



OUTPOST

MAGAZINE

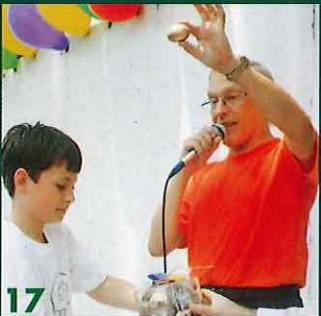
MAY • 2002



23
New Members



14
Golf



17
Easter Sunday



10
Koh Kret Trip

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Members,

The first meeting of the General Committee was held shortly after the AGM and our main topic was to discuss and agree our objectives for the coming year. These fall into the following categories:-



FINANCE

To make every effort to ensure the Club's finances provide a healthy contribution to fund the many ambitious plans we have. To study the introduction of a computerised Point-of-Sale system, i.e. to computerise the Club's finances completely, including the purchasing of food and beverages.

CLUB RULES

To review the inconsistencies in the rules, particularly the categories of Membership. To review the procedures for the election of Members to the General Committee.

CENTENARY

To finalise and publish the Centenary book along with organising a number of events to celebrate this occasion.

CLUB HOUSE RENOVATION

To draw up plans for the renovation of the Club House and pool side developments. To produce plans, design options, costs and a programme of implementation.

THE NEW BUILDING

As I said in my first message, the new building is a major undertaking for the British Club. Many of you are keen to know the latest position. The facts are that the cost of this building has increased significantly from the original budget. This is due to the modifications required by Members at the meeting following the EGM. I have therefore asked for a review of the design and I hope that we will be able to return to our planned budget. This will undoubtedly delay the project.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

This is always a concern. We will be looking at ways to improve our standards, quality and value for money.

I look forward to meeting you all at the Club.

Best regards

Bob Marchant
Chairman

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

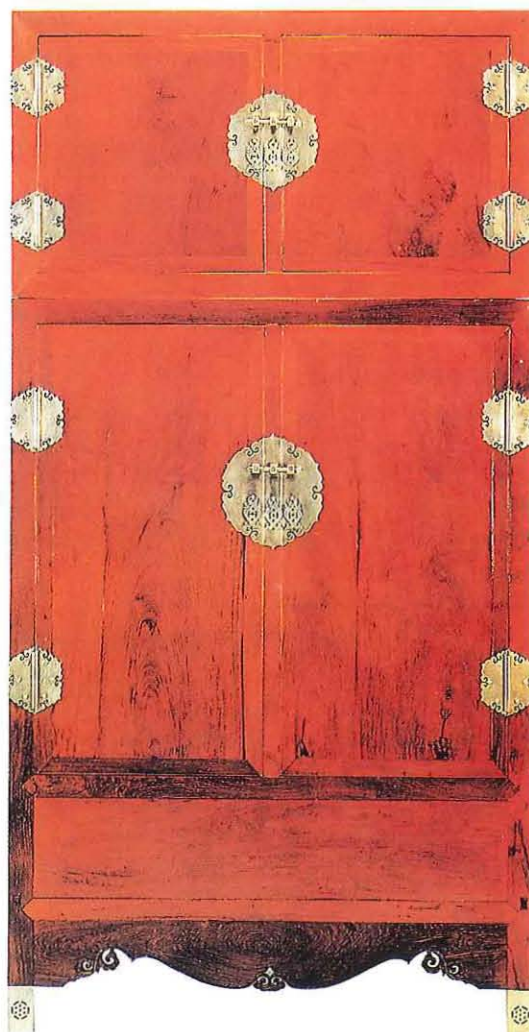
The British Club General Committee 2002/2003

Name		Tel	Fax	Email
Bob Marchant	<i>Chairman</i>	(0) 2714 8070-3	(0) 2714 8504	britclub@loxinfo.co.th
Chris Moore	<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	(0) 2747 9633	(0) 2747 9677	chris@lasanne.com
Paul Cheesman	<i>Vice-Chairman/ Honorary Secretary</i>	(0) 2677 5246	(0) 2677 5246	paulc@loxinfo.co.th
Nick Bellamy	<i>Treasurer</i>	(0) 2955 0099 x 8760	(0) 2955 0300	nbellamy@th.mweb.co
David Eastgate		(0) 2672 0123-5	(0) 2672 0127	davide@loxinfo.co.th
James Young		(0) 2712 5407-9	(0) 2712 5410	asiapac@mozart.inet.co.th
Sarah Allen		(0) 2618 7813	(0) 2618 7811	sarahem@ksc.th.com
Simon Davies		(0) 2253 7719	(0) 2253 7504	simon@jts.jp.co.th
Bruce Hill		(0) 2937 4940	(0) 2937 4952	subru@loxinfo.co.th
Angela Daniel		(0) 2258 8495	(0) 2258 8495	ange@loxinfo.co.th

This cabinet is simple and classic, the flower-head motif and cloudhead openwork carvings of the aprons are done elaborately. A raised beading outlines the cusped edge in the centre of each apron and extends to the sides, where it is transformed into the stalk of the curling flower-and-leaf and vanishes at its end. It is indeed a very ingenious design. The doors and side panels are flush with the framework, and there are two removable framed panels at the back which are joined to the frame with loose tenons. The bottom panel has a storage space underneath, and two shelves above it. There is a single shelf in the upper cabinet. The paktong hardware is exquisite. The metal hinges and face plates are in the form of six-cloud motifs, and the metal pulls exhibit the double-fish motif. There are also paktong shoes with openwork patterns on the bottoms of the legs.

(Formerly in the collection of Renaissance Museum of California and is open for viewing now in Tomlinson Singapore only)

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Bangkok 10500, Thailand. Tel: (662) 639 6130 Fax: (662) 266 9140

UPCOMING BC EVENT

Enchantment on The Eastern Orient Express

Please join us on this wonderful weekend trip to Hua Hin. At 9.30 am on Saturday 15 June, we will leave the British Club to go to Hua Lamphong station, where we will board the exclusive Eastern Orient Express Train, (departing 11.00am). Once on board, all you need do is sit back, relax and enjoy the journey and delicious brunch that will be served.

3.00pm sees our arrival at Hua Hin Train station where you will be transported by sam lor to the old railway station, now the colonial style Sofitel Central Hua-Hin Resort. The rest of the afternoon will be free for shopping, beach walks, a refreshing dive in the pool....whatever you like to do!

Cocktails will be served from 7.30pm onwards at the Museum Lounge followed by a buffet dinner in the beautiful surroundings along the pool and beach.

On Sunday morning enjoy a leisurely buffet breakfast at the hotel, and relax for the rest of the morning.



Before our departure to Bangkok you will be transported to a beautiful site in Hua Hin to enjoy a delicious Thai lunch.

Coaches will depart for Bangkok at 3.00pm and we expect to arrive back at the Club at around 5.45pm.

CONTRIBUTIONS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUTPOST PLEASE CONTACT

JUDITH AIREY, EDITOR.

TEL: (0) 2285 4721-3

FAX: (0) 2678 1292

OR EMAIL: creativ@loxinfo.co.th



OUTPOST MAGAZINE

THE CONTENTS OF THIS MAGAZINE ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE OPINION OF THE EDITOR, THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OR THE MANAGEMENT.

The British Club

is a family, sporting and social club with an international membership.

For details about the Club contact the Membership Marketing staff at

189 Surawong Road, Bangkok 10500

Tel: (0) 2234 0247

Fax:(0) 2235 1560

Email: britclub@loxinfo.co.th

Website: www.britclub.com

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SPORTS UPDATE

May-Be Sport is For You?

We hope so, as we have a great selection for you to choose from.

TENNIS COACHING

Eric Delacollette-Lejeune is available on-court now, where he'll be delighted to help you improve your game, whatever your standard of play.

Eric coached for the Belgian Tennis Federation for 4 years, teaching children aged between 7 and 14 years of age, and has also worked as tennis coach for Club Med in Greece, France and Phuket.

If you would like a private lesson with Eric, please book through the Fitness Centre. Alternatively, there are still a few places available in his group tennis lessons on Saturdays where he coaches students in the following categories:

Mini-tennis	9.00am - 10.00am
Beginners	10.00am - 11.00am
Intermediate	11.00am - 12.30pm
Advanced	14.00pm - 15.30pm
Competition	15.30pm - 17.30pm

For those tennis enthusiasts who just need some hitting practice or game play, remember that the Club's resident 'hitters', Khun Kaew, Khun Tom or Khun Bee are available for hourly sessions. Contact the Fitness Centre for bookings.

AQUA AEROBICS

Els Van den Broecke teaches aqua aerobics in the main pool from 10.30am - 11.30am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is a great work-out, come along and see for yourself. Cost is just B200 per hour, please register at the Fitness Centre.

AEROBICS

Wednesdays, 9.30am. Please sign up at the Fitness Centre.

JUNIOR CRICKET TRAINING

With Australian Coach Mr. Brian Wiggings Children in the age range of 7-15 years are welcome to join in and will be categorized by age and ability. Interested parties can register at the Fitness Centre.

DARTS

Join the lads and lasses on Wednesday evenings in the Churchill Bar. Everyone is most welcome - make a note in your diary.

YOGA

Held in Squash Court 3 on Tuesdays at 11.30am and Sundays at 4.30pm. Yoga is believed by many to provide numerous health benefits using control techniques over the mind and body.

GENTLEMEN'S SPOOF

Join in with the gents on Tuesday evenings in the Churchill Bar

BRIDGE

Enjoy a friendly game of Bridge every Tuesday evening in the non-smoking area of the Churchill Bar. Refer to the Calendar page for contact details.

BANGKOK DOLPHINS

SWIMMING SCHEDULE

TUESDAY CLASSES

Category	Age	Time
Toddlers	18-24 months	2.00pm - 2.30pm
Non-swimmers	24 months up	2.30pm - 3.00pm
Introducing Strokes	4-5 years	3.00pm - 3.30pm
Stroke Improvement	5-6 years	3.30pm - 4.00pm
Stroke Improvement	6-8 years	4.00pm - 4.30pm
Stroke Correction	6-8 years	4.30pm - 5.00pm
Mini Squads	8 years up	5.00pm - 5.30pm

SATURDAY CLASSES

Category	Age	Time
Parent & Baby	6-18 months	9.00am - 9.30am
	18-24 months	9.30am - 10.00am
	24-36 months	10.00am - 10.30am
Toddler	24 months up	10.30am - 11.00am
Beginners	4-5 years	11.00am - 11.30am
Introducing Strokes 1	4-5 years	11.30am - 12.00pm
Introducing Strokes 2	4-5 years	12.00pm - 12.30pm
Stroke Improvement	5-6 years	12.30pm - 1.00pm
Stroke Correction	6-8 years	1.00pm - 1.30pm

It's not too late to join in these classes - just contact the Fitness Centre for details.

TAEKWONDO LESSONS

Saturdays and Sundays 10.30-12.00 noon, Squash Court 3

Learn the art of oriental self-defence from our professional instructor Khun Tanes Boonsuwan.

The 10 week course started on 27 April. It's still not too late to start!

Cost: B6000 per person

SWIMMING GALA SUNDAY 12 MAY

Warm up starts at 8.00am, with the gala taking place from 9.00am to 12.30pm, followed by lunch for all participants.

JUNIOR SQUASH LESSONS

Fridays

Coach Khun Narongrit is available to help develop your game to your full potential.

The 10 week course started on 26 April. It's not too late to start!

Mini Squash 5-7 yrs 4.30-5.15pm

Beginner Squash 8-10 yrs 5.15-6.00pm

Course fee: B1900

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SQUASH

Harold Mercer Results

The Harold Mercer Trophy team competition was completed on Tuesday 12 April with three teams having a chance of winning. There were three substitutes which may have had an effect on the final results as all of them were much higher or much lower rankings than the players they replaced. This is the luck of the draw though as the original seedings rely on the ladder positions which do not always represent the true picture.

FIRST ROUND

Leopards	d	Cheetahs	3-1
David Eastgate	d	Nick Thwaites	3-2
Tom Livingston	d	Ignatio Serrano	3-1
David Bryant	L	Steve Harvey	1-3
Uwe Warncke	d	Guy Hollis	3-1
Tigers	d	Pumas	3-1
Dick Anwar	d	Steve Bell	3-1
Peter Corney	d	Andre Tissera	3-2
Steve Purser	d	Marvyn Lewis	3-1
Kit Kulvichit	L	Roger Winter	1-3

SECOND ROUND

Leopards	p	Tigers	2-2
David	d	Dick	3-1
Tom	L	Peter	2-3
Jack	L	Steve P.	0-3
Uwe	d	Kit	3-1
Pumas	d	Cheetahs	3-1
Steve	d	Nick	3-0
Andre	d	Charles	3-0
Marvyn	L	Steve Harvey	2-3
Roger	d	Guy	3-0

THIRD ROUND

Pumas	d	Leopards	2-2
Steve	d	David	3-0
Andre	d	Tom	3-1
Marvyn	L	Shiraz	0-3
Phil Hall	L	Uwe	2-3
Cheetahs	d	Tigers	3-1
Nick	d	Brian	3-0
Charles	L	Peter	2-3
Steve H.	d	Steve P.	3-0
Guy	d	Kit	3-1

Leopards, led by David Eastgate won the 2002 Harold Mercer trophy. Final scores:

	Leopards	Pumas	Tigers	Cheetahs
Games	25	26	22	20
Matches	7	6	6	5

SUMMARY

Marvyn Lewis did not win any matches and he was the highest seed at number three position, but he pointed out that he did win the most points. Peter Corney and Steve Harvey were the only players to win all three of their matches and they were both only seeded to win one match each. Steve Harvey has definitely raised the level of his game and would have been competitive at the number two position. David Eastgate was seeded 4th on the basis of his hand injury but he made a miraculous recovery and won 2 of his matches. There were five substitutions out of 24 matches played. Andre only lost his second match in 3 years of playing the Harold

Mercer even though he was very short on match practice, he always lifts his game in the team events.

Winners of League 158

1	➡	David Eastgate
2	➡	Dick Anwar
3	➡	Marc Hagelauer
4	➡	Suharsh Mittal
5	➡	Roger Winter

BCB TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Nick White and Andre Tissera reached the quarter finals of the plate and Peter Corney and Bill Randall reached the semi-finals of the plate event only to lose 2 sets to 1.

COMING EVENTS

Chaing Mai Squash Doubles
This was played at the Royal Bangkok Sports Club during the last weekend of April.
Results to follow.

HONG KONG TRIP

Date and details to be Advised
Pattaya Trip - To be Advised

JUNIOR SQUASH COACHING

Narongrit is offering junior squash coaching on Sunday mornings once a fortnight. If you are interested in having your children coached please contact the fitness centre for details, the cost will depend on number of participants.

Peter Corney

SQUASH CLINIC

As previously promised, we continue this month with our ongoing series of performance enhancing instruction, based on exposing the secret techniques of the squash section elite. In this edition, we focus on the chief of tunes, Marvellous Marvin Lewis.

Marvin hails from the Principality of Wales, a mountainous nation, tacked on to the western edge of England, which is currently owned by the son of the Queen. To be more exact, Marvin is reported to have originated in Gwent, which comprises most of the demilitarised zone, found along the border with England.

Due to its proximity with the "old enemy", Gwenties are regarded with suspicion by the other dominant Welsh tribe, the Cardies who infest the deep western reaches of this green and hilly land. What the Cardies overlook is the fact that it is the Gwenties who have been mainly responsible for maintaining Wales' independence. This is why Gwent has no trees, as they were all cut down to be used to fashion bows,

arrows and spears which were utilised in defending "God's back garden" from relentless English attacks. Over the centuries, the constant need to be on guard has generated a stoical and unyielding spirit amongst the staunch Gwenties and this facet is demonstrated in Marvin's style of play. He never, never gives up.

Typical of his kinsmen, some say due to the stunting effect of the harsh winds that howl unbroken across the treeless Gwent landscape, Marvin is compact and powerful in stature (somewhat akin to a BMW Z3), and as vociferous as a cornered badger when challenged. He has been an accomplished engineer for many years and our research reveals that this knowledge has been fundamental in the evolution of his approach to the game. For example, he always exploits the very latest technology in his equipment selection. His current racket, a titanium-fibre-helium composite, is so light that it has to be kept in a specially weighted sleeve to prevent it floating off into the stratosphere. In fact, he has to utilise a two-pack epoxy resin grip enhancer to just preserve control of it. [Special counter-measure:- We recommend slyly switching this compound for some lard.]

Using Pythagorean principals and an in-depth knowledge of computer aided design, Marvin has precisely calculated the exact launch point of his serve thus producing a consistent and highly effective trajectory. We note that, in play, this is achieved by carefully pacing off from the side wall, and conclude that any slight dimensional change could result in significant advantage for an opponent. This could be achieved either by covertly adhering a rubber shim to the sole of Marvin's trainers or running a 5mm plaster skim over the court walls.

The only other practical advise we can offer to even the odds against Mighty Marvin, is to mention the rugby, just before entering the court.

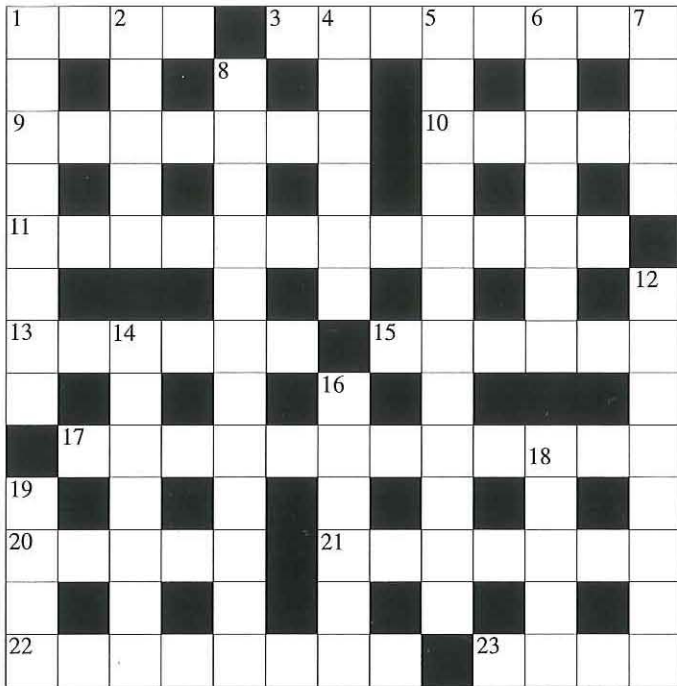
Next edition:- We reveal the results of our under-cover investigation into allegations of irregularity in the section accounts, just where is that ball? And we turn up the heat on the big air-con debate.

Squybe.

CROSSWORD

Never a Cross Word

Here's another brain-teaser to test your skills.



Compiled by Margaret Miller

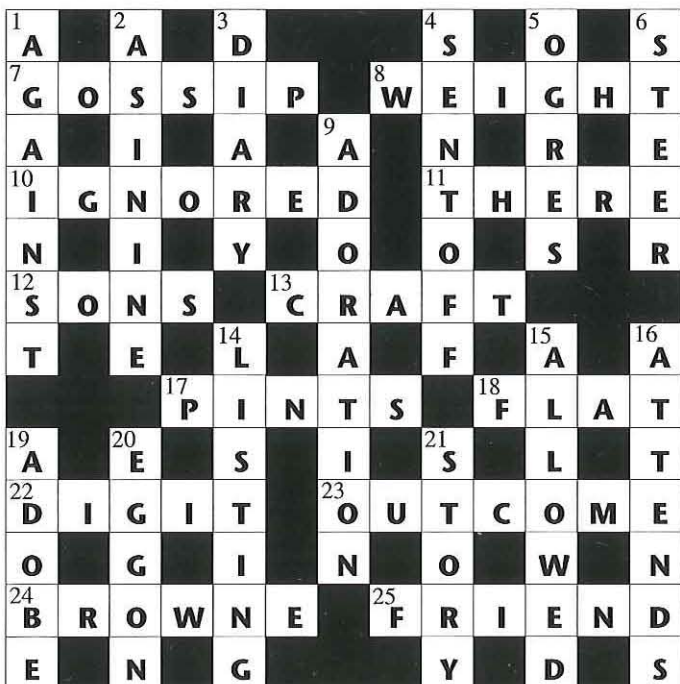
ACROSS

1. Got one after seven years?
3. To the Doctor, it refers to your collar-bone.
9. Does he make a noise when he steals the cattle?
10. Got in - made a lump of gold!
11. Maybe what gave the camel the hump! (3, 4, 5)
13. Stated somehow - and sampled.
15. Just feeble and worn out.
17. An embarrassing wee problem!
20. Little Virginia allowed a servant?
21. Abet Ron if you can - he's a nobleman.
22. Removed the ceremonial garb.
23. Make the coffee go round.

DOWN

1. Needle - or 1 Across.
2. Your class in some countries.
4. In an attractive way the artist is a good man.
5. The place to go in. (5, 2, 5)
6. You take it with you.
7. Unintelligent memory.
8. Heartfelt cry to the loved one! (6, 4, 2)
12. A term in an American school.
14. They are without a partner.
16. Firm place for the animals.
18. Ten on the move for a musical group.
19. The opera star goes up - greedy!

MARCH SOLUTION



BC OUTING

All to Pot!

This was the Club's fourth visit to the "pot island" of Koh Kret. 58 Members left the Club bright and early on a cold Saturday 30 March.

Our trip began on the big red silom buses (songtaews), as we left for Sri Paya Pier where Tub Tim, our trusty boat was patiently waiting for us. (Unlike the Oriental Queen, which mysteriously sank the day before).

On board we were treated to breakfast; Danish pastries, smoked salmon, sausage rolls, all washed down with a glass or two of 'bucks fizz'.

Once at Koh Kret, pottery, painting and drawing were available. We also had an enjoyable and relaxing couple of hours just 'pot-tering' around, generally exploring the island.



This year we actually found some maps in Thai about the island. We had translated what we could i.e. the three major points of interest, then it was up to individuals to decide in which direction to walk. Amazingly, this seemed to work and as far as I know, nobody got lost!

Not only is the island a maze of lanes with pottery shops, kilns, also a few small restaurants along the riverside where you can enjoy some sticky rice, somtam and a few beers, just whiling away the day.

All too soon it was time to go back to our boat and set sail for the luxurious Suan Thip Restaurant, where a fantastic buffet awaited us in our own private sala in the grounds of the restaurant complex. The food was excellent, as always, and the staff kept us awash with free soft drinks.



Afterwards, the kids were kept out of mischief by Khun Derek and Khun Lek with their unrivalled magic show. Face painting, Balloon Typhoon, clowns and candy-making completed the afternoon's entertainment.

After 21/2 hours of chilling out at the restaurant, it was time to board our buses back home to reality.

Many thanks to the team at the Club, the catering lads, Khun Owe, Khun Rit and the staff at Suan Thip restaurant for helping to make this a very special day. Thanks to the Members who braced the heat of the day to come along and support us on this memorable trip.

There was just one hitch to the day: one of our home-bound buses turned up late as the driver got lost. Please, please, please accept my apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Yours

Barry 'Potty' Osborne.





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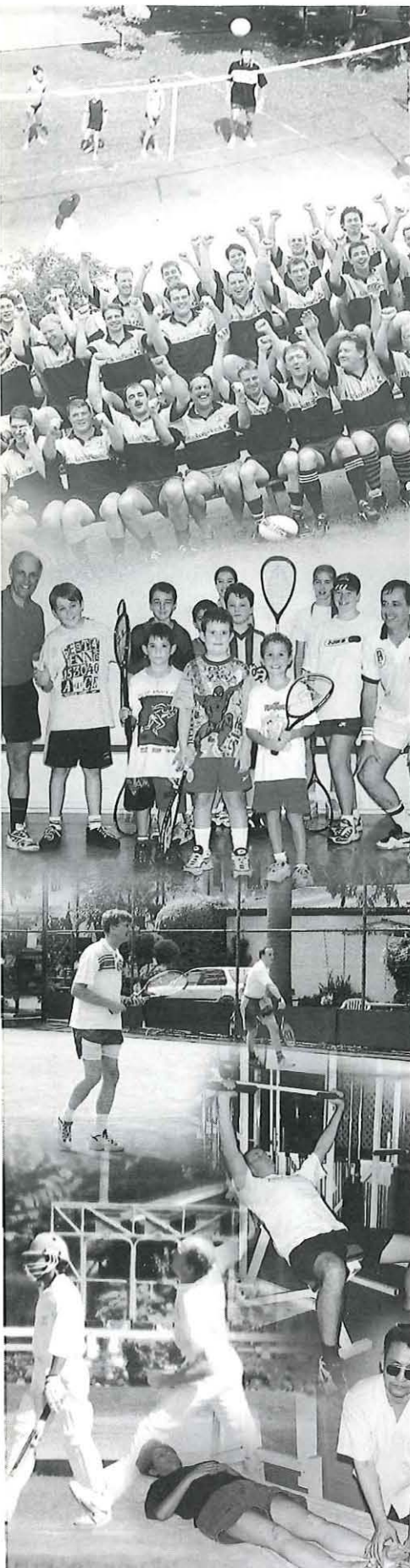
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CALENDAR

British Club Sports and Entertainment Calendar - May 2002



Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

7 am - 1 pm Tennis Team Practice
 11 am - 1 pm Badminton - Soi Nares
 2 pm - 4 pm Children's Activities
 3 - 6 pm Tennis Mix-in
 4.30 pm Yoga
 2 - 8 pm Happy Hour
 10 - 11pm Happy Hour II

8.00 am BWG Mahjong
 5 - 8 pm Happy Hour
 7 - 9 pm Tennis Team Practice
 10 - 11pm Happy Hour II

7.00 am Ladies Golf
 8 - 10 am Ladies Tennis
 10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
 11.30 am Yoga
 2 - 7pm BC Swimming Instruction
 5 - 8 pm Happy Hour
 7 - 9 pm Football Training
 8 - 11 pm Friendly Bridge
 9 pm Gentlemen's Spoof
 10 - 11pm Happy Hour II

9.30 am Aerobics
 5 - 8 pm Happy Hour
 6 - 9 pm Tennis Mix-in
 6.30 pm Cricket Nets
 7.00 pm Darts
 8.30 pm Accumulator
 10 - 11pm Happy Hour II

8 - 10 am Ladies Tennis
 10.30 am Aqua Aerobics
 5 - 8 pm Happy Hour
 6 - 9 pm Squash Mix-in
 7 - 9 pm Rugby Training
 9 - 10 pm Hockey Training
 10 - 11pm Happy Hour II

9.00 am ANZWG Mahjong
 3.30 - 6 pm BC Tennis Coaching for Children
 5.10 pm Tennis Mix-in
 5.30 pm Swimming - Junior Squad Training
 Happy Hour
 5 - 8 pm Adult Tennis
 6 - 7 pm Poolside BBQ
 6.30 - 9 pm Happy Hour II
 10 - 11pm

9 am - 12 noon Squash Coaching
 9 am - 1.30 pm BC Swimming Instruction
 2 - 8 pm Happy Hour
 10 - 11pm Happy Hour II

MAKE A NOTE!	
FA Cup Final	4 May
Turkish Food Promotion	2, 3 May
Bar Quiz	24 May
Khao Yai Trip	17 - 19 May
Carlsberg Trip	25 May
See page 19 for full details	

Sports - Contacts		
Aquatics	Nicole Nuttall	0 2300 3272
Badminton	Anant Leighrahathorn	0 2654 0002-29
Bridge	Winlock Hsu/ Charlene Wang	0 2921 6015
Cricket	Andre Tissera	0 2238 2718-21
Darts	Fitness Centre	0 2234 0247
Football	Martin Conisbee	01 829 7185
Golf	Karen Carter	0 2285 6169
Spoofers	Steve Eaton	0 2237 9262
Rugby	Jon Prichard	0 2662 6376
Scuba Diving	Peter Gary	0 2634 7799
Snooker	Khun Kittisak	01 633 9490
Squash	Peter Corney	01 829 2253
Tennis	Anton Bontje	0 2211 9550

Loyal Societies		
St George's	Angela Stafford	0 2632 0560 x 3037
St Andrew's	Jim Napier	0 2617 9620
St Patrick's	Ian Kane	0 2678 1813 x 1738
St David's	Gareth Hughes	01 859 6140

Venues	
Badminton	Soi Nares, behind Bangrak Police Station
Aerobics	Squash Court 3
Casuals Football	Colgate Ground, Rama III
Massage	Near the Silom Sala

Opening Times	
10 am - 11 pm	Churchill Bar
11.30 am - 2 pm	Lords Restaurant (Lunch)
6 pm - 10 pm	Lords Restaurant (Dinner)
7.30 am - 10 pm	Poolside Bar
6 am - 9 pm	Fitness Centre
9 am - 6 pm	Thai Massage (Tues-Sun)



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Standard Package - THB30,625 Deluxe Package - THB34,375

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(Colombo, Beach or Colombo, Kandy)
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- * Entrance fees

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THB23,500 - One Way and THB47,000 - Return to Paris, Zurich
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Khaeow Kheo Sunday

Khaeow Kheo (KK) has a promotion whereby you can play for 'half price' (B750) after 11.30am on Sundays and it seemed churlish not to take them up on it - so 17 March saw us teeing off there for a 'Club Day'.

Unfortunately it was one of the hottest days of the year (41°C) and although a breeze sprang up later, toiling up some of the hills proved very hard going. Carole Anne Eastgate was better able to cope with the conditions than most of us and romped home in first place 'beating the course' by five points. (The format was that Birdies and better would score 1 point, Pars scored zero and Bogies - or worse - minus one. So in effect, we were playing against the course rather than each other). Carole Ann was the winner (-5), one point clear of Bridget Snow who, in turn, was three points clear of Mike Staples. And I'm far too much of a gentleman to comment on the outrageous positioning of the ladies' tees.

■ GUEST DAY AT MUANG KAEW ■

In previous years this event has always been the 'New Members Day' however as we don't seem to get that many new members (and the ones who do sign up are not always able to make it) we decided to change the name and have a 'Guest Day' instead. It was a huge success.

Members were invited to bring a guest (or two) along to Muang Kaeow for a 12.00pm tee-off and we were rewarded by a very good turn-out. Even better, the course was quiet (despite being a Sunday) and we all got away in good order. The format was 'Strokeplay' and despite the heat some good scores were recorded.

The late start was deliberate, a Bar-B-Q had been organized at the British Club in the evening and it all worked out nicely; there was just time for a shower after the game, a refreshing drink and then back to the BC for something more substantial - and the food. The results came in as follows:

- 1 Charles Skinner Net 68
- 2 Mike Staples Net 71
- 3 Karen Holloway Net 71 (on countback)

I suspect Charles' sterling performance was due partly to his new driver (a fearsome weapon) and the fact that he had invited along Doug Hood - the new golf pro at the Dusit Thani - as his guest. Charles was on his best behaviour.

[I feel I should mention Doug shot a 70, but declined a prize as he was our guest. He's

based at the Dusit Thani on Rama IV Rd (tel: 09 924 2071) and if anyone is having problems he's offering an introductory 15 min 'video swing analysis' for 200Bt].

■ THE MARCH MEDAL ■

You can tell it's the 'low-season'; Royal Lat Krabang couldn't do enough for us at the March Medal. We were allowed to book both first and tenth tees and all the groups got away early - the long queues and the dubious 'due to early morning fog all tee-times delayed 45 minutes' back in January are now only a fading memory. The down-side is the heat and the humidity ... but there you go. As ever the course was in great shape and if the scores didn't really do it justice we still had a great day's golf. There were some old/new names on the 'roll of honour'; David Lamb is home - temporarily - from his travels in America and took the 'A' Flt trophy in fine style. Karen Carter is (at last) back on form and the honours in 'B' Flt went her way and I'm pleased to report that all Harlan Bulow's hard work on the driving range is paying dividends, he was the winner in 'C' Flt . Congratulations to them all.

■ FOREST HILLS MEDLEY EVENT ■

This three-day extravaganza kicked off at 11.30am on Saturday 6 April. Originally it was to have been the Dunlop Cup but as David Lamb - the sponsor - was unable to attend in April, that event has been moved to May. Even so there was an impressive turn-out and it was undoubtedly a great success. Everyone who plays there comments on the spectacular mountain scenery and pollution-free air. Additionally, we were blessed by exceptionally good weather. Clear skies and sunshine would normally imply hot, sweaty days but a strong breeze changed all that. Okay, so it made for tricky golf but I didn't hear anyone complaining - except when it died away.

The course itself was in excellent condition but best of all the place was near empty - a far cry from last year's Club Championship which had to be abandoned because, thanks to 120 Koreans, only one group was able to finish before dark.

The format was 'Medley'. **Day One** was something of a 'fun day' and teams of four were drawn at random and sent out on a 'Scramble'. Forest Hills may be pretty but it's not easy and the winning team of Don Robertson, Graham Lunney, Barry Ashman and Charmaine Adams did well to come home with a gross score of 71, net 58. The second and third place teams tied on net 60. Fourth, fifth etc. places were registered and points were shared out amongst the team members accordingly - the idea being that individual scores would accumulate throughout the 3-day event to give an overall winner on the Monday.

Day Two was a pairs event (the names were drawn at random) but this time the format was Stapleford. Again we had another excellent day's golf but the leader board changed dramatically when Brad Weatherstone and Carol-Ann Eastgate came in with 75 points between them - 3 points clear of Mike Staples, Don Robertson and Verena Balwin (uneven numbers meant we couldn't quite pair everyone up). As on Day One, points were awarded to all the players depending on position and at close of play, thanks to a good round on Saturday, Carol-Ann was well clear of the field. Unfortunately she'd only come for two days as Ken was leaving for China on the Monday and it looked for a moment as if that was going to be her final score - there would be no repeat of her Khaeow Kheo success. But where there's a will there's a way (!) and after some hasty rearranging of transport schedules she was able to take part in Day Three after all. We're still waiting to hear whether Ken made it to the airport

Day Three was an individual Stapleford event, and it turned out to be something of a tough day as fatigue began to set in. The 'Hills' in 'Forest Hills' isn't just for show and after Bangkok and it's (relatively) flat courses, climbing the slopes was heavy going. Andre Tissera came up for the day and his fresh legs proved to be a big asset, he amassed 42 points which was easily the best score of the day. Bernie Adams managed 39 and Chris Crowley 37, but no-one else was able to beat their handicap. However Don Robertson came close and his 35 was enough to give him 6th place and that, combined with his 1st place on Day One and 6th place on Day Two made him the overall winner of our first Medley Competition.

GOLF

Four at the par 3, Royal Lat Krabang



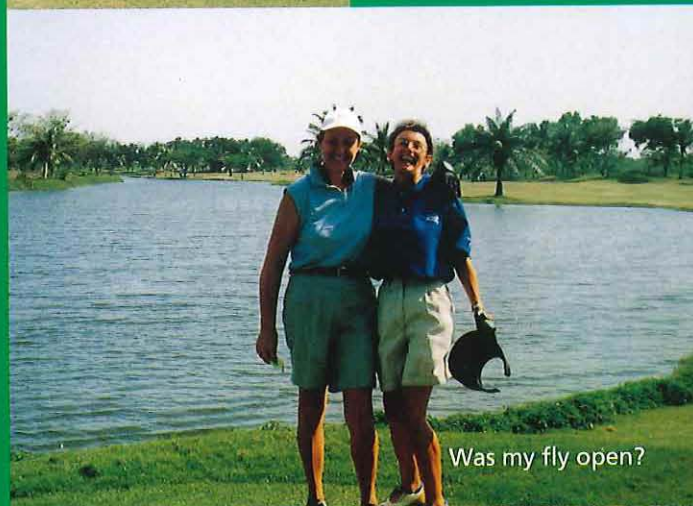
Carol Ann and Lori enjoying the day...



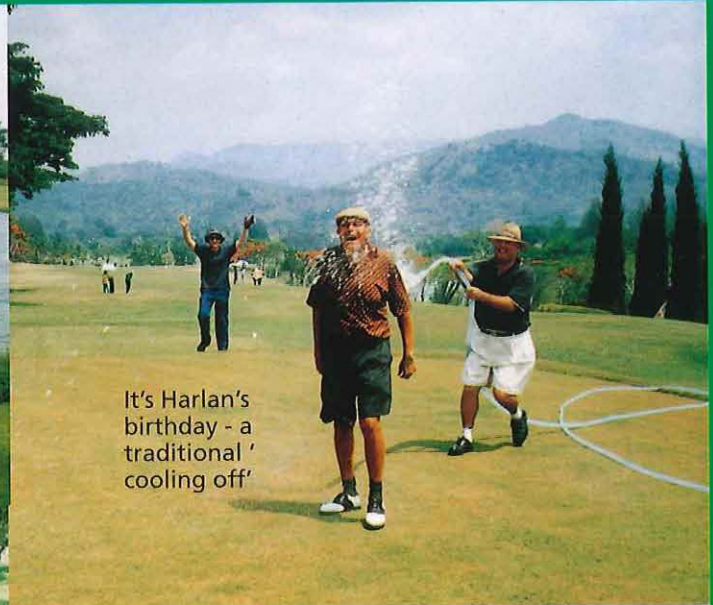
Captions please!!

It was a great week-end and a special 'thank you' should be extended to Harlan and Diane Bulow. It was Harlan's birthday and he generously provided several bottles of fizzy 'sherbert'. Diane baked two cakes and somewhat confusingly, they arrived in pizza boxes! But I can vouch for the fact both were excellent. On a slightly more sombre note, Don Robertson had an unfortunate encounter with a snake when looking for a stray ball. It struck at him but missed. He reported it as being 'about three foot long, brown with black markings and the caddies were terrified of it'... A narrow escape and a reminder to us all to be careful when walking around in the rough.

Dick Taylor



Was my fly open?



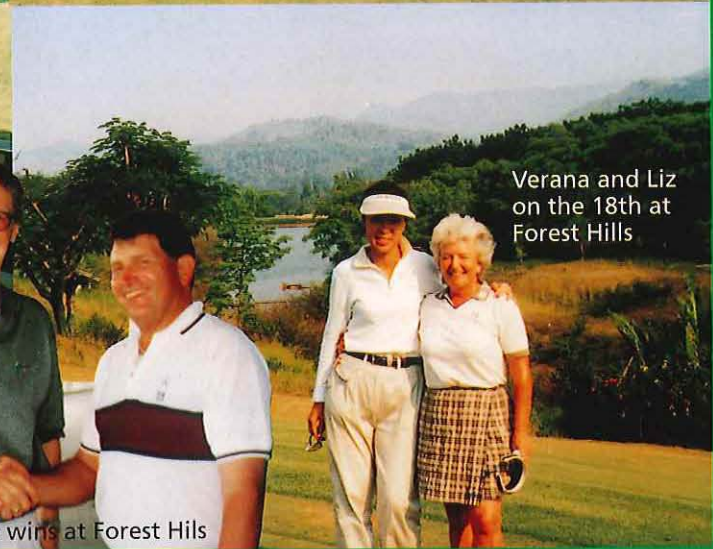
It's Harlan's birthday - a traditional 'cooling off'



'The girls' taking abreak

David Lamb wins 'A' Flight

Don Robertson wins at Forest Hills



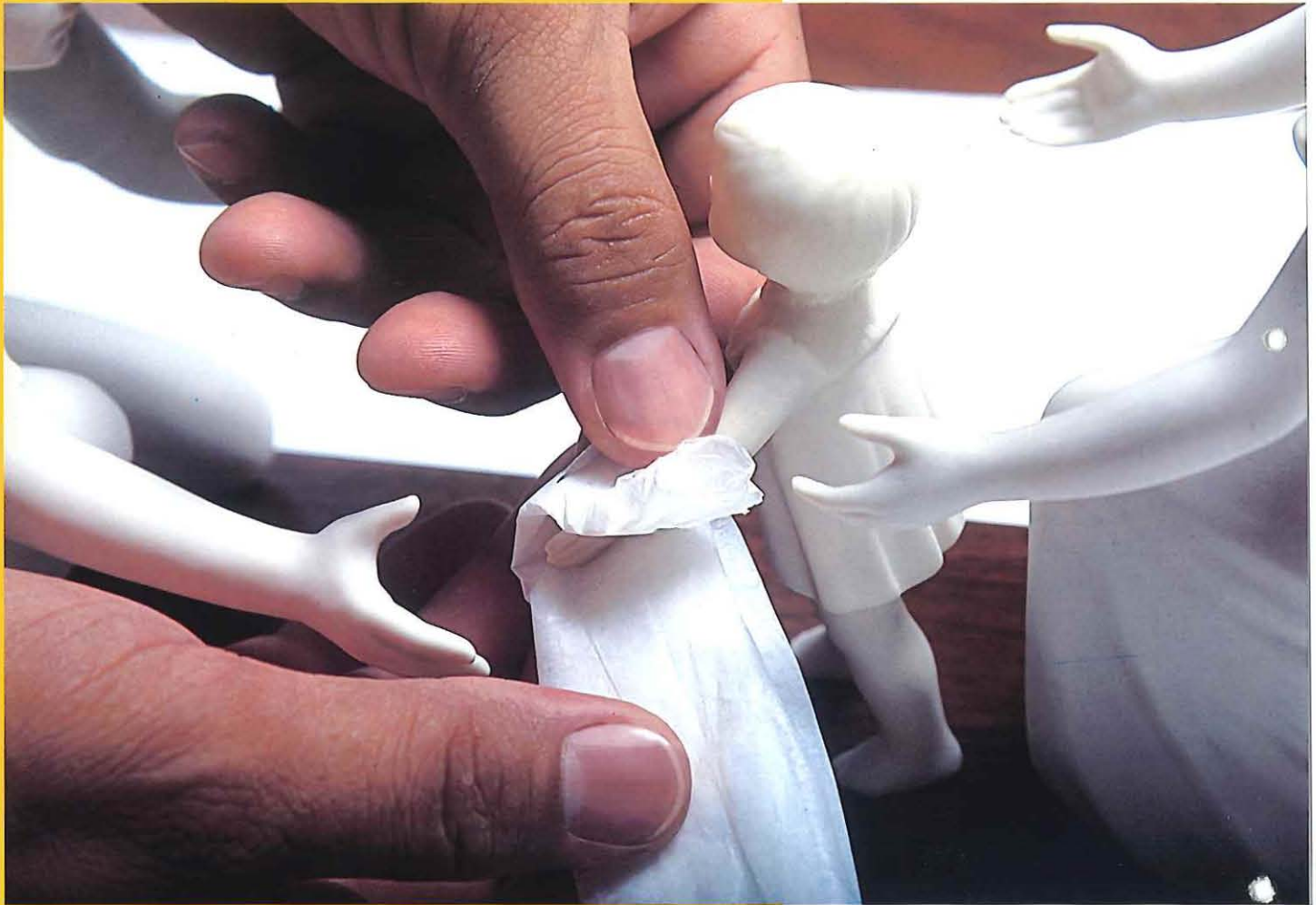
Verana and Liz on the 18th at Forest Hills

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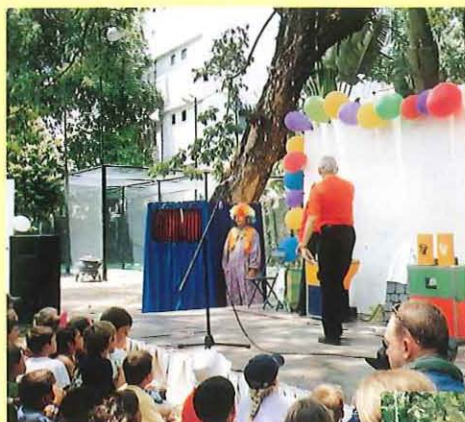
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BC EVENT

Easter Sunday Funday



This took place on the back lawn of the British Club on Easter Sunday 31 March. Amazingly, 152 people turned up on the day, despite only 26 bookings being made in advance.

A few Members turned up a little late, so before the fun kicked off properly, some of the kids decided to go ahead and 'find' a few eggs in advance. To no avail, they were made to hand back their finds for 're-hiding'!



However, there was no danger of the Golden Egg being found as it was not hidden until well after the hunt began! Many thanks to the girls from Balloon Typhoon who did such a good job of concealing it!

The egg hunt was just one of the many exciting and events that we had to keep the Easter revellers entertained; face painting, pottery, Easter basket making, egg painting, a puppet show and a magic show helped to ensure that this Easter Sunday was indeed a very special day.



I would like to thank all the Members who braved the scorching sun of the day for turning out to what will be one of the last events held on the back lawn.

Thanks also to the team of *Suzy Bernard* and to our Sponsors *Coca-Cola (Thai Nanthip Co., Ltd.)* and to *Nestlé (Thailand) Ltd.*

And last but not least, thank you to all the British Club staff who helped on the day, without them things would not have gone as smoothly as they did.



Barry Osborne

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In magical May we aim to keep you busy.

■ KHAO YAI WEEKEND TRIP, ■

17 - 19 May

Adults: B4500

Child under 12 years: B3000

Child under 2 years: B1000

Please join us for this brilliant weekend trip. Two night's accommodation is at Khao Yai Villa Resort.

Cost includes all meals, bar quiz, elephant rides and children's activities are included.

Please be sure to sign up early as we can take a maximum of 54 Members. Please contact Barry for further information. There are three easy ways to make a reservation;

- **Email the Club**
- **Fax the Club**
- **Book at reception**

■ CARLSBERG AYUTTHAYA TRIP ■ AND BANG PA IN PALACE

Saturday 25 May

Leaving British Club at 8.45am

Adults: B950

Children: B450

Join us on our fourth visit to the Carlsberg Brewery in Ayutthaya.

Sample their fine brew and partake of a light lunch. Before too much beer is drunk, we will visit Bang Pa In Palace, then on to the boat to enjoy a British Club curry buffet.

We leave by coach and return by boat to Si Phaya (Sheraton Hotel) Pier.

Cost includes all tours, entrance fees, two meals and free Carlsberg beer (until we run out!!)

■ BAR QUIZ ■

When? Friday 24 May

What time? 7.30pm

Where? Lord's Restaurant

Who with? six Six of your mates

Who Presides? Mr. Rodney Bain

What's the damage? B100 per person

■ WEEKEND SAILING IN ■

KOH CHANG NATIONAL MARINE PARK

Friday 5-7 July

Cost: B6,500 per person

Leaving the British Club at 7.00pm Friday for the trip to Koh Chang. Members will travel overnight by bus, arriving at the island early on Saturday morning.

Tida Yachting Company will take care of all

meals and snorkeling. Accommodation for the night of 6 June will be onboard one of two yachts, sleeping six people per yacht.

The cost includes return transport, all meals, accommodation onboard, snorkeling, etc. Maximum number for this trip is 12 Members.

Sign up early to avoid disappointment!

■ FA CUP FINAL ■

4 May at 7.30pm

Come watch what some would describe as the most exciting sporting event of the year (Arsenal v Chelsea) on our new big screen in the new-look Suriwongse Room.

The cost of B250 gets you football, friendly fans and food (pie chips and mushy peas).

■ WINE TASTING ■

31 May 7-8.30pm

Cannon Pacific Company has kindly agreed to come to the British Club and give Members a free wine tasting evening.

Wines will be available for sampling in the Wordsworth Room. Drop by for a taste of something different.

■ TURKISH FOOD PROMOTION ■

2 & 3 May

For two nights only Turkish food will be on offer at Lords Restaurant. If you've never tried food from that most intriguing country, then now is your chance.

Cost: B600 per head

■ ART ATTACK KIDS CLUB - BY ■

VANESSA CHRISTIAN

Saturdays, 13.30-15.00

Wordsworth Room

27 April-29 June

Minimum 5 children and maximum 15 children

Last month saw the beginning of a ten week course called 'Art Attack'. As everyone who is anyone knows, 'Art Attack' is a daily television programme that inspires young children to be creative and 'have a go' - a kind of 21st century Rolfe Harris or Tony Hart. The course, run by Vanessa Christian, follows a similar theme. Children as young as 7 are invited to join in the fun activities, which include modeling clay, glass painting, macaroni magic and tile mosaic to name but a few!

Vanessa, a teacher at Harrow International School, says it is crucial, in a time when the internet and computer games have replaced traditional, cut and stick activities, that children have structured, hands on, creative fun. Vanessa has noticed increasingly, in her 10 years of teaching, that children are lacking the basic manual dexterity and spatial awareness skills, that in the past we took for granted. This obviously affects many aspects of their schooling such as Sport, Science, Mathematics and Art.

To secure your child's place on the course, call the British Club, or Vanessa on 09 981 4259.

■ SILK SCREEN PAINTING WITH ■

VANESSA CHRISTIAN

14 May-25 June.

Tuesdays 7.00pm-9.00pm

A 4 week course which will be available to Members over an 8 week period.

Most people are amazed when they first try silk painting: with very little artistic talent you can get great results. In fact, the odd accidental splodge makes the image appear even more exiting and artistic. It is the way the paints flow onto the silk, then mix and merge, that makes the finished product look so splendid. Very basically an image is drawn onto the silk, then traced using the French technique of coloured gutta. This acts as a boundary, which is then filled with different coloured paint to get the desired effect.

There are many different, simple techniques that you can use to make family and friends believe that you are a budding Van Gogh - alas, if only you had more time.

Course fee: B6000 for any 4 sessions in this period.

■ WEEKEND TRIP WITH EASTERN ■

ORIENT EXPRESS

15-16 June

A beautiful weekend to Hua Hin in once-in-a-lifetime style.

Leaving on Saturday morning and travelling on the exclusive Eastern Orient Express to Hua Hin where we spend the night at the glorious Sofitel Central.

Please see page 5 for further details.

RUGBY

Raring to Go

Several people have been asking me, so here it is the definitive (well as close as it ever gets) version of the BC Rugby Section schedule for this year. And, I might add, to counter allegations of tardiness that this information is being released at least two months in advance of normal practice.

BANGKOK BRITISH CLUB RUGBY FIXTURES 200

Item Date	Fixture	Comments/Location	Result
1 Jan 19	Southerners	Tri-Nations Comp Pattana School	Won 38-7
2 Feb 9	Pattaya Panthers	Tri-Nations Comp ISR	Won 13-11
3 Feb 16	Southerners	Tri-Nations Comp.Pattana School	Lost 42-10
4 Feb 23	Pattaya Panthers	Tri-Nations Comp.Pattana School	Lost 21-20
5 Mar 16/17	Manila 10's	Entry Confirmed	Championship Winner
6 Mar 23/24	Hong Kong 7's	Hong Kong	Social trip only
7 Mar 30	Nomads RFC	Hong Kong, Touring side Confirmed ISB 4:30PM Kick-off	Won 49 - 0
8 April	Bangkok 10's	TBC	
9 May 4/5	Pattaya 10's	Entry Confirmed. ISR Pattaya	
10 May 25/26	Phuket 10's	Entry Confirmed	
11 June	Khon Kaen Tour	TBC	
12 July	TMB 7's	TBC	
13 Aug/Sept	TRU Season	TBC	
14 September	Hat Yai 7's	TBC	
15 October	Bali 10's	TBC	
16 Oct 26/27	Bangkok 7's	Southerners	
17 November	RBSC 5 Nations.	RBSC	
18 Dec 5-8	Phuket Tour	Phuket	

THE CHICAGO BEAR HIBERNATES

One of the most enjoyable parts of living overseas is the increased opportunity of forming friendships with an extensive group of individuals of diverse ethnicity. The converse of this is, unfortunately, that overseas adventures for many people are short-term, and in seemingly no time, your new best buddy is standing in line at Don Muang, somewhat subdued, nursing a record breaking hangover inculcated at last night's leaving bash, preparing to depart this smiling land never to return.



However, none of us believe this to be true of our latest loss, Eric the Cleric, the most excellent prop America has ever spat forth. Whilst his parting speech consisted of mostly well-meaning though sarcastic observations and ironic anecdotes, his closing statement, expressed with true Schwarzeneggeresque vigour, "I'll be back!", confirms the faith that we shall be in his ursine presence yet again. Jon Prichard, section Chairman, described Eric as a stalwart member, which is ratified by his six year dedicated service, participating at some time in every regular tour, and by his commitment to and passion for BC Rugby. Audacious in his playing style, and oft-times ardently vocal, Eric has inspired many tired Fat-Boys to expend extra effort, especially in the closing stages of a hard fought match. Eric will be sorely missed, especially by me, perhaps not because he was often found sitting on my head, but for his comradeship and due to the feeling of comfort generated by knowing you're alongside a former professional kick-boxer, which is always handy in a tight spot. So adieu and good luck, Eric, it's a damn shame the Feds caught up with you!

MANILA THRILLER

"Championez, Championez", we sang, lead by delighted skipper, Rusty Chalon. "Shut up!", screamed the frosty air-hostess, but it was too late, we were in full flight in every possible sense of the word!

And as we sat, firmly wedged in row 39, clutching our Manila Ten's Cup Winners Medallions, and anticipating the next well deserved Bloody Mary (don't ask!), the realisation of the glorious truth transpired. Champions!

It would be wrong to deny that we had returned to Manila harbouring some expectation of regaining the Cup that BC had previously won in 1999, especially considering that we had managed to gather together many of the previous year's specialist squad. However, our confidence was truly shaken as early as in the first pool game against the International Sports Club, Indonesia (ISCI), when we posted an 8-5 loss, losing by a last minute penalty (and a clearly errant refereeing decision). In retrospect, this was fortunate, as it awoke the squad to the fact that this was an international competition and would be no walk-over. Under the guidance of ex-international player-coach Eddie Evans, an intensive debrief was conducted and remedial strategies formulated. The main issue to emerge was a lack of communication, not surprising considering that team members represented

RUGBY

nine different nations: Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, Australia, England, France, Cornwall and, of course, Thailand. An early try, in the next pool match against Macau, seemed to settle the team and as the game plan fell into place, we cruised to a 19-0 win. A similar story, in the last pool game against Taipei, although they were able to find the narrowest gap in our defensive line and slip through and touchdown a try. This left us on 6 points in the league, with a points difference of +30. With both ISCI and Taipei in a position to attain 6 points, whether we would qualify for the cup championship at all depended on the score in the final game of the day between those two teams. Taipei looked stronger and had a points difference of -5 at the kick-off. Both teams exhibited strong defence and it was three-quarters of the way through the first half before Taipei broke through to score. After the half time break, Taipei ran in two tries in quick succession, leaving plenty of time to score the two more tries required to knock BC out of the Championship. Four nail biting minutes followed as, thankfully, ISCI raised their heads and staunchly defended their line. Suddenly, following a quickly taken penalty, Taipei were through again. Just one more score and we were out. "Come on ref. blow the stinking whistle!", was anxiously murmured. Two minutes, one minute, thirty seconds, and then finally the hooter sounded for full time. We were through. Both physically and emotionally drained, we returned to base to prepare ourselves for the next day's challenges in the traditional rugby manner - physiotherapy, carbo-loading and team bonding.

THE NEXT HURDLE

Qualifying for the cup meant a post-noon kick-off in the quarter final against Saipan so the squad was relatively well-rested and recharged. With "the men and the boys" already gleaned, we knew the route to the final was going to be tough so the pre-match prep talk was appropriately focused and fierce. Whilst Saipan seemed the strongest of the other contenders, the fervour of the BC side was ferocious, and within a minute and a half, we were a try ahead. The BC defence was tight and unfailing with some brutal, bone-jarring tackles being made, and by half time, a commanding lead had been achieved, Saipan's hopes dashed, and we were already focusing on the next encounter. Home-town favourites and competition hosts, Manila Nomads, were the next hurdle to be cleared. Captained by ex-BC member, Trevor Day, the Nomads clearly entertained high hopes of victory at their own tournament. They were well-drilled and fired up, surging forward following the kick-off, but the Pink line was unfaltering, the forwards retaining the ball, establishing a

secure platform and then releasing the powerful backs to rampage through to generate an early lead. Another BC try and then another, quickly followed leaving Nomad dreams in tatters. Whilst the Nomads managed to slip by to gain a consolation try, by the end of the game the BC squad was cruising, carrying barely disguised confidence of a good showing in the ensuing final.

The Sydney Schooners had sailed through their pool matches without defeat, and had reportedly spent Saturday night strutting amongst the milling rugby throng expressing their assurance that they would be supping from the winners trophy on Sunday. This kind of behaviour did little to endear them to the other teams and when we faced off in the final, gave the BC the advantage of being the crowd favourite. As we stood on the side line, waiting for the cameras to set up, I looked around the faces of the squad, some silent in grim determination, others spitting fire and butting heads with their team mates, with one common thread, the absolute unbreakable commitment to give their all, not for personal glory but for their team-mates.

A GOOD RESULT

As they swaggered onto the field, the Schooners looked to be a physically dominant force, but they outsize us only in mass not in spirit. And in this game, that's what counts as within a few minutes of the kick-off, Mr Nutz ran the first try in the corner for BC. For a final, the rest of the game was a little disappointing as BC dominated and the Schooners quickly lost interest.

However some great rugby had been played over the weekend, everybody had contributed, and the victory was truly deserved. Our hearts justly swelled with pride as Captain Rusty hoisted the cup aloft and we sang, "Championez, Championez"



MATCH REPORT

BC vs Hong Kong Nomads

30 March 2002

By Ben Knowles

I had an easy job picking a side from a squad of 20. Dominic (Whiting) was Captain. Having arrived piecemeal fashion, we found the Nomads changed, large, and practising hard, we had successfully lulled them into a false sense of security.

We scored two tries in first 5 minutes. This took wind out of their sails, and we led 28-0 after 1st third. Scoring slowed as Nomads picked up pace and we tried to get a little too flash. But the final result was healthy 49-0 victory.

They were a big team, and their hangovers were not the reason for our emphatic victory, it was simply the best BC performance I've seen in a while. All very encouraging as we had some new faces, and it was the youngest BC team I have ever seen.

SPECIAL MOMENTS:-

Nathan (Magnus' friend): first ever game (he said he had "seen some on TV"). He made 15 yards every time taking 2-3 men to bring him down. He is the official replacement seppo. Morker (?): Having persuaded me he's a centre, not a prop, he proved very capable. He ran through a minimum of one tackle, handing off Nomads like shooting flies.

All this was followed by dinner in the evening back at the BC which everyone enjoyed greatly. Usual shenanigans ensued.

A BIG THANKS TO:-

David Sim, HK Nomads tour organiser, Andy Davies, for organising the pitch, Grant for refereeing, the British Club for excellent grub and booze and finally, Prichard and Hollis for turning up at the dinner with moral support, shirts and ties.

Finally, a big thankyou to our sponsors.

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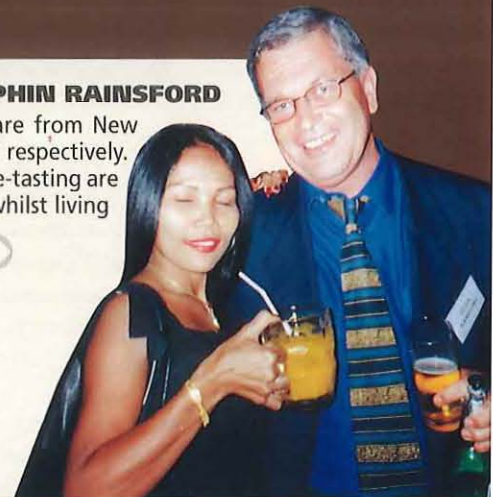
NEW MEMBERS

**JOHN G. SIM**

After traveling around the world, John has finally reached our fair shores. He is a regional partner with KPMG and has two children in tertiary education in Scotland. A Hash House Harrier, he used to play soccer and rugby for the Singapore Cricket Club Casuals, Oddballs & Misfits.

PETER & PHONPHIN RAINSFORD

Peter and Pornphin are from New Zealand and Thailand respectively. Golf snooker and wine-tasting are high on the agenda whilst living here in Bangkok.

**STUART & PATRICIA ANDERSON**

Stuart and Patricia are keen fitness enthusiasts. When they are not in the gym, you'll find them either on the golf course, tennis court or in the swimming pool!

**WENDY NAPIER-WALKER & STEPHEN (STEVE) WALKER**

Both Kiwis, Steve teaches English and Wendy is the First Secretary at the Embassy. They have been expats in some really remote countries-Tonga, Vanuatu and Kiribati to name but a few. Although Wendy prefers the more sedentary life investigating family history, Steve is happy on the volleyball, tennis, badminton and squash courts. They are joined by their son Charles and enjoy traveling and eating.

**GUY WYLES**

Guy and his girlfriend both enjoyed New Members night immensely, making new friends and checking out which other New Members share their yachting and wine-tasting hobbies.

VIVIEN AITON

Works for a well-known telecommunications company. Just think of a fruit that is also a colour and you'll know the one! When not working Vivien enjoys swimming, theatre and dining out.

**JENNIFER TIAN & PREEDA TUNSARINGKRAN**

Jennifer and her husband, Preeda have been in Thailand for five years and have two young children. Jennifer is the current President of the Singapore Club, Thailand. Both she and her husband enjoy playing golf and bowling and like socialising. The family will be Members of the Club for a long time, they say.



MEMBER'S TRAVELS

Escaping Bangkok

Bangkok, always alive, always stimulating, nevertheless often came dangerously close to driving me up the wall with its incessant noise, heat and pollution. There is a simple solution however when these symptoms rear their ugly head. Just get the hell out of it.

This was definitely no harsh punishment. Thailand is packed full of delightful countryside waiting to be explored. We chose to travel by car, because my travel partner, Tom, had only just checked out of a Thai hospital a week ago, having had an operation on his still sensitive foot. Already pleasantly surprised by the state-of-the-art hospital where most staff spoke English, he certainly had been incredibly impressed with his specialist. Whilst going through the list of relevant questions just before the operation, the doctor had addressed him in his quiet and soft voice. 'Sir, are you married?' 'No, I'm not.' 'Then maybe you have a girl-friend?' 'Uhh... Not at the moment, no.'

Before Tom knew it, a beautiful Thai nurse was ushered in front of him. It was rather embarrassing, as neither of them really knew what to say, especially since the rest of the staff stood gawking at them, the specialist having taken on the role of matchmaker. Not that it worked out, and I really believed my friend when he said he had left the hospital alone, unattractively hunched over a pair of too-small wooden crutches.

HOT FOOT TO LOPBURI

Now, after having driven two hours in traffic, trying to escape the hot claws of Bangkok, we finally burned rubber. Foot down on the accelerator, we headed north to Lopburi, just a few hours drive from Bangkok. The Panasiri Resort was expecting us, and their marketing slogan of 'A Place where Nature and Adventure Become One' urged us on.

Soon Bangkok faded away. The scenery became lush and green, paddy fields, speckled with palm trees, and wooden houses on stilts galore. It was not just that the traffic melted away, we also noticed less flashy vehicles. No more spotless estate cars, shiny saloons or hot hatchbacks. Pick-up trucks dominated the scene, some rusty, most of them dusty, and all purely chosen on grounds of practicality.



In need of a break (hey, it's our holiday after all!) we parked the car next to a road stall packed full of Thai customers. That must mean good food. The plump cook smiled a toothless smile, grunting something that sent everyone into giggles. Her eyes sparkling, she ushered us to a ramshackle rattan bench with motherly movements of her flabby arms. Opposite the road a big building that was once yellow featured a sign: 'Cupido Cabaret. We aim high! Our legs as well.'

TIME TO SPEND MONEY?

The sweltering temperature weighed down on us, only slightly alleviated by a rattling fan. Above our heads a swarm of bees crawled in and out of a hole of at the edge of the dilapidated roof. As we stared at it, astonished that nobody seemed to mind, an older, scrawny chap piped up, 'Bees. Bring good luck!' Rubbing his thumb and forefinger together, he made a famous universal gesture. 'Ah, satang!' I nodded approvingly, uttering the Thai equivalent for 'money'. The man clapped his hands with joy at hearing a foreigner speak his language. Tom was not saying much, though he was now out of sight when I peered over to where he had been sitting just a second ago. The part of the rattan bench he had perched on, had cracked, sending him tumbling to the floor. 'Maybe it's time to spend some satang on the furniture,' he grumbled, a pained look on his face.

CLOSE TO HEAVEN

But quickly several helpful hands were already pulling him from the rattan stakes that seemed to mercilessly prick and impale his buttocks, and when a huge, steaming plate of phat thai was deftly placed in front of him, Tom couldn't help but forget about his physical discomfort. The noodles were

fried with tiny morsels of tofu, pieces of juicy pork, fresh and crispy bean sprouts, dried shrimps, eggs and peanuts. This was heaven or at least came close to it. In his greed, Tom even ordered a second plate (I can easily say that, because I can

write what I want, can't I? Even when it was really me!).

After our noodle splurge we continued to Lopburi, where, armed with the address of Panasiri Resort, but no actual directions, we

approached several local people for assistance. Without exception, each broke out in nervous giggles as soon as I, the foreigner with blond hair, opened my mouth. No need even to utter a word. Normally my last resort in Thailand would be the local police, because of their fondness for tea money. However, this time we had no choice. The menacing-looking guy with dark sunglasses (I hate it when I can't see somebody's eyes) was clad as usual in the exclusive, tight fitting brown polyester outfit of the police force. That suits him fine in this heat, I was thinking in the relaxed mood I was in, whilst producing my innocent 'I not know' tourist smile. It was impossible to miss the bulging gun at his side. He barked something to his colleague, and commanded us to follow him on his motorbike. 'For sure he bought that bike with money he extracted from poor people here,' I hissed to Tom, as I kept up with our polyester friend.

A BIT OF A TREK

We were leaving town. Well, resorts need a lot of space to pamper their customers, and so I was happy to follow. Our police officer needed to stop for some gasoline? No problem, we could wait. Soon we would be in Panasiri, and boy, did I look forward to a swim and a drink on the balcony. Ten minutes later signs of habitation became sparser and sparser, and we had passed endless green pastures that could have easily housed a hundred resorts. 'We've been following him for a long way now. Do you still have the address somewhere?' Tom said, fumbling with the map of Thailand. 'Yes, here it is, but it doesn't say much. I don't even know the name of this road.'

To our surprise, at a fork in the road our uniformed friend chose the most forsaken, unimpressive option, not more than a dirt road. 'I'll call those Panasiri people, see what they say,' Tom said, sweeping beads of sweat from his upper lip, whilst grabbing his mobile and dialing the number. Forget about it, pal, it seemed to peep, you're in the middle of rural Thailand. No way is your yuppie urban device going to help you out here. I didn't respond, just grabbed my wallet and plucked 100 baht out of it. 'Do you think this guy is okay? What if he brings us to his cronies and that's the last the world ever hears of us?' Tom snapped five minutes later, the only living creature we had recently encountered was a lonely chicken taking a dust bath at the

roadside. I reached into my bag for more cash. We jolted along in silence for a few more minutes. The police officer slowed down. 'Now what the hell is this...' Tom muttered through gritted teeth, prepared to fight his way out.

A RARE SPECIMEN

We had arrived at a new road, a highway with, finally, other cars and other people. We were saved. Our officer had never meant to rob us. He'd been leading the way for half an hour now. Knowing that the police in Thailand would expect something for such service I lunged in my wallet for yet another banknote. He pointed at a sign with the name Panasiri. In our relief we couldn't stop grinning, and wanted nothing more than to give him the whole wad. He politely refused, turned around, waved goodbye and then he was off, without ever lifting his sunglasses. Now I would definitely never see his eyes. The eyes of an unimpeachable civil servant. 'That was a rare specimen, I dare say,' Tom summed up our feelings.

PANASIRI AT LAST

Feeling rather sheepish and guilty we drove the last kilometres to Panasiri in silence, where we were installed in two little villas, built to resemble the Balinese style. Meticulously maintained gardens bordered the winding paths that ran from villa to villa. The spacious room was equipped with a well-walled bathroom in a small garden.



My villa was built half way up a hill and the balcony offered a sweeping view of the countryside. No sound of a car, believe me, just the contented chirping of birds and a delightful breeze rustling the trees. If you're into lush green treetops with stunning silvery-grey mountains on the horizon, and fluttering butterflies the size of your hand, this is the place. Look no further.

We enjoyed an agreeable dinner in the simple restaurant (not exactly the place for a romantic dinner, I have to admit, although that was not what I was after), where on this weekday we were the only guests. Not that it bothered us. The view of the swimming pool with its wonderful midnight blue-glazed tiles was highlighted by stylish halogen lighting. A glass of wine would have made it all perfect, but unfortunately that was not available.

The next day we played snooker in the games room,



and investigated the battlefield for paintballing within the resort. This was a new experience for me. The vegetation looked a bit wild, but for all I knew maybe that was exactly the idea. I'm not really into this sport. The curving lake in the middle of this wilderness looked almost forbidding, with a surface that refused to produce a ripple for as long as we stood there gazing at it. At the far end the wind had sculpted the sandy, protruding bank into a row of faces of elderly, dignified men, facing us. Maybe it was karma that stopped me from immortalizing this extraordinary sight, but never before had my camera refused to work on demand.

A small disadvantage of our resort might be that the staff barely spoke English, however their friendliness more than made up for that. We did understand later that it would have been much wiser to take the new highway from Bangkok to Petchaboon, instead of cruising all the way to Lopburi first. But then we would have missed out on our police officer, who had at least temporarily challenged our preconceptions about the gallant 'boys in brown'.

**Written By
Maike Voorhuis
(B374)**

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Bangkok Community Theatre merrily presents

Rumpelstiltskin

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Bring your little ones to BCT's wonderfully inventive version of "Rumpelstiltskin" to be performed in the **Suriwong Room** twice daily on **June 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th, 2002**

Although designed for children 3 to 9 years old, the child in everyone will enjoy this unique type of live theatre-in-the-round, which involves the audience in the action throughout!

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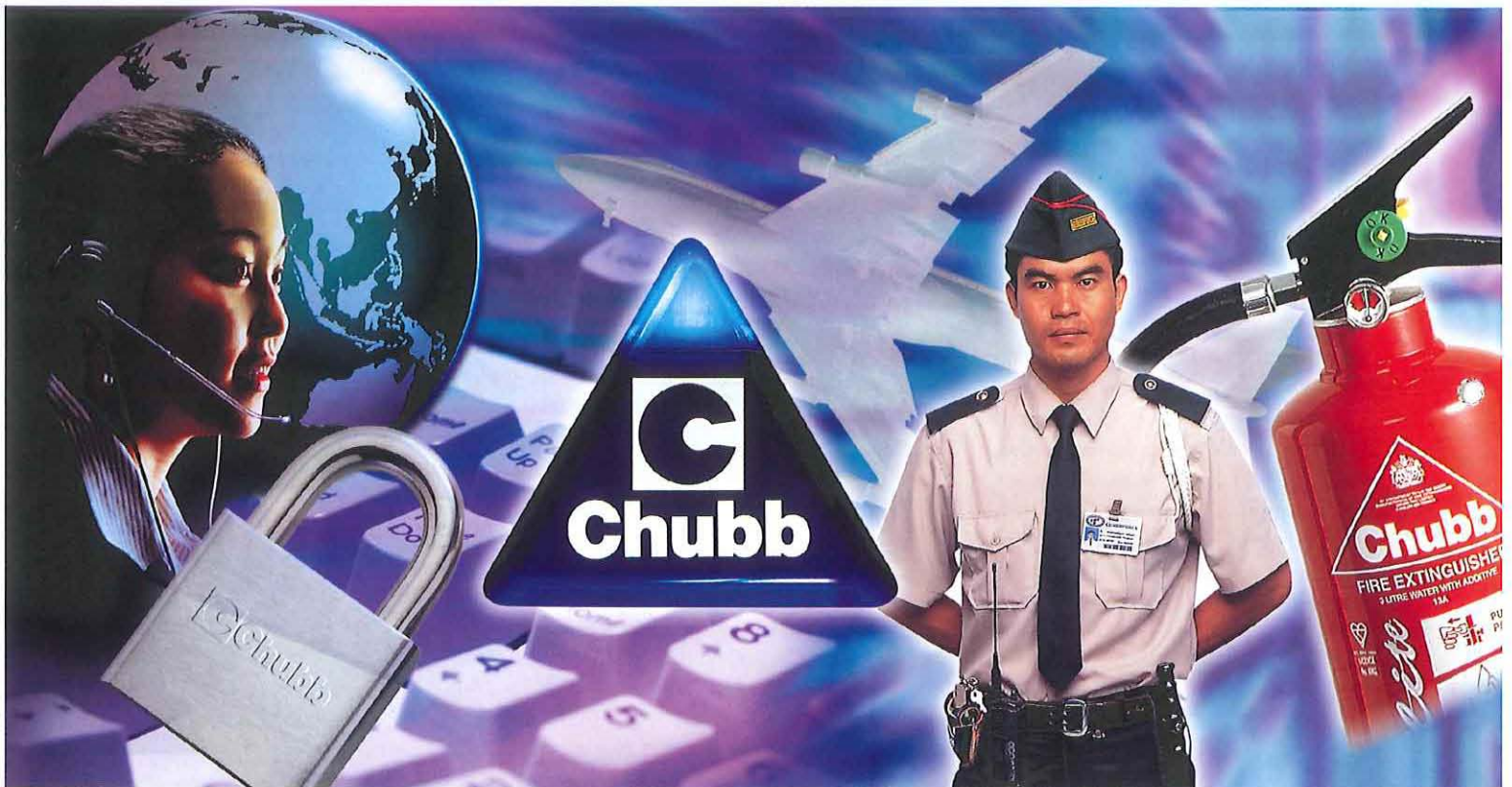
Plus next door at The Neilson Hays Library, there will be a series of "Fairytale Corner" activities from 12:30 until 4:00pm to carry on the theme. Stop by before the show and the children can make a musical instrument to play during the overture. Or stop by afterwards and explore the extensive selection of children's books and other fairytale activities. Children are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite storybook character.

Tickets at B150/Children and B200/Adults are available from May 20th at the BC reception. But don't delay! Seating is limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Showtimes at 1:30pm and 4:00pm



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MEMBERS MAILBOX

Saga of the British Club 'Dome'

AND THE VANISHING PLAYING FIELD FUND


IN MY OPINION

Committing the British Club to an ill-considered project costing some B14 million to construct (latest reports), PLUS high monthly expenditure, is not only an act of sheer folly, but total irresponsibility on the part of the people who may not be here in Thailand at some later stage to face the consequences of their actions. I really fear the 'Sports Bar' will become the equivalent of the London Dome, an expensive, unwanted, useless monument to certain people's vanity. And it will be left to future Members to pick up the tab.

This is not my opinion alone. I have spoken to many other long-serving members, whom I regard as solid supporters of this Club. They include three former chairmen of the general committee. All question the viability of this project.

It begs many questions. Who, for example is going to use this additional facility? Despite vague assurances that plans to attract Members are being drawn up, it is hard to see how this will happen when the existing bar, restaurant and billiards room are currently generally under-utilised. A couple of pool tables, along with seating for 45 people and TV's broadcasting the same sports programmes being aired in dozens of outside pubs and bars are hardly likely to pull in the crowds.

WHO WILL USE IT?

 So, what about the Club's various sporting sections - will they use this new facility? In most cases, I doubt it very much. Our once-flourishing soccer, rugby and cricket sections now boast only a handful of actual Members and exist partly because of the support of many non-Member players. Who, ironically, won't be officially permitted to use the Sports Bar. Thus, these 'British Club' teams will certainly choose to go elsewhere to relax and have a beer after their games. In fact, their choice of venue is likely to be determined by these teams' sponsors. At present, pubs like Shenanigans shell out significant amounts of sponsorship money to various sports teams and expect their patronage in return.

As for the suggestion from one of the general committee members that other clubs, specifically the Southerners rugby and cricket teams, will be persuaded to join the British Club en masse so they can use the Sports Bar has been laughingly rejected by their members. In reality, they are linking with people and organisations that can offer them actual sports venues.

At this point, it should be remembered that the British Club only recently discarded its 'Playing Field Fund', which was set up with the aim of buying or leasing land so that the Club's then-sports sections could have a permanent home. This was a sensible attempt to support the Members' activities as well as enhance the Club's ability and scope to attract new Members. Sadly, just four years ago, the six million baht accumulated in the fund was transferred to general Club funds and spent on several internal projects, including the absurdly overpriced and poorly-renovated Suriwongse Sala. Now, incredibly, the Club is apparently awash with money and eager to off-load it in favour of a Sports Bar costing at least B14 million. It is so patently obvious - this facility by itself won't attract sport-playing Members.

THE ALTERNATIVE?

Additionally, the British Club currently has more Members than ever. In fact, there is now a strong argument to cap Membership. But, while the swimming pool area often becomes uncomfortably crowded and parking is at such a premium that the back lawn is now regularly used for the overflow, the Clubhouse curiously remains empty for long periods. Surely this indicates what Members do and don't want. Another bar is clearly not on the wish list.

So, instead of spending such a huge amount of money on a Sports Bar - a sum equivalent to four luxury detached houses - that no one is really sure will work, why not have a look at the numerous, far more viable and cheaper alternatives?

For instance (as many have already suggested), why not turn Lords restaurant into a casual all-purpose bar where sporting events can be shown and after-match parties can be held? Or what about reconstructing one of the swimming pool salas to include an upper level room as a 'Sports Bar' And how about turning the billiards room into a playroom for children?

Moreover, some of the funds should be used to renovate existing facilities: The toilets throughout the Club are a total disgrace; the swimming pool kitchen is woefully small and probably dangerous; the back lawn displays a dreadful lack of imagination on the part of the Club's gardeners - it could be easily landscaped. The list goes on....

Surely the way ahead for the British Club is to improve existing facilities AND to give Members access to a playing field with access to activities like soccer, rugby, cricket and even swimming with the addition of a pool. With a fund of B14 million and (apparently) monthly profits of one million baht, the Club is in a unique position in its history to expand its current borders.

The way ahead is definitely NOT to take the irreversible step of building a highly questionable Sports Bar on valuable space on the back lawn and thereby creating yet another drinking venue for a few privileged bar flies.

I suppose if all else fails, the new building would make a wonderful residence for the Club Manager!!

Colin Hastings (H70)
Member since 1976

PS. IF IT GOES AHEAD, THE SPORTS BAR PROJECT WILL SIGNAL THE END OF THE TRADITIONAL BRITISH CLUB CHRISTMAS BALL ON THE BACK LAWN. I GUESS THIS UNIQUE EVENT WILL END UP, VERY SADLY, AS YET ANOTHER HOTEL OCCASION.

BALINESE FOOD PROMOTION

Milk of Indonesia

Lords Restaurant: 28-29 March

I spent most of the week leading up to this promotion, with what felt like a tennis ball stuck in my throat-not literally, although the wife is rather accurate on a tennis court these days- as this was my last working day for BP in Thailand. Celebrations by BP International were somewhat muted when it was discovered I was to resurface in April working in a European role for BP, based in Germany.... One leaving party merged into another, every one of them memorable (Thanks all) with some great presents (Ditto), one particularly excellent lunch (Larry, take a bow!) and a few very moist eyes around the place, mine in particular.

This promotion was a chance for Jude and I to spend some time together on our own (I really know how to make a girl feel special, don't I?). We weren't disappointed looking at the number of people who made it to Lords.

Well, everyone who chose to give this evening a miss, lost out in my view. For once, I was familiar with this type of food, having been a regular visitor to Malaysia over the years. I hope this doesn't upset any native Indonesians, but the local Indonesian fare is pretty authentic in Malaysia, so I'm reliably informed. At least I had something to compare it with in this case.

It started off well; Barry had obviously found a tape of the well-known Indonesian cover artists for 'Enigma' in a cupboard, which added an ethereal tone to the evening

Steering clear of the soups (Who says my scribes are all the same, Bryan Haycock?) I tried the Ayam Pelalah (Chicken salad) and Prawn Sambal (Sambal Udang)-Living in Asia for a few years might indicate to me that, despite the logic, Udang probably doesn't mean prawns, in English....Anyway, both salads freshened my taste buds for the main courses. The Udang expert herself, Mrs A, also gave the Sambal top marks. Cucumber is a specific dislike of mine, otherwise I would have tried the Gado Gado, for no other reason but the name.

The main courses were termed 'Buffet' in the menu. This is a mite unfortunate in my book, as anyone who has ever dared to venture into the 'buffet' car on a British train will understand. Hopefully, in this case, I wasn't going to part with five or six quid (No Euros for us, we're British for God's sake, despite the obvious advantages....) for a sandwich prepared last week, using ingredients left over for a week or two before that. Well, no, this buffet was pretty marvellous. A big round of applause for Chef Boonlert and his staff for the Aromatic Chicken (fantastic), Beef Rendang (One of the best I've had, and it stayed on the plate till I ate it, see later) and the Siap Base Kalas, known to Thai's as Penang Gai, but wisely called 'Chicken in spiced coconut' here to appeal to a wider Asian audience. All soaked up nicely with the Nasi Kuning (yellow rice).

I also tried a little of the suckling pig, but the way this is prepared in Asia often detracts from the flavour, as I feel like I'm eating someone's family pet. Perhaps blindfolds should be served as a side dish....

There was still room for the assorted satays and dips, which were particularly well spiced. I passed on the desserts, as normal, but the coffee went down well, as a good round-up to the evening.

At this point, a few 'sentence by sentence' followers of previous articles (Apparently, some people do admit to reading them) will be wondering-'When is he going to mention Middlesbrough, or at the very least, the North East of England?' This is a tricky one, as Indonesian food was never high up on the list of things to serve in the Airey household when I was a lad, although I guess my mother could have rustled up a reasonable tomato and onion salad (As listed in the menu). I have a feeling that if the late Mrs A had spotted something marked 'Indonesia' she may well have bought it as a cure for indigestion! I couldn't really leave this without mentioning the cocktails, carefully prepared by the staff who thankfully didn't pay much attention to accurate spirits measures. All of them were outstanding if you like pineapple, although at times it was difficult to tell.... I was still glowing on Saturday morning.

I enjoyed this evening (don't we always!), particularly the Beef Rendang. This brought back a wonderful memory of a hotel in Malacca, offering an excellent version, where I inadvertently managed to send an array of plates and food cascading to the floor- nothing to do with me, guv (!) - which will come as no great shock to those who know me....

It seems a little strange writing this from a hotel in Landau, Germany. Great though the local cuisine is, it lacks the fire I've been used to all of my adult life, in particular the last 7 years. I'm looking forward to annoying my neighbours with pungent cooking smells when we all get together in August in Cologne (Köln for our German readers). Finally, thanks to Barry and the crew for yet another great promotion. I wonder how the Landau (or Cologne for that matter) locals would feel about a Thai food promotion? - I'll help you organise it.

'Rendang with a Bang' Ken.



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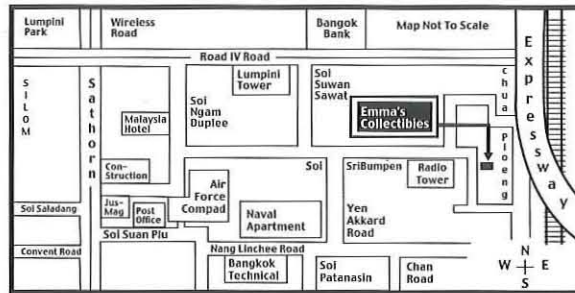
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BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK

Get Ready for "Rumpelstiltskin"!

A delightful children's event at the British Club the first two weekends of June. Bangkok Community Theatre (BCT), The British Club, BAMBI and The Neilson Hays Library have all teamed up to create an exciting fairy tale afternoon for young children. The focus of the event is the hour-long presentation of "Rumpelstiltskin" by six talented BCT players. The youngest and newest BCT recruit in the show is Bangkok Patana student (and British Club member) Carly Connor while the oldest is BCT veteran, Paul Robere. The show is performed in-the-round in the Suriwongse Room with the children sitting on the floor on all sides (don't worry, there are a few rows of chairs for those less hardy.)

The play begins with a group of travelling players getting ready to put on a show. But what show should they stage? And what will they use for scenery? What costumes should they wear and where will they find an orchestra to play the overture at such short notice??? With a little help from the audience to get them started (and a whole lot of audience participation in the following scenes) the actors tell the tale of the evil dwarf, Rumpelstiltskin, whose magical powers allow him to spin straw into gold.....

To help round out the afternoon's activities, The British Club will be offering a delicious picnic barbecue and snacks on the front lawn (not included in the ticket price) both before and after the performances so families can come early and eat before or stay late and have a picnic afterwards. The Neilson Hays Library, BAMBI and library volunteers have put together a series of 'Fairytale Corner' activities to carry on the theme. Stop by before the show and the children can make a simple musical instrument to play during the overture of 'Rumpelstiltskin'. Or stop by afterwards and explore the extensive selection of children's books and other fairytale activities. And since dressing up always adds an element of excitement, please encourage your children to come dressed as their favourite storybook character.

This is a truly enchanting event and one not to be missed.

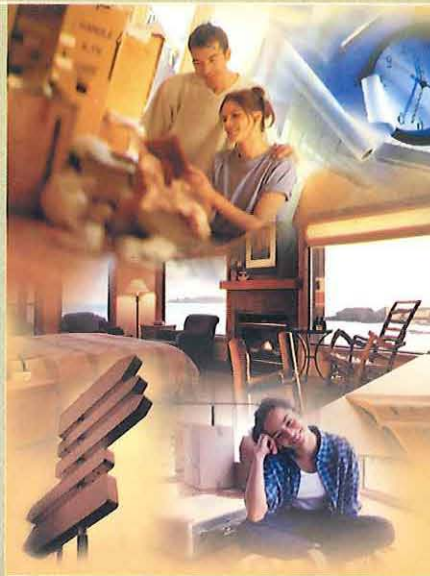
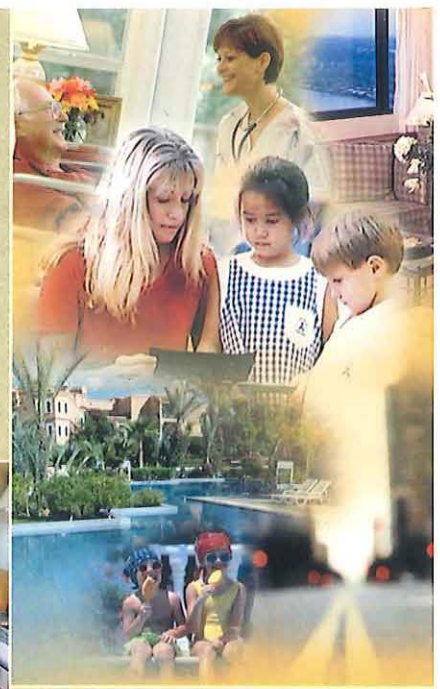
BAMBI/NHL can still use volunteers to help with the Fairytale corner activities. If you'd like to volunteer, please call Michelle Bradley at 02 258 5317 or email bradley@ksc.th.com or to find out more about BCT or the show, please call 01 869 1104, email bonniez@sala.net or visit the BCT website www.bct.th.org

Please see Page 25 for details of show times.

The zany cast of "Rumpelstiltskin" range in age from 16 to 60!



New places, new faces...



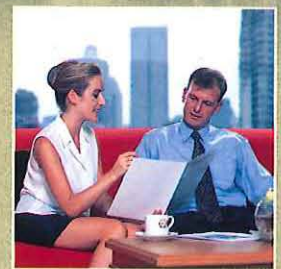
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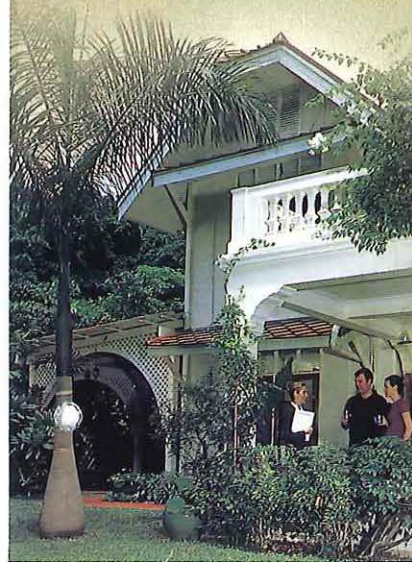
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