winner over the two days was Martin Finn and the Men's Net runner up was Frank Fawkes.

The Women's Net winner was Becky Adderley and the Women's Net runner up was Wanida Woods.



▲ Pictured above from left to right: Martin Finn, Varghese Rose (Captain) and Frank Fawkes.



▲ Pictured above from left to right: Becky Adderley, Varghese Rose (Captain) and Wanida Woods.

The Women's British Club Champion with the lowest gross score over the two days was Yurachatr Brook and the runner up was Vicky Brader.

The Men's British Club Champion with the lowest gross score over the two days was Peter Clark and the runner up was Bally Gudail.



▲ Pictured left to right: Yurachatr Brook, Varghese Rose (Captain) and Vicky Brader.



▲ Pictured left to right: Peter Clark, Varghese Rose (Captain) and Bally Gudail.

Many congratulations to all the winners but particularly to Peter and Yurachatr who played excellent games of golf in quite difficult conditions. They were both delighted to be winners of the Club Championships.

THE NEXT EVENT in the British Club Golf Section calendar is the December monthly medal which is being combined with our match versus The Gentleman's Cocktail Lounge for the Sual Bell, on Sunday 10th December at Subhapruek Golf Club.

The following weekend, Sunday 17th December, is a match versus The Londoners for the Hapag Lloyd Cup, also at Subhapruek Golf Club.

HARD BALLS



Ben Eastwell

▲ **New nets**

Happy New Year to all avid Hard Balls readers. The cricket section has been busy since the last edition, hosting the Pangolins over on their annual tour from Malaysia, a forgettable Dunford Philbrook Cup match with Pattaya CC and the Pavilionaires have continued their campaign in the BCA Challengers Division. The club also welcomed Wellington College to take on the newly formed BC Junior cricket team in a return fixture at the club. Now able to enjoy the top class upgraded nets facility, both teams will be back in action from mid January after the short holiday break.



▲ **Wellington V BC Juniors**

British Club V Pangolin CC November 18th 2023:



▲ **James devastated he has to pad up**

The Pangolins brought over a sprightly touring team to their spiritual home of Nana Plaza back in November, thankfully also finding time for a 25 over match against BC down at the BCA facility. Always pleased to host the gents of KL in a fixture that has been enjoyed and reciprocated over many years, the home side were keen to avenge a losing streak against a strengthening opposition.

Pramodh won the toss and elected to bat, blessed with the presence of BC's A Division all rounder of the year, Tyrone who was straight back into action with a juicy 74 to prop up an otherwise average display of batting



▲ **James gets the new headgear**



▲ **Tyrone saves the Pangolin**

- Ravi (31) the only other batsman to make double figures. Four catches, a highlight for new recruit "James' love child," and a reportedly unexpected five-wicket haul from the "other James" saw the tourists skittle out BC for 159, 16 balls shy of the allotted 30 overs.

Despite an early breakthrough from BC's captain, the endangered species dug in and with 2 of the away side

safely back in the shed retired, the result looked to be a formality. Until the secret weapon was unleashed into the attack in the 5th change, Nitin brought the game back to life with 3 wickets in 4 balls with the Pangolins needing just 2 runs to win. But even though there was a scramble from the tail to put their whites back on in time, a comfortable 3 wicket win was secured by the visitors.

BC Pavilionaires v Agoda Blues BCA Challengers Division November 25th 2023

The newly formed Agoda cricket team delivered the Pavilionaires their first defeat of the season following a below par score set by Ed's side batting first. A controversial mankad dismissal set a collapse around the skipper who outscored extras by 1 with a swift 34, and inspired young John who pinged 3 boundaries in a helpful contribution towards the 126 total. But at a shade more than 5-an-over required, Agoda were relatively untroubled in their chase - reaching the target with 7 wickets and 4 overs to spare. A display of dropped catches left the British Club Pavilionaires plenty to think about going into the remaining BCA league matches.

British Club Pavilionaires 126-10 (Ed 34) lost to Agoda Blues 128-3 (Ben 2-27) by 7 wickets.



▲ **Stay in your crease boys and girls**

BC Pavilionaires v Southern Warriors BCA Challengers Division December 2nd:

Damon Wake

BC Pavilionaires faced an interesting challenge as they took on Southern Warriors, with an overnight storm soaking the pitch at the BCA ground and turning parts of the outfield into a quagmire.

Southern Warriors won the toss and put BC in to bat. With what was essentially a moat protecting one boundary, quick and determined running was called for.

Ben led the charge, patiently accumulating his way to a 35 – which in the conditions was probably worth double – before losing his bearings and leg stump to a straight one.

Wickets fell regularly at the other end as BC struggled to time the ball on a damp pitch, with only Ravi making double figures. After a patient start, Dilip looked to be getting his eye in for a good score until he was run out amid confusion about whether a flick to leg had reached the boundary.

Last pair Manish and Akash saw BC home to 115-9, with Mouse producing the shot of the day with a deft late cut through gully for four.

Defending a low score demands clever captaincy, and Ed read the match situation perfectly, opening with

Dilip and Ben to keep the pace off the ball and give the Southern Warriors as little to work with as possible.

In truth though, 116 off 22 overs was highly gettable, especially with the pitch drying out, but Southern Warriors were too casual in the early overs and soon fell off the required run rate as BC turned the screw.

First change George claimed a stone dead lbw with his first ball and soon afterwards Ben bagged a second thanks to an excellent steeping catch by young John, who also contributed a few overs of bristling seam bowling.

After drinks, Southern Warriors tried to step up the chase, but the soggy outfield meant it was no day for smashing it about, and their huge heaves were to no avail. Chandan was miserly – and unlucky to take only one wicket – while Ravi had the batsmen in all sorts of trouble, ending up with 3-28 and the man of the match award.

British Club Pavilionaires 115-9 (Ben 35) beat Southern Warriors 101-6 (Ravi 3-28) by 14 runs.

#	TEAM	MAT	WON	LOST	N/R	TIE	PTS	WIN %	NET RR	FOR	AGAINST
1	BCA BLUES	6	5	1	0	0	10	83.33%	2.3475	1037/124.2	851/142.0
2	SOUTHERN WARRIORS	8	5	3	0	0	10	62.50%	-0.0855	1118/182.2	1088/175.0
3	AGODA BLUES	3	3	0	0	0	6	100.00%	1.8496	482/59.4	436/70.0
4	ROYAL STARS	4	3	1	0	0	6	75.00%	-0.2051	619/86.4	698/95.0
5	CHENNAI KINGS	4	2	2	0	0	4	50.00%	0.4883	578/93.0	524/91.3
6	BRITISH CLUB	3	2	1	0	0	4	66.67%	0.3000	435/67.1	420/68.0
7	TAMIL NADU CC	6	2	4	0	0	4	33.33%	-0.2285	1031/143.0	1055/141.5
8	RAYONG SMASHERS	3	0	3	0	0	0	0.00%	-1.8736	436/73.0	561/71.3
9	BCA XI	3	0	3	0	0	0	0.00%	-1.8743	421/70.0	472/59.5
10	SIAM CC	4	0	4	0	0	0	0.00%	-2.0866	698/95.0	750/79.3

▲ A positive start from the Pavilionaires in the BCA Challengers Division

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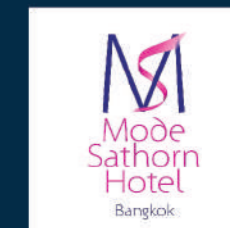
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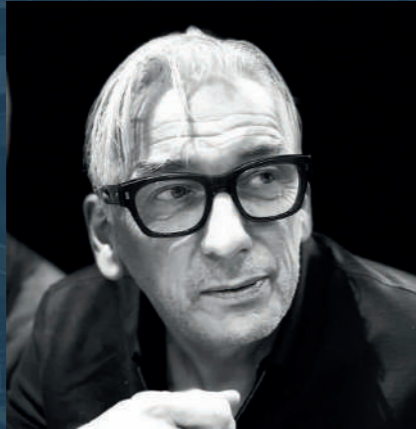
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MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT



▲ Kannikar J.

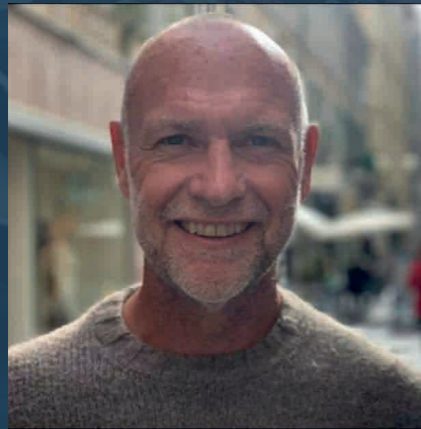


▲ Gary

Member Review:

Having lived and worked overseas in Asia Pacific during past 25 years, I know communities are important, especially sports related communities to integrate within a new city.

From initial visits to the British Club, it has fantastic faculties, plus a diverse community of people. I look forward to meeting new friends at the Club.



▲ Leon



▲ Pascoe



▲ Pui Keung

Member Review:

I feel very privileged to be asked to join the Club. I was invited to the Sunday tennis mix in as a guest and it was really a lot of fun and I was made to feel at home immediately. Then the drinking started.... Looking very forward to carrying on in the new year. Merry Christmas fellow members.

Member Review:

I was very impressed with the location and outlet of the British Club Bangkok and look forward to using the dining and sports facilities during my travels to Bangkok which should become more frequent over the next few years

Member Review:

British Club is an oasis in Bangkok. The environment is very relaxing and free from disturbances. The staff are very friendly and supportive. It is really a wonderful place for rest and gathering with my family and friends.



▲ Cameron



▲ Yukti



▲ Kathryn

Member Review:

We have lived in Bangkok 2.5 years and joined the club to meet people, relax, and for sports. Our first impression is that members and staff are down to earth and friendly.

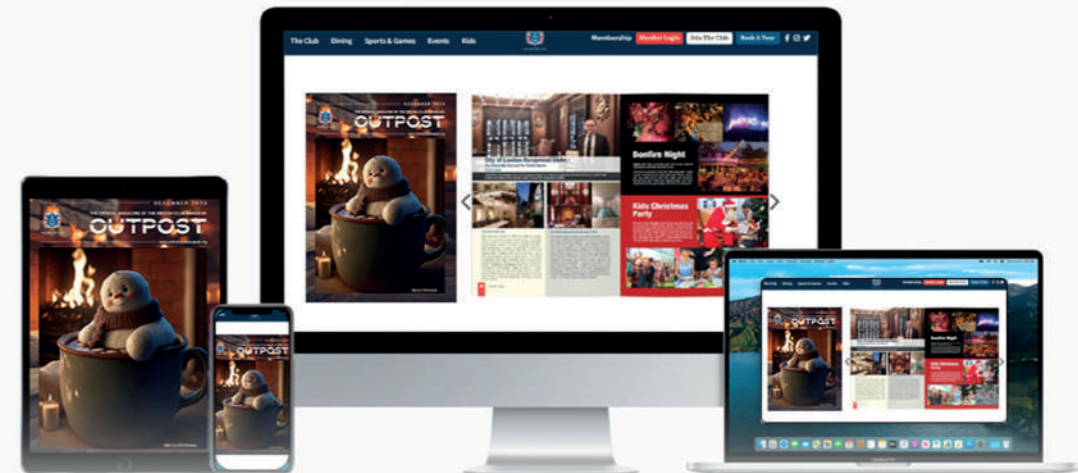
Member Review:

It felt like home away from home when we first visited the club, and hence, we decided to join the club.

Member Review:

I was delighted to discover The British Club in Bangkok. I will enjoy spending time there and meeting other members.

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