

DECEMBER 2025



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

OUTPOST

www.britishclubbangkok.org



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We care personally about every individual and help you navigate the process to finding the best fit of school for you and your child.

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1903
THE BRITISH CLUB
BANGKOK

OUTPOST

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OUTPOST is the monthly magazine of THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK, the social sports and cultural centre for the English-speaking community in Bangkok. A full version of the magazine is also available online at www.britishclubbangkok.org. Designed & Published by the British Club Bangkok. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Club. All events, dates and times are correct at the time of press. Outpost welcomes contributions from Members, email outpost@britishclubbangkok.org. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the permission of the Publisher.

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

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Front Cover

Jingle All the Way ..

This Month

Celebrate the magic of Christmas at the Club this month! Begin with our sparkling Carol Night, featuring amazing choirs from several partner schools. Little ones will love the Kids' Christmas Party with Santa and gifts. And of course, join our cherished Christmas Day lunch and dinner traditions!

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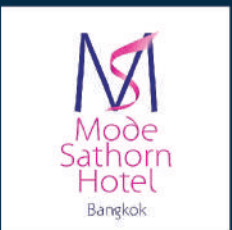
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Special offer



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• Special insurance rate at 3% instead of 3.5% for international move



Excusive offers for members



Excusive offers for members



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• 20% Exclusive Discount



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• Suvarnabhumi Airport (Bangkok)
• Other Airports
Fast Track Service must be booked at least 24 hours prior to the travel date



Excusive 30% discount for British Club's members



Exclusive for the British Club Members
One Car Class Upgrade



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Excusive offers for members



Excusive offers for members

Chairman's Message



Simon P. Davies

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all British Club members, staff, friends, and families.

As we bid farewell to another year, I am pleased to report that our club has continued to thrive and grow, thanks to the dedication and support of the members and staff. As always, there were challenges put before the Management and General Committee, which were actioned with a positive approach, and I thank all concerned for their tireless efforts in making the club such a wonderful place. Management changes in June and July saw the departure of Tee Bale, deputy General Manager, and Tim Vongswang, General Manager, and we wished them well in their new adventures.

On a positive note, I am pleased to advise that Khun Natt has shown a proactive and creative approach to managing the operations of the Club and is making excellent progress along with her support team which was strengthened with the return of Khun Aof appointed as Senior Operations Assistant. A very warm welcome to Khun Tanchaya (Tammy) as our new Food and Beverage Manager. Khun Tammy joined us in November, and we look forward to her expertise and leadership in enhancing both our culinary and service offerings.

The remembrance service on Sunday, the 9th of November, was held on the front lawn with attendees from within the Diplomatic community, club members, and guests. Always a time for quiet reflection during a two-minute silence to remember those who gave their lives in two world wars and others who have died or been injured during subsequent conflicts.

December is a busy month with plenty of activities and festive season celebrations, in particular, the annual carol singing on the front lawn is but one highlight event, with places for the traditional Christmas Day lunch selling fast. Club notice boards and social media give further details of the events and activities during December.



As we look forward to the New Year, we are excited about the opportunities ahead and are committed to continuing to provide a welcoming and enjoyable environment for all our members and guests.

Cheers
Simon



Operations Unknown

Annual Fire Drill & Evacuation Training

The Club recently hosted its Annual Fire Drill and Evacuation Training on Tuesday, 11 November 2025, bringing together staff from all departments for an essential day of safety and skill-building. With guidance from the Bangrak Fire and Rescue Station, the team practiced everything from fire prevention techniques to orderly evacuation procedures.



More than just a drill, the event highlighted the Club's dedication to a safe, responsive, and prepared community. It's a behind-the-scenes look at the training that keeps the Club running smoothly and ensures everyone knows how to act when safety calls.



Investment Methods

progeny

In what can be a confusing (and sometimes treacherous) landscape, Martin Wright, Senior Financial Planner at Progeny outlines investment options for British expats.

Banks - Offshore

There are still many deposit takers providing offshore bank accounts, including the overseas arms of major UK financial institutions. Certain locations use the UK bank clearing system meaning there is a UK sort code which include Jersey, Isle of Man, Guernsey, Gibraltar and Malta. Each location has its own financial services compensation schemes offering various degrees of financial protection in the event of bank insolvency.

Sourcing systems such as the offshore tab of the moneyfacts.co.uk website can be useful to source competitive interest rates. Given the apparent reducing interest rate environment bank interest rates are likely to reduce from the highs of the last few years. Interest from offshore bank accounts is often paid gross without any tax deduction at source.

Banks - Onshore (Thailand)

Some major global banking institutions have closed their Thailand operations in recent years although there still remains UOB and CIMB banks. There are also well-established local banks like Siam Commercial Bank, Bangkok Bank and Kasikorn Bank.

Local interest rates tend to be lower than those in GBP and USD. Interest received from local banks is subject to withholding tax at a flat rate of 15% although Individuals may choose to exclude interest income from other income and pay tax according to the Thailand Personal Income Tax rates instead.

Directly held investment funds

This includes Mutual funds, Unit Trusts and OEICs. Mutual funds are investments made from pooled money from investors and can include bonds and equities as well as other asset classes. A unit trust differs from a mutual fund in that a unit trust is established under a trust deed, and the investor is effectively the beneficiary.

Two of the most common types of funds in the UK and parts of Europe are unit trusts and open-ended investment companies (OEICs). They share many traits in that the price of a fund always reflects the value of its holdings. They are more widely used even though some are more expensive than the Investment Trust alternatives.

The great advantages of open-ended funds are their flexibility to make more units, as well as the fact there are more funds available. This differs from a closed-ended fund, which issues a fixed number of non-redeemable shares like an Investment Trust. Over the last few decades most new fund launches in the UK were OEICs.

Stockbroking accounts

Stockbroking is typically offered by well-established companies advertising their services in print and online. Most countries have options although there are some major global providers who will allow accounts to be opened without some of the frequent country specific problems.

This option is a cost-efficient approach to investment, usually allowing access to any listed investment instruments on the main exchanges worldwide. The standard service provides accounts on an execution only basis, so no advice is offered, and you just have access to an account to purchase investments through based on your own choice.

General investment accounts

A General Investment Account (GIA) offers access to investment funds, and some direct securities (this is company specific). This is a common UK method of personal investment

Some international providers allow accounts to be established by Thailand residents (on a case-by-case basis). A limited number of UK account providers will allow this. It's a competitive marketplace currently so these accounts are generally cost efficient with the standard annual product charge in the region of 0.25% per annum. As they are mostly used by advisory companies GIAs aren't frequently used for personal execution only investment.

Offshore life assurance investment bonds

This method is used regularly by offshore advisers. This product allows investment in the main currencies and listed investments through most dealing exchanges. For non-UK residents the more complicated UK taxation structure does not apply. For UK residents they are a tax deferral vehicle which is likely to have a UK tax liability after a certain period of time of withdrawals or at specific events. Whilst this approach can offer flexibility, the wide charging menu offered by most Offshore Bond providers can lead to an expensive product, upfront, ongoing and high surrender penalties in the early years.

They can be useful for estate planning as a few providers have their own trust companies providing off-the-shelf low-cost arrangements. As corporate trustees there's also a higher likelihood they will remain in place for the life of the arrangement.

Discretionary portfolio management

Historically these options are used by institutional investors, high net worth individuals, or charities. Most global asset management companies have high minimum investment levels and \$1 million is common, although a handful offer lower-level access, from \$500,000 upwards.

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.

Discretionary Portfolios are managed without consulting you on investment decisions, with changes based on factors agreed at outset. They're usually cost efficient and available in most of the main currencies, although some have country specific criteria. They offer long term consistency and professional well-funded researched solutions.

Thailand tax information

Assessable income in Thailand includes the following categories:

Capital gains

Most types of capital gains are taxable as ordinary income. There are exemptions including the sale of shares in local listed companies and ASEAN member country stock exchanges. Capital gains and investment income earned by a resident from sources outside Thailand are currently not taxable unless remitted to Thailand and capital losses may not be offset against gains.

Dividend income

Dividends received from a company incorporated in Thailand are subject to withholding tax (WHT) at a flat rate of 10%. Offshore dividends are currently only taxable in Thailand if the value is remitted.

Interest income

Interest received from local bank deposits, as mentioned, is subject to withholding tax at a flat rate of 15%. Any offshore interest remitted into Thailand is liable to Thailand Tax at the prevailing rates with the possibility of a Tax Credit for any overseas tax paid.

With the changing Thailand tax landscape, it is essential you seek professional local tax advice from an appropriate locally listed and regulated organisation. Choosing the right investment approach for you is also highly important.

Martin Wright
Senior Financial Planner



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BC Bee Kid's Club!

BC Bee Kids Activities – Festive Fun This December

The festive season has arrived at the British Club, and our BC Bee programme is ready to delight our young members with Christmas-themed fun all month long.



Metawee (Natt)



Little Bob & Mini Picasso with Christmas Creations

Children will enjoy making festive decorations, ornaments, and cheerful holiday crafts perfect for brightening up your home or gifting to loved ones. Each session is filled with seasonal colours and creativity.



Little Mad Scientist with Snow & Christmas Slime

Kids will experiment with making their very own "snow" and create fun, festive Christmas slime. These safe, hands-on activities encourage curiosity while adding a playful twist to the season.



Mini Chef with Gingerbread House Challenge

Kids are invited to take on the Gingerbread House Challenge, where they'll design, build, and decorate their very own Christmas gingerbread creations. It's all up to them! A deliciously fun activity that tests imagination, teamwork, and festive flair.

Christmas Carols

3rd December 2025 | 6:00pm | Front Lawn

Join us at The British Club for a joyful evening of carols, twinkling lights, and festive cheer with family and friends — plus a special chance to Meet Santa!

FREE for members / Non-Members: 50฿ (Adults & Kids)

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

Coming Events

December 2025

(more details on the website)

- Carol Night
- Kids Christmas Party
- Thai Father's Day Brunch
- Christmas Quiz
- Table Tennis Tournament & Winston Cup
- Christmas Day Lunch & Dinner
- New Year's Eve Cruis

January 2026

(more details on the website)

- Polar Swim
- Madagascar Pool Party Thai Kids Day
- Quiz Night
- Table Tennis Tournament & Winston Cup
- An Intimate Wine Night
- Wine On the Lawn

February 2026

(more details on the website)

- The Great Fun Sunday
- Quiz Night
- Valentine's Day
- Rugby 10s
- Chinese New Year Brunch
- Networking Night
- Table Tennis Tournament & Winston Cup
- Pancake Day Races
- Wine on The Lawn

Event & Activities 2025 December Highlights



Carol Night

Carol Night at the British Club was full of festive cheer with four international schools lit up the evening with joyful carols, filling the Lawn with music and holiday spirit. Members and families gathered for a cosy night of singing and celebration. The highlight for the kids was a special Meet the Santa, bringing big smiles and Christmas magic.



Kid Christmas Party

Don't miss our Kids Christmas Party, featuring a magical Santa moment for every child. Enjoy a fun-filled day packed with exciting games, creative activities, and nonstop holiday cheer. Kids can look forward to festive surprises, laughter-filled playtime, and a special visit with Santa that will make their Christmas truly special.



Christmas Lunch & Dinner

Celebrate the season with our traditional festive buffet, where every venue is filled with families and friends coming together for a joyful holiday feast. Enjoy a wide selection of delicious dishes, the warm Christmas atmosphere, and the true spirit of togetherness.

Kids Christmas Party

7th December 2025
Back lawn / 2:00pm-6:00pm

Celebrate the Season of Joy at The British Club Bangkok and bring your family for an afternoon filled with games, arts & crafts, live music, and a dazzling magic show, ending with a grand surprise "SANTA'S SPECIAL VISIT"

MEMBER : 3-12 yrs 600฿ | Adults 400฿
GUEST : 3-12 yrs 700฿ | Adults 500฿

BANGKOK HOSPITAL

Bookings & Info Via: The British Club Line Official
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Table Tennis Tournament

25/10/25

Our Table Tennis Tournament brought together players young and grown, creating a lively atmosphere full of encouragement and camaraderie. It's always amazing to see different generations enjoying the sport together.

Winston Cup

25/10/25

Friendly vibes and great competition all around! Amnat also joining the matches and adding to the excitement. A big congratulations to Daniel on his first appearance and an even bigger congrats for winning the final against Bimal!



MERRY CHRISTMAS LUNCH & DINNER

25th December 2025



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

DINNER OUTLETS:

Veranda | Churchill Bar | Suriwongse | Back Lawn

Members: 1,500 ฿, Kids 800 ฿
Guests: 1,700 ฿, Kids 1,000 ฿



Bookings & Info Via: The British Club Line Official
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Witches & Wine on The Lawn

31/10/25

Even when the rain came down, the evening stayed full of energy. Everyone enjoyed laughter, great conversations, and plenty of wonderful wine. It was a fun night with good vibes and a touch of witchy charm! Congratulations to the winner of Best Dress of the night!





Kids Halloween Party

31/10/2025

What an amazing day full of laughter, fun, and spooky excitement! The little ones enjoyed tons of games, spooky storytelling, and a magical show. The crowd went wild during the Donut Challenge, with so many giggles and happy faces! A truly festive, fun-filled, and unforgettable Halloween with a special treat of Hi-Chew candy for all the kids who joined!

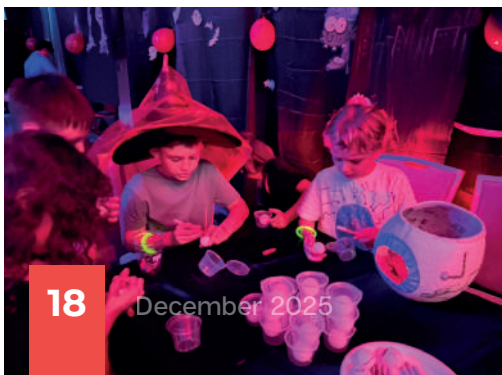


TABLE TENNIS

Tournament

Handicap System



Saturday, 27th December | 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



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Full day (8:00 – 14:00)

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Guy Fawkes Night

02/11/2025

Sparks flew at our Guy Fawkes Night! Families enjoyed a fun-filled day together, with kids spellbound by the history of Guy Fawkes, entertained by a magical show, and laughing through games and activities. Everyone got warmed up for the big moment the fiery countdown leading to our dazzling ground-level fireworks. A day full of wonder, excitement, and family memories.



December 2025

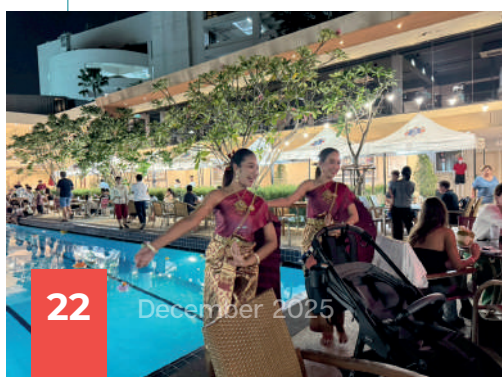
21



Loy Krathong

05/11/2025

Loy Krathong evening at the club!
Families enjoyed floating crafted krathongs and making wishes under the sparkling moonlight. The night came alive with a thrilling fire show, traditional Thai dance, and music, creating a joyful celebration of tradition, togetherness, and community spirit.



The Winston Cup BCB Monthly Pool Competition

Saturday 27th December - 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
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Remembrance 2025 09/11/2025

The service, led by the British Embassy, saw a great number of attendees gather to honour and remember the service and sacrifice of British, Commonwealth, and allied personnel. The moving ceremony included wreath-laying, moments of reflection, and heartfelt tributes, bringing everyone together to commemorate courage, dedication, and the enduring hope for peace.



December 2025

25



Quiz Night 11/11/2025

Members and guests gathered at Churchill Bar for an engaging evening of trivia and teamwork. Six teams battled it out with tricky questions, laughs, and cheers. Congratulations to Scumbag College for taking home 1st prize! A fun-filled night of trivia and friendly competition.



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	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1 Squash Mix-in 5.30pm - 7.45pm	2 Football 6.30pm - 8.30pm	3 Squash Mix-in 5.30pm - 7.45pm Balut 6.00pm - 8.00pm Circuit Training 6.00pm - 6.45pm Christmas Carols 6.00pm - 8.00pm 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 Pilates & Barre 8.30 am - 9.30 am Junior tennis coaching 4.00 pm - 5.00 pm Friday Junior cricket 5.30pm - 7.00pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	6 Squash Kids Academy 10.00am - 12.15pm Squash Mixed-in 1.00pm - 4.45pm Cricket Team Practice 2.30pm - 6.00pm	7 Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 10.00am - 1.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.00am - 4.00pm Kids Christmas Party 2.00pm - 6.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm
	8 Squash Mix-in 5.30pm - 7.45pm	9 Football 6.30pm - 8.30pm Quiz Night 7.15pm - 9.30pm	10 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	11 Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	12 Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Pilates & Barre 8.30 am - 9.30 am Junior tennis coaching 4.00 pm - 5.00 pm Friday Junior cricket 5.30pm - 7.00pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	13 Squash Kids Academy 10.00am - 12.15pm Squash Mixed-in 1.00pm - 4.45pm Cricket Team Practice 2.30pm - 6.00pm	14 Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 10.00am - 1.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.00am - 4.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm
	15 Squash Mix-in 5.30pm - 7.45pm	16 Football 6.30pm - 8.30pm	17 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	18 Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	19 Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Pilates & Barre 8.30 am - 9.30 am Junior tennis coaching 4.00 pm - 5.00 pm Friday Junior cricket 5.30pm - 7.00pm Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	20 Squash Kids Academy 10.00am - 12.15pm Squash Mixed-in 1.00pm - 4.45pm Cricket Team Practice 2.30pm - 6.00pm	21 Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 10.00am - 1.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.00am - 4.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm
	22 Squash Mix-in 5.30pm - 7.45pm	23 Football 6.30pm - 8.30pm	24 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	25 Christmas Lunch & Dinner 11.00am - 9.00pm Yoga 6.00pm - 7.00pm Cricket team practice 6.30pm - 8.00pm	26 Tennis mixed-in 8.00am - 11.00am Pilates & Barre 8.30 am - 9.30 am Tennis mixed-in 6.00pm - 10.00pm	27 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	28 Tennis Men Doubles Team practice 10.00am - 1.00pm Sunday Brunch 11.00am - 4.00pm Tennis Mix-in 4.00pm - 7.00pm
	29 Squash Mix-in 5.30pm - 7.45pm	30 Football 6.30pm - 8.30pm	31 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 New Year Eve Cruise 7.00pm - Late				



Naval, Military and Air Force Club, Adelaide, South Australia

Visited in June 2019 by Paul Doust

The club which is now known as the "[Naval, Military and Air Force Club of South Australia](#)" was founded in 1879 as "The Militia Officers' Club of South Australia". Two name changes have occurred since its foundation, first in 1894 when the name was changed to the "Naval and Military Club of South Australia", and then in 1943 when "Air Force" was added. The current clubhouse was bought in 1957, and is situated on the eastern side of the city town centre, within easy walking distance of the central business district and all the city's main attractions and shopping areas. These days club membership is much wider than when the club was founded, including professional and business men and women, as well as serving and retired officers from all three services.

The club has a lot of facilities. The formal dining restaurant is called The Colonel Downes Dining Room, named after Colonel Major Francis Downes, a British Army officer who was a key figure involved in the club's foundation. The restaurant is open for lunch Monday to Friday, and for dinner Tuesday to Saturday. Food is also available in the less formal setting of the Members' Bar. There's a variety of rooms for functions and business meetings, including rooms with audio-visual facilities, as well as accommodation and car parking. Apart from the billiards room, there are no other sports facilities. The club organises a lot of events throughout the year, and there are [several dress codes](#) which depend on what facilities are being used or what event is being attended. However, the minimum dress code can be summarised as "smart-casual".



Back in 2019 I was invited to the wedding of an old university friend in Adelaide. My niece also lives in Australia, so with that and other reasons to visit, I organised a trip. The night before my friend's wedding was a Friday night and my friend needed to relax. I hadn't seen him face to face since the 1980's, so I invited him to go out with me for dinner at this club. The club was very helpful regarding the arrangements, offering us 3 dining alternatives. We could have gone for the fine dining degustation menu, but we decided against that because there were no menu choices and the menu would not have been known until we arrived. The Club Menu, where we would have had to order from the Member's Bar was also available. In the end we opted for the Club Menu with a 20% surcharge for table service, so the club arranged a table for the two of us

in the Medals Room, a small nook adjacent to the bar. It turned out to be it a perfect venue for the two of us to catch up, and we had a good meal. Although it was a Friday night the club was not busy, but the staff were very attentive, giving us a short tour of the club before our meal.

The British Club Bangkok has one other reciprocal club in Adelaide, namely the [Public Schools Club](#). I had originally intended to take my friend there because he had never been, and having been at a qualifying school when he was a boy he was eligible to join. However, it turned out that in 2019 that club was being renovated and was closed until September. Luckily the Naval, Military and Air Force Club of South was not closed, and turned out to be an excellent alternative venue.

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. At the Brit Shop & Reception, we have ties for £400 and cufflinks for £1,100 available for purchase.





Terry Adams

BRITISH CLUB
ACTIVE LIVING SECTION

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 into the new year.



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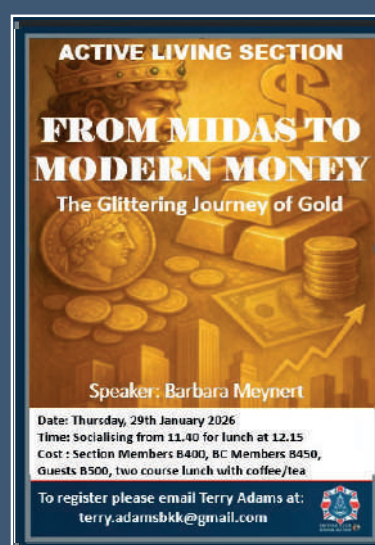
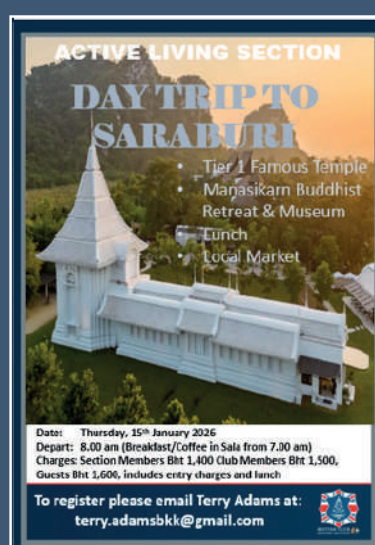
- For information on the Section and our previous Events
- To join the Section by completing your application.

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)

Future Events:



EVENT REPORT:

"Searching for Billie: A journalist's quest to understand his amazing mother's past leads him to discover a vanished China": 6th November 2025

Our distinguished speaker, Ian Gill, together with his wife Jean, travelled from Manila to share with us a remarkable and deeply personal story, one that combined the intimacy of family discovery with the grandeur of history. Ian is a veteran journalist and author whose outstanding career spans more than four decades across the Asia Pacific region, including senior roles with Reuters, the BBC, and the South China Morning Post. His wealth of experience and natural storytelling ability made him the perfect narrator for this extraordinary tale.

The presentation explored not only Ian's years long journey to uncover the truth about his mother's mysterious past, but also offered a fascinating window into China's transformation from the late 19th to the mid-20th century. His mother, Billie, led a life that was by turns inspiring, tragic, and heroic, one that mirrored the turbulence of the times in which she lived.



A marvelous raconteur and expressive presenter, Ian vividly brought to life, through a striking sequence of archival photographs, maps, sketches, and historical images, the long and intricate saga of his family's journey. The narrative began in rural Worcestershire, England, in 1835, following the extraordinary path of Billie's runaway stepmother, who was married in London, before continuing through Southampton, Hong Kong, and Shanghai, and eventually reaching rural China around the time of the founding of the Imperial Postal Service.

From there, the narrative followed the extraordinary life of Billie, adopted by the above-mentioned English couple in Shanghai in 1916, whose life unfolded against the backdrop of civil strife, war, and revolution. Ian's account moved deftly through her early years in Shanghai society, her escape to Hong Kong during the Sino Japanese War, internment by the Japanese, her pregnancy issues after the Japanese surrender that necessitated urgent evacuation on a New Zealand Hospital Ship, the birth of her son in New Zealand, and eventual return to Shanghai with her young son after the war. He described her remarkable encounters with leading figures on both sides of China's civil conflict, her quiet courage during times of upheaval and penury, and

her enduring resilience through personal and political turmoil.

Billie's later career was no less distinguished. Her work with the United Nations, first in Shanghai, then Bangkok, and later Geneva, particularly regarding her work during the so important nuclear disarmament negotiations, earned her recognition at the highest level, the award of an MBE by Queen Elizabeth II, a fitting tribute to a woman whose life had spanned continents, wars, and revolutions, yet remained guided by compassion and determination.

The audience was captivated throughout the talk, many commenting afterwards on the breadth of historical insight and the depth of personal emotion that Ian conveyed. His ability to weave together family memoir, world history, and visual storytelling made this presentation one of the most memorable and moving sessions of the Active Living Section's 2025 calendar.

Our sincere thanks go to Ian and Jean for travelling so far to share such a remarkable and poignant story, one that offered not only a glimpse into a vanished China, but also a profound reminder of the resilience of the human spirit across generations.

EVENT REPORT:

"The King and The Consul: A British Tragedy in Old Siam": 20th November 2025

Our Section Members and Guests were treated to a fascinating and rather unusual historical presentation by Simon Landy MBE, whose book *The King and The Consul* sheds fresh light on one of the earliest and least known crises in Anglo-Thai relations. Drawing on both Thai and British archival material sourced in Bangkok

and London, Simon guided us through the dramatic events of 1856, just months after the signing of the Bowring Treaty, when a sudden and violent death at the new British Consulate in Bangkok threatened to derail the still delicate relationship between King Mongkut and Britain's first Consul, Charles Hillier.

In his clear, measured, and very engaging style, Simon outlined the principal personalities, the cultural misunderstandings that grew rapidly into a serious diplomatic rift, and the careful negotiations that eventually prevented a disastrous break in relations. He explained how this episode, although resolved without armed conflict, left deep and lasting personal consequences for several of the individuals involved. Using contemporary maps, period illustrations, and written accounts of the time, he brought to life a Bangkok very different from the modern city we know, yet already the political and commercial centre of the region.

A notable highlight of Simon's talk was his explanation that the central issue in this 1856 dispute, the ownership and control of land by foreigners, continues to echo strongly in Thailand even today. His demonstration of how early diplomatic tensions helped shape later national policy gave our members a valuable perspective on why certain topics still generate much discussion and debate.

In summary, it was an absorbing, informative, and very well delivered presentation, and we were fortunate



indeed to have the author himself lead us through this remarkable and still relevant episode in the early relationship between Britain and Siam.

*The Bowring Treaty was crucial for both Siam/Thailand and Britain because it opened Siam to global trade, secured peaceful relations with Britain, and helped preserve Siam's independence at a time when much of the region was being colonized.



TENNIS

Party time for the no worries set

I was mentioning 'years roll by' last month and for sure another year has rushed by as if in a hurry. I am not sure whether it is a blessing that comes with ageing; because just when you want time to slow down the hands of time seem to move faster; so much so that it seems that months roll faster than the days, especially rainy days for the urban gentry. So, for this end of the year – we will promise not to make any promises; we will have more, less, or more-or-less the same to eat and drink, or read and learn from the start of the millennium until the next big milestone – the start quantum age. We will hope for less frequent change in governments than the change of seasons and we will endlessly continue to hope for peace; as we will continue to refuse to speak to our neighbours or listen to them with our hearts and minds locked by some inane prime number hidden in a vault thousands of miles away. In essence, we will hopping mad with Hope. May be there is a better hope; hoping that the price of wine and golden nectar will drop and we will party-till-we-drop on 13th December at the Tennis Section Christmas Party. Get there! Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity!

For now, let's get back to our POL¹ and momentarily forget all that has not been and celebrate all the love, joy and happiness that being a member of the Tennis Section brings, and let's celebrate together the Best of Us in 2025. First, meet some new friends...



A Friendly Visit by Hong Kong Ladies Recreation Club (may be some from SRC&A², 1500 kms away). Eight ladies from HKLRC challenged BC ladies and in return our ladies challenged the visiting group for some exciting games of tennis – all played in good spirit and friendly ambience. So much so that no one even mentioned the score. Thus, we agreed to consider it a friendly draw; at least during the dark hours of the evening after plenty of libations and delicious food. May be the challenge will continue another day and place. The one thing ladies from HK won was for their stamina, as some of them continued with tennis late into the night, long after all the ladies from British Club had given up, by challenging the BC men from the evening social. Lest we forget this event ever happened because of the fog of spirits, we present the evidence before you. Ignore the intrusion by an 'official' male species!



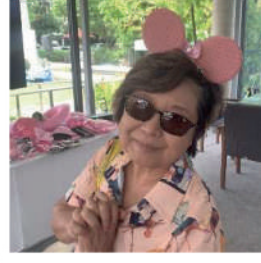
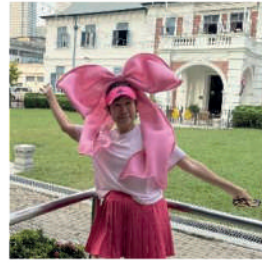
Sunil Mehra



¹ Purpose of Living

² Shanghai Racquet Club & Apartments.

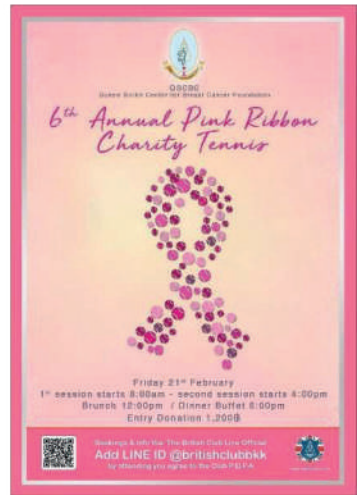
Now the Best of US from 2025



PROGRAM
Saturday 22 March 2025

Time	Courts	Courts	Courts	Courts
09:00	Ladies Singles Aron vs. Haddad	Ladies Singles Kandine vs. Loh	Ladies Singles Kandine vs. Loh	Ladies Singles Kandine vs. Loh
10:00	Men's Singles David vs. Phang	Men's Singles Aron vs. Phang	Men's Singles Aron vs. Phang	Men's Singles Aron vs. Phang
12:00	Ladies Doubles Aron & Phang vs. David & Phang	Ladies Doubles Aron & Phang vs. David & Phang	Ladies Doubles Aron & Phang vs. David & Phang	Ladies Doubles Aron & Phang vs. David & Phang
14:00	Men's Doubles Aron & Phang vs. David & Phang	Men's Doubles Aron & Phang vs. David & Phang	Men's Doubles Aron & Phang vs. David & Phang	Men's Doubles Aron & Phang vs. David & Phang
16:00	Men's Doubles Aron & Phang vs. David & Phang	Men's Doubles Aron & Phang vs. David & Phang	Men's Doubles Aron & Phang vs. David & Phang	Men's Doubles Aron & Phang vs. David & Phang

There may be changes due to the length of matches. Please check the program on the day. A BIG thanks to our Sponsors

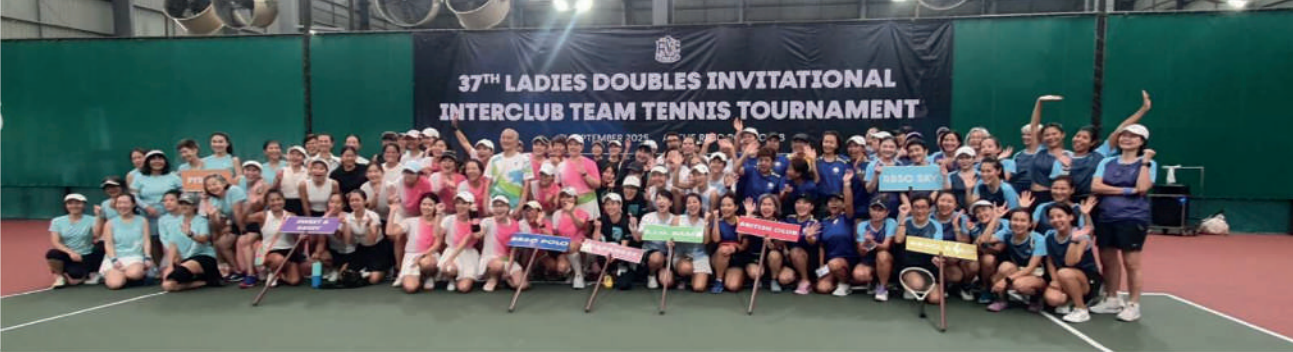




The WOMBLE CUP
SIGN-UP
Sunday 13 July 4-7 pm
Two Teams: Blue vs Red
Dress code all WHITE!
Prossecco, Fish & Chips, Strawberries & Cream
THB500 per person
British Club Bangkok Tennis Section



Sign up now!
The BRUCE GORDON CUP
Sunday 27 July 4:00-7:00pm
Doubles Format either Men's, Ladies or Mixed with a combined age of 100yrs+
THB500 followed by dinner
Bruce Gordon 1938-2008



ANNOUNCING THE BEST PARTY FOR 2025

British Club Tennis Section CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday 13 December 7:00pm - 11.30pm
Theme Beach in the City
Welcome Drink
Festive BBQ Buffet, Red and White Wine
Music by DJ
Members THB1,500 Non Members THB1,800
Bookings via bctsbangkok@gmail.com
or British Club Bangkok Tennis Section

WISHING YOU THE MERRIEST XMAS

2025 Tennis Calendar

Nov 21	Recreation Club SG, TBC.	Nov 24	Registrations Start BCTS Championships
Nov 23	Davis Cup Final	Dec 13	BCTS Christmas Party

2026 Tennis Calendar

Jan 02	Registration Close BCTS Championships	Jun 29	Wimbledon
Jan 03	Draw BCTS Championships	Jul 12	Womble Cup
Jan 05	Championships Start	Aug 31	US Open
Jan 18	Australian Open	Sep 13	The Great Wide Open
Feb 01	Aussie Tournament, fun doubles event	Sep 23	BCTS Annual General Meeting
Mar 21	Championships Finals Day	Nov 7	WTA Finals
May 24	French Open	Nov 15	ATP Finals
Jun 07	Bruce Gordon Cup	Nov 18	Davis Cup Finals



Michael Flowers

HARD BALLS



▲ The Pavillionaires bank the season opening victory!

BC Pavilionaires Open Season with Tense 7-Run T20 Win Over Siam at RBSC Polo Ground

The 2025-26 season kicked off at Bangkok's Royal Bangkok Sports Club Polo Ground on November 10. Weeks of rain had left moisture in the turf wicket, and overcast skies offered little help to batsmen. The previous match on the same ground had seen the side batting first skittled for just 52 all out—a stark reminder of the conditions. Siam Parrots captain Nick Newell had no hesitation winning the toss and inserting the British Club Pavilionaires (BC). What followed was a gripping low-scoring contest, with BC scraping 126/7 before defending it with grit to beat the Siam Parrots by 7 runs.

BC's innings began cautiously with just 3 runs from the first 11 deliveries under tight bowling from Tony Slatter and Mike Strunk. New captain and opener Rahul Gupte, unleashed his usual release shot—a heave over mid-wicket for 4 against Strunk—but tried it again the next over against Slatter and on the slower pitch was trapped in front LBW for 4 in the 3rd over. Relief finally came in the 5th over when —Mak Khan, batting at #3, launched a six off Slatter, who then sprayed loose wides to release the pressure in a 13 run over as BC reached 28/1 after 5 Overs.

After a commanding 79 run partnership, Mak (40* off 32) was forced to retire after launching back-to-back sixes before opener



▲ Man of the Match Chan Chabra played a crucial role with bat and ball.

James Moss, was also forced to retire just 4 balls later. Moss, famous for retiring from the game got the hook pulled on him mid-knock: 40* off 33, looking set, then boom, “40 is up, mate.” It's like a veteran actor being written out mid-scene—especially poetic given his history of bowling out on his own terms. The cricket gods do love a twist. The retirees left BC with the scoreboard looking good at 90/1 after 12.1 overs.

Chan Chabra added a steady 20 before the tail collapsed in chaos: just 12 runs for 5 wickets in the final 3 overs, including 3 wickets (2 run outs) in the last 3 balls of a frantic finish to end at 126/7 after the 20 overs.

Siam Bowling
Mike Strunk 4-0-19-2
Tony Slatter 4-0-23-1 (5w)
Peter Hammond 4-0-28-1

Siam's reply built steadily. Opener Ankur Relia (46* off 49) guided the Parrots to 78/1 after 13 overs when he retired—with wickets in hand the Parrots would have liked their chances despite the required rate reaching 7 per over (thanks to economical bowling from Dilip Mishra, Joge George and Rahul).

Ed Khan and Sunish Shah, last seasons leading wicket taker, then quickly took 4 crucial middle-order scalps, including a stunning one handed catch by Lenny Tui

on the boundary from Shah's bowling leading to joyous on-field celebrations. The bowling pairing rounded out their spells to leave the match well poised at 107/5 after 17 overs, Siam requiring 20 from the final 3 overs with 5 wickets in hand.

Chan Chabra, despite beginning his spell with a double bounce no-ball loosener, conceded 6 runs and picked up the wicket of Mike Strunk caught and bowled in the 18th over. Rahul then allowed a miserly 3 runs from the 19th over to leave 11 to win in the final over. Chan stepped up with BME claiming the Man of the Match by conceding just 3 runs while picking up 2 wickets in the process to ensure victory for BC as Siam fell 7 runs short at 119/8!

BC Bowling
Chan Chabra 2-0-9-3
Sunish Shah 4-0-20-3 (5w)
Rahul Gupte 4-0-19-1 (9w)

Player of the Match: Chan Chabra – 20 runs and 3-9 in 2 overs.

The Chairman was impressed with the win, however was quick to point out a lack of match intensity practice in nets and encouraged change in preparation off the field. The next match for the undefeated Pavillionaires is scheduled for Saturday the 13th of December.



▲ Mak (40*) with a powerful shot down the ground



▲ Lenny Tui mobbed after taking a screamer!



▲ BC Opening pair James Moss and Rahul Gupte



Peter Gale

BRITISH CLUB GOLF

▲ Dunlop Cup Final

We have had an excellent, and victorious, last month of golf with the British Club Golf Section. First we played our annual Dunlop Cup at the stunning Royal Hills Golf Club in Nakhon Nayok, followed by our monthly medal which was combined with a match against long term rivals The Golfers Cocktail Lounge.

The Dunlop Cup

Everybodies favourite competition of the year, well mine anyway...The Dunlop Cup is a pairs competition with Day 1 being a Better Ball Stableford event. This a format where two players compete as a team, each playing their own ball. For each hole, the team's score is the higher of the two players' Stableford points, which are awarded based on their performance relative to par. The best 2 performing teams on Day 1 then play a matchplay game on Day 2 to determine the winner of the overall Dunlop Cup. The remaining players continue the Better Ball format on Day 2 and combine their Day 1 and Day 2 scores to decide who wins the Dunlop Plate.

The competition is very kindly sponsored by long term British Club golfer David Lamb, of Dunlop Adhesives (Thailand) Ltd..

The course is the most beautiful course we regularly play, situated in Khao Yai National Park with stunning forests, streams, rolling hills and mountains surrounding it. On Day 2 of the competition at one part of the course we could clearly hear the sound of a herd of Elephants very close by moving through the forest, fortunately they decided not to interfere with our competition.

The course is challenging with the greens being particularly treacherous, despite that the scores on Day 1 were very competitive with Alan Ainsworth and Angkana Nilkumnerd leading the way with 48 points – Angkana played particularly well recording an excellent 43 points on her own!! They were joined in the final by Andrew Stray and Paweena Baothong with 45 points, led by Paweena who also played under her handicap, scoring 39 pts.

The final as always was a closely fought affair but Andrew and Paweena managed to turn the tables and play the better golf on Day 2 to win the match by a score of 3&2 and become our 2025 Dunlop Cup Champions!!

The Dunlop Plate saw some more great golf being played with the father and son partnership of Martin



▲ Dunlop Cup Final



▲ Paweena and Andrew Dunlop Cup Champions



▲ Martin and Monty Dunlop Plate Winners

and Monty Finn dovetailing their scoring brilliantly to achieve 49 pts, winning by 4 pts from runners up Paul Wyatt and Gaew Khongyoo. Paul had the best individual score on Day 2 with a very creditable 42 pts.

The event was played in the best of spirits, plenty of which were also consumed during the meal on Saturday night – though probably not quite as many as the previous year...

SUAL Bell & Monthly Medal

Sunday 9th November saw 12 of the British Clubs most esteemed golfs rise to the challenge of The Golfers Cocktail Lounge to compete for the SUAL (Shut Up And Listen) Bell. It was a closely fought game with some games coming down to the final hole but the British Club held their nerve and Captain Neil Davis was able to take the Bell back to the BC by winning 3 games and halving one, for an overall score of 3.5 pts to 2.5pts...

Hopefully this is a good omen as we head into our competition vs the Bangkok Wanderers on November 15th for the prestigious Magpie Putter.



▲ Royal Hills 2

As well as playing the match we combined this with our November Monthly medal, the winners were Div 1 – Robert Gray with a net 74 beating Terry Davies into 2nd place, while Martin and Monty Finn kept up their good form taking first and second in Division 2.



▲ Martin and Robert Monthly Medal Winners



▲ Victorious BC Team with SUAL Bell

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Become A Full Member Now



information/contact Tel: 02 234 0247 or
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