

THE LIGHTHOUSE CLUB OF BANGKOK NEWSLETTER

THE SIAM CHRONICLES

Special points of interest:

- History of The Lighthouse Club of Bangkok
- List of Lighthouse Club of Bangkok Events 2015
- Lighthouse Charity
- Lighthouse Sponsors
- Income & Expenses
1 January 2015 –
30 November 2015

Chapter I — The History



about 1991, in a land far, far away from Whitley Bay in Tyne and Wear, there sat a group of motivated and caring engineers and whilst they were of mixed and diverse backgrounds they had a focus and goal that transcended their daily building tasks at the construction sites they presided over and this Grail was to improve the working conditions and safety of the common clay they directed each day...and to drink more beer at social functions!

These early pioneers in the Land of Smiles were known to all in the Kingdom as ;

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| • Happy | Nigel Pearson |
| • Sleepy | Bob Dixon |
| • Doc | Stephen Buttlings |
| • Bashful | John Pollard |
| • Sneezy | Stuart Edwards |
| • Dopey | Songwut (Interpreter) |
| • Grumpy | Jon Prichard |



The Seven were an experienced group of administrators and leaders and had battled in many foreign lands but nowhere had they ever confronted, in so mani-

fest a form - **the Dark Lord GREED**. Here in the happy land of smiles there lurked the Dark Lord and his minions on every site cutting back on all safety measures - failing to provide helmets, safety boots and eye protectors, scaling ladders, edge protection and an innumerable list of hazardous pits that would capture, injure or kill the innocent labourer.

In their quest to solve the issues in hand The Seven rightly turned to the Holy Creed of Whitley which spake thusly :



"Go forth to the governors of the constructing groups, meet in open forum with them and use reason, civil codes, moral values and common sense. Armed with these, agree a means whereby all subjects would

be protected in their duties and hard work and implement such measures to accord with The Creed and safe guard the poor folk in all the works of all the World."

"PS: Anyone hurt or killed in action then The Creed, through its officers will make kindly payments to the widow and sprogs left behind."

Lore recorded at this time that the Doc was immediately enlivened and sprang up shouting ;

"We have the plan !! my round next at the bar !!"

(Editor : This statement is known to be a falsehood since it is equally cast in mystic runes that Dr Buttling had never bought a round with his own money.....everno reallyever!)

The Seven debated for days and weeks in the languid Halls of the Castle Anglais consuming untold barrels of amber liquid and smoking furiously - as the later chapters of The Creed also instructs before any serious decision is made.

It was unanimously decided (*excepting Sleepy as he was rarely awake or prepared to commit to any decision if there were the slightest infinitesimal possibility of repercussions*) that Grumpy would go forth and conduct a sample survey of the Kingdom's capital.



Tis said he was lucky to escape with his skin, but undaunted by any possible impending feeling of doom, the Knight Grumpy approached three sites on that fateful morn that at first glance appeared delinquent in the teachings of The Creed. With his

trusty local interpreter Dopey, he convened a meeting with the battlefield commanders of the evil Lord Greed and laid forth the expectations and outlined rules and codes that should be adopted during the labours on their sites.

At the end of the meetings Grumpy was faced with the same spittled cry in their local tongue

- "F@&# Off and don't come backand if you dowe'll kill you !!"

Hmmmmeven Grumpy was able to understand the meaning and not waiting for Dopey's translation - he scarpered !

Chapter II — The Spark

The Seven, upon hearing their Herald's report, were cast into a dark and sombre (*not sober!*) mood. Back to Castle Anglais they went for weeks of deliberation, ideas and painful thinking – which cometh not easily to the persons known as : Engineers.



T'whilst it was known that the Kingdom's Club coffers would never bulge like the huge mystic vaults of Hongkongusland, the few coppers available must be spent sagaciously and

to gain the most benefit for the most involved in the quest. The common man must be rewarded.

The group were faced with the conundrum wrapper casually in an enigma that it was a sad but an honest truth that, in the land of smiles and happiness, were there ever to be a death upon the sites of construction then a simple payment of Baht 10,000.00 was paid in coin to the bereaved wife and any offspring and then they were sent packing. Within nano-seconds of the coins' deposit, barely warm in the sad wife's hand, the deceased's Mother would swoop, grab the booty and be gone in a puff of semi-nasty wind never to help or support the family element again. The Seven tried this passing of benefit three times to be met with the same sad loss. What to do ?

There were mutterings in tankards that selected workers or junior managers / engineers could be sent away to further education sponsored by The Club and hopefully return to champion the goals of The Creed in later years. Further mutterings occurred mainly from Sleepy, Bashful and Sneezy but sage words eventually triumphed that such a plan was selfish bollox !!

In an instant one late evening when candles and spirits were low (*in the bottles*) there came an epiphany known for evermore as **The Spark** !!



Failing in the reward system proposed in The Whitley Creed - due to local and regional traditions and probably due to an evil tentacle of The Lord Greed, it was decided to look not at the actual toiling labourer and his trailing wife and offspring (*wherein these lands the family followed the Father and walked and lived upon the very dangerous site paths and structures*) nor too even endeavour to change the ingrained unsafe practices - other than by gradual evolution, but to focus upon The Kids and their safety !

This would be achieved by choosing a site that generally: had no direct ties or relationship with Lord Greed, was independent of other self-interest groups (*a close cousin to Lord Greed aka the poisonous Prince Glut*) and had a development life span of say 4-5 years.



Upon this hallowed ground The Club would erect a small, essentially demountable and re-erectable, timber framed mini teaching establishment. Into these mini halls would pass ALL of the large project's workforce offspring in glittering new mini clothes made of cotton and not the rags of old.

They would be taught by trained stipendiary folk of a loving nature and the children would be safe, fed and educated and make their worried and caring parents proud. That was The Spark !!

Chapter III — Bugger all hope of finding land !

The Seven toiled again. By now it was probably about 6 but who's counting eh !

Missions were sent hither and thither about the land of the Capital searching for the lost slipper...oops sorry wrong tale... with earnest pleas at many doors and not the least the portals of the National Housing Association for a tiny portion of common land in an obscure corner of their vast, unending sea of cheap habitation. **Naar !!**...came the reply from the uncaring, hard hearted, insensible Wardens and we trudged on...and on...

During these days of unsuccessful land acquisition during the 1990's, the Club did thrive mightily with quality golf challenges, cups won and the name burgeoned about the Kingdom as the team to beat and our lads invariably led most leader boards and they were steered manfully almost 4 days per week by Bashful !

After the passing of some 547.5 weary days, the good but tight-fisted Doc announced he had won the 3-5 year contract at a proposed new large development for all the ground (read 'swamp') stabilisation works that had been chosen and decreed by Lord Greed as the new site for the gleaming dream that would become - Suvarnabhumi Airport.



Dr. was an educational title bestowed upon our Doc, but at no time could or should such titles imply that he has the ability to link one thought with another. After a stunned silence and many flies caught in open mouths, the crowd of 5 (*discounting Doc*) screamed –

“THERE !!....that’s our site for the school you idiot !!!”

These were cursed grounds of bubbling gas, foul smelling waters infested with lice, snakes and dragons. A ghastly place of dark skies and incessant rains from the sea. An ideal place to send Doc but what of the kids to be under our care ?

Whilst the Five toiled further to design and create the school in its charming and delightfully Lilliput scale they also mustered funds slowly and surely and in the background the Doc killed dragons, filled pits and the sun shone upon the new pastures.

Chapter IV—Fairies and Pixies and Beasties:

Credit must be given to the worthy and hard-working Fairy Godmothers of the Human Development Foundation from whence came the angels of teaching and providers of food all under the watchful and demanding eye of Fr Joe Maier. Their exploits are legend among the homeless, destitute, diseased and unloved and with their assistance The Club was able to manage and continue the first school and all subsequent schools elsewhere about the land.



The labouring workforce, under the Laws of the Land, were decreed to send their offspring to their local village schools at the age of 5 wherein generally they would live with their Grandparents or extended family while the parents continue employment in distant parts. To this end the young kids on site were generally dusty, naked, snotty wee beasties – but their lives were to change in a sprinkling of fairy dust ! (*Ed : getting a bit emotional but the pictures tell all !*)

The “Airport School” was opened in 1995 and some 120 wee figures dressed in white LHC shirts, skirts and shorts were paraded proudly for all to see and the engravings / woodcuts below record the moment :





This first school stayed in operation and under the watchful eye of HDF and The Club's supply of funds until the last moments of safe operation and the final demobilising of the workers camp.

These children grew, learnt, perfected conduct, improved demeanours with their fellow kids and civil behaviour and at the end of their time at the LHC school they returned home to their local schools.

The Fairy Dust Moment : The guardians and teachers in the home villages took the time to later write and confirm that these five year olds were massively in advance of the expectations of the curriculums being used and their manners and gregarious natures had created bonds and friendships in the local communities beyond all reason. The fact that they had benefitted so evidently from other people's hard work, care and generosity such as to give them – the lowest labourer's child – a head start brings a tear to anyone's eye.

Chapter V- Changing of the Guard

The Club continued the Quest to provide other schools on various huge projects about the Fair City of Angels are have managed to maintain at least one school continuously to this very day. The current school is a Prakkasamai preschool (Bamboo School) in Samut Prakarn Province in Thailand and the Lighthouse Club of Bangkok funds the salaries of all the teachers that work there.



The picture above is from the graduation ceremony for the school children of Prakkasamai pre-school (Bamboo School) which was held at the Mercy Centre, on 5 March 2015.

The staff in the picture are Anonth Collaco, Executive Director of the Mercy Centre, Sudaporn Saenkot, Head of Education Department, Father Joseph H. Maier, Founder, Anong Sarasua, Head of Prakkasamai Community, Pathitta Sainumsai (Teacher) and La-ong Kamkha (Teacher) and the names of the kids who graduated are Nopparat Phomprasert, Apinya Sarasua, Kittikhun Rirkaksa, Peerapol Kaewtao, Parita Tanadchaipuen, Kanokwan Boonsawaeng, Sukanya Yarnsingha, Wanchana Nanakorn, Sureerat Ngamchoey, Sa Meena and Fah Meena.

As with all Folk Tales there was the usual attrition during the late 1990's of colourful characters and sadly these Jeddi Masters left the Land for new opportunities elsewhere and only the old and long in the tooth remained - but new and invigorating shoes stepped forward and the Clubs' roster was greatly enhanced with a new Ring of Influence led by private equity groups, investment bankers and social media gurus:



The Welsh Wizard

Gareth Hughes - Keeper of the Coffers

Gimli

Gary Biesty – Legal Batherings

Gollum

Danny Doolan – Jester and Social King

Lord Elrond

Donald Coyne – Golf Master

Frodo

Mike Holloway – 2nd Golf Master

Gandalf

Pat Hobbs – Voice of Reason

Strider

Rod Soderburg – Money Giver (Huge!)

This new throng brought huge fun to social engagements with Monthly Gatherings renewed and with more ale and food to entice prospective members and donations. Golf games and tournaments abounded with challenges thrown open to all-comers even those strange beings... architects and lawyers !

During the early years of 2000s there also came a great wave of social pressure across the land which forced the evil Lord Greed back into his dark realm and let in the light of the SAFETY FIRST Campaign which was greatly embraced by almost all developments and huge steps forwards in PPE attire, lifting safety, scaffold checking and certifications throughout the building industry were followed. In time the Club's vision had become a reality. About the year 2005, a new LHC group was called into being on the pleasant and sunny isle of Phuket where the social, networking and school goals were taken up enthusiastically and they persist today administering to poorer children and swilling ales in alarming quantities.

The Club endures today 25 years on, as vibrant and generous as ever and it is hoped its captains and soldiers can perpetuate the goodwill, the comradeship, the fellowship and generosity that The Whitley Creed so positively advocates.

Events

Lighthouse Golf 2015

The Lighthouse Golf section has once again enjoyed a successful year raising funds for our favorite charities in Thailand. With golf events held on the second Saturday of every month and an annual two day club championship held in February, Thailand's longest running charity golf group raised a total of THB 59,000 in 2015. Our main sponsor Bauer Thailand Limited once again provide the ProV1 golf ball technical prizes which allowed us to charge players more for taking part (many thanks Mike Sinkinson).

Competition fees plus the obligatory Danny "fines" for such misdemeanors as owning a yacht or bringing one's own boiled eggs to the course have been our main source of funds. We are always looking for new members and players of all ability levels are welcome to join. Special thanks go out to Danny Doolan for organizing the events.

The dates , sponsors and venue of the Lighthouse Late Luncheons are given below:-

Saturday, January 10, 2015
Lighthouse Club Monthly Golf
Chuan Chuen Golf Club

Weekend, 14-15 Feb 15
Lighthouse Club Monthly Golf
Burapha Golf Club

Saturday, March 14, 2015
Lighthouse Club Monthly Golf
Chuan Chuen Golf Club

Saturday, May 09, 2015
Lighthouse Club Monthly Golf
Chuan Chuen Golf Club

Saturday, June 13, 2015
Lighthouse Club Monthly Golf
Chuan Chuen Golf Club

Saturday, July 11, 2015
Lighthouse Club Monthly Golf
Chuan Chuen Golf Club

Saturday, August 08, 2015
Lighthouse Meinhardt Cup
Burapha Golf Club

Saturday, September 12, 2015
Lighthouse Club Monthly Golf
Chuan Chuen Golf Club

Saturday, October 10, 2015
Lighthouse Club Monthly Golf
Chuan Chuen Golf Club

Saturday, November 14, 2015
Lighthouse Club Monthly Golf
Chuan Chuen Golf Club

Lighthouse Networking Evenings 2015

The dates and sponsors of the Lighthouse Networking evening are given below:-

Wednesday, January 21, 2015
RSM Thailand

Wednesday, February 11, 2015
Radcon

Wednesday, March 11, 2015
Kawarau Consulting

Wednesday, May 13, 2015
Sika (Thailand) Limited

Wednesday, June 10, 2015
Hafele (Thailand) Limited

Wednesday, July 08, 2015
Aria Pura

Wednesday, August 19, 2015
D&W (Asia) Limited

Wednesday, September 09, 2015
Anoogo

Wednesday, October 14, 2015
AUTEX Industries

Wednesday, November 11, 2015
Tile It

This event takes place every second Wednesday of the month at The Clubhouse Bar & Grill in Sukhumvit Soi 23. We have raised a total of Baht 176,900 in 2015 from the Lighthouse Networking evenings. A special thanks to Mr. Rod Soderburg of Radcon who personally donated THB 50,000 to the Lighthouse Club coffers. Further thanks to Mr. Danny Doolan and the staff at the Clubhouse Bar and Grill for hosting and arranging the events and finding sponsors. Also a big thanks to the Meinhardt and RSM Staff for running the events on the nights in question.

Lighthouse Late Luncheons 2015

The dates , sponsors and venues of the Lighthouse Late Luncheons are given below:-

Friday, January 30, 2015
PSM
Charlie Browns

Friday, February 27, 2015
Designers Bathware
Amalfi

Friday, March 27, 2015
Warnes associates
No Idea soi 22

Friday, April 24, 2015
RSM Thailand
Paris Bangkok

Friday, May 29, 2015
Archetype
Oskar Bistro

Friday, June 26, 2015
AES
Chesa

Friday, July 24, 2015
Comin Asia
Café Riviera

Friday, August 28, 2015
Coreharbour
Heritage Bistro

Friday, September 25, 2015
Risk Pro
Bistro 33

Friday, October 30, 2015
Choice Interiors
Zaks Wine Bar

Friday, November 20, 2015
Steven Leach Jr + Associates Limited
Maison Blanche

Tuesday, December 01, 2015
Thai Bauer
The Club House Sports Bar & Grill

This event takes place on the last Friday of every month. We have raised a total of Baht 68,400 in 2015 from the Lighthouse Late Luncheon this year. A special thanks to Danny Doolan for arranging these late luncheon events.

Charity

All monies from these three events are banked into one central Lighthouse Club Bangkok bank account which is administered by RSM (Thailand) Limited.

The Bangkok Lighthouse Club currently has THB 845,813.84 in its bank account as at 30 November 2015 which has decreased from the balance of THB 1,225,765.67 at the beginning of the financial year.

The aim of the Bangkok Lighthouse Club is to continue funding the teachers at the Samutprakarn Lighthouse Club Bamboo School until such time as all construction projects in that area have been completed. It will then be necessary to find a new school with the same aims and objectives. We understand that the existing school may be expanded in terms of students and that we will be requested to allocate additional funds for teaching costs.

The funds collected by the Bangkok Lighthouse Club are spent on the salaries of 5 teachers working at the Samutprakarn Lighthouse Club Bamboo School and this school has approximately 100 children and the children's parents are construction workers working on various projects in that area. The monthly salaries are roughly THB 61,000 per calendar month. THB 790,335 has been donated to Human Development Foundation by the Lighthouse Club for the period 1 January 2015 – 30 November 2015 with some of those funds

relating to 2014 salaries. It is apparent that the teachers monthly salaries now exceed monies raised from our three monthly events and accordingly it will be necessary for the committee, going forward, to explore new ways of raising monies to cover any deficit.

Sponsors



For the period from 1 January 2015 to 30 November 2015

Total ending balance of bank accounts as at 30 November 2015	845,813.84
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