AWOL

ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE FOR THE EXPAT IN ALL OF US
What's happening, and might be happening, in Hua Hin

☞ Cheryl Cole
☞ Deformed veggies
☞ Crocodile rock
☞ Smiley moon
☞ The hash report

12 December 08
FREE WEEKLY

Colour Crisis!

Emerging mobs wonder what colour shirts they can wear

■BANGKOK, THAILAND

Thailand's political crisis may be taking a short break for the holidays, but another period of uncertainty is looming large, as the country is in danger of running out of different colours that can be used by large protesting mobs.

In an attempt to quell the fears raised by media rumours that the Kingdom of Thailand was facing a colour shortage for its rapidly forming mobs, the Ministry of Colour provided assurance today that there were still plenty of good choices left for new organizations wishing to join the already confused political fray.

With the anti-government PAD claiming yellow, the pro-government UDD claiming red, non-partisan peace activists preferring white, paramilitary forces under Major-General Khattiya "Seh Daeng" Sawasdipol clad in black, the opposition Democrats in traditional blue, monks wearing orange, and His Majesty the King having laid claim to pink and green through various wardrobe choices last year, analysts had expressed deep concern that Thailand was running out of factional colours. However, the Ministry assured reporters that this was not the case.

"There are many good colours that no one has used yet," explained Ministry spokesperson Winnichit Bhunthakanorn, holding up a large colour wheel for the press cameras. "No one has used purple yet – that's a lovely colour. And there are so many possible shades, including lavender, magenta, puce, and heliotrope." The shading and hue-mixing method could also be applied to the other "taken" colours, he explained. "No one has sky-blue yet, or celadon green. And while monks have a rightful claim on saffron, surely some other group could use fluorescent orange – think about how well your crowd would stand out at night."

Additionally, even if the major colour groups had already been claimed, new political factions could brand themselves by "thinking out of the box," according to the Ministry. Stripes, polka dots, and tie-die combinations could open up almost infinite possibilities. "Just try and be creative," said Winnichit. "Think about your favourite football team's away kit."

In a related development, a new group calling itself the Vigilant Association of Guardians United

Yellow shirts are de rigeur?

Eternally, or VAGUE, announced that it would start a counter-rally at Lumpini Park once its members decided what they were most against. At press time they had narrowed down their choice of uniforms to either chrome sequins or desert camouflage.

I'd Love a Bacon Sandwich
032 513 144

SNEAKEY!

Your house key can be copied from a photo

■ SAN DIEGO, USA

Security researchers have developed a piece of software which is able to duplicate any house key from a distant photo of it.

Because the technique requires no physical assess to the keys it means just flashing your keys in public is now a security threat.

The boffins from UC San Diego say they created the software to prove that keys are not safe ... and not because they wanted to get into the house of a woman they are stalking.

Using what they describe as 'modest imaging equipment' and 'standard computer vision algorithms' they were able to cut working copies of photographed keys.

In one example they even copied a key using a photo taken from nearly 200 feet away (remember what we said about stalking.)

"It is assumed that duplication should require either possession of the key or a prior knowledge of how it was cut," said one of the researchers.

This example from the university website copied a key from over 200 feet away.

"However, the prevalence of digital imaging technologies present a fundamental challenge to this privacy assumption.

"A motivated attacker can covertly steal a victim's keys without fear of detection," he added.

The SNEAKEY technology will obviously be of interest to thieves ... and hopefully my local locksmith who seems unable to copy a key, even when he has it in his hand.

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This is scientifically the most irritating article you will read today
At the end of the day scientists have literally worked 24/7 to create a fairly unique list of the most irritating expressions in the English language.
With all due respect, I personally think they shouldn't of bothered. I mean it's not rocket science, is it? Absolutely.

The boffins from Oxford University have compiled the list of the top 10 most irritating expressions by using a computer database which analyses books, newspapers, magazines, broadcast, and the internet.
They say the expression 'at the end of the day', was the most irritating, followed in second place by the phrase 'fairly unique'.
Jeremy Butterfield, author of Damp Squid: The English Language Laid Bare added that many annoying over-used expressions begin as office lingo, such as 24/7.

The top ten most irritating phrases:
1 - At the end of the day
2 - Fairly unique
3 - I personally
4 - At this moment in time
5 - With all due respect
6 - Absolutely
7 - It's a nightmare
8 - Shouldn't of
9 - 24/7
10 - It's not rocket science

Cheryl Cole has the best celebrity boobs

Girls Aloud singer Cheryl Cole has the best breasts in showbiz, a survey has found. Thousands of women aged 16-24 voted the curvy star 'top of the tits' in a battle of celeb cleavage.
A spokesperson for bra company Bravissimo who commissioned the survey say Cheryl's 28F boobs (wow...) are envied by many women - and a few men wouldn't mind getting their hands on them either.
"Cheryl's boobs are indeed fab. We estimate she's around a 28F bra size - but it's a shame so many young women aren't happy with their own breasts," said Jo Lee, Marketing Director.
Also proving to have popular boobs were Kelly Brook and Scarlett Johansson, did they really need "research" to tell them that?
Best breasts in showbiz:
1. Cheryl Cole
2. Kelly Brook
3. Scarlett Johansson
4. Charlotte Church
5. Victoria Beckham

Left: Ashley Cole always has somewhere to park his bike at home

or Pie & Mash with Mushy Peas
shop@hamandbacon.co.th

Local Weather

Hua Hin weather forecast next 7 days

Day	Conditions	Temp °C Low	High
Sat	Partly sunny and pleasant	22	30
Sun	Cloudy most of the time	20	28
Mon	Sun and areas of high clouds	19	28
Tues	Clouds and breaks of sun	19	28
Wed	Times of sun and clouds	19	28
Thur	Partly sunny	18	28
Fri	Partly sunny	18	28

World Weather

Forecast for Friday 12th December 2008

City	Min °C	Max	Conditions
Amsterdam	0	4	Rain
Athens	9	13	Cloudy
Auckland	16	21	Showers
Beijing	-4	7	Cloudy
Berlin	-1	3	Cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	26	Fine
Chicago	0	3	Snow
Copenhagen	4	5	Rain
Dubai	18	25	Scattered Clouds
Dublin	-1	6	Hail
Geneva	-1	4	Rain
Helsinki	-7	1	Light Snow
Ho Chi Minh	21	31	Bright
Hong Kong	19	23	Overcast
Islamabad	3	19	Clear
Jakarta	24	33	Rain
Jerusalem	8	14	Rain
Johannesburg	16	29	Thunderstorms
Kuala Lumpur	24	30	Rain
London	-1	4	Fine
Madrid	5	7	Rain
Manila	24	30	Drizzle
Mexico City	2	19	Cloudy
Moscow	2	3	Rain
New Delhi	13	25	Cloudy
New York	-5	9	Cloudy
Oslo	-6	-9	Scattered Clouds
Paris	0	4	Rain
Perth	15	25	Clear
Phnom-Penh	22	31	Partly Cloudy
Rio De Janeiro	21	32	Fine
Riyadh	7	20	Clear
Rome	5	14	Rain
San Francisco	7	15	Cloudy
Singapore	24	31	Thunderstorms
Stockholm	-2	2	Possible snow
Sydney	21	23	Thunderstorms
Tokyo	9	13	Rain
Vientiane	12	29	Scattered Clouds
Yangon	20	31	Scattered Clouds
Zurich	-2	4	Cloudy

Currency Exchange Rates

At 9th December 2008 (mid-market rates)

Code	Currency	Value (Baht)
USD	United States Dollar	35.6748
GBP	Pound Sterling	53.2
EUR	Euro	45.8568
JPY	Japanese Yen	0.38443
MYR	Malaysian Ringgit	9.85377
SGD	Singapore Dollar	23.5222
BND	Brunei Dollar	23.5222
CNY	Chinese Yuan	5.20733
IDR	Indonesian Rupiah	0.00301204
INR	Indian Rupee	0.724808
KRW	Korean Won	0.0240804
AUD	Australian Dollar	23.2099
NZD	New Zealand Dollar	19.1325
CHF	Swiss Franc	29.4057
DKK	Danish Krone	6.15555
NOK	Norwegian Krone	5.02432
SEK	Swedish Krona	4.38673
CAD	Canadian Dollar	28.3768
AED	UAE Dirham	9.71411
BHD	Bahrain Dinar	94.8767
KWD	Kuwaiti Dinar	129.87
OMR	Omani Rial	92.7816
QAR	Qatar Riyal	9.80085

AWOL makes no warranties, express or implied, regarding these rates and shall not be liable for any losses or damages incurred in connection with them.

Emergency & Useful Numbers

Emergency Calls

Police 191
Crime 195
Fire 199
Traffic Control Centre 197
Highway Police 1193
Tourist Police 1699
Tourist Service Centre 1155
Missing Persons Bureau 02 282 1815
Police Station at Hua Hin District 032 511 027
Cha-Am Police Station 032 471 321
Hua Hin Hospital 032 511 743
San Paulo Hospital 032 532 576 to 585
Hua Hin Red Cross 032 512 567

Useful numbers

Hua Hin Tessabahn : 032 511 047
Hua Hin Immigration Office 032 513 574
Hua Hin Bus Terminal (non air-con) 032 511 230
(air-con) 032 511 651, 512 543
Hua Hin Railway Station 032 511 073
Tourist Information Centre 032 512 120
Hua Hin Electricity 032 512 215
Hua Hin Water 032 511 677
TOT 032 519 000/001
TT&T 032 532 018

EU to lift ban on 'ugly fruit'

■ BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Bizarre EU bans on fruit and veg that are too bent, too straight or of the wrong colour are set to be lifted. For years the Euro-madness has restricted the sale of foods that did not measure up to their exacting standards.

For example 'Regulation No. 1277/88' states that cucumbers should not bend more than 10 millimeters per 10 centimeter, similar rules have applied for 35 other items. But now the European Commission marketing standards are to be relaxed on 26 types of produce meaning if you have a misshapen carrot, you can breath a sigh of relief.

The new rules will mean the EU freed fruit and vegetables should be in stores from July 2009.

The rules class 1 marketing restrictions are to be lifted on the following: apricots, artichokes, asparagus, aubergines, avocadoes, beans, Brussels sprouts, carrots, cauliflowers, cherries, courgettes, cucumbers, cultivated mushrooms, garlic, hazelnuts in shell, headed cabbage, leeks, melons, onions, peas, plums, ribbed celery, spinach, walnuts in shell, water melons and witloof/chicory.

However they will stay in place on: apples, citrus fruit, kiwi fruit, lettuces, peaches and nectarines, pears, strawberries, sweet peppers, table grapes and tomatoes.

This does not mean an odd-looking pear can't be sold in the EU, just it must be labelled appropriately and not advertised as a class one.

Italian farmers' associations however came out against the decision to relax the rules on the sale of bent cucumbers and knobbly carrots. "Today's decision is an extremely serious error that unfortunately penalises Italian producers, along with those in other Mediterranean countries such as Spain and Greece," said Italian farmers' association CIA.

A third 'knobbly' cucumber was meant to be in this picture but mysteriously disappeared...

This has been dismiised as square grapes by officials who made the decision though.

Disclaimer

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English corner

Have you ever wondered where a certain phrase comes from, or what it really means? Every week we will expand your knowledge of English and its etymology with a different word or saying. This week it is...

Pour oil on troubled waters

The meaning of this is an attempt to calm a problematic situation. 'Troubled' has been used to mean agitated and disturbed, either of mind or in reference to physical elements like water or sky, since at least the 14th century. In their use of the singular 'water', rather than 'waters', as the title of their 1970 album and single Bridge over Troubled Water, Simon and Garfunkel harked back to the original usage. We now more commonly say 'troubled waters' but earlier references stick to the singular 'troubled water'.

The spillage of oil into the sea hasn't had a good press in recent years following the many ecological disasters caused by wrecked tankers discharging thousands of tons of crude oil into the world's oceans. In earlier times, the pouring of modest quantities of oil into the sea was done deliberately in order to forestall rough seas. This phrase alludes to the calming effect of that oil has on wave action as it spreads over the surface of the sea. Very small quantities of oil can cover a surprisingly large area as it spreads into a layer just a few molecules in thickness. The surface tension of the oil layer has an effect similar to that of a thin skin and is surprisingly effective at calming 'troubled' water.

The calming effect of oil was known to the ancient Greeks. In 1762, Benjamin Franklin repeated an experiment first performed by Pliny, which he reported in A Letter from Benjamin Franklin to William Brownrigg, 1773: "At length being at Clapham, where there is on the common a large pond which I observed one day to be very rough with the wind, I fetched out a cruet of oil and dropped a little of it on the water. I saw it spread itself with surprising swiftness upon the surface; but the effect of smoothing the waves was not produced; for I had applied it first on the leeward side of the pond where the waves were greatest; and the wind drove my oil back upon the shore. I then went to the windward side where they began to form; and there the oil, though not more than a teaspoonful, produced an instant calm over a space several yards square which spread amazingly and extended itself gradually till it reached the lee side, making all that quarter of the pond, perhaps half an acre, as smooth as a looking glass."

Area 555

OLD FOLKS

The husband leans over and asks his wife, "Do you remember the first time we had sex together over fifty years ago? We went behind the village tavern where you leaned against the back fence and I made love to you."
"Yes", she says, "I remember it well."
"OK," he says, "How about taking a stroll around there again and we can do it for old time's sake?"
"Oh Jim, you old devil, that sounds like a crazy, but good idea!"
A police officer sitting in the next booth heard their conversation and, having a chuckle to himself, he thinks to himself, I've got to see these two old-timers having sex against a fence. I'll just keep an eye on them so there's no trouble. So he follows them.

The elderly couple walks haltingly along, leaning on each other for support aided by walking sticks. Finally, they get to the back of the tavern and make their way to the fence. The old lady lifts her skirt and the old man drops his trousers. As she leans against the fence, the old man moves in. Then suddenly they erupt into the most furious sex that the policeman has ever seen. This goes on for about ten minutes while both are making loud noises and moaning and screaming.
Finally, they both collapse, panting on the ground.

The policeman is amazed. He thinks he has learned something about life and old age that he didn't know. After about half an hour of lying on the ground recovering, the old couple struggle to their feet and put their clothes back on. The policeman is still watching and thinks to himself, this is truly amazing; I've got to ask them what their secret is.
So, as the couple passes, he says to them," Excuse me, but that was something else. You must've had a fantastic sex life together. Is there some sort of secret to this?"

Shaking, the old man is barely able to reply, "Fifty years ago that wasn't an electric fence"

OLD FOLKS 2

An elderly gent was invited to an old friends' home for dinner one evening.

He was impressed by the way his buddy preceded every request to his wife with endearing terms such as: Honey, My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, Pumpkin, etc.
The couple had been married almost 70 years and, clearly, they were still very much in love.

While the wife was in the kitchen, the man leaned over and said to his host, 'I think it's wonderful that, after all these years, you still call your wife those loving pet names.'

The old man hung his head. 'I have to tell you the truth,' he said, 'Her name slipped my mind about 10 years ago and I'm scared to death to ask her what it is!'

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Feminists get GPS knickers in a twist

■ RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
Feminists around the world have reacted with horror to a new line of lingerie that comes equipped with a GPS tracking system. The 'find me if you can' range of underwear has been described as a modern-day, high-tech chastity belt.
'It is outrageous to think that men can buy this, programme it and give it to their partners and then monitor them,' said Claudia Burghart, leader of a Berlin feminist group. 'It is nothing more than a chastity belt for insecure men.'
Lingerie maker Lucia Lorio of Brazil says her design targets the 'modern, techno-savvy woman'.
The lingerie combination set consists of lace bodice, bikini bottom and faux pearl collar, with the GPS device nestled in the see-through part of the bodice next to the waist.
'This collection... is a wink to women and a challenge to men because,

What a lovely present for the wife this Christmas - she might like the GPS undies as well!

even if she gives him the password to her GPS, she can always turn it off,' Lorio said.
'It's not a modern chastity belt. Some men think they can keep tabs on their girlfriends with it, but they're wrong,' she added.
Unconcerned with the controversy her collection has raised, Lorio is also dismissive of the global financial crisis and its adverse impact on luxury items sales.
The GPS lingerie sells from a cool £500, complete with a standard Global Positioning System, to £700 with a more advanced model.
'Some women are now interested in buying it for protection,' she said, programming it for partners themselves so they are safe on a night out alone. 'In London, New York, Rio de Janiero - wherever there is danger, the underwear may prove to be a lifesaver,' she added.
But feminists in her homeland have called her a modern-day slaver and urged women to boycott the GPS underwear.

Do you want to go

AWOL

with us?

Send news, ideas, jokes, stories, pictures, letters and anything else to us and we will print them whenever possible. You can also tell us what you think of Hua Hin's first weekly English language publication, so send your email now to:

awol@observergroup.net

ON ON

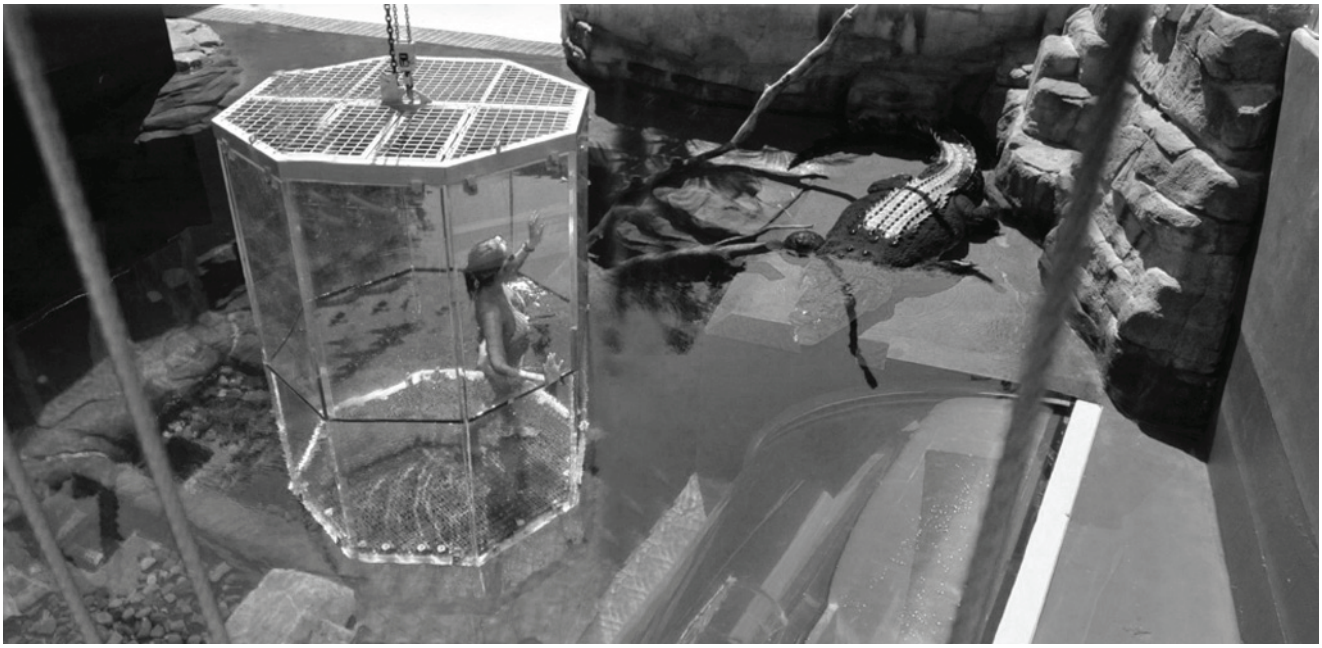
Hua Hin Hash House Harriers

The H2H3 is a group of international fools who get a lot of enjoyment out of running or walking around in jungles, mountains, beaches and sometimes highways in search of the end of the run and some cold beer and camaraderie. Boys and girls, eight to eighty are welcome to join in on the fun.

To learn more about the Hash House Harriers go to **www.gthhh.com** or **www.huahin-hhh.com**. For information about the next run, e-mail Slackbladder (**partt@hotmail.com, 087-852 2565**) or Ballbanger, **donaltetley@yahoo.com or 085-088 7181**. In Cha Am, get the scoop at the Chicken Coop from Noi. Get a cold beer and the hot hash gossip from Dave at the California Mining Cantina near the Sofitel.

If you have half a mind the join the hash, that's all you need.

Whale watching? Seen it... Swimming with dolphins? Been there... Skydiving? Got the t-shirt... Cage fights with crocodiles? HUH?!



■DARWIN, AUSTRALIA

If you want the adrenaline boost of skydiving but the sensation of swimming with dolphin, why not take a dip with some crocodiles?

An Australian tourist attraction is offering people the chance to go swimming with massive - and very dangerous - saltwater crocodiles.

They say thrill seekers will be perfectly safe as they enter the crocs pool in a clear acrylic cage ... that said they do call it "the cage of death."

Just 4cm of acrylic separates brave holidaymakers from the feisty crocs at Crocosaurus Cove in Darwin, Australia, and there are plenty of deep croc tooth shaped scratches in the cages walls.

A spokesperson for Crocosaurus Cove says it is "perfect for the serious adrenalin junkies," and will give you the "ultimate adrenalin rush."

"The purpose built acrylic cage is lowered from an overhead monorail into any of the four separate croc enclosures for your 'up close and personal' dive encounter with Croc Cove's massive salt-water crocodiles," they added.

Saltwater crocodiles are the largest crocodile species, with the males growing up to 19.6ft long and weighing up to 2,204lbs.

Above: The cage of death gets lowered in with the crocs

Below: Forget dolphins, go swimming with crocodiles

Your STARS with Destiny Dan

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19
A small fish, that was absentmindedly swimming in a tropical fish tank, will be startled by you as you run past it in a hurry on the 13th. This incident will provide inspiration to a songwriter who will one day make the world sing at your expense.
Your Capricornian competitive streak is set to make life slightly more exciting, but not in the way you will initially envisage when you challenge someone much smaller than you to a basketball match on the 18th.
This week your tune to hum should be selected from the Gershwin back catalogue.

Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 17
It is a cosmic joke that, as an Aquarian, you are pretty good with water...
This week, the universe (in particular solar system bad boys Saturn and Pluto) will sneer openly in an incident involving a pipe, a bucket which is clearly too small, and a man with a painted face with a big fat red nose. You will, ultimately, be judged not on your initial reaction, but in the time it takes for you to calm down. Try not to peel vegetables during this time of anger as more than the optimal amount of peel will be taken from the vegatables.
This week your tune to hum or whistle should be chosen from Elton John or Rod Stewart's back catalogue. Under no circumstances take your favoured hit from David Bowie as Uranus seeks solice in a momentary defibuliratory arrangement with itself.

Pisces Feb 18 - Mar 19
You will leave a tongue twister half finished this week following a complicated confusion involving a hat, a pot plant and miscellaneous juggling objects, some of which are on fire.
A choking fit will leave you dazed and reluctant to eat fish again for the next three weeks.
Nothing will be able to prepare you for a dressing down you will receive, in error, from a best friend or employer around the 18th. Once this case of mistaken identity has been rectified, use the resultant embarrassment to your financial advantage.
This week your favoured humming tune will be any jaunty number involving birds flying free in the sky.

Aries Mar 20 - Apr 19
An at-the-time potentially dangerous snorkeling incident from times past will come back to haunt you in a very pleasant way on the 16th, possibly in the form of a very wet lick between your toes.
Small shrubberys and bushes offering berry fruits will draw you into the outdoors after 17th, and may indirectly encourage you to start reading raunchy late 19th century fiction involving Ladies of the Manor and their hunky game keepers who chop wood with their shirts off.
This week learn a Maori Haka to scare off innocent passers by, but on no account get one of those Maori tattoos as the chances are your tattooist will be under the influence of a chirpy Mercury.

Taurus Apr 20 - May 19
A favourite pair of socks that you thought you had lost will reappear in mysterious circumstances this week.
A frisky Neptune could lead to an entertaining obstacle when driving on the Highway after the 18th. WARNING: Drive carefully all week because that date has only been penciled in.
Remember that violence involving custard pies is only a trip to the cake shop away.
This week your tune to hum, whistle or drum your fingers to, will be any David Cassidy tune from 1972.

Gemini May 20 - Jun 20
A moment of vitriolic haranguing between Neptune and Uranus means you are set for a tricky period of furniture related unease...
Avoid bean bags, on which there is an Orange grade advisory for this and next week. If you must sit in one, do not consume drinks or foods that crumble erratically, and never sit in one outside even if the weather seems to encourage you.
This week, watering pot plants is ill starred, especially plants with red and white flowers.
The planets suggest that you learn to hum, or whistle, a traditional Austrian slap dance favourite, ensuring that none of the slapping is performed, especially when hummed absentmindedly in a public place.

Cha Am Hash House Harriers

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Cancer Jun 21 - Jul 21
A chaotic week but one which will ultimately provide more answers than questions.
Do not become downhearted, even if the odds do look completely hopeless. If you find yourself outnumbered in a street fight, best to curb your Canceronian impulse of fighting everyone at once, choosing to pick your foe off one at a time in a snazzy martial arts movie type way.
A massive disruption, brought about by a solar 'wobble' in the Saturnian atmosphere, is likely to dislodge loose dental fillings from the 18th. Ensure a dentist appointment is honoured and remember, your tears only encourage your dentist to drill harder.
Your tune to hum, whistle or play on the harmonica this week is anything from the vaudeville era that mentions tropical fruit.

Leo Jul 22 - Aug 22
Your career path looks to be secure, finally, after much ambivalence at work. Well done, you have worked hard, and it is now time for you to take a well earned break...
Holidays in hot, sunny, climes are well starred, as are violently coloured drinks with umbrellas in. The use of a drinking-straw is advised on the first sighting of the colour magenta.
This week, you will find yourself helplessly singing a range of news themes - try to adjust your legendarily loud-volumed Leo tendency to suit your vacation surroundings when doing this.

Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 21
Jupiter has a message just for you this week: Either get a telescope and interpret the planetary 'winking' yourself, or look in your favourite newspaper or magazine horoscope on the 16th. Normally we do not rate newspaper horoscopes because they are wildly inaccurate and glib, however just this once take a peek.
Any method of colonic irrigation is well starred, although, given a choice, best to favour the flexible plastic pipe approach and choose the most sympathetic looking person in control of the water pressure.
This week the stars all agree that the best tune to hum will be any Frank Sinatra standard, especially hits with the term 'shoooby doo' in them, which will peak in effectiveness around the 14th.

Libra Sept 22 - Oct 22
A dream involving cartoon character Droopy, a carrot on a stick and a box of Acme Cement is not likely to be made clear to you this week, despite your desperate calls to a night time radio chat show.
Stigmata is well starred this week, to coincide with the media silly season. Ensure that you place a bucket under any religious artifact to catch any blood, milk or goo from the 13th. There is also a 10% chance of a cow-like ornament producing up to three pints of milk on the 17th. Whatever you do just quietly clean it all up and do not inform the media.
This week the stars insist that you hum 'Always look on the bright side of life.' (There are dance steps to this song, it is not essential that you learn them.)

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 21
'Mischievous' Mars will remind you this week of a saying from your grandmother: "A slap is as good as a tickle to a man who has been slapped a lot." Beware of using this phrase before the 14th, and, afterwards, only use it in the presence of pets or people with whom you have a purely sexual relationship.
An argument will erupt around the 17th with a person who hears only the exact opposite of everything you say. Do not, under any circumstances, reverse your argument to make that person understand if there is any possibility you could be overheard by a third party who will then enter into a seemingly endless triple-pronged argument leading on to a 1970's-style situation-comedy argument nightmare but without any prospect of a commercial break.
This week the stars indicate that your favoured tune to hum or whistle will be any Aretha Franklin hit from the 1960s.

Sagittarius Nov 22 - Dec 21
Your joy of life will be continually hampered by the Plutonian interference that made last week sizzle with disappointment. There's not much that can be done, apart from continue your embargo on eggs and any food item that comes from an animal's bottom.
A chance meeting involving (in some way) a fish with tentacles will force you to question the random nature of the universe after the 14th, which previously you based your unique life-philosophy on.
This week try to hum a patriotic ditty not associated with war.

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Top tips

ESTATE AGENTS. Please look up the words luxurious, stunning and spacious in a dictionary so as I don't have to spend my weekends being shown around badly built shoeboxes.

COMMUTERS. Give away the sad fact that your life consists of nothing but grinding routine by standing in the exact spot on the platform where the train doors will be when the service arrives.

NORTHERNERS. On hot summer nights go to bed wearing a shower cap full of frozen peas to cool your head. And when you wake up you'll have a tasty mushy pea snack ready for breakfast.

BIRD FLU could be quickly and easily eradicated by adding a few drops of Lemsip or Daynurse to birdbaths. Obviously, you would have to put Nightnurse in the birdbaths for owls.

LADY DRIVERS. Draw a little diagram on a Post-it showing the position of the hand brake and gearstick, and stick it to your dashboard. This will save you having to look for them when the lights go green.

MAKE your own inexpensive mints by leaving blobs of toothpaste to dry on a windowsill. Use striped toothpaste to make humbugs.

CONVINCE your friends that you play the trombone by standing behind a screen and farting into a watering can.

MOBILE phone users. On trains always choose a seat in the last carriage. Then, when a train enters a tunnel, run as fast as you can towards the front of the train. This will ensure that you are in the tunnel for the shortest possible time and are less likely to miss that all-important call.

BOILED EGGS cut in half vertically, and with the yolk removed, make ideal miniature porcelain-style urinals for hamsters and guinea pigs.

EXPERIENCE the thrills of a skiing holiday without the expense. Simply sellotape two planks of wood to your feet, sit in your freezer for three hours, and then run into a tree as fast as you can.

FATTIES. Take a tip from smokers and stop your cravings for chips by Sellotaping a crisp to the top of your arm each morning.

THAI BOXING

Look out for details of the regular fight nights held at the Thai Boxing Garden. These are not exhibition matches, but the real thing. Anyone interested in the art of Muay Thai should call into the Boxing Garden and talk to Khun Chop, Hua Hin's own champion. Positioned in Poolsuk Road, behind the temple, turn left beside Willi's. Tel: 032 515 269

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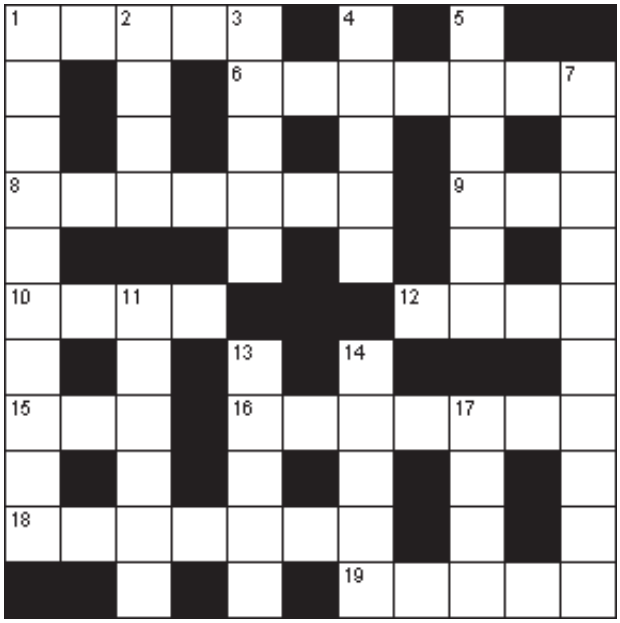
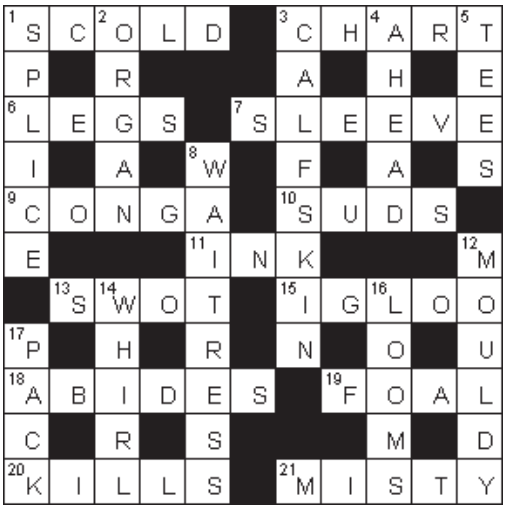
Quick XWord

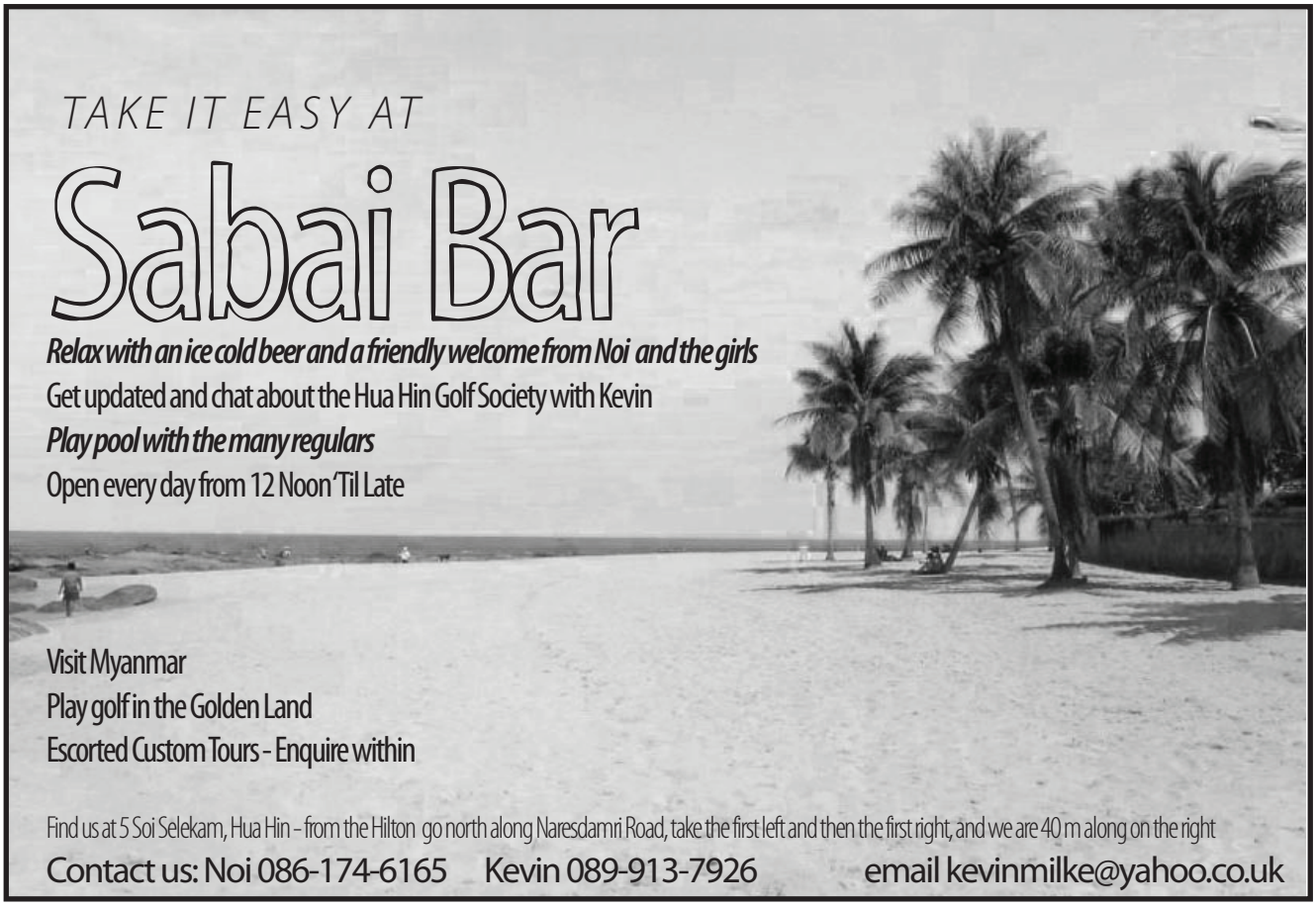
Across
1. Tugs (5)
6. Used for treating malaria (7)
8. Body of peers (7)
9. Definite article (3)
10. Deficiency (4)
12. Animal hunted for food (4)
15. Chopping tool (3)
16. Pertaining to Turkey (7)
18. Hardens metal (7)
19. Gesture of indifference (5)



Down
1. Propelling agent (10)
2. Deep affection (4)
3. Military unit (5)
4. Venomous snake (5)
5. Acrid taste (6)
7. All things (10)
11. Containing cream (6)
13. Opposite one of two (5)
14. Crucifix (5)
17. Male name (4)

Solution in next week's issue.
Last week's solution below





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Invisible Hand Reveals Cosmic Face

■BANGKOK, THAILAND

On a Monday night two weeks ago the entire kingdom was mesmerized by the appearance of a great celestial smiley face, looking down upon Thailand with what appeared to be a warm-hearted blessing of good tidings. The apparition, composed of a horizontal crescent moon and two bright white spots above it, appeared in Thai skies at around 6pm and remained until 11pm, when it vanished below the southern horizon.

On the streets of Bangkok, Thais from all walks of life stopped to observe the heavenly phenomenon together, many attempting to photograph it with their mobile phones, only to discover that the face was impossible to photograph. Many interpreted the smiling face as the true face of the Invisible Hand, the unseen and unnamed force that pulls the strings behind Thailand's tumultuous politics. The Invisible Hand has, over the last few years, been informally named as the force behind the coup, the force behind the anti-coup movement, the protector of the PAD, the collaborator with anti-PAD grenade attacks, the barrier of investigation into Thaksin's finances, and the silent enforcer who sealed Thaksin's fate in various court cases. However, until last night, it was unknown if the Invisible Hand had any other body parts.

"Clearly the Invisible Hand is smiling down on us and endorsing our legal, non-violent actions to protect the Kingdom and monarchy from the corruption of Thaksin," said PAD leader Sondhi Limthongkul. "It is clear because the face is only visible from the airport. No one else in Bangkok or Chiang Mai can see it. It has been confirmed to me by SMS."

Meanwhile, red-shirted government supporters saw the face of the Invisible Hand as a good sign for them as well. "The forces of history are with us, and this sign from the heavens is proof," said Veera Musikhapong, a core UDD leader and host of the "Truth Today" TV program. "The PAD has been outdoors for months, but we have just had our gathering recently. And sure enough, the Invisible Hand has come out to support us. It is no coincidence."

The celestial smiley moon was visible all over Thailand

Ordinary non-affiliated Thais were more sanguine about the Invisible Hand's decision to reveal its happy face to the nation at such a crucial time. "It's a message to stop the violence and respect His Majesty's birthday," said 21 year old Viskorn Muengpipat, a student at Thammasat who gathered with her friends in a grassy courtyard to observe the face. "We need to unite as Thais and find a way out of this."

Scientists offered a simpler explanation. "It's actually a documented phenomenon, and was predicted in various astronomy websites months ago," said Chulalongkorn cosmologist Meeravit Sakunramneejit. "The orbits of Saturn and Venus coincided at highly visible, sun-refractory positions which, when viewed from the tropics at certain longitudes, appear as two eyes above a new moon. It actually happens every few years in different parts of the world."

The PAD, however, dismissed Meeravit's theory. "The Invisible Hand is more powerful than these so-called scientist's lies," said PAD leader Somsak Kosaisuk. "We are invincible and this proves it."

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PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS (continue on separate sheet if necessary)

NAME:		TEL. NO.		WEEKS	START DATE
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
7.	8.	9.	**10.**	11.	12.
13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
19.	**20.**	21.	22.	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	**30.**
31.	32.	33.	34.	35.	36.
37.	38.	39.	**40.**	AWOL code only:	

Your Problems SOLVED

Relationship hanging by a thread? Money troubles? Can't get on with your neighbours? Ask Mary Ann Cotton, AWOL's very own agony aunt.

■ DEAR MARY,
Six months ago I started an affair with a married man at work. He was open from the start and said it was just a bit of fun on the side. That suited me as I'm married too. So we started having fantastic guilt-free passionate sex at least once a week. The trouble is it's no fun without the guilt and the spark is going out of my affair. How can I carry on cuckolding my husband and get some passion back into it?
Deflated,Buriram

Mary says: Dear Deflated,
A good question. Lots of people think having affairs at work is a completely natural thing and expect the passion levels to stay high all the time they are being unfaithful. Yet, inevitably, over time even snatched illicit hoggins in the broom cupboard can lose its fizz. Put some more effort into creating the right atmosphere for your cheating. Fill the cupboard with rose petals and light some nice scented candles to cover the stink of cleaning fluids. Put on some romantic mood music. Give each other a gentle massage. Before you know it your knees will be trembling like the good old days. Call my premium rate phone line "How to get the best out of your affair".

DEAR MARY,
I read in one of your recent columns that "being your own best friend" was good for your sex life, and that self-pleasuring was in fact recommended to bring couples closer together in bed. Yet when I pulled out the old flesh rocket for a bit of five-digit disco in the girlfriend's car the other day on the way round to her gran's for tea she went mad! She called me a filthy pervert, despite the fact I wiped up the tiny bit of nut butter that did end up on her dashboard. Now she won't have anything to do with me and my sex life is ruined. What were you thinking?
Puzzled, Petchburi

Mary says: Dear Puzzled,
What were you thinking? It is one thing to tug the old trouser meat every now and again while being chauffeured around the country by your better half; but you were on the way to her grans – for tea. Did you not suspect that the sight of your love custard might put your girlfriend off her impending cream fancy? Of course it is always good to let Willy know he's wanted but there is a time and a place to punch the munchkin. Next time take the bus.

DEAR MARY,
I came home earlier than usual from the pub last night and crept into our house in the dark only to be greeted by the noise of vigorous lovemaking coming from upstairs. The sounds I heard were unlike any I had encountered during my own hochmagandy with the missus, and I was shocked and disturbed. Unsure what to do, and frightened of what I might do should I barge in and discover her in the act, I went into the kitchen. But with my mind disturbed it seemed somehow strange and unfamiliar. Some hours later a man I had never seen before in my life came into the kitchen, saw me, started shouting and then roughly threw me out the front door causing me to sprain my ankle. Do you think I was in the wrong house?
Confused, Croydon

Mary says: Dear Confused,
A difficult question to answer this, but only if you are drunk half-wit. Reviewing the evidence so far, the strange noises, the unfamiliar surroundings and the violent ejection, I would conclude that, on balance, you are a clueless dunce. Of course you were! While I take my job as an Agony Aunt seriously, it is the pain and torment of the soul I deal with not the confused mind and twisted ankle of a moron such as yourself. My readers don't want twisted ankles. They want three in a bed, I'm in love with my best friend's uncle's sister's brother, that kind of thing. If this is the best you can come up in future stick to Abby in the Bangkok Post. She'll answer anything.

BLUE MOON HOTEL
See Star Wok advert for details

For details contact:
Gaston Pousset
Mobile : + 66 095 11 00
Reception : 032 511 913
E-mail : gaston@bluemoonhotel.net
Booking : reservation@bluemoonhotel.net164
Location: Chomsin road (soi 70) HUA HIN
Open daily from 7 am to midnight

THE STAR WOK WORLD KITCHEN

The Hash Report

CHA AM HASH HOUSE HARRIERS - HASH HELD AT 4.30PM ON SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2008 NEAR RESERVOIRS ON SPRINGFIELD ROAD

Blue sky, glorious sunshine and balmy breezes greeted the hashers who trundled up in motley transport, even motlier gear and the usual variety of demeanours. Old McDonald weaved his Lincolnshire magic in revealing the esoteric secrets of the trail in the Hares' Briefing, not neglecting for an instant some telling agricultural detail, proving that, in his case, a degree in Scrabble is not necessarily a guarantee of general verbal coherence.

The Hash cranked up into a symphony of moving parts as the walkers modestly took their separate way through tracts of pineapples and again entered woodland leading on to large smooth rocks underfoot and shady greenery above, runners began appearing, descending the rocky slope to the edge of a large, picturesque rock pool whose surface was ruffled by a gushing, sparkling waterfall. The Hash, like an unstoppable and heedless torrent, flowed ever onwards towards open bush and more woodland, to emerge beside a series of lakes and then to the On In, which was soon reached.

Cannonballs took the Circle and delivered a rambling account of how he got his Aussie Staff of Authority, Hares, virgins, visitors and leavers were downed, Blue Helmet entertained the Hash with rude but intriguing tales and Cannonballs played a sea shanty on his ukulele in which all joined. The On On was at Tom Yung Gung and enjoyed by all.

Next hashes

Sat 13th Dec 2008 4.00pm for 4.30pm - misdirections by email

Wed 24th Dec 2008 4.00pm for 4.30pm - Special Xmas Hash/subsidised On On at Mystery Location plus Hash Xmas Frolics!

All Welcome!

Run, Walk or Crawl!

Ring 087 932 332 7

Balloon Chasers Extra - Happy Birthday Billy!

Billy of Billy's Bar celebrated his birthday on December 8th in style.Congratulations from all at AWOL!

LUCKY SHOT BAR
Hua Hin's only pool bar with 9' tables
SATURDAY DRINKS SPECIALS!!
Tequila, Sambuca & Sour Apple only 50 baht
B-52's only 100 baht
Contact Andy on 086 178 1550
27/3 Poolsuk Road, Hua Hin

Hua Hin Pool Leagues

Hua Hin Pool Billiard League

Results Matchday 13 5th December 2008

Home	Racks	Pts	Away	Racks	Pts
OCT	13	4	LSA	13	4
DB			DIA		
LSL	14	5	SIL	9	3
JWB	13	5	LSS	9	3
LSB	7	2	EAG	16	6
QUE	20	8	DA	4	0
SUG			JWR		
CAP			TW		

Next Weeks Fixtures
Matchday 14 12/12/2008
LSA v Dick's Office B
LSL v Octopussy
Diamond v LSS
Silverrock v LSB
Dick's Office A v JW Black
Eagle v Sugar Cane
Thaiwaii v Queens Flower
JW Red v Captain's Inn

League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	Diff	Racks	Pts
Eagle Bar	13	9	3	1	44	69	21
Queens Flower Bar	13	9	2	2	44	89	20
Lucky Shot Student's	13	9	2	2	28	40	20
Johnie Walker Black	13	9	1	3	16	48	19
Lucky Shot B	13	8	3	2	22	37	19
Octopussy Bar	13	8	2	3	18	29	18
Lucky Shot Ladies	13	6	3	4	10	19	15
Lucky Shot A	13	5	4	4	4	18	14
Silverrock Bar	13	5	4	4	-4	-10	14
Sugar Cane Bar	12	6	0	6	8	22	12
Dick's Office B	12	3	2	7	-22	-42	8
Johnie Walker Red	12	1	3	8	-24	-49	5
Diamond Bar	12	1	3	8	-32	-62	5
Thaiwaii	12	1	2	9	-30	-51	4
Captain's Inn	12	1	2	9	-34	-63	4
Dick's Office A	13	1	2	10	-48	-94	4

Hua Hin 8-Ball League

League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	Diff	Pts
SilverRock	16	13	1	2	62	27
Harley	16	11	3	2	42	25
Komhom	17	10	2	5	36	22
SportCtre	17	8	5	4	30	21
MrDanA	16	9	2	5	26	20
BenTho	15	8	3	4	32	19
Dolphin	16	7	3	6	-4	17
Phoenix	16	6	2	8	-12	14
B'fly Rock	12	6	0	6	8	12
DicksA	15	4	4	7	-12	12
MrDanB	16	3	3	10	-52	9
DicksB	14	2	2	10	-38	6
BambooGr	10	1	2	7	-38	4
LilleMan	16	1	2	13	-80	4

Results Week 17
3rd December 2008
Butterfly Rock 4 - 8 Komhom
DicksA 2 - 10 SilverRock
Harley 10 - 2 MrDanB
MrDanA 5 - 7 Phoenix
SportCentre 8 - 4 DicksB

Week 18 results will be in the next issue of AWOL

Next Weeks Fixtures
Week 19 17th December 2008
BambooGrove v BenTho
DicksA v LilleMan
Dolphin v DicksB
Harley v Komhom
MrDanA v MrDanB
SilverRock v Phoenix
SportCentre v Butterfly Rock

Hua Hin 9-Ball League

League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	Diff	Pts
Mr Dan A	8	5	0	3	2	10
LilleMan	8	5	0	3	-11	10
Dolphin	7	4	0	3	23	8
Red Bar	6	4	0	2	9	8
Dicks B	7	4	0	3	6	8
Plas Place	8	4	0	4	2	8
B'fly Rock	5	3	1	1	7	7
Mr Dan B	8	2	1	5	-8	5
Dicks A	8	2	0	6	-5	4
BenTho	7	2	0	5	-25	4

Results Week 9
Week 10 8th December 2008
Results not available at press time

Next Weeks Fixtures
Week 11 15th December 2008
BenTho v Dicks A
Dicks B v Red Bar
Dolphin v Mr Dan A
Mr Dan B v Butterfly Rock
Plas Place v LilleMan

AWOL is now available online! Download a PDF version from www.observergroup.net and never miss it!
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For the geek in all of us!

Hua Hin Pool Leagues

Hua Hin Social Pool League Results

Week 15 – 3rd December 2008

JW Red v Butterfly Rock p'poned
Sabai v Billys Babes 7-12
Red Bar v Jungle Juice B 10-9
PP v U Turn 12-7
Lazy Daze v Limelight – n/a
Jungle Juice A v Headrock 11-8
Billys v JW Black 8-11

Week 16 10th December 2008

Results not available at press time

Next Weeks Fixtures:

Week 17 – 17th December 2008

Billys Babes v Butterfly Rock
JW Red v Jungle Juice B
Sabai v U Turn
Red Bar v Limelight
PP v Headrock
Lazy Daze v JW Black
Jungle Juice A v Billys

League Table

Team	P	W	L	F-A	Pts
PP	14	13	1	156-110	26
Billys Bbs	15	11	4	161-124	22
J Juice A	13	10	3	133-114	20
J Juice B	15	9	6	159-124	18
JW Blk	14	9	5	144-122	18
Lazy D	14	8	6	142-123	16
Sabai	12	7	5	115-120	14
Billys	14	6	8	128-140	12
Red Bar	12	6	6	117-106	12
U Turn	12	4	8	106-121	8
Limelight	13	3	10	99-129	6
Headrock	14	3	11	110-156	6
J.W. Red	11	1	10	73-123	2
B'ly Rock	9	1	8	72-100	2

Hua Hin and Khao Takiab Pool League

League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
Bob and Noks	3	2	1	0	35	19	16	5
Eagle Bar	3	2	1	0	33	21	12	5
Free Time Bar	3	2	1	0	32	22	10	5
Dizzy Dolphin	3	2	0	1	30	24	6	4
Oasis Bar	3	1	2	0	29	25	4	4
Sunset Boulevard	3	2	0	1	27	27	0	4
Deja Vu	3	1	1	1	27	27	0	3
Harleys Bar	3	1	0	2	28	26	2	2
Bobbys Good Frds	3	1	0	2	27	27	0	2
Thaiwaii	3	1	0	2	23	31	-8	2
Railway Tavern	3	0	0	3	19	35	-16	0
Dara Bar	3	0	0	3	14	40	-26	0

Results

Wed 10th December 2008

Results not available at press time

Next Week's Fixtures

Wed 17th December 2008

Deja Vu v Dara Bar
Dizzy Dolphin v Bobbys Gd Frds
Eagle Bar v Bob and Noks
Free Time Bar v Sunset B'vard
Harleys Bar v Railway Tavern
Oasis Bar v Thaiwaii

Hua Hin Darts Leagues

Pink Flamingo have withdrawn from the league. All matches played against them have been reversed out of both the league table and the Top 16 figures.

Next Week's Fixtures

Week 17 16th December

Division 1

Lazy Daze v Mojo
Jungle Juice v JW Red
Dicks Office B v No game
JW Black v CAT

Division 2

Good Friends v Bamboo Grove
Headrock v Love Bar
Jaew v Dicks Office A
Butterfly Rock v Oasis
Mojo v No game

Top 16 standings:

Top 10 -Div 1

Name	Bar	Pts
Stuart	P	130
Mark	O	130
Tao	JWB	110
Peter	JWB	103
Martin	LD	102
Golf	SB	98
Noi	CAT	94
Martin	CAT	88
Dicky	JWB	87
Rune	SB	86

Top 6 - Div 2

Name	Bar	Pts
Eero	BR	156
Tao	CAT	142
Don	CAT	139
Muay	JB	118
Mojo	M	108
Howard	M	91

Results Week 16

Cup Quarter Finals

Results not available at press time

Division 1

Team	P	W	D	L	PF-PA	Pts
P'dise	11	8	0	3	67-43	16
JW Blk	9	7	1	1	60-30	15
CAT	10	5	3	2	58-42	13
Scandic	10	4	2	4	55-45	12
Oasis	11	4	0	7	49-61	8
Dicks B	10	2	3	5	40-60	7
JW Red	10	3	1	6	42-58	7
Lazy D	11	2	2	7	39-71	6

Division 2

Team	P	W	D	L	PF-PA	Pts
CAT B	11	11	0	0	96-14	22
Lcky S	12	8	0	4	70-50	16
B'fly Rk	10	7	1	2	62-48	15
Jaew	12	7	0	5	63-59	14
Mojo	11	6	1	4	61-49	13
Dicks A	10	4	1	5	46-54	9
Good F	12	3	0	9	46-74	6
B'boo G	11	2	1	8	35-75	5
Love	11	0	0	11	21-89	0

Balloon Chasers Guide

Welcome to the most vital guide around! All the parties, celebrations and balloons you could want (along with some booze and food of course!) Tell us about it by the Thursday before and we will include it here...send some photos and we will do our utmost to publish them; email awol@observergroup.net or contact Noi at Sabai Bar (Tel: 086-174+6165).

Friday 12th December - Charity Pub Quiz at Buffalo Tavern 200 baht entry includes famous free buffet; be there for 7pm.

Monday 15th December - Pub Quiz at Sunset Boulevard from 8pm.

Christmas Dinner Buffalo Tavern**,** California Steak House & Cantina and Jungle Juice are all offering specials - see adverts in this issue and next week for details or contact them directly.

Saturday 27th December - Lucky Shot Bar 3rd birthday party; free food and 50 baht shots

Regular Events

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays - Pool Leagues **Tuesdays** - Darts League (various venues, see previous page, free food for players)

Fridays - Bar-B-Q party every week at Le Velo Rouge, Khao Takiab - Green Lotus Bar & Restaurant, Soi 88 (Bonkai) 169 baht BBQ every fortnight - 12th Dec BBQ Pork

Saturdays - Bobby's Good Friends (now Kun Koom) Restaurant and Bar Khao Takiab 7.30.pm till late. Live Filipino Band, come and dance the night away.

Hua Hin Golf Society

This week's results:

9th December Springfield

Results not available at press time

4th December- Kaeng Krachan (Mountain & Valley Courses)

Stableford 21 Entrants

1st Robert Wood 34 points 16 hcp, 2nd Paul Sandal 33 points 17 hcp, 3rd Jon Lundgren 32 points 8 hcp, 4th Geoff (g) 31 points 16 hcp, 5th Urpo 30 points 12 hcp, 6th Erkki 30 points 16 hcp.

Nearest the Pin No. 25 Ulla (Mountain), No. 12 Paul Sandal (Valley)

2nd December - Lake View A&B 34 entrants 2 Groups

Group 'A' - 0-15 hcp - Stableford

1st Ulf Sparvman 40 pts 3 hcp, 2nd Pailin Humphrey 36 pts 14 hcp, 3rd Boom Schroeder 35 pts 14 hcp, 4th Kurt Paulini 35 pts 15 hcp, 5th Jill Moore 35 pts 15 hcp, 6th Colin Devonshire 35 pts 10 hcp.

Group 'B' - 16-36 hcp - Stableford

1st Martin Swift 38 pts 23 hcp, 2nd Jim Lynch 35 pts 22 hcp, 3rd Terry Burge 35 pts 16 hcp, 4th Bob Wood 35 pts 16 hcp, 5th Roger Perrin 34 pts 23 hcp, 6th David Baird 33 pts 24 hcp.

Nearest the Pin No. 8 Robert Baker, No. 17 Dickie Bird

Next week's fixtures:

Tuesday 16th Banyan - 4 Ball Texas Scramble Charity Event

Friday 19th Black Mountain

Butterfly Rock Golf

This week's results:

Dec 5th - Palm Hills 16 Players

Front 9 - 21 points - Nid Byrne

Back 9 - 15 points - Bill. Evans. Tan Thomson

Overall - 32 points - Deborah Rawlings

Dec 8th - Lake View

Results not available at press time

Forthcoming Fixtures

Monday 15th December Lake View

Friday 19th December Palm Hills

Scoreboard

(EPL unless stated)

Saturday, 06 December 2008

Arsenal 1-0 Wigan

Blackburn 1-3 Liverpool

Bolton 0-2 Chelsea

Fulham 1-1 Man City

Hull 2-1 Middlesbrough

Man Utd 1-0 Sunderland

Newcastle 2-2 Stoke

Sunday, 07 December 2008

Everton 2-3 Aston Villa

West Brom 1-1 Portsmouth

Monday, 08 December 2008

West Ham 0-2 Tottenham

HERE WE GO, HERE WE GO, HERE WE GO! FANCY YOURSELF AS A FOOTBALL PUNDIT?

Get yourself down to Billy's Bar and enter their football competition - predict the outcome of 15 selected matches every weekend and pit your wits against the sharpest football minds in Hua Hin. Winners average 10 right - can you do better?

Ask Billy and his staff for more details at BILLY'S BAR in the Night Bazaar.

Can't see your local sports league in AWOL? Contact us with your details and we will try to make space for it. Just email to: awol@observergroup.net

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

EPL Fixtures Preview

(All times Thailand)

Saturday, 13 December 2008

Middlesbrough v Arsenal, 19:45

'Boro aren't scoring goals, which has never been a problem for Arsenal, and we expect a narrow away win here.

Aston Villa v Bolton, 22:00

Villa's thrilling last gasp win over Everton sets them up nicely to continue with a win here as well. Bolton are no pushovers though and this could be tight.

Liverpool v Hull, 22:00

Hull got a good result last week and will give a good account of themselves at Anfield. Away from home they have only lost once and been prolific goalscorers, while Liverpool have the meanest home defence in the league. Somethings gotta give - home win.

Man City v Everton, 22:00

The defeat to Villa will have deflated the Toffees and their reaction to it will be interesting; we suspect that this might be a thumping for them though.

Stoke v Fulham, 22:00

Fulham, along with Newcastle, are the only teams not to win away so far, and we can see that continuing here. However neither side will be very happy with the point we predict.

Sunderland v West Brom, 22:00

The first true relegation battle of the season, a real 6 pointer. Both teams performed well last week but it is hard to see a winner here - a battle that will end in a draw.

Barclays Premier League Table

			Home					Away						
	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Liverpool	16	5	3	0	11	4	6	1	1	13	5	15	37
2	Chelsea	16	3	3	2	14	5	8	0	0	21	1	29	36
3	Man Utd	15	6	1	0	19	4	3	3	2	8	6	17	31
4	Arsenal	16	5	1	2	15	10	4	1	3	13	9	9	29
5	Aston Villa	16	3	4	1	10	7	5	0	3	15	11	7	28
6	Hull	16	3	2	3	9	15	4	3	1	15	10	-1	26
7	Portsmouth	16	4	2	2	13	10	2	3	3	6	13	-4	23
8	Everton	16	1	3	4	9	15	5	1	2	13	10	-3	22
9	Fulham	15	5	2	1	11	6	0	3	4	2	6	1	20
10	Bolton	16	2	2	4	6	9	4	0	4	12	10	-1	20
11	Wigan	16	3	2	3	6	9	2	2	4	12	11	-2	19
12	M'brough	16	3	2	3	8	12	2	2	4	8	11	-7	19
13	Stoke	16	5	1	2	12	10	0	3	5	5	17	-10	19
14	Man City	16	4	0	4	19	9	1	3	4	11	15	6	18
15	Tottenham	16	3	1	4	7	7	2	2	4	12	14	-2	18
16	West Ham	16	3	1	4	11	13	2	2	4	6	11	-7	18
17	Newcastle	16	3	3	2	13	11	0	4	4	6	13	-5	16
18	Sunderland	16	2	1	5	7	13	2	2	4	6	12	-12	15
19	Blackburn	16	1	2	5	5	15	2	2	4	12	16	-14	13
20	West Brom	16	2	2	4	9	15	1	1	6	3	13	-16	12

Wigan v Blackburn, 22:00

Blackburn are most definitely in trouble but will be happier playing away; Wigan are a decent outfit but struggle for goals at home. Getting a bit boring - score draw.

Sunday, 14 December 2008

Tottenham v Man Utd, 00:30

This is always a lively, entertaining encounter, and will be even more so if Berbatov plays; we think Sir Alex will have him on the bench though. Spurs have not been scoring many at home, and the same for United away, so we think a 1-0 away win.

Portsmouth v Newcastle, 20:30

Both sides drew last week, and this has all the makings of one too. If one side are to win it though it will be Portsmouth as Newcastle have been leaking too many goals, but a score draw is favourite.

Chelsea v West Ham, 23:00

Another feisty encounter with added spice after Zola and Clarke took over at Upton Park. Can't really see an upset here but these local derbies are odd affairs; given the Hammers recent defensive displays we are predicting a 1-0 away win.

Cockerel Mews

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The Redknapp Revival

'Arry takes Spurs to a new level!

■ LONDON, ENGLAND

'Arry is happy and plans to stay happy. The ex West Ham, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Southampton (did we mention Portsmouth?) icon has got Spurs back on track.

Traditionally Spurs have enjoyed regular periods of inconsistency and the most fickle fans around. Now their up and down form has hit a new high!

Prior to 'Arry's rescue however, all that had changed. Last season under Ramos they began a run of uninterrupted defeats and draws. A few, followed by the odd win, preferably lucky, would have been perfect, but they kept losing! Things got too much when this ridiculous level of consistency continued into this season. Something had to give one day, so he did.

Now 'Arry has got things going nicely; a win against Liverpool, then a defeat to Fulham, then another win, two defeats and a win. That's the kind of roller coaster Spurs fans expect and will get them cheering and booing in successive weeks - just like the old days!

"I've found my natural home" says 'Arry. "Portsmouth were great and I'm glad they've named the Isle of Wight ferry after me as a fitting memorial to my time(s) there. They can cheer when it comes, boo when it leaves, cheer when it comes back and then boo when it leaves again; perfect!"

Redknapp as not many have seen him - in his playing days at West Ham

Murray book shocks tennis world

■ SCOTLAND, ENGLAND

A sensational new book by Scottish tennis sensation Andy Murray has rocked the world of tennis with its vulgar language and brazen insults. "The Secret Diary Of Andrew Murray, aged 20¾" is expected to become a Christmas best seller, despite Murray's disastrous publicity campaign where he said those who didn't buy the book were "stupid arseholes who should **** off to England." Murray later explained that he was joking. One extract from the book shows why tennis is reeling...

"4th January 2008

I hate Australians. Their umpires are all ****ing blind. Had Djokovic right where I wanted him, although his backhand was better today than on playstation. I was all set to prove that I'm the true young master of the sport and not him, but then the umpire went and ruined it. It was 4-4 in the final set and I hit this perfect shot down the line, but that idiot overruled the line judge and called it out. I told the moron, that if he thought the ball was out, then he was a ****ing moron. Somehow, that didn't convince him to change his mind. Of course, I lost the match after that and it was all his fault. Lee told me in the locker room afterwards not to get so angry. I was perfectly calm and had every right to call the umpire a fat ****er. After all, I wasn't the one to blame. Maybe he thought I was English and hated me for it. Should have worn my Scottish flag wristband."

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