

AUGUST 2025



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

OUTPOST

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Front Cover

Jasmine for Mother's Day a cherished symbol of love and respect, jasmine blooms in honor of Thailand Mother's Day on 12th August.

This Month

We're closing out Summer Camp with one last week of fun and adventure. On August 12th, we pause to celebrate Thailand Mother's Day with jasmine, the flower of love. To wrap up the month, we invite you to join us for a delightful wine tasting.

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Premium Nanny Teacher Academy
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Exclusive for the British Club Members
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- Cessna C172 to Diamond DA40
- Diamond DA40 to Diamond DA42



- Exclusive Corporate Code to receive benefit
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- Complimentary Breakfast
Reservation via hotel's website

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Chairman's Message



Simon P. Davies

The month of August is named after the first Roman emperor, Augustus Caesar. Initially, the month was called Sextilis (Latin for "sixth"), but it was renamed in 8 BCE (Before the Common Era) to honor Augustus. The name "Augustus" itself means "venerable" or "consecrated" in Latin.

Without wishing to get into a climate change discussion it is evident that global weather patterns are seeing some relatively abnormal occurrences with parts of the world experiencing above average rainfall and in many countries record temperatures being experienced. Having recently returned from a visit to England where, at times, temperatures of 34C were recorded along with official droughts declared in parts of the country, it was good to return to a somewhat cooler Bangkok !!

As previously reported, the General Committee (GC) is closely monitoring the overall offerings and activities of the Club following the departure of The General and Deputy General Managers. I am pleased to report that operationally there are no significant issues causing concerns and June saw a very healthy financial performance so a big thank you to all members for your continued support of our wonderful Club. The GC will continue to give careful consideration to the future management structure of the Club but will certainly not be rushed into any decisions as incumbent management are being carefully evaluated. The one position that has been identified for recruitment is that of a Food and Beverage Manager which is an immediate vacancy to be filled.

Although at the concept stage, there does appear to be much interest amongst the membership in Badminton, Pickleball and Padel so the GC has now requested interest from architects within the Club to put forward their ideas and please contact Chris Watt or Dean Thompson for any further information required.



Although the Summer months tend to see a slowdown in events it was very pleasing to see the Kids Summer Camp being very well attended with Khun Natt and her team doing an excellent job ensuring an enjoyable and safe time for all participants.



The British & Irish Lions rugby tour of Australia has produced plenty of entertaining moments with the third and final Test match being played in Sydney on the 2nd August, 2025 and, at the time of writing, it is too early to say if this will be the defining game of the series. Whatever the result "The Lions" have roared well so far !!

After much debate the dress code in The Churchill Bar has been changed so that from 6pm on Fridays through to the bar closing time including Saturdays and Sundays, Smart Casual attire is acceptable. There is no change to the current dress code in the Veranda Restaurant.

Cheers
Simon



UK INHERITANCE TAX ON PENSIONS

In the October Autumn Budget, the Chancellor said that UK Inheritance Tax thresholds (the amount you can pass on when you die before UK inheritance tax is due) are staying the same until 2030.

But, from April 2027 pensions will no longer be exempt from Inheritance Tax. This means that Inheritance Tax may have to be paid on your pension when you die.

UK Government Consultation

A consultation on this subject ran for 12 weeks between 30 October 2024 and 22 January 2025 which was designed to seek views on the processes required to implement these changes for UK registered pension schemes. The results were expected early summer although we understand that with significant UK financial services industry lobbying the results have been pushed back by a few months.

Pensions and IHT

Currently, pension death benefits are typically free of IHT - regardless of whichever way the benefits are taken. However, in respect of the possible April 2027 changes, the aim is that on death the pension scheme administrator and the personal representatives of the estate will liaise and the pension scheme administrators will become liable for reporting and paying any Inheritance Tax due on pensions to HMRC.

The personal representatives will use an HMRC calculator to apportion the nil-rate band between the various elements of the estate and they will let the pension scheme know of any IHT charge due on the pensions.

The scheme will then pay the IHT directly to HMRC before paying out the death benefits to the relevant beneficiaries. Any pension death benefits going to the spouse/civil partner will be covered by the spousal exemption.

What can I do now?

For older people who can afford it, the easiest thing is probably to spend more pension cash now. But everyone's circumstances are different, and it is vital for people to ensure that they have enough money to support them through the later years of their retirement. The reasoning for this is simple – why leave behind wealth that could be significantly eroded by tax when it could be enjoyed in the present.

For pension arrangements that allow it, taking the tax-free cash lump sum may be one simple solution prior to the planned changes, although it probably remains sensible to wait for the outcome of the consultation before taking any action. And any tax-free cash taken would need to be spent, or held within UK IHT exempt assets, or passed down to children as a gift to help with things such as buying a first home.

The reality may be that by the time the estate including UK registered pension funds is passed down, children are more likely to be financially independent and have no pressing need for the inheritance.

If you have a lot of money in UK pensions as well as other assets then it might be a good idea to talk to an adviser to work out the most tax-efficient way to spend money in retirement.

**Martin Wright,
Senior Financial Planner
The Progeny Group
(Singapore)**

Find out
more here:



MORE THAILAND TAX CHANGES?

Thailand Updates Rules on Foreign Earnings



On 19th May 2025, *The Bangkok Post* reported on new information from the Thailand Tax Authorities.

The Revenue Department is preparing to draft legislation to amend the collection of tax on foreign income remitted to Thailand. According to Panuwat Luengwilai, deputy director-general of the department, Thais with income earned abroad who remit it to Thailand regardless of the tax year must include that income in their personal income tax filing in Thailand.

This is the latest of a string of potential changes most of which began in 2023.

Draft law targets foreign income of Thai residents

These regulations regarding the taxation of foreign income remitted to Thailand were amended during the previous government and have been in effect since Jan 1, 2024. For foreign income earned before Jan 1, 2024 and remitted to Thailand after that period, the previous rules still apply. That means if a Thai earned foreign income before 2024 and remitted it after the year the income was earned, it is not subject to tax.

Thailand's current foreign income tax regulations were effective from Jan 1, 2024, and aimed to tackle tax avoidance by requiring tax on foreign income regardless of when it is brought into the country. Under the previous system, Thai tax residents (individuals who reside in Thailand for more than 180 days a year) could delay transferring foreign income into Thailand to avoid local tax.

Then in September last year it was reported that the Thai Revenue Department were drafting a law to tax the income of individuals residing in Thailand that originates from overseas. The draft followed the international principle of worldwide income under the residence rule, said Kulaya Tantitemit, the director-general of the department at the time. This was quite a significant step, and as such, the drafting of the law required an amendment to Section 41 of the Revenue Code.

Foreign income tax tweaks aim to boost local investment

All at a time when Thailand is promoting long-term residence (LTR) visas to attract wealthy foreigners, retirees and digital nomads. The sudden imposition of taxes on their foreign income, without clear communication or transition plans for stakeholders, risks undermining these efforts.

Mr Panuwat said the department is drafting a royal decree to amend the current criteria, in line with the policy of Finance Minister Pichai Chunhavanjira, who is encouraging Thai nationals with foreign income to repatriate funds for domestic investment.

Under the new guidelines, Thais with foreign income will not be taxed if they remit that income in the year it was earned or the following year. For example, if income is earned in 2025 and brought into Thailand in 2025 or 2026, it is not subject to tax. However, if the income is remitted after that period, normal tax obligations apply.

According to an article in *The Bangkok Post* on 15th May, a source from the Finance Ministry who requested anonymity said the taxation of foreign income follows the residency-based principle, whereby Thailand taxes the income of individuals who reside in the country. The department has consistently applied this residency-based taxation principle, which aligns with OECD guidelines.

Seeking professional advice

Whatever your position you should seek appropriate Professional local Tax Advice to navigate this ever changing landscape.



**MARTIN
WRIGHT**
Senior
Financial
Planner,
Progeny
(Singapore)

Find out
more here:





Phyllis Court Club, Henley-on-Thames, England

Visited in May 2025 by Nicholas Peplow and Paepan Boonpoem

You know a club takes luxury seriously when your partner mistakes the bathroom for the best lounge in the building. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Phyllis Court Club has graced the banks of the Thames at Henley since 1906, sitting on 18 acres directly opposite **Leander Club**, another of our reciprocal clubs. The club operates both membership and hotel facilities, with a prime spot overlooking the regatta course finish line and views extending to the Chilterns beyond. During Henley Royal Regatta week, members can watch the rowing races from the comfort of the club's grounds, Pimm's in hand.

When we arrived, registration was straightforward despite the club not responding to our letter of introduction. We took my parents for afternoon tea in the Orangery, which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, alongside some other more informal spaces. Natural light floods through the classic architecture, making for pleasant dining with views over the gardens and river. The tea itself was excellent, and reasonable value too.

After tea, we wandered around to see what else the club had to offer. The sports complex caught me completely off guard, an extremely impressive new facility featuring an indoor pool and gym that would put many commercial fitness centres to shame. I suspect some members join purely for these facilities and never venture into the main club. The tennis club offers four synthetic courts, and for those preferring more traditional pursuits, the croquet lawns remain immaculately maintained.

The atmosphere throughout is refined. The clientele is a well-dressed mature crowd, with groups of members in crisp croquet whites playing on the manicured lawns with admirable dedication. While I didn't come up against any dress code limits during my visit, having wisely left my British Club uniform of flip-flops at home, it's worth being aware of them before arrival.



But back to those bathrooms. My partner disappeared for so long I was about to send a search party. When she finally emerged, she breathlessly reported that the ladies' facilities were absolutely palatial – an enormous space decorated in rich teals with beautiful sofas and furnishings that wouldn't look out of place in a five-star hotel. She had settled into one of the sofas with her cup of tea, and genuinely thought she'd discovered the club's finest lounge.

Phyllis Court offers British Club Bangkok members an excellent reciprocal option when visiting the Thames Valley. Unlike the Leander Club, Phyllis Court can be used by reciprocal members during the regatta season, but early bookings are advisable. Just check the dress code requirements, and perhaps warn any female companions about the bathroom situation, or they might never leave.



If any members want to write a reciprocal club review, please send an email to paul@pauldoust.com



AVAILABLE NOW!

Some reciprocal clubs around the world require men to wear ties. British Club ties are still available to buy for \$400 from the Brit Shop or Reception



Summer Camp 2025: Six Weeks of Fun, Learning, and Adventure!

This summer, our club successfully operated an extended Summer Camp over six exciting weeks, from June 30th to August 8th, 2025. Packed with activities, expert partners, and memorable experiences, the camp provided an unforgettable summer for all the children who joined.

Thanks to the great support from our partners, we delivered a dynamic program designed to engage kids creatively, physically, and socially throughout the summer.

Weekly Highlights:



MONDAY: Scrambled Art

Mondays were filled with Scrambled Art, where kids explored their creativity through arts and crafts activities led by Monday Art & Crafts. The campers enjoyed painting, drawing, and hands-on projects that sparked imagination and self-expression.



TUESDAY: Practika with Little Bob the Builder

On Tuesdays, campers transformed into little builders during Practika sessions featuring Little Bob the Builder. These workshops encouraged teamwork and practical skills as children built fun projects together.



WEDNESDAY: Field Trip to PlayerBox

Wednesdays brought excitement with field trips to PlayerBox for Junior Camp, where kids experienced Go-Karting and Paddle sports – thrilling outdoor activities that boosted confidence and teamwork.



THURSDAY: Hospitals & CPR Training

Thursdays focused on health and safety. In partnership with local hospitals, campers learned CPR and participated in other health-related activities, gaining valuable lifesaving skills in a supportive environment.



FRIDAY: Mini Chef Finale

Each week concluded with Mini Chef Fridays! Thanks to our friends from partner hotels, children enjoyed cooking and baking activities that taught them new kitchen skills and let them savor delicious treats.

Coming Events

August 2025

(more details on the website)

- Summer Camps
- Quiz Night
- Thailand Mother's Day Sunday Brunch
- Table Tennis Tournament
- Winston Cup
- Tennis US Open
- Wine Tasting

September 2025

(more details on the website)

- New Member Night
- Quiz Night
- Back 2 Skool Challenge
- An Intimate Wine Night
- Table Tennis Tournament
- Winston Cup
- Wine Tasting

October 2025

(more details on the website)

- Desi Night
- Quiz Night
- Trafalgar Dinner
- Table Tennis Tournament
- Winston Cup
- Halloween Party

Event & Activities 2025 August Highlights



Thai Mother's Days Brunch

Celebrate Thailand Mother's Day with a special Sunday brunch featuring a delicious Thai-themed. Every mother will receive a complimentary glass of Prosecco and a framed photo as a memorable souvenir of the day. It's the perfect way to show appreciation and enjoy a heartfelt celebration together.



Quiz Night

August Quiz Night is just in time for the end of summer and before the busy season kicks in. Whether you're winding down summer holidays or just looking for a fun night out, come join us for great trivia, good company, and plenty of laughs!



Tennis US Open

Don't miss a single point of the US Open Tennis, streaming live on TV at the club! Join us for an exciting atmosphere, good vibes, and all the heart-pounding moments of this world-class tournament.

QuizNight

12th August 2025 | 7:15pm @Churchill Bar

TEAMS OF 6 OR LESS

Members 150 Baht | Guests 200 Baht



What do you see, a musician or a woman?



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





Table Tennis Tournament 28/06/25

The Table Tennis tournament on 28 June was another great match, full of energy and fun. It was fantastic to see the kid join in again, showing real enthusiasm. A big well done to Benji for winning the match. Great effort and well deserved!



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Ceara Elliot, Class of 2009
Senior Designer, Penguin Random House

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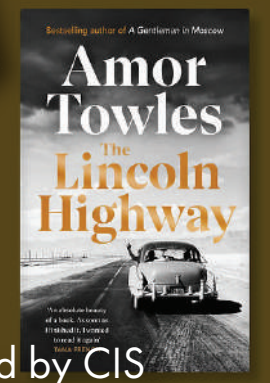
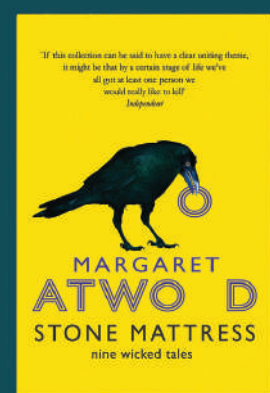
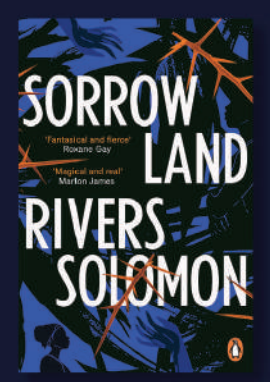
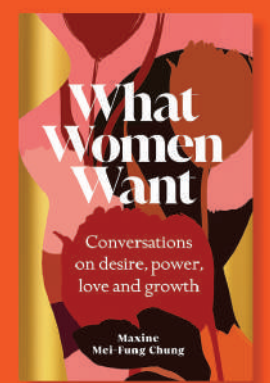
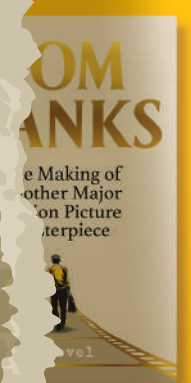
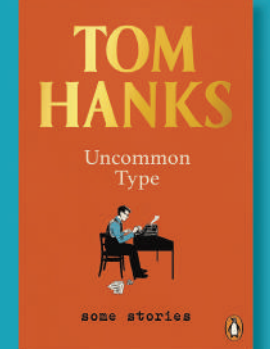


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Thailand Mothers Day



Celebrate Thailand Mother's Day with a special Sunday brunch featuring a delicious Thai-themed menu. Every mother will receive a complimentary glass of Prosecco and a framed photo as a memorable souvenir of the day.

Sunday 10th & Tuesday 12th August | 11:00 - 4:00pm Veranda
750฿ adult | 350฿ kids



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



Quiz Night

08/07/25

Quiz night was a hit once again, with The Black Sheep taking the win this month after finishing second last time. Well done to the team on a great performance! Looking forward to seeing everyone again next month.





TABLE TENNIS

Tournament

Handicap System

Saturday, 23rd August | starts 1:00pm | register 12:30pm

16 players to enter a straight knockout tournament top 2 winners receive prizes

Handicap rating system introduced to make all level compete with a chance to win

FREE TO ENTER

HANDICAP LUCKY DRAW IS BACK



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



The Winston Cup BCB Monthly Pool Competition

Saturday 23rd August - Starts 6:00pm



Straight Knock out 16 players
Every Player gets 1 free drink
and Free to Enter

All levels welcome

REGISTER NOW



Bookings & Info Via: The British Club Line Official
Add LINE ID @britishclubbkk
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Summer Camp 2025

30 Jun-08 Aug 25

Summer Camp was a full month packed with activities, bringing loads of fun and laughter to all the kids and keeping the club buzzing throughout. The great support from our partners made this year's camp even more special.



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An Intimate Wine Night – Exploring New Zealand

18/07/25

An intimate wine night was a hit, as members and guests enjoyed exploring a selection of exceptional New Zealand wines. With great company in attendance, the evening was a wonderful blend of flavor and conversation, making the event a clear success.



WINE on The Lawn

Saturday, August 30th
6:00 pm | Front Lawn

MEMBERS 400฿ | GUESTS 500฿

4 wine suppliers
includes two featured glasses
of wine, Tapas Buffet

Live Music from
Little Moon - Napak



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



Lions Tour 2025 - First Test 19/07/25

The 1st Test of the British & Irish Lions Tour vs Australia was a fantastic event, held in collaboration with the British Chamber, Irish Chamber, and Irish Chamber. Members gathered in the Suriwongse Room, where a large LED screen brought the action to life. With great food, drinks, and company, the night was a great success.



	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1 Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Friday Junior cricket 5.30pm - 7.00pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	2 Squash Kids Academy 10.00am - 12.15pm Squash Mixed-in 1.00pm - 4.45pm Cricket Team Practice 2.30pm - 6.00pm	3 Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 10.00am - 1.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.00am - 4.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm
	4 Squash Mix-in 5.30pm - 7.45pm	5 Football 6.30pm - 8.30pm	6 Squash Mix-in 5.30pm - 7.45pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Circuit Training 6.00pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	7 Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	8 Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Friday Junior cricket 5.30pm - 7.00pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	9 Squash Kids Academy 10.00am - 12.15pm Squash Mixed-in 1.00pm - 4.45pm Cricket Team Practice 2.30pm - 6.00pm	10 Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 10.00am - 1.00pm Thai Mother's Days Sunday Brunch 11.00am - 4.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm
	11 Squash Mix-in 5.30pm - 7.45pm	12 Football 6.30pm - 8.30pm Thai Mother's Days Brunch 11.00am - 4.00pm Quiz Night 7.15pm - 9.30pm	13 Squash Mix-in 5.30pm - 7.45pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Circuit Training 6.00pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	14 Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	15 Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Friday Junior cricket 5.30pm - 7.00pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	16 Squash Kids Academy 10.00am - 12.15pm Squash Mixed-in 1.00pm - 4.45pm Cricket Team Practice 2.30pm - 6.00pm	17 Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 10.00am - 1.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.00am - 4.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm
	18 Squash Mix-in 5.30pm - 7.45pm	19 Football 6.30pm - 8.30pm	20 Squash Mix-in 5.30pm - 7.45pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Circuit Training 6.00pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	21 Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	22 Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Friday Junior cricket 5.30pm - 7.00pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	23 Squash Kids Academy 10.00am - 12.15pm Squash Mixed-in 1.00pm - 4.45pm Table Tennis Tournament 12.30pm - 5.00pm Cricket Team Practice 2.30pm - 6.00pm Winston Cup 6.00pm - 9.30pm	24 Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 10.00am - 1.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.00am - 4.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm
	25 Squash Mix-in 5.30pm - 7.45pm	26 Football 6.30pm - 8.30pm	27 Squash Mix-in 5.30pm - 7.45pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Circuit Training 6.00pm - 6.45pm Tennis mixed-In 6.00pm - 10.00pm	28 Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	29 Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Friday Junior cricket 5.30pm - 7.00pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	30 Squash Kids Academy 10.00am - 12.15pm Squash Mixed-in 1.00pm - 4.45pm Cricket Team Practice 2.30pm - 6.00pm Wine on the Lawn 6.00pm - 9.30pm	31 Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 10.00am - 1.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.00am - 4.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm



Terry Adams



Active Living Section

SECTION UPDATE:

Active Living Section Membership is open to ALL Club Members and their Spouses/ Partners. Come along to your first Active Living Section event: we are confident that having done so, you will then be attending others.

We continue working to provide two events each month, with events already at various stages of progression and finalisation to November 2025 and beyond.



Click here:

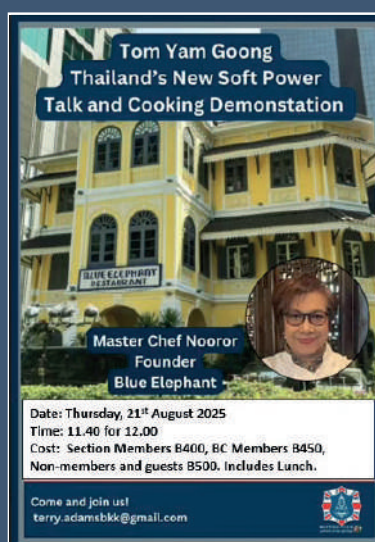
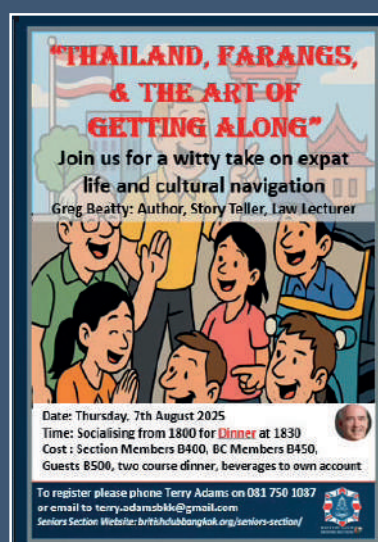
- For information on the Section and our previous Events
- To join the Section by completing your application.

Or visit the Active Living Section website at:

www.britishclubbangkok.org/active-living-section/

(Just keep clicking on the posters to delve deeper for information, photographs, and more)

Section Future Events:



EVENT REPORT:

"Beyond the Gorillas: Rwanda's Remarkable Rebirth": 24th June 2025

In welcoming our distinguished speaker, Section Chair Terry Adams noted this as a rare privilege to introduce Manzi Kayihura, Executive Chairman of Wilderness Rwanda, for what proved to be one of the most absorbing and thought-provoking talks we've hosted to date.

Manzi's presentation gave us a deeply personal and quietly powerful insight into both his own journey and the extraordinary recovery of his country, Rwanda. He began by outlining the long shadow cast by colonial rule—first German, then Belgian. Rather than building institutions or preparing the country for self-governance, the colonial powers enforced rigid ethnic classifications, favoured one group over another in

administration and education, and extracted natural resources without reinvestment in local development. By the time Rwanda achieved independence in 1962, it was a nation weakened by decades of division, with little in the way of political infrastructure, administrative capacity, or economic resilience. The result was a fragile post-colonial state marked by deep social mistrust and recurring cycles of ethnic violence. These tensions, left unaddressed and often manipulated by successive regimes, culminated in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, during which an estimated 800,000 people were killed in just 100 days. The legacy of colonial policy, therefore, was not merely administrative failure—it laid the foundations for one of the most horrific atrocities of the 20th century.

Speaking plainly and without embellishment, Manzi then told us his own story. Born in exile, educated abroad, and deeply affected by the 1994 genocide, he made the decision to return to Rwanda—not for political reasons, but to contribute in a more lasting way: through conservation, responsible tourism, and community upliftment.

He now leads Wilderness Rwanda, an organisation that works at the intersection of wildlife protection, sustainable tourism, and rural development. His message was clear: tourism, when done properly, can transform not just perceptions, but lives. National parks that once lay dormant or decimated are now engines of progress—generating income, building infrastructure, and empowering local communities. Visitors don't just come to see gorillas—they engage with a country that

has quietly and steadily rebuilt itself with dignity and determination.

The Q&A that followed showed just how engaged our audience was, with a range of thoughtful questions, including comparisons with conservation models elsewhere in the world. Manzi's responses were measured and generous, always returning to the importance of long-term vision and community participation.

All in all, this was a memorable event—both timely and hopeful. Manzi left us with the clear message that Rwanda's story is not one of inevitability, but of choice: vision over vengeance, development over despair. To Manzi, our thanks—and to all who attended, our appreciation for being part of such an engaging and meaningful afternoon.



EVENT REPORT:

Day Trip to Ayutthaya's "Must-see" Attractions: 9th July 2025

A lively group of Section members departed the Club promptly at 08:00 aboard a 24-seater minibus, having first enjoyed a light breakfast together in the Sala. The journey to Bang Pa In took just over an hour, thanks to the convenience of the nearby Sirat Expressway, and anticipation was high for a day of cultural exploration.

Our first destination was Wat Niwet Thammaprawat, located on an island in the Chao Phraya River in Bang Pa In. Commissioned by King Chulalongkorn and designed by the distinguished Italian architect Joachim Grassi, the temple was completed in 1878 and is widely considered the most architecturally unique in Thailand. Built in Gothic Revival style, it resembles a European church—complete with stained-glass windows and a Gothic altar—though the central focus is a Buddha

image, not a Christian cross. The crossing by gondola car, though slightly worn in appearance, proved entirely safe and prompted some good-natured amusement.

A short walk through lovely manicured gardens and magnificent trees and foliage, brought us to another historical gem: one of Thailand's earliest lighthouses, dating from the same period as the temple and located at the northern tip of the island.

The group then travelled into central Ayutthaya to the Chao Sam Phraya National Museum, home to the internationally acclaimed Golden Treasure Exhibition. As outlined in the day's itinerary, since the 1950s, Thailand's Fine Arts Department has been excavating the ruins of Ayutthaya, uncovering thousands of artefacts—many of pure gold and silver—attesting to the city's grandeur



during its heyday. These treasures are now housed in a purpose-built, fully air-conditioned wing opened in November 2022. Spanning eight rooms on the second floor, the exhibition features 2,244 items and was universally described by our group as stunning and of world-class calibre. There was general surprise that such an exceptional exhibition remains so little known to the wider tourist public.

Lunch followed at Baan Mai Rim Num, a charming riverside restaurant, where the large and varied menu—pre-ordered by Bus Captain Anchisa Young—was warmly received and thoroughly enjoyed.

Our final stop was the "All About Khon" exhibition at the Khon Learning Centre, located southwest of Bang Pa In. Opened in December 2019 in fulfilment of a vision by Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother, the Centre was established to preserve and promote the traditional Khon masked dance drama, which was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2018. The exhibition features an impressive collection of Khon artefacts—including

masks, costumes, and stage sets—designed to educate younger generations. Sharing the space with several hundred impeccably behaved schoolchildren, we were invited to move through the displays in reverse order, which in no way diminished our enjoyment. Indeed, the presence of the students gave us the additional pleasure of witnessing a live Khon performance in the Centre's main auditorium, with staff thoughtfully providing seats for our senior participants. We then enjoyed an experience not normally available thanks to Anchisa's "baag waan" (sweet mouth in English) where she gained us access to the room where the young artisans were hand crafting the masks from the raw material that they had made, through to the amazing and so intricate finished masks with the full range of designs and colours.

The return journey to Bangkok was swift and smooth, retracing our earlier route. As always, our driver was thanked in the customary way, and all travelers expressed their appreciation for a day that was as informative and enjoyable as it was well-organised.



TENNIS

Wimbledon or Wombledon

Hoping to escape from the heat in Bangkok, this time from Japan; only to find it is hotter and more humid here; so when I did play some tennis, a cold beer or drink helps – which means you are reasonably over the limit by the second round! Despite being many kilometres away my body and mind are very much anchored in the Sala. Sadly, I also missed one of my favourite tournaments – the Womble Cup; not the one held concurrently by the All England Tennis & Croquet Club in Wimbledon. In truth, every year our club honours the great British tennis tradition of Wombledon; that happens to be a little older than our beloved club (by about 26 years); by hosting the Womble Cup tournament; a bit tongue-and-cheek idea, that has become a long-lasting tradition in itself. There is more to Wimbledon than tennis (we have a 'live report' from the green grass of home!) as it is the utter scale of everything. Womble barely wobbles close. Although, most of us will agree that



Womble tournament is a worthy distraction from lazing on the sofa and watching tennis. Now, to highlight the numbers from Wimbledon: ¹

- ◆ 2037 kilometres – distance run by players. That is, from Bangkok, to the northern part of China, or near the border with Mongolia.
- ◆ 746 – Total number of matches played
- ◆ 5 hours and 4 mins – Longest match
- ◆ 6345 – Number of aces
- ◆ 25 – Most aces by a wheelchair player (beats Daniil?)
- ◆ 1250 – Total hours of tennis played
- ◆ 153 mph or 246 kmph – Fastest serve
- ◆ 5055m – Most distance by a wheelchair player

And to end with a short and sweet report by Nat and Chris who are both sweet and "Despite being rained off twice and unable to finish tournament a great time was had by all especially the social side with prosecco, cucumber sandwiches, fish and chips and strawberries and cream! After only one round being completed it was a draw with two wins to both the Blue and Red Teams."



Our Live Report from The Wimbledon Championships

A Day at the Wimbledon

My very first visit to Wimbledon started in the early morning at 3:30 a.m. Not being one of the lucky ones with balloted or allocated tickets, I was destined to join the famous Wimbledon "Queue" for the coveted ground passes. I rode a shared e-bike down the empty streets of London, ahead of the Underground operating hours, so as to arrive before the public transit masses.

Crossing the Thames via Putney Bridge, with the cool morning wind in my hair and London's suburbia whizzing by, I was excited to be one of the first to get to the Queue. So I thought! 3051 – that was the number on the card that was handed to me upon joining the queue. That's right, there were 3050 people ahead of me, even at 4.00 a.m. in the morning.

The Queue Experience. The Queue is very well organized. After a few minutes, a steward drops by an issue a Queue Card with your queue number on it. Once you have the Queue Card, you are free to leave your spot in the queue, albeit briefly (less than 30 minutes), for refreshments or to use the facilities.

The veterans to the Queue are well prepared with full festival gear – picnic blankets, camping chairs, pillows, and various forms entertainment. The atmosphere was jovial and full of excitement. The Queue started moving. We slowly snaked towards the grounds, purchasing ground passes (GBP 30 GBP).

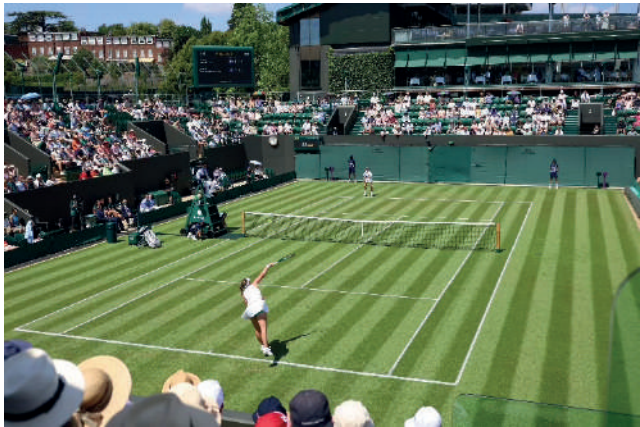
Contributed by Stan out Man at Wimbledon 2025

Finally some tennis. We consulted the order of play and opted to join yet another queue to Court No. 3, where Holger Rune (8) was scheduled to take on Nicholas Jarry (unseeded) in the second match on that court. After about another hour of waiting, we were finally seated on Court 3. Court 3 is fairly compact, so there were no bad seats to watch the matches. However, being uncovered, it did get uncomfortably hot in the midday summer sun, even for visitors from the tropics. It also did not help that this day happened to be the hottest opening Day in Wimbledon's history.

Upsets. The first match on Court 3 was Ladies' Singles, Sonay Kartal (unseeded) playing the former world No. 5 Jelena Ostapenko (20). The home crowd was decidedly partisan, propelling Sonay to upset Ostapenko in three sets.

Still on Court 3, we were treated to yet another upset in the match between Rune v. Jarry. The match was tense, with Jarry being down the first two sets before completing a sensational comeback to beat Rune in five sets. A key attraction of spectating in-person is that one can really feel the shifts in momentum and appreciate the mental side of the game, which is easy to overlook in broadcast. Rune, the eighth seed was unable to close off the unseeded Jarry on the third set (Rune losing 7-5) and Jarry mounting a furious comeback on the fourth and the fifth set.

¹ [2025ChampsNumbers1 - The Championships, Wimbledon - Official Site by IBM](#)



After the excitement of the upsets, and in need of shade and water (literally H2O), we decided to abandon our hard-queued seats at Court 3 to brave the Grounds. One of the rules of queued seats is that once you leave the stadium for any reason, you will have to queue again to re-enter the stadium

Court 18. For the final match of our day, we strategically decided to balance a nicely shaded spectator area and an interesting match, where Naomi Osaka (unseeded) was taking on Talia Gibson (unseeded). Court 18 is particularly scenic court as it is located on a slope on the way towards the hill with raised seating on only at one end of the court, I had a commanding view of the court and its surrounds, including the Japanese player's box where Nick Kyrgios and Patrick Mouratoglou were

on-site to lend their support. The match itself did not disappoint either, with Osaka besting her Australian opponent in straight sets after coming back from being a break down in each of the sets.

The Hill. After the last match on court 18, we took a stroll around the famous "Hill", where tennis fans congregate on the lawn on their picnic blankets to catch the live matches on the two big screens. The manicured lawn is surrounded by greenery and flowers and proves to be a very pleasant place to have a picnic and watch some quality tennis.



After a long and full day of excitement and tennis, I finally headed out of the grounds feeling tired but fully satisfied with a day well spent at Wimbledon. Now onwards to plan for the next visit.

The British Club Tennis Leagues

We are pleased to announce the winners of the first 2025 Tennis Leagues that have wrapped up.

League 1 **Dawa**

League 2 **Cyrille**

League 3 **ArinLeague**

League 4 **Alain**

League 5 **Till**

League 6 **Martin**

Congratulations to you all.

We would also like to **thank Philip Mock** for the running of the Leagues and keeping them up to date and on track. Also, a very BIG thanks to Marcel Petit for sponsoring the Leagues every year.

The *second British Club Tennis League of 2025* is to run from *August to the end of September*. **Sign up!!** The tennis leagues are played in a round-robin format with groups of 4-6 players with an emphasis on social competitive tennis and to provide an opportunity for players to improve their tennis match play skills. Matches are scheduled by players with one player booking the court for two hours, and the other player providing a can of new balls. The match format consists of two normal tiebreaker sets and a 3rd set being a super (10-point) tiebreaker if required. If you would like to participate in the second league please reply via email or on Facebook. The participation cost is 200 baht and the entry deadline is Sunday 27th of July.

2025 Tennis Calendar

July 27	BCB Bruce Gordon Cup	Nov 8-17	Nitto ATP Finals
Aug 25-Sep 7	US Open	Nov 16-22	Next Gen ATP Finals
Sept 7	BCB The Great Wide Open	Nov 23-27	Davis Cup Final
Nov 1-8	WTA Finals		



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SQUASHY BITS

Sports Beyond Age ! Life Without Limits !

The **2025 World Masters Games** held in **Taipei & New Taipei City** welcomed a total of 25,049 athletes representing 108 nations, making it the largest sports event ever hosted in Asia's Masters Games and the largest multi-sport event in Taiwan to date. The games featured 35 different sports including traditional sports like archery, athletics, badminton, tennis, gold, basketball, hockey, football, rugby, sailing, swimming, cycling (*Ranjan take note*) and of course squash, and yes, we are known as athletes, not squashes. In comparison the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics featured 10,714 athletes.

World Masters Games age categories start from age 35+, in 5-year increments normally up to 80+, but in certain sports to 100+. I was participating in the 75+ Squash event.

Khun Sawang Janpram from Thailand was the oldest competitor at the age of 105. He won **4 gold medals** in the men's 100-plus discus, javelin, shot put and 100 metres.

This was my first visit to Taiwan and my prayers were answered in that Xi had decided that this was not the moment.



The first stop was the Accreditation Center to collect the goodies – sports bag, polo shirt, sports watch (still not working, need to learn Chinese !), towel etc. and free transport pass for bus, train and MRT valid for all over Taiwan which was more than useful.

The opening ceremony was held at the spectacular egg-shaped Taipei Dome capacity 40,000 for the official kick-off and it was full. The event included the Parade of Dreams, flag rituals, torch lighting and dance and musical performances.

Squash was held in Taoyuan City about 1 hour outside Taipei at the Luzhu Sports Center. The 3 courts had only just been freshly sanded. I spent my first visit training the staff – they did not understand that after sanding the courts needed to be cleaned and mopped to avoid slippage.

My semi-final match was against a Taiwanese who was based in New York. The match was played at 10.30am in the morning which I won fairly comfortably and the final lined up for 3.15 pm the same day. My opponent had played his semi-final the day previous. After resting in my hotel I turned up 2.30pm for the 3.15pm final was informed “you are on !”. The organisers had changed the time to 2.30pm after I finished the match in the morning without letting me know, my opponent who was an Australian had turned up much earlier was already warmed up and ready to go. I immediately went 10-1 down but managed to get back to 11-5. The other 2 games were much closer but in the end I lost 3-0. Silver medal collected.



Other notable winners in squash were :

1. Joshua Larkin world ranked 160 in the O35 category
2. Victor Koh from Singapore in the O60 category
3. Canadian legend Gerald Poulton in the O80 category. Gerald has won multiple world titles and has a squash level of 1,800.

Until the next World Masters GamesKansai, Japan 2027.

Sports Beyond Age ! Life Without Limits !

From our Septuagenarian correspondent, Marvyn Lewis.



Ben Eastwell

HARD BALLS

Marshall Trophy 2025

One of BC's historic fixtures took centre stage in July, as an Over-45s team took on RBSC for the Marshall Trophy. This annual cup match is played for the oldest inter-club cricket trophy in Thailand, first contested 62 years ago. Back then, RBSC was the only cricket ground in the country, and nearly all British Club members were also members there and played their cricket at RBSC. Johnny Marshall, General Manager of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and Chairman of the British Club in 1961/62, put up the trophy for BC members to challenge the rest of RBSC.

A soft wicket and some last-minute sightscreen tinkering caused a slight delay to the 1pm start, but the 25-over clash eventually got underway as the sun broke through a dodgy forecast and lit up the RBSC outfield. On the sidelines, Talal – too young to qualify but never one to miss out – kept himself busy by offering up some catching practice.. Thankfully, the real action soon followed as supporters (and eventually the Captain himself) continued to roll in for the afternoon's entertainment.

Captain Ed and his men were put into the field first by the home side, who were expecting rain later in the day. Senior duo Dilip and Rahul, entrusted with the new ball, got the red cherry talking early to keep RBSC quiet. But it was the masterful first-change and some hard work from the training ground that earned the breakthrough – George striking twice in his first over to remove both openers, thanks to a grab at long-on from Lenny and a sharp catch behind the stumps by Mike Flowers, making his official debut for the club as the latest signing.

A switch to spin helped stem the runs, once Dale remembered his leggies were much more effective when



▲ Chef on the money



▲ Onions gets it moving



▲ Marshall Trophy Squad 2025



▲ --



▲ Manish keeps the pressure on



▲ Skipper thanks grabber for another one in the deep



▲ Marshall Trophy retained



▲ Dale flights one up



▲ Anil caught behind

they actually landed on the wicket. But it was Manish who dominated the middle order – expertly finishing his five-over spell with tidy figures of 2–23.

Ed chipped in with a couple of wickets of his own, before George grabbed another and Rahul closed out the innings in style – finishing on a hat-trick ball, but just as the sides prepared to switch innings, the lightning alarm sounded and dark clouds rolled in. Despite the best intentions to get a chase underway, the weather had other plans, and steady rain eventually forced the match to be called a draw. RBSC had been restricted to 150 thanks in large part to a sharp performance in the

field, with seven catches taken—including a pair from Dale, a second from Lenny, and safe hands shown by Rob and Rahul.

Chairman Jack reminded everyone that this was the fourth Marshall Trophy encounter to end in a draw, bringing the overall tally to 13 wins for the British Club, 27 for RBSC, and one tie. He then shared a few stories from the old days and his first game all the way back in 1982. With the rain falling outside, everyone gathered under cover to enjoy refreshments and beers as the day wound down and plans were made for an earlier fixture next season.

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