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HUA HIN AFTER DARK.COM
30 January 09
FREE WEEKLY
ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE FOR THE EXPAT IN ALL OF US
What's happening, and might be happening, in Hua Hin

Olympics 2016 in Khao Takiab?

Rumoured addition to shortlist

■ KHAO TAKIAB, THAILAND

In a move that is going to shock the sports world, and the Olympic movement in particular, it was rumoured today that a fifth location was going to be added to the shortlist of cities for the 2016 Olympics; already shortlisted are Chicago, Madrid, Tokyo and Rio De Janeiro, while the shock name being reported to be added will be Khao Takiab.

The sleepy fishing village, just 10 minutes south from Hua Hin, has apparently prepared and submitted its bid in secret in response to a request from one of the Olympic committee; the name of the committee member has not been revealed, but it is said that on a recent trip to Thailand and Khao Takiab they were 'completely enchanted by the place' and on further inspection thought that it would be an ideal location for an Olympics.

While at first glance the idea seems preposterous, on a second look it begins to become apparent what the committee member means; the placid sea waters are ideal for all the nautical sports, the inclusion of golf as an Olympic sport by 2016 seems to be a given and the area is blessed with several high quality courses, there is plenty of accessible land available for the necessary stadia to be built, and sources have revealed that building has already begun on the Olympic Village, just south west of Khao Takiab. Land has also been cleared nearby in preparation for building work, and the size suggests a major project, although no one will confirm that it is for an Olympic bid.

AWOL spoke to several residents of Khao Takiab to get their reaction to the news; one bar owner, Bob, said, 'This is amazing news, but it does help to explain why there is so much

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Three arrested in murder attempt on expat

■ HUA HIN, THAILAND

Only a week after Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva ordered police to speed up and solve the case, three men have been arrested for involvement in the shooting of Donald Whiting outside his home in Hua Hin on the night of October 24th. Yutthana Areesawat, 36, Samart Areesawat, 41 and Ek-anand Jitmahima, 50, were arrested on Tuesday, and have reportedly confessed to attempted murder, and already been taken to the scene and reenacted the crime, common practice in Thailand.

Mr Yutthana said he had been hired for 200,000 baht to kill the American by the wife of a foreigner developing a major housing estate in Hua Hin. Police said they needed to gather more evidence before a warrant could be issued for the arrest of the mastermind.

Mr Whiting had criticised the developer over the construction of his house in the local media. He was shot soon after lodging a complaint with local agencies. His car was also set ablaze at his home on July 3. Mr Whiting was left paralysed and wheelchair bound by the shooting.

INSIDE AWOL

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Khao Takiab Olympics

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infrastructure work going on in and around Khao Takiab.' Another, who wished to remain anonymous, had this to say; 'When people think of Khao Takiab they get images of a small, quiet village basking in the shadow of Hua Hin, but this will really put it on the map.' AWOL also asked how Khao Takiab would shape up against the might of the four other cities on the shortlist; Mike from Sunset Boulevard shared his thoughts - 'Well, some might say it is a no contest, but I think people are getting fed up with the same major cities holding all the major sporting events. Khao Takiab has got cleaner air, nicer beaches, better weather and friendlier people than all of those other contenders, AND we've got the Standing Buddha, which knocks spots off supposed attractions like the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro.'

Indeed the general feeling among the people AWOL spoke to was rather than 'Why Khao Takiab?' but 'Why not?' Many feel that it would do wonders to revive the original Olympic Spirit, as well as be a major boost to the whole area in both tourism and infrastructure improvements.

AWOL has also managed to get hold of an ultra-secret document portraying the planned Olympics 2016 logo for the town, shown above right. The designer decided

to incorporate one of the town's most enchanting features - the cheeky monkeys (macaques) that reside in and around the temple on Chopstick Hill; they have been named Ling and Seuak, the Thai words for Monkey and Cheeky.

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The Ecstasy of Erica

■ SMALLVILLE, USA

Erica Durance (right) has been catching the eye for several years as Lois Lane in the hit TV series Smallville, which is based on the Superman story but set in the small Kansas town as the superhero grows up. Erica herself is from Canada, born in Calgary in 1978, and raised in Alberta. Despite these homespun roots, Erica has not been afraid to shock in her roles, appearing naked in 'House of the Dead' and 'The Butterfly Effect 2'.

Her latest role will see Erica on screens sometime this year or next, and is also far removed from her roots, as she plays Heather in an adaptation of the novella 'The Undefeated' by Irvine Welsh (best known for the book Trainspotting and the subsequent film), which was part of his best selling book 'Ecstasy: Three Tales of Chemical Romance'. It is a romantic comedy, set in Scotland and Amsterdam. The story was adapted into the play Ecstasy (by Montreal-based Keith Wyatt) that performed to sold-out audiences and critical acclaim across Canada and at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh.

The film concerns a romance between a young woman dissatisfied with the confines of her suburban life and an aging club-goer, and is directed by Rob Heydon featuring Billy Boyd, Richard E Grant, Jenni Falconer, Stephen Campbell Moore and a cameo with Howard Marks as a Senior Customs Officer at Edinburgh Airport. The filming will take place in 2009 in Canada and Edinburgh, Scotland.

Scrapped Thailand Elite Card too elite for its own good

■ BANGKOK, THAILAND

In an ironic twist probably missed by the original champion of the scheme, Thaksin Shinawatra, the Thailand Elite Card was scrapped on Thursday, when it was revealed that the scheme, run by the state-owned Thailand Privilege Card, posted accumulated losses of up to 1.14 billion baht as of 2006. Operating results for 2007 and last year have yet to be reported.

Thaksin launches the scheme

The Thailand Elite Card was launched by then prime minister Thaksin in 2003 as a high-class programme to attract wealthy tourists and business people. It promised fast-track immigration privileges, long-term property leases and discounts at luxury spas, golf courses and hotels. Thaksin confidently predicted it would attract one million cardholders by 2008, but to date has drawn a paltry 2,570.

Whether this will see a change of tack by Thailand on how the country is promoted as a tourist destination and who they feel is worth targeting after such an obvious failure with this scheme is anyone's guess, but it may offer a glimmer of light to those not part of the elite club the scheme was aimed at.

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Local Weather

Hua Hin weather forecast next 7 days

Day	Conditions	Temp °C Low	High
Sat	Sunny	22	33
Sun	A full day of sunshine	22	33
Mon	Brilliant sunshine	22	33
Tues	Abundant sunshine	22	33
Wed	Mostly sunny	23	33
Thur	Sunshine	23	33
Fri	Mostly sunny	23	33

World Weather

Forecast for Friday 12th December 2008

City	Min °C	Max	Conditions
Amsterdam	-2	4	Cloudy
Athens	10	15	Rain
Auckland	17	23	Cloudy
Beijing	-5	7	Fine
Berlin	-4	1	Cloudy
Buenos Aires	20	30	Cloudy
Chicago	-12	-3	Cloudy
Copenhagen	-3	1	Cloudy
Dubai	16	24	Clear
Dublin	4	9	Fine
Frankfurt	-4	4	Cloudy
Geneva	-2	2	Fog
Helsinki	-11	-2	Cloudy
Ho Chi Minh	19	32	Bright
Hong Kong	14	20	Clear
Islamabad	6	21	Cloudy
Jakarta	24	29	Haze
Jerusalem	6	13	Rain
Johannesburg	14	23	Thunderstorms
Kuala Lumpur	24	33	Thunderstorms
London	2	4	Bright
Madrid	9	15	Rain
Manila	22	31	Showers
Mexico City	3	24	Rain
Moscow	-1	0	Snow
New Delhi	9	24	Mist
New York	-5	3	Fine
Oslo	-16	-4	Scattered Clouds
Paris	0	5	Fine
Perth	21	33	Cloudy
Phnom-Penh	18	34	Scattered Clouds
Rio De Janeiro	21	36	Thunderstorms
Riyadh	15	28	Clear
Rome	4	14	Cloudy
San Francisco	7	16	Fine
Singapore	23	33	Fine
Stockholm	-2	0	Partly Cloudy
Sydney	21	29	Fine
Tokyo	5	12	Cloudy
Vientiane	17	30	Clear
Yangon	21	34	Clear
Zurich	-2	0	Fog

Currency Exchange Rates

At 29th January 2009 (mid-market rates)

Code	Currency	Value (Baht)
USD	United States Dollar	34.9138
GBP	Pound Sterling	49.9625
EUR	Euro	46.2963
JPY	Japanese Yen	0.391852
MYR	Malaysian Ringgit	9.67286
SGD	Singapore Dollar	23.2574
BND	Brunei Dollar	23.2574
CNY	Chinese Yuan	5.18613
IDR	Indonesian Rupiah	0.00307585
INR	Indian Rupee	0.714424
KRW	Korean Won	0.0251
AUD	Australian Dollar	23.2666
NZD	New Zealand Dollar	18.5113
CHF	Swiss Franc	30.5885
DKK	Danish Krone	6.21214
NOK	Norwegian Krone	5.20942
SEK	Swedish Krona	4.38481
CAD	Canadian Dollar	28.8592
AED	UAE Dirham	9.50688
BHD	Bahrain Dinar	92.8591
KWD	Kuwaiti Dinar	121.403
OMR	Omani Rial	90.8018
QAR	Qatar Riyal	9.59177

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

Hua Hin's Hot Topics

This is the first of a new light humoured weekly roundup of the hot topics of discussion around Hua Hin and on the town's only online community forum - HHAD.

The re-emergence of a very hot topic this week involved the as yet unsolved case of the shooting of Hua Hin resident Donald Whiting and the increase in what we can only describe as 'dodgy characters' in the town. With the PM putting the boot up the backside of the local plod there is hope from all that the case will be solved swiftly and justly and the 'plastic gangsters' will stay in Pattaya. (see front page)

On a lighter note Chinese lunar New Year went off with its usual clattering of firecrackers and the odd dragon dance parade in Hua Hin. Many hope that the Chinese zodiac symbol for this year, the sturdy, hard-working ox, will be more apt for the crisis-battered region. The Bangkok hordes seemed to stay away this year and the traffic levels in town were almost normal! Keeping on a celestial theme Hua Hin's star-gazers were treated to a rare partial solar eclipse on Tuesday afternoon though, as many found out, viewing the spectacle was not easy without filters.

The golf gurus had a chance to part with some of their wisdom as questions came in on caddies and putting and complaints came on the high priced green fees on Hua Hin's courses. A couple of courses have dropped prices but they'll have to do a lot more if they want a bigger slice of the expat market. Putting tips offered ranged from aiming for a dustbin to closing your eyes, those that play will be all too familiar with the frustrations of learning the game.

A fair bit of modelling has been done on the forum this week, and before you all login expecting gratuitous nudity, we're referring to computer modelling of house plans. Six pages have been generated following one generous offer of converting house plans into 3D images. The interest here balances out the complete and total lack of it in Hua Hin's property market at the moment, which has on occasion been referred to as a "Dodo".

Currency conundrums face many residents in Hua Hin as Sterling continues to freefall and the baht shows no signs of toppling from its inexplicably lofty perch. Government economy boosting incentives seem to forget (or ignore) the fact that export and tourist based economies are greatly effected by the strength of their own currency. It's all doom and gloom on the forex front and living in Hua Hin is getting pricier by the day for many.

Hot regional news of the week has been the Thai military's treatment of Burmese boat people, and subsequent denials, the government land and inheritance tax reforms and the usual rounds of political bickering and of course the ASEAN summit on its way to Hua Hin.

For all of these hot topics and plenty more get online at www.huahinafterdark.com/forum/ - Hua Hin's only active web community.

HHAD

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English corner brought to you by huahinreport.com

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...

Sent to Coventry

The origins of this phrase aren't known, although it is quite probable that events in Coventry in the English Civil War in the 1640s play a part. For those not familiar with the UK, Coventry is an industrial city in Warwickshire, England. It is well known for its two cathedrals; the modern cathedral being built in 1962 to replace the old cathedral, which had been destroyed during an intense German bombing raid 1940. In the 17th century, when this phrase is supposed to have originated, Coventry was a small town. It is suggested that the phrase, although we now use it in an allusory sense, originated from people being actually sent there.

The story - and it is no more than that - is that Cromwell sent a group of Royalist soldiers to be imprisoned in Coventry, around 1648. The locals, who were parliamentary supporters, shunned them and refused to consort with them.

The first known citation of the allusory meaning is from the Club book of the Tarporley Hunt, 1765: "Mr. John Barry having sent the Fox Hounds to a different place to what was ordered was sent to Coventry, but return'd upon giving six bottles of Claret to the Hunt." By 1811, the then understood meaning of the term was defined in Grose's The Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue: To send one to Coventry; a punishment inflicted by officers of the army on such of their brethren as are testy, or have been guilty of improper behaviour, not worthy the cognizance of a court martial. The person sent to Coventry is considered as absent; no one must speak to or answer any question he asks, except relative to duty, under penalty of being also sent to the same place. On a proper submission, the penitent is recalled, and welcomed by the mess, as just returned from a journey to Coventry.

This phrase was common in industrial disputes in Britain in the mid-twentieth century. Anyone who was considered to be unsupportive of the workforce was in danger of finding that his/her workmates refused to acknowledge their existence. Co-incidentally this was centred on the highly unionized car industry and especially British Leyland, which was largely based in Coventry. That gave rise to people who had in fact lived and worked in Coventry all their life being sent there figuratively by their workmates.

Area 555

Send your jokes to us by email on awol@huahinmedia.com and get your name in print!

THE MAFIA AND THE DEAF MAN

The Mafia was looking for a new man to make weekly collections from all the private businesses that they were "protecting."
Feeling the heat from the police force, they decide to use a deaf person for this job. If he were to get caught, he wouldn't be able to communicate to the police what he was doing.
Well, on his first week, the deaf collector picks up over $40,000. He gets greedy, decides to keep the money and stashes it in a safe place. The Mafia soon realizes that their collection is late, and sends some of their hoods after the deaf collector.
The hoods find the deaf collector and ask him where the money is. The deaf collector can't communicate with them, so the Mafia drags the guy to a sign language interpreter. The Mafia hood says to the interpreter, "Ask him where da money is."
The interpreter signs, "Where's the money?"
The deaf man replies, "I don't know what you're talking about."
The interpreter tells the hood, "He says he doesn't know what you're talking about."
The hood pulls out a .38 and places it in the ear of the deaf collector. "Now ask him where da money is!"
The interpreter signs, "Where is the money?"
The deaf man replies, "The $40,000 is in a tree stump in Central Park."
The interpreter says to the hood, "He says he still doesn't know what you're talking about, and doesn't think you have the balls to pull the trigger."

THE DARTS TEAM

Doris and Fred had started their retirement years and decided to raise some extra cash by advertising for a tenant for their terraced house.
After a few days, a young attractive woman applied for the room and explained that she was a model working in a nearby city centre studio for a few weeks and that she would like the room from Mondays to Thursdays, but would pay for the whole week.
Doris showed her the house and they agreed to start straight away.
"There's just one problem," explained the model. "Because of my job, I have to take a bath every night, and I notice you don't have a bath."
"That's not a problem," replied Doris. "We have a tin bath out in the yard and we bring it in to the living room in front of the fire and fill it with hot water."
"What about your husband?" asked the model.
"Oh, he plays darts most weekdays, so he will be out in the evenings," replied Doris.
"Good," said the model. "Now that that's settled, I'll go to the studio and see you tonight."
That evening, Fred dutifully went to his darts match while Doris prepared the bath for the model. After stripping off, the model stepped into the bath. Doris was amazed to see that she had no pubic hair. The model noticed Doris's staring eyes, so she smiled and explained that it is part of her job to shave herself, especially when modelling swimwear or underclothes.
Later when Fred returned, Doris related this oddity and he did not believe her.
"It's true, I tell you!" said Doris. "Look, if you don't believe me, tomorrow night I'll leave the curtains slightly open and you can peek in and see for yourself."
The next night, Fred left as usual and Doris prepared the bath for the model. As the model stepped naked into the bath, Doris stood behind her. Doris looked towards the curtains and pointed towards the model's naked pubic area. Then she lifted up her skirt and, wearing no panties, pointed to her own hairy mass.
Later Fred returned and they retired to bed.
"Well, do you believe me now?" she asked Fred.
"Yes," he replied. "I've never seen anything like it in my life. But why did you lift up your skirt and show yourself?"
"Just to show you the difference." answered Doris. "But I guess you've seen me millions of times."
"Yes," said Fred, "I have - but the rest of the dart team hadn't."

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Top Marks Hotel
Araya Residence
Mr Dan Guesthouse
Orchid Garden
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Evergreen GH
SeaJays Hotel
Ghouse Hotel
The Fat Cat
El Murphy's

Bars and Pubs

Sabai Bar
Happy Bar
Dick's Office
Lucky Shot
Erikssons Wärdshus
Johnnie Walker's
O'Neill's Irish Bar
Romantic Bar
JJ's Bar
Octopussy Bar
Sunset Boulevard

Restaurants and Food

Hua Hin Ham & Bacon
Green Lotus
Lost Cafe
Kim's Kitchen
Pasta Factory
Coco 51
Buffalo Tavern
Stefano's Pizza

Activities and Services

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GoKart Hua Hin
Mermaid Cruises
Hua Hin Fishing Lodge
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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.

OBSERVER

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PUBLISHING

The Observer magazine first appeared in Hua Hin 17 years ago as an eight page black and white free paper, distributed to the expat community and tourists. We now print 6,000 copies of the glossy magazine each month, Distributed in and around the area, plus Bangkok. The town has grown and so has the number of services the Observer team can offer:

INSURANCE

HEALTH INSURANCE: When people leave their country of birth to set up a home in a new and foreign place, a chief concern is medical care. While we can't stop you getting ill, we can ease the pain of the cost of top class private care. Thailand boasts some world renowned hospitals with expert doctors in all areas of medicine. We are happy to announce we can now offer Senior Cover!

PROPERTY AND CONTENTS COVER: Hua Hin is regarded as a very safe place with a low crime rate. However accidents and thefts do occur, make sure your property and belongings are fully insured against life's mishaps.

COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL INSURANCE

MOTOR COVER: Unfortunately road traffic accidents account for an unacceptable level of misery in this country, make sure you are fully covered before driving on Thai roads.

PET INSURANCE: Yes, really, even your pets can be insured against theft or accidents.

LEGAL SERVICE
BOOKKEEPING

While no one at the office is a qualified lawyer, our staff are capable of handling the majority of ex-pat legal needs, we can help with visas, work permits, company set ups.
It is a legal requirement that all companies set up in Thailand must be audited each year. - Another service we can offer.

CATERING

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Your STARS with Destiny Dan

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Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19
You will be discovered by a talent agent whilst walking down the street this week and offered a highly profitable deal to sculpt a Halloween mask based on your face. Recover from your immediate feelings of upset and arrange an agent for your subsequent public appearances which could prove highly lucrative later in the year.
Throw out all unused tins of pineapple after the 4th.

Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 17
Beware small dogs and cats with large hats after the 5th.
It is often said that Aquarius is a water sign. Even so, an umbrella is advised on the 4th unless it is convenient to strip down to your bathing costume on your arrival at your destination.
People dressed up as large rabbits and brightly coloured eggs are set to make this week furry and colourful in a pleasingly sugary way.

Pisces Feb 18 - Mar 19
Party food is well starred this week, especially jam tarts with a raspberry filling. However, avoid lemonade in large bottles between 1st-4th especially at the critical open-for-the-first-time period.
An impulse purchase of chocolate on 5th will leave a lasting impression on the person who takes your money.
Try at least one new international food this week, but not Greek as this will indirectly lead to violence in a deli in Europe over the next six weeks, even if you do not live on that continent.
Saturn could prevent your optimum bowel movements after the 3rd.

Aries Mar 20 - Apr 19
A salesman's cold call to your work number will introduce you to a whole new world of discount shopping on the 4th. You will be drawn to a snazzy sofa and chair set which will go well in your lounge, however the coverings will wear out suddenly after the 1 year guarantee expires.
Puddings with currents in are well starred after the 5th but only if eaten with a counterclockwise spoon movement.
Jupiter is about to enter a period of hostility with your type. It may be useful to learn an ancient Jupiter prayer in a pathetic attempt to placate this awesomely powerful planetary warrior.

Taurus Apr 20 - May 19
Your stale olive flipping party trick is in need of a reinvention, although since you taught your dog to join in your audience has increased dramatically; even so, avoid performances in a car park around the 2nd unless a bottle of antiseptic cream is available if it all goes horribly bloody.
You will be encouraged by a European friend to accompany them to the Eurovision Song Contest later in the year: decline politely if you do not know anything about this competition.

Gemini May 20 - Jun 20
A picture of you will appear on the internet around 2nd which links you to the latest Walt Disney movie release. You will receive numerous requests for media appointments, all of which should be taken advantage of for the very generous expenses payments on offer. (This may be the only time in your life that you will be able to drink from a mini-bar in your hotel room without feeling panicked by the expense. Enjoy. Neptune loves ya baby.)
A break-dancer who ten years ago bought clothing you gave to a charity shop will appear on national television.

Cha Am Hash House Harriers

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Cancer Jun 21 - Jul 21
A Scottish ancestor, that you do not speak about in your family any more, could make an appearance which will have devastating consequences for the well being of a dwarf tree in your garden. Ensure the tree is watered throughout the week and top up with phosphates as required.
A milky drink will give you one of the soundest nights of sleep you have ever known on the 4th, which will fill you with goodwill to man and a generous tip to a street bum the day afterwards. Unfortunately the street bum will use this money to buy liquor and his damaged liver's only hope will be that the street tramp is prevented from finishing the bottle by a vicious beating by another street bum.

Leo Jul 22 - Aug 22
The round the world yacht race you are currently competing in will go badly unless the 'waxing of the timber' has been carried out frequently enough - we have absolutely no idea what this means, but if you are a yachtsman your life may well depend on it, according to what Planet Mercury told us.
David Bowie could come into your life this week in a way that you will find surprising. Stock up on red blusher and anything proven to make your hair stand up on end which doesn't also make a burning smell.

Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 21
It is written in the stars that your pet will choke violently on fish - ensure you are competent in the doggie equivalent of the Heimlich Maneuver; delay the laying of any new carpeting and ensure the lid on your tropical fish tank is locked shut at all times.
Your car will present some sort of dramatic orange-ball-of-flame-like problem this week, after the 1st, during refueling. Do not wash the car on the first two days of the week as you run the risk of becoming a victim of the latest skirmish in Sponge Wars 2009 between Uranus and Mars.

Libra Sept 22 - Oct 22
You will be airlifted to safety in the middle of the week following a misunderstanding involving a refrigerator with too many tomatoes in it. Try not to let this trigger off your volcanic anger, especially in the helicopter which could ditch disastrously.
Save up your residual anger for a chance encounter with a man who once sold your mother a worthless cup and saucer for $30. Yes you do still have it - middle cupboard in the spare room, third from the left.

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 21
A Scorpio's claws are never blunted so cling on this week refusing to let go only until you get what you are clinging on for or the authorities have been called AND they are on their way.
Beware of a red car and a Mexican's Dorito on the 5th as this chance encounter is set to become a well known joke at your expense in Mexican stand up comedy clubs throughout the entire New Mexico area.
You will make up one of the world's finest nick names this week for an annoying guy who lives near you. It is only a matter of time until your entire neighborhood use it admiringly.

Sagittarius Nov 22 - Dec 21
On a chance visit to a Subway's on the 5th you will discover that they have completely run out of tomatoes in a Twilight Zone kind of way. Make the most of this and you are likely to get a free sandwich, coupled with a regular contributor status on a local vegetarian radio phone-in show.
A company you invested in during the dot com boom, which you had written off, is set to haunt you this week with the possibility that you are called as a witness in a fraud trial. Practice saying 'I know nothing' in front of a mirror for three hours before testifying.

Bugslock

Set yourself free from mosquito bites!

Safe - Effective - Convenient Mosquito Repellant

100% natural - Wear on wrist or ankle or place on table leg or golf bag

Call into the Observer Office
AGENTS REQUIRED

BERNY'S INN

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Home of Hua Hin Golf Society
All the sports TV you can handle!

The Golfer's 19th Hole!

Top tips

brought to you by huahinblog.com

OFFICE workers. Avoid distractions from your important paperwork by making "blinkers" out of two Post-It note stickers, one stuck to each temple.

INTERNET users. Try "accessing" your local newsagents and "download" a few adult mags from the top shelf. They're cheaper than computers, and easier to smuggle into the toilet.

Record the sound of your washing machine onto a tape, then confuse neighbours by playing it back on a battery operated cassette player during a powercut.

Next time you go drink driving ask a friend or relative to follow you on a moped carrying a camera. Then, if you crash, they can take the blame.

Play "Indiana Jones" with your pet mouse using a length of drainpipe and a cricket ball.

Play "Moth Aircraft Carriers" by floating a shoe box in the bath with a torch attached. Leave a window open for ten minutes, then turn off the room lights and watch as the moths attempt to make their dramatic and dangerous landings.

Car cigarette lighters make ideal mini "High Chaparral" style branding irons.

Terrify ants into believing they have been invaded by "War Of The Worlds" style Martians by standing 3 pin plugs on end around their holes.

Fool passers by into thinking you keep a bird of prey by walking down the street wearing a leather gauntlet, waving a piece of raw meat in your hand and constantly looking up into the sky.

Always fart into the rings on top of your gas cooker. This will turn back the gas meter, and save you pounds over a period of time.

BUSY executives. Don't buy a Dachshund. Their amusing sausage shape means they take 50% longer to stroke than other dogs, and time is money.

MOTHERS Don't use poisonous shampoos on your children's hair to get rid of headlice. Scare them away using a dinner plate and an anglepoise lamp to cast a terrifying 'Independence Day' shadow over your child's head.

Are wooden undies a barking idea?

■ PARIS, FRANCE

Your grandparents preferred woollen socks, while your parents opted for synthetic, now a clothes designer is hoping you will slip on some WOODEN socks, as well as the even more risky lingerie line.

They promise there is no risk of getting splinters from the socks which are made from the wastes created by pruning pine trees.The textile is called Lenpur®, a fabric made from white pine tree clippings.

French designer Sophie Young says the textile has properties including regulating temperature and drying very quickly.

However, despite coming from pine trees, they will NOT make your sweaty feet smell like a pine forest.

We hope not to insult your intelligence by explaining that g=9.81m/s2 is the figure for gravitational acceleration.

The eco-benefits of Lenpur® sound convincing: no extra water required to produce the wood scraps, and the fabric is supposedly biodegradable.

g=9.8 also touts LENPUR® as offering "The comfort of silk, the feel of cashmere, and the coolness of linen. The resulting pieces acquire surprising thermal regulating and anti-stress properties." That's what we want in underwear: climate control and the durability to withstand amorous contortions. Sophie doesn't stop at undies, however: the whole family gets to look both sporty and modern with athletic and sleepwear lines.

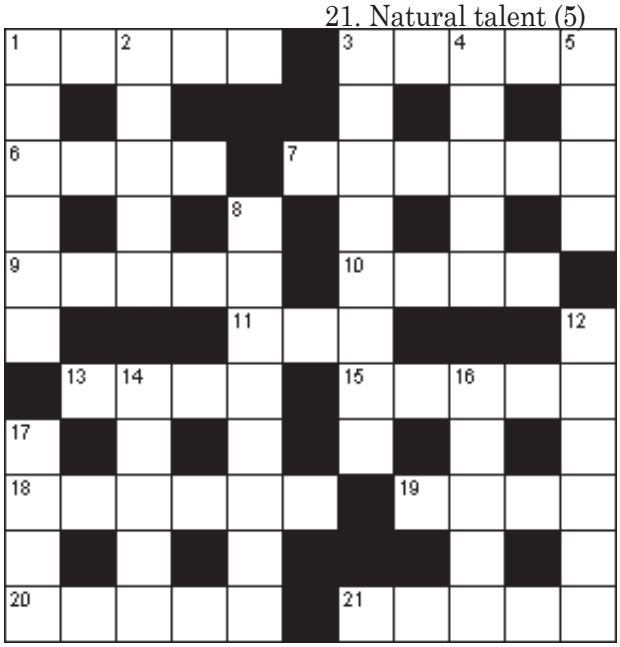
Women's (above) and men's (left) wooden underwear - gives a whole new meaning to the expression 'getting wood'

Quick XWord

brought to you by expathuahin.com

Across

1. Rescued (5)
3. Schemes (5)
6. Lower jaw (4)
7. Chinese labourer (6)
9. Bloodsucking worm (5)
10. Rude dwellings (4)
11. Admiration (3)
13. Is not (4)
15. Land along the edge of a sea (5)
18. Pressed (6)
19. Pre Easter season (4)
20. Shouts (5)
21. Natural talent (5)

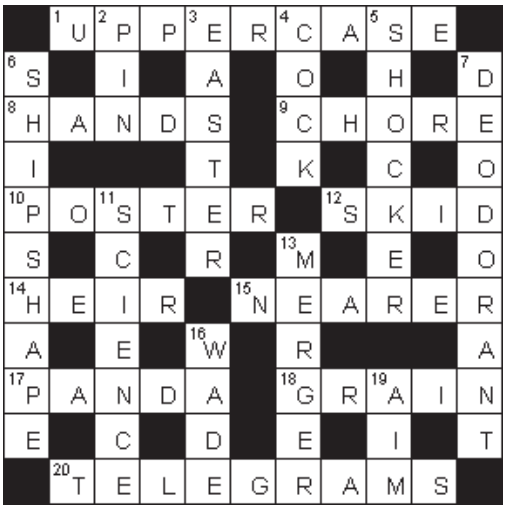


Down

1. Largest island in the Mediterranean (6)
2. Communication medium (5)
3. Foretell (8)
4. Young owl (5)
5. Goes to law (4)
8. Breaks (8)
12. Zone (6)
14. Ruin (5)
16. Musical drama (5)
17. Greasy (4)

Solution in next week's issue.

Last week's solution below



Khao Takiab - Kool Town

Welcome to a new feature in AWOL, focusing on Hua Hin's nearest neighbourhood and undiscovered gem, Khao Takiab. Every week we will feature news, views, attractions and special offers from the unsung village that is a reminder of what Hua Hin used to be. And there is plenty going on to bely the sleepy fishing village impression, with a host of bars, restaurants, hotels and condominiums, as well as top quality golf courses and pristine beaches. Our first feature is written by Mike Smith, proprietor of Sunset Boulevard, to explain why you should 'Try Takiab', whether you are an expat or a tourist...

'Chopstick Hill' - the neighbourhood which is a cool, calm antidote to bustling Hua Hin

There are many wonderful reasons to visit to Khao Takiab, or "Chopstick Hill" as it's known affectionately in Thai. There are two stunning beaches, upscale and affordable hotels and what is perhaps the friendliest group of expatriates on the Gulf of Siam. But for all its beauty, charm and comfort, the greatest thing about Khao Takiab might be what it is not.

Bustling and much, much busier, Hua Hin has no reason to feel "village envy." It is the home of Thailand's revered monarch and has been a famous beach resort since the 1920s. But in Hua Hin's rapid growth and rampant development, something has been lost. This is where Khao Takiab comes in.

Khao Takiab, after all, is not Hua Hin.

Khao Takiab, residing peacefully at the very feet of the enormous, golden beachside Buddha, still retains the singular feel of an undiscovered destination. A single lane, that only three years ago was a pot-holed, dirt road, winds through a close-knit community that spills from porches and balconies and onto the street.

There is hardly the aggressive traffic now synonymous with its northern neighbour, and the only hawkers on the streets are likely offering fresh seafood or cold beer. Absent are the suit sellers and working girls of the larger town – and the only solicitations one encounters come from new friends sitting around a café table or affable barmen along the way.

Khao Takiab, more than anything else, is about community. It's a place where the visitor feels more like a regular than a tourist. With an abundance of new eateries and drinking holes, Khao Takiab has something to offer everyone – particularly families.

Where is Khao Takiab? For those of you unfamiliar with KT, just take the road south from Hua Hin for about 6 km until you reach a junction where the main road bends right up and over the railway, with a U-turn underneath, and the leftmost lane before that will take you into the centre of Khao Takiab.

KT News & Events

■ DON'T MISS the Khao Takiab Pub Crawl on Sunday 1st February. Starts at 5pm and the starting point is Kum Koon (formerly Bobby's Good Friends). Take it easy and see what KT has to offer for eating, drinking and being merry!

■ ARE YOUR children missing out on learning and playing different sports at school? We are looking to organise regular sporting activities on the beach for 4 to 6 year olds every week, to give the kids some fun and get them interested in playing sports for life. Healthy, fun and free, please contact Lostthecafe@aol.com if you are interested.

■ GOLFERS - we are setting up a KT Golf Society for all of you who either haven't or can't join the existing societies in Hua Hin. Our emphasis will be on fun not rules and members will get favourable rates at some of the best courses in Asia. Contact Bob at Bob and Nok's on 089 586 1700

LOST CAFE
Open daily from 10.00 am to 01.00 am
Watch the Superbowl this Monday 6.15am
Free buffet breakfast
Lost is between the Chiva Som and Hyatt
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Where friends meet before and after Sunset
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- Cold Beer and soft drinks
- International wines & spirits
- Cocktails
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Contact: Noy 084 359 7545 or Mike 084 376 9438 email: mikesmiththailand@gmail.com

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HUA CHA HASH PEDALERS

The Hua Cha Hash Pedalers are biking enthusiasts who get together monthly for a group bike ride in the Hua Hin or Cha Am areas. A pre-determined trail is mapped out for the bikers to follow until coming to the finish at a place for food and cold drinks. Everyone with a mountain bike and a desire to join the fun is invited. For more info, call or e-mail Don at 058-088 7181, donaltetley@yahoo.com, or Chris at 087-170 0268, chrisnumber_1@yahoo.com. Also see www.huahin-hhh.com

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Relax with an ice cold beer and a friendly welcome from Noi and the girls
Get updated and chat about the Hua Hin Golf Society with Kevin
Play pool with the many regulars
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Find us at 5 Soi Selekam, Hua Hin - from the Hilton go north along Naresdamri Road, take the first left and then the first right, and we are 40 m along on the right
Contact us: Noi 086-174-6165 Kevin 089-913-7926 email kevinmilke@yahoo.co.uk

CLASSIFIEDS

BUSINESS

BAR/RESTAURANT FOR LEASE. In Guesthouse on Soi 80. No key money. Purchase existing inventory (Liquor), 8000 bht/month against percentage + electricity. Turnkey, but kitchen could use an upgrade. Plenty of space. Contact Brad Walker, Thai-Hi Scorpion Corp. bradkamehameha@yahoo.com +66-89-511-0874 (Thailand)

YOGA CLASS FOR your body and mind. Hello ! My name is Thyda. I am Yoga Instructor who can train both private yoga and group yoga for hotel, hospital and club. Further information, please feel free to contact me by thid_suttha@yahoo.com or 087-0146729.

TEFL IN HUAHIN. Do you love it here in Thailand? You want to stay-But don't know how? Join our "Outreach Project"...and make a difference in the lives of Thai Children. We offer 3 weeks intensive TEFL (Teaching English as a foreign language) Training PLUS A GUARANTEED Job Placement & Salary for 4 months contract...Earn as you go!!! Course Starts in APRIL 7th - 24th, 2009. 2nd Special TEFL Project For Filipinos and people who live in Thailand March 2nd to 20th. Free course material Plus Accommodation. Free work permit. Free transportation to Orientation course. More info contact: Prissy tefl@teachinginthailand.net

SHOP FOR RENT in prime location (near Hilton). Three year lease for 1.2 million and 60,000 bht per month. Suitable for property, jewellery or eyeglass business. Please contact K.Raj (english) Email: chokthip_huahin@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE With all fittings and furniture pool table and accomadation very good profits low rent long lease. Call : Peter Thripp 085 229807

CHEAPEST TOURS IN Town If you are looking for Tours program and hotel reservations in a good price and good service please do not hesitate to contact us at 032 533005 086 5574872. We look forward to serving you. We offer the cheapest price!!! Contact kriangkrai pintong on Email: dctravelhuahin@hotmail.com

BARS FOR SALE Two bars for the price of one for sale in the centre of town just off Bintabarth. Great location good trade phone 0875006519 for more details. Contact D.J on denisnaulty@hotmail.com

NEW BAR FOR rent. Bar for rent near railway station. Contact Ratcha on n_sepia@hotmail.com

CHOKTHIP CURTAINS MADE to order for house and condominium. we make Curtains, upholstery (sofa covers cushions. chair seats), blinds, waterproof beach mats, beach umbrellas and many more. Contact Rajesh Pakhrin Call 084 0892609 (English) Email: chokthip_huahin@hotmail.com

COMPANY FOR SALE with 3 million Baht capital registered, provide 1 work permit and ready web site, full account service. Need more details, please send email or call 087-169-6658

GREAT BUSINESS FOR Quick Sale Ready Business for Takeover – Pattaya Distributorship of international calling service products, retail network (indoor & outdoor) in Pattaya, good commissions - one-time and recurring stream, a fully equipped office, lease for office building which can be extended to include an apartment. Interested contact Charli 0868383968 or email charlihen@yahoo.com

CATERING TRAILER FOR sale A purpose built catering trailer, sited in a prime area of Hua Hin, this unit is currently operating as a burger bar. Equipment includes double deep fat fryer, double hot plate, fridge freezer, microwave oven, and sundry utensils. Offers invited around 250,000baht. Contact Mike Smith Email: eastern_scotsman@hotmail.com

LOOKING TO LIVE the quiet life? Get away from the pollution, traffic and busied city life... Come check out slow-paced Pai where there are still quiet little corners of immaculate nature to build your dream home! I'm happy to help you any way I can to find the perfect piece of land! Knowledge of the local area and land law regarding foreigners. English/Thai speaking. Contact Dave @ 085-713-0119 or deepdreams@gmail.com. Namaste

FOR SALE MINI Mart at the Grand Hotel Night Market, Great location, going concern. Great potential for expansion, it has regular foreign and Thai customers. Genuine good reason for selling. Open to offers. Call 0811455298 for English or 0854709158 for Thai. Email: denisnaulty@hotmail.com

EMPLOYMENT

FEMALE MARKETING & PR officer needed A newly established international Academy based in northern part of Thailand is in urgent need of a female marketing and public relations officer; this position is reserved for foreigners while Thais can also apply, all applicants must be good in speaking and writing of English, please respond with your details to Soo Soodjai on Email: soosoodjai2009@yahoo.com

LOOKING FOR PART time job. I'm looking for part time job as housekeeper, 4 hours per day (08.00 - 11.00 am). Please contact me Tel. 083-3511896 Nin

FOOTBALL COACH NEEDED A newly opened International Football Academy in Thailand is interested to employ qualified coaches from European or South American region. Applicant must have coaching license to coach youths from 7-17 years old, please note that other additional document may be required on application or interview. Please contact by email, every email will be reply with full contact details to Soo Soodjai on Email: soosoodjai2009@yahoo.com

SECRETARY/ASSISTANT SEEKING A female Thai national that can read, write and speak English for a secretarial/assistant position with WaterMicron Industries, Ltd. here in Hua Hin. We are a new company that manufactures and sells Atmospheric Water Generators for home, office and commercial use. The applicant must be in her early to mid 20's attractive in appearance, friendly, computer literate and can provide her own transportation. Salary is negotiable. Contact Kamontip Mongkal Email: glloyd@watermicron.com

GENERAL

UNIQUE FURNITURE FOR sale, Rosewood: Bar with stools and Wine cooler/Optics, 8 seater Dining set, Sideboard , Table and 2 chairs, Dressing table and 2 bedside cabinets. Custom sideboard and bookcases. Burmese Teak outside table/6 chairs, Cane day bed. New, unused 18ct gold designer jewellery, New Remington, Ionic/Ceramic heated roller set, Original Gucci EDP 50ml. Various DVDs. Lakeview Membership valid until January 2023, Baht 150,000/- only (Buyer pays transfer fee).Please call 084 1128873 for full details/prices.For urgent sale.

GARDEN FURNITURE TABLE and 4 chairs made from solid wood. Needs a varnish to bring back to original condition. Selling due to new set. 2,500Bhat. Any questions, please email Amanda Keating on phak113@yahoo.co.uk

ACOUSTIC AND ELECTRIC guitar for sale. Contact Ratcha Email: n_sepia@hotmail.com

CALLOWAY GOLF CLUBS Full set Mizuno irons and Calloway Drivers hardly used. Can be seen and tested at Mongkol Driving Range. 8800 baht including bag. For details call Terry 0845 716 407 or email syzygy47@hotmail.com

WOODEN DINNER TABLE with 6 chairs. Bought new for 14000 baht. Sell for 9000 baht. Can deliver in Hua Hin / Cha Am area. Contact Kjell Lindvall Email: kjelle@cha-am-beach.com

If you wish to place a classified advert in AWOL, please either send an email to awol@observergroup.net or fill in the details below and cut out the coupon and deliver it to Noi at Sabai Bar, Soi Selekam by 6 pm on the Tuesday before the issue you want to be included in. . All adverts are free and will be included for 4 weeks automatically except for property or business adverts - please contact AWOL on awol@huahinmedia.com for prices and details. Please register on www.classifiedshuahin.com to place your ad there free of charge; a selection from there will be in AWOL every week.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS (limit of 40 words per free ad)

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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:	

GOLF CLUBS FOR SALE. REDUCED TO SELL 12,000 baht. Set of pa-ax irons. Custom club makers woods (Mick Wittering) woods Driver, 3 wood, 5 wood as new. Spare driver. Big gun chipper. Putter. Springfield golf bag + balls. Call Ian + 66 (0) 819211804. Email: jilawrie@gmail.com

MOTORING

MAZDA 323 (1996) Excellent condition - Re-con Engine, new wheels, brakes and full suspension. All work carried out by Mazda main dealer. Dark blue with manual transmission. Great Buy for 130,000bt. Contact Billy Hollows on Email: billyhollows@hotmail.co.uk

TRIUMPH ROCKET 3 Classic for reluctant sale. 2 tone black and cherry red, 2007, 15,000kms only. Extras include sissy bar and rack, Givi screen, US zip on / zip off saddle bags, Remote Alarm immobiliser, footplates front and back. Fully legal! Well maintained and oil replaced every 5000 km with fully synthetic. Just had first full service. The ultimate Thailand touring machine! Cost new 1.2 million without any extras! Leaving Thailand so 850,000 baht OVNO contact for pictures Duncan #089 9860731 or Email: duncanw@live.com

CHEVROLET COLORADO 2005 cab4 3.0TD 4WD 88000k very good condition 465000 baht call Bob on 0852934101 or Noi on 0871299868

MOTORCYCLE FOR SALE honda phantom 1100 kms on clock, 55000bht Shane O'keeffe Email: www.shanespok@yahoo.co.uk

MOTORCYCLES WANTED 1. Looking for an old motorcycle that I can just leave in my drive. Doesn't have to run. Any condition considered! 2. Also looking for a reliable cheap motorcycle that does run up to 20,000 B for the girlfriend! Contact Jim Brown on jimbrown123453@yahoo.com

HONDA, YAMAHA OR SUZUKI wanted! Honda Air Blade, Click or Wave 125i. Yamaha Fino, Mio or Nouvo. Suzuki Step (disc brake only). Preferred colours: Black, white or silver (except Fino also all metallic colours). Details about age (when and where registered), colour, condition (any accidents or scratches, tyres, etc.), km, history (how many owners, rental bike, regular serviced), insurance (paid until), model (like Mio, old or new one), extra accessories/parts or changes and also some photos are much appreciated. Important: Where to pick up the bike? Please, no unrealistic offers/dream prices! Contact Michael Schuwald Email: junkcoconut@yahoo.de

HONDA AIRBLADE BEAUTIFUL Condition Black & White, Mag wheels, 14,000 Km, serviced regularly. 23,500 Baht. Contact Noi Email: kp0111@msn.com

TOYOTA 2004 D-4D HILUX SPORT CRUISER 4X4 92,000 Ks. Well Taken Care Of Super Clean Truck Reason for selling relocating... Call Ed: English 0869907798 Thai ask for Jane or Email: edromanjr@yahoo.com This Hilux Sport Cruiser is Equipped with every possible option Toyota Has Asking Price 585,000 Baht

BRIDGESTONE SPARE TIRE AND MAG WHEEL One used Bridgestone tire and Mag Wheel in good condition can use as a spare tire. Size 205/80R16 x 1045 Best Offer. Ed 0869907798 or Email: edromanjr@yahoo.com

PERSONALS

LONELY HEARTS, SEEKING friends or partners, massage and personal services - place a classified ad in AWOL and get listed on www.classifiedshuahin.com automatically! Contact awol@huahinmedia.com

PROPERTY

GREAT LAND BUY HUA HIN-CHA AM REDUCED TO ONLY 200,000 BAHT A RAI. This 8 rai of land is for sale at the amazing price of 1.6 million baht for 8 rai. The house is added for free! The land is near to Springfield golf course, near to the World Sports Centre, on a main concrete road and there is also a road on the far side of the land too. Mountain views. There is water and electricity. Chanote and chanote posts, Contact Darrell 0846846869

LAND IN HUA Hin 1 rai land at tropical hill for sale, surrounded by a 2m high wall, water and electric available, suitable for building, business or leisure lovely mountain views access via government road. For sale at 3.5 million baht ovno contact khun Mae in Hua Hin on 0862444709 or Peter in the UK on mobile 07592671391

6 BED, 4 bath villa with private pool We have been living in Australia for a couple of years and unfortunately we are now needing to sell our Thailand Holiday Home. This has been an ongoing holiday villa that we have rented out on line. The home comes fully furnished and equipped for holiday lets and we would like the new buyer to honour any existing bookings that we have coming in this year. We are looking at obtaining a minimum of 5M Thai Baht in our pockets which will include all furniture and also the company as well as the website. Please contact us for further info and details. Contact Desiree Doherty Email: doherty.dc@gmail.com

ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT SECTION Walk straight onto the beach from your 1067sq.m (2/3's of a rai) bareland section. Located in Tapsakae, Prajuab. The property has full land title and has electricity and water located at the road at the rear of the section. Sale price is 3 million baht. It is very difficult to find sections of this smaller size. Additionally it is located adjacent to a large piece of land designated as an exclusive resort. Email us for more details. Paul Somerville Email: empowerasia@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE HUA HIN. New house built only 12 months ago. 3 double bedrooms, two bathrooms, large open plan kitchen living room. Landscaped garden. I bought this house on a secure site only 4 months ago, with clubhouse and communal swimming pool. I have furnished the house with good quality furniture, including 42" Plasma TV in Living room, and 32" wall mounted TV in master bedroom. Both with DVD players and hooked up to satellite. Also there is Telephone internet connected. The house also has 2 bathrooms one is on-suite to the master bedroom. I have also had installed, security bars, mosquito nets to all doors and windows, and air conditioning to all rooms. And site service charges are paid for the next 8 months. The living room is huge with open plan American style kitchen and Marble Top Island. There is a new fridge freezer, oven, hob and extractor hood. The house is situated only 6 minutes drive to Hua Hin town centre, with a local 7-11 shop just down the road. I bought the house only 4 months ago and paid 3.25 Million Baht for it. I have since had all the extras mentioned above fitted, landscaped the garden and completely furnished the house. The house is valued at 3.4 million Baht exclusive of all the extras and furniture, but due to a crisis in UK, I have to return there. I am willing to make a quick sale for 3.4 million inclusive of everything, mentioned above. A fully furnished house you can just walk into. Pictures are available on request. Please contact Wayne Instone email chopper123@live.co.uk

RENTALS

BEAUTIFUL 4 BED /4 bath house for rent Khao Takiab. Spacious 4 bed /4 bath, refurbished house. A/C, Western kitchen, open plan lounge/ diner. Cable TV, Internet, communal pool, only a stroll to the beautiful Khao Takiab beach and the cheeky monkeys on Monkey Mountain! 2 minutes walk to local shops/ bars/ restaurants ideal for family or golfing holidays. Daily/ weekly/ monthly/ long term rates available. Contact maire.evans1@btinternet.com

SERVICED ROOMS FOR rent, long-term from 5000 bht/month + electricity. On Soi 80 near everything. Tropical Style. Quaint, quiet and comfortable. Contact Brad Walker, Thai-Hi Scorpion Corp. bradkamehameha@yahoo.com +66-89-511-0874 (Thailand)

4 BEDROOM HOUSE In Khao Tao, 15 minutes from Hua Hin and 2 minutes to Had Sai Noi beach. 15,000 Baht per month. Contact Dougal Brown Email: dougal_brown@yahoo.co.uk

I WOULD LIKE to rent a House/Condo Please. I am Coming to Hua Hin for at least a year, in May 2009. I would like to Rent a house/Condo close to Town centre for 12500 bht max per month. Anything available please. Thanks Bev. Contact Beverley Wood on Email: bbwood@btinternet.com

BRAND NEW CONDO for rent opposite Market Village 53sqm 1 bedroom 1 bathroom fully furnished with private balcony overlooking swimming pool and beach in brand new beachfront condominium "Baan Sanpluem". Come visit the place and you will love it! Rent 20,000 Baht/month. Contact doungdaow on Email: doungdaow_s@yahoo.com

BEACH CONDO FOR rent in Cha Am Newly built two bedroom condo for rent. Stunning sea view, large swimming pool, few steps from the sea, 24-H security, Gym, Wifi internet, sauna, Restaurant, Mini mart, taxi service. Located 4 km north from Cha Am city in quiet area. 20000 baht / month. Contact Kjell Lindvall Email: kjelle@cha-am-beach.com

4 -6 VILLAS required We are a group of 12 male golfers visiting Hua Hin from 30 May 2009 to 13 June 2009 looking for villas or townhouses to rent in same complex if possible contact Greg Kirkwood at xcs@iinet.net.au

TECHNOLOGY

TCL LCD 20 Inch Monitor This monitor can be used as a TV or computer monitor. It has: VGA in / Audio in / Antenna in. This monitor was purchased for more than 20,000 baht. I will accept any reasonable offer for it. Contact Michael Email: michael_as1@yahoo.com

AMPLIFIER FOX STEREO Mosfet amplifier 3000W. 2 microphone input, DVD, VCD, TAPE. Perfect for karaoke, bars, garden, swimming pool or just blow out your neighbours! Give away price as I don't need it. 2500 baht only! Contact Kjell Lindvall Email: kjelle@cha-am-beach.com

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WANTED

BIKE WANTED GOOD quality mans bike wanted. No Thai made bikes please. Contact Mike Disley on Email: mikedisley@yahoo.co.uk

PLAYGROUP IN HUA Hin or Cha-am Hi, I have a two year old girl and would like to join a playgroup in either Hua Hin or Cha-am area. I stay near Holiday Inn (cha-am) and am very happy to host the playgroup. If any mothers are interested to form and join the playgroup, please call Yui at 085-159 0926 or Email: yuikhonkaen@yahoo.com Thanks

TELL 'EM YOU SAW IT IN AWOL!

Your Problems SOLVED

Relationship woes? Money troubles? Bar girl blues? Ask Mary Ann Cotton, AWOL's very own agony aunt. Send your problem to awol@huahinmedia.com.

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■ DEAR MARY,
I have been married for 15 years and so still have ten years to go before I can divorce my husband and get the house mortgage-free. At the start of our relationship we had an active and healthy sex life but thankfully, since the kids were born, he has found it increasingly hard to maintain himself in an upright position for take-off and landing. Up until recently I was perfectly happy with this situation, but now one of my boyfriends has got a job on the rigs while another has signed up as a long-distance lorry driver. If I can't pick-up anyone down the pub I sometimes have to go for two or three days without sex.
Out of desperation I pointed out to my husband that watermelons have the same stimulating properties as Viagra and he agreed to try one out. However, he enjoyed it so much that he has moved it into our bed and asked me to sleep in the spare room because I am putting him off. He says if he leaves it in the microwave for a few seconds first it feels better than the real thing, or his sock.
Sammi
Saphan Buri.

Mary says:
Dear Sammi,
A lot of men are turned on by fruit and vegetables, mainly because they do not demand a pair of shoes and a trip to the hairdressers every time you peel off their outer layers. Maybe you should incorporate his interest in this area into your love-making? Next time he's about to sneak off to his study to look at the Tesco website tell him to bring the laptop into the lounge and the pair of you can look at it together. I know a lot of people claim that women do not respond to pornography in the same way as men but my heart certainly starts to race a bit when I see a picture of a nice, firm courgette. However, steer clear of the marrows as they will only remind you of what you are missing. If none of this works try turning up the power on the microwave. It will not do anything for your love life but it will boil the end of his privates, which will be a laugh.

classifieds HUA HIN

Hua Hin Classifieds are FREE for personal use and small businesses, however all classifieds are subject to approval and will not appear instantly.

Selected adverts will appear every week in the area's only free weekly English language publication, AWOL

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The Hash Report by Cannonballs

CHA AM HASH HOUSE HARRIERS
HASH HELD ON SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY 2009 OFF PALA-U ROAD, HUA HIN
HARES: DAVE THE RAVE AND MICKY MOU

A goodly number of Hashers rolled up in the time-honoured motley and variegated fashion on this overcast and humid late afternoon amid the bush covered rolling hills which run north south along the Thai/Burmese border on the edge of waterfall country leading to the local National Park. There was much chatter and the pre-Circle was called and led by half the haring team (Dave the Rave) as MickyMou had absented himself, ostensibly to put finishing touches to the trail, although we suspected that he was either off on a wild goose chase or reassuming postal duties for old times' sake. He later reappeared on the trail in pantomime mode, his cheerful but inscrutable manner confusing the Hash into a state of perplexity and wonderment rarely, if ever, previously achieved in the annals of the Cha Am Hash.

The whole front end of the Hash almost lost the will to live, having missed a check and followed one another up a false trail where Hash nearly subsided, floundering in all directions until, after an interminable checking and searching, the trail was eventually rediscovered and order out of chaos restored. Mickey maintained his cheerful but agonisingly inscrutable sphinx-like demeanour throughout and either intentionally or otherwise averted any further fuss and bother. We bisected many a pineapple patch, skirted the odd plantation of head-high corn and enjoyed the wonderfully open vistas to the surrounding shapely hills as we braved the barbs of sprouting pineapples and the treacherous corrugations of several ploughed fields – the route was scenic until we reached the main road which guided us back to the On-In where, as of yore, the amber nectar flowed in liberal measure.

Dave the Rave took the Circle as the GM was on crucial business elsewhere and downed Returners, Visitors and Virgins before passing over to Vice GM Cannonballs who downed Tom Jones for a brilliant housewarming and sartorial elegance, as also Scotchtape, Neville for his former stalwart Mr Blobby impression amid smelly shiggy and the two sets of twins for achieving two unlikely duos in one Hash. He then bade one and all to celebrate the Chinese New Year in a cacophonous but breezy rendering of Chinatown, my Chinatown on ukulele, chopsticks, bells, whistles, castanets and horn to which all duly assented with commendable enthusiasm as twilight faded into night and Dave the Rave dispatched a contingent of thirty Hashers by torchlight to the On On at a local hostellery, where further revelry was greatly enjoyed and presents distributed.

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

EVERY SATURDAY & TUESDAY

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awol@huahinmedia.com

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27/3 Poolsuk Road, Hua Hin

Hua Hin Pool Leagues

Hua Hin Pool Billiard League

Results Matchday 20 23rd January 2009

Home	Racks	Pts	Away	Racks	Pts
LSA	18	7	LSL	7	1
DB	7	3	LSS	16	5
LSB	11	3	OCT	15	5
DIA	15	5	DA	10	3
JWR	7	1	QUE	19	7
TW	11	4	JWB	12	4
EAG	18	7	CAP	8	1
SUG no Game					

Next Weeks Fixtures
Matchday 21 30/01/2009
LSA v Thaiwaii
Captain's Inn v Sugar Cane
Dick's Office A v JW Red
Queens Flower v LSB
LSS v Eagle
JW Black v LSL
Octopussy v Diamond
no Game v Dick's Office B

League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	Diff	Racks	Pts
Eagle Bar	20	14	4	2	64	108	32
Queens Flower Bar	19	14	3	2	66	133	31
Lucky Shot Student's	20	14	3	3	40	72	31
Lucky Shot A	20	10	6	4	24	59	26
Johnie Walker Black	19	12	2	5	22	66	26
Lucky Shot B	20	10	5	5	22	29	25
Octopussy Bar	20	10	4	6	10	12	24
Lucky Shot Ladies	20	9	4	7	4	11	22
Silverrock Bar	15	7	4	4	0	-5	18
Sugar Cane Bar	19	7	2	10	2	8	16
Johnie Walker Red	20	5	5	10	-20	-52	15
Dick's Office B	20	6	2	12	-26	-50	14
Thaiwaii	20	4	3	13	-28	-54	11
Captain's Inn	19	2	4	13	-50	-89	8
Diamond Bar	19	2	3	14	-60	-113	7
Dick's Office A	20	1	2	17	-70	-135	4

Hua Hin 8-Ball League

League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	Diff	Pts
Harley	21	14	4	3	56	32
MrDanA	20	14	2	4	42	30
SportCtre	20	10	5	5	46	25
BenTho	17	11	2	4	48	24
Komhom	18	10	2	6	32	22
Dolphin	18	8	3	7	-4	19
Phoenix	17	8	2	7	-2	18
DicksA	16	3	5	8	-22	11
B'fly Rock	13	5	0	8	-8	10
DicksB	18	3	3	12	-44	9
MrDanB	18	3	3	12	-56	9
LilleMan	18	2	1	15	-88	5

Results Week 24
21st January 2009
DicksB 4 - 8 Phoenix
Dolphin 8 - 4 DicksA
Harley 3 - 9 MrDanA
Komhom 9 - 3 LilleMan
MrDanB 2 - 10 BenTho

Week 25 results will be in the next issue of AWOL

Next Weeks Fixtures
Week 26 4th February 2009
Butterfly Rock v Phoenix
DicksB v MrDanB
Komhom v BenTho
LilleMan v SportCentre
MrDanA v DicksA

Dolphin and Harley do not have matches due to the two teams who have dropped out, Silver Rock and Bamboo Grove.

Hua Hin 9-Ball League

League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	Diff	Pts
Mr Dan A	14	10	0	4	46	20
LilleMan	14	7	1	6	-28	15
Red Bar	10	7	0	3	18	14
BenTho	13	7	0	6	6	14
Dicks B	12	5	2	5	-3	12
Dolphin	11	5	1	5	23	11
Plas Place	10	5	0	5	6	10
B'fly Rock	9	4	2	3	-23	10
Mr Dan B	14	3	1	10	-32	7
Dicks A	11	2	1	8	-13	5

Results Week 15
26th January 2009
Dicks B 11 - 11 LilleMan
Mr Dan A 17 - 10 Mr Dan B

Other results not available at press time

Next Weeks Fixtures
Week 16 2nd February 2009
BenTho v Plas Place
Dicks B v Mr Dan A
LilleMan v Butterfly Rock
Mr Dan B v Dicks A
Red Bar v Dolphin

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Hua Hin Pool Leagues

brought to you by **Lucky Shot Bar**

Hua Hin and Khao Takiab Pool League

Results
Wed 28th January 2009
Eagle Bar 13 - 5 Dizzy Dolphin
Bye Free Time, Deja Vu withdrew
Harleys Bar 14 - 4 Dara Bar
Oasis Bar 12 - 6 Kun Koom
R'way Tavern 5 - 13 Bob & Noks
Sunset Boulevard 13 - 5 Thaiwaii

Next Week's Fixtures
Wed 4th February 2009
Bob and Noks v Sunset Boulevard
Dara Bar v Oasis Bar
Bye Harley's- Deja Vu withdrew
Dizzy Dolphin v Free Time Bar
Kun Koom v Railway Tavern
Thaiwaii v Eagle Bar

League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
Oasis Bar	9	6	2	1	95	67	28	14
Eagle Bar	8	5	3	0	90	54	36	13
Free Time Bar	8	6	1	1	88	56	32	13
Harleys Bar	9	5	1	3	94	68	26	11
Bob and Noks	8	5	0	3	80	64	16	10
Sunset Boulevard	8	3	1	4	67	77	-10	7
Thaiwaii	8	3	1	4	64	80	-16	7
Dizzy Dolphin	8	2	2	4	67	77	-10	6
Kun Koom	8	1	2	5	60	84	-24	4
Dara Bar	8	1	1	6	52	92	-40	3
Railway Tavern	8	1	0	7	53	91	-38	2
Deja Vu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Hua Hin Social Pool League

Results
Week 21 – 28th January 2009
U Turn v Butterfly Rock 15-0
Jungle Juice B v Limelight 12-7
Billys Babes v Headrock 9-10
JW Red v JW Black 6-13
Sabai v Billys 10-9
Red Bar v Jungle Juice A n/a
PP v Lazy Daze 11-8

Next Weeks Fixtures:
Week 22 – 4th February 2009
Butterfly Rock v PP
Lazy Daze v Red Bar
Jungle Juice A v Sabai
Billys v JW Red
JW Black v Billys Babes
Headrock v Jungle Juice B
Limelight v U Turn

League Table

Team	P	W	L	F-A	Pts
PP	21	18	3	228-171	36
J Juice B	21	15	6	231-166	30
Billys Bbs	20	14	6	212-168	28
JW Black	20	14	6	208-172	28
J Juice A	18	12	6	180-162	24
Billys	20	10	10	193-189	22
Sabai	20	11	9	186-201	22
Lazy Dz	21	11	10	185-191	22
Red Bar	19	9	10	183-173	18
Headrock	20	8	12	174-206	16
U Turn	18	7	11	172-165	14
Limelight	20	4	16	158-203	8
B'fly Rock	15	1	14	109-173	2
JW Red	16	1	15	101-189	2

Hua Hin Darts Leagues

Cup Results
Semi-Finals
Mojo v CAT B 4-6
Scandic Bar v JW Black 6-4

Next Week's Fixtures
Tuesday 3rd February
Cup Final
Held at JWs from 7.30pm
CAT B v Scandic Bar
Please come along and lend your support - it's a great night!

New season starting soon! Please contact Barry or Jill at JWs for more details.

Top 16 standings:

Top 10 -Div 1

Name	Bar	Pts
Tao	JWB	199
Peter	JWB	177
Mark	O	162
Golf	SB	156
Dicky	JWB	140
Noi	CAT	130
Stuart	P	130
Martin	LD	129
Martin	CAT	118
Rune	SB	114

Top 6 - Div 2

Name	Bar	Pts
Eero	BR	191
Tao	CAT	190
Don	CAT	182
Muay	JB	160
Bon	CAT	142
Mojo	M	126

Results Week 21
Division 1
No Game v Oasis
Lazy Daze v JW Red –not played
CAT v Dicks Office B – n/a
No Game v Paradise Bar
JW Black v Scandic Bar 8-2
Division 2
CAT B v Love Bar 6-4
Bamboo Gr v Mojo –not received
Butterfly Rock v Jaew 5-5
Dicks Office A v Lucky Shot 4-6
Good Friends v No Game

Division 1

Team	P	W	D	L	PF-PA	Pts
JW Blk	14	12	1	1	98-42	25
P'dise	14	9	0	5	83-57	18
CAT	13	7	4	2	77-53	18
Scandic	14	6	2	6	76-64	14
Oasis	14	5	0	9	61-79	10
Dicks B	13	3	3	7	49-81	9
JW Red	13	3	2	8	51-79	8
Lazy D	13	2	2	9	45-75	6

Division 2

Team	P	W	D	L	PF-PA	Pts
CAT B	16	16	0	0	135-25	32
B'fly Rk	16	10	3	3	97-73	23
Lcky S	16	10	0	6	91-69	20
Jaew	16	9	1	6	79-81	19
Mojo	15	6	3	6	76-74	15
Dicks A	15	7	1	8	75-74	15
Gd Fds	16	3	1	12	55-105	7
B Grve	13	2	1	10	38-92	5
Love	14	1	0	13	34-106	2

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@huahinmedia.com or contact Noi at Sabai Bar (Tel: 086 174 6165).

Sunday 1st February - Khao Takiab Pub Crawl starting from Kum Koon at 5pm

Friday 6th February - Pub Quiz at Ye Olde Buffalo Tavern from 7pm - 200 baht entrance fee, great prizes, raffle & famous free buffet

Regular Events

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays - Pool Leagues

Tuesdays - Darts League (see p 21 for venues, free food for players)

Fridays - Bamboo Grove open darts night from 7.30pm

- 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

Sundays - Scandic Bar, Cha Am, open darts evening from 7.30pm . FREE return transport from Dick's Office departs 7pm - please call 089 745 3992 (Anne) or 189 894 4310 (Mack) at least 3 hrs before to book transport

Hua Hin Golf Society

This week's results:

27th January - Lake View 66 Entrants - 33 Teams of Two (Members Only) 2 Ball Scramble

1st Malcolm Taylor / Dickie Bird 64.5 net 5.5 hcp, 2nd Mike Humphrey / Trevor Paynter 64.7 net 7.3 hcp, 3rd Barry Moore / Lek Hawthorne 65.2 net 2.8 hcp, 4th Jim Lynch / Wij 65.5 net 8.5 hcp, 5th Alan Rawson / Peter Tucker 66.0 net 6.0 hcp, 6th Russell Beard / Mick Evans 66.2 net 3.8 hcp.

Nearest the Pin No. 4A Lawrence Garrett, No. 8A Chuan Walker, No. 14B Malcolm Taylor, No. 17B Lawrence Garrett

23rd January – Banyan 64 Entrants

Group 'A' - 0-15 hcp - Stableford 29 players

1st Denis Blasdale 38 pts 9 hcp, 2nd Doug East 35 pts 13 hcp, 3rd Mike Wilson (g) 34 pts 14 hcp, 4th Mick Evans 34 pts 9 hcp, 5th Joe Sims 34 pts 5 hcp, 6th Mike Humphrey 32 pts 13 hcp.

Group 'B' - 16-36 hcp - Stableford 35 Players

1st Paul Moran 42 pts 20 hcp, 2nd Judith Thomson 37 pts 35 hcp, 3rd Winfried 34 pts 34 hcp, 4th Han Hackvoort 33 pts 20 hcp, 5th Dawn Wilson (g) 31 pts 26 hcp, 6th Berny Morgan 30 pts 21 hcp.

Nearest the Pin No. 2 Joe Sims, No. 4 Sheila Bird, No. 15 Kurt (g), No. 17 Per Eriksson

Next week's fixtures:

Tuesday 3rd February Dragon Hills

Friday 6th February Majestic Creek

Butterfly Rock Golf

This week's results:

No results available at press time

Forthcoming Fixtures

Monday 2nd February Lake View

Friday 6th February Palm Hills

Scoreboard

(EPL unless stated)

Friday, 23 January 2009
The FA Cup
Derby 1-1 Nottm Forest

Saturday, 24 January 2009
The FA Cup
Chelsea 3-1 Ipswich
Doncaster 0-0 Aston Villa
Hartlepool 0-2 West Ham
Hull 2-0 Millwall
Kettering 2-4 Fulham
Man Utd 2-1 Tottenham
Portsmouth 0-2 Swansea
Sheff Utd 2-1 Charlton
Sunderland 0-0 Blackburn
Torquay 0-1 Coventry
Watford 4-3 Crystal Palace
West Brom 2-2 Burnley
Wolves 1-2 Middlesbrough

Sunday, 25 January 2009
The FA Cup
Cardiff 0-0 Arsenal
Liverpool 1-1 Everton

Tuesday, 27 January 2009
Portsmouth 0-1 Aston Villa
Sunderland 1-0 Fulham
Tottenham 3-1 Stoke
West Brom 0-5 Man Utd

Wednesday, 28 January 2009
(Please note that these matches are not included in the league table opposite)
Blackburn 2-2 Bolton
Chelsea 2-0 Middlesbrough
Everton 1-1 Arsenal
Man City 2-1 Newcastle
West Ham 2-0 Hull
Wigan 1-1 Liverpool

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EPL Fixtures Preview

(All times Thailand)

Saturday, 31 January 2009

Stoke v Man City, 19:45

Stoke have got a decent record at home, while everything is definitely not rosy in Man City's garden. We're backing Stoke to get a vital win here.

Arsenal v West Ham, 22:00

This could be quite a game, with both teams playing neat, one touch football at the moment. In recent seasons the Hammers have got some good results here and we think this will be an entertaining draw.

Aston Villa v Wigan, 22:00

We knew someone would sign Heskey but we didn't think it would be Villa, who now have a plethora of attacking options. Strange then that we think this will be a low scoring draw...

Bolton v Tottenham, 22:00

Spurs are in a scrap, and we're not sure their squad is suitable for one. Bolton will not make things easy, and we think this will be a home win.

Fulham v Portsmouth, 22:00

Neither of these sides has been playing well recently, and this will not be a very pretty game. Fulham's home advantage should be enough for them to squeak it though.

Hull v West Brom, 22:00

While their league positions are poles apart, the teams are not; Phil Brown has taken a bit of a gamble with his signings in the January window and we're not sure they'll pay off. Scoring draw.

Barclays Premier League Table (at 27/01/2009)

			Home					Away						
	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Man Utd	22	9	1	0	24	4	6	4	2	15	6	29	50
2	Liverpool	22	6	5	0	17	7	7	3	1	19	7	22	47
3	Aston Villa	23	5	5	1	18	12	9	0	3	20	12	14	47
4	Chelsea	22	5	4	2	19	7	8	2	1	23	6	29	45
5	Arsenal	22	7	2	2	18	11	5	3	3	19	13	13	41
6	Everton	22	3	4	4	14	15	7	2	2	16	11	4	36
7	Wigan	22	6	2	3	12	10	3	2	6	13	13	2	31
8	West Ham	22	5	1	5	16	16	3	4	4	13	15	-2	29
9	Hull	22	3	2	6	11	23	4	4	3	18	19	-13	27
10	Fulham	21	6	3	1	16	8	0	5	6	3	10	1	26
11	Sunderland	23	4	2	6	13	15	3	3	5	11	17	-8	26
12	Man City	21	6	0	5	25	11	1	4	5	14	19	9	25
13	Tottenham	23	4	4	4	11	9	2	2	7	13	19	-4	24
14	Portsmouth	22	4	2	5	14	18	2	4	5	8	17	-13	24
15	Bolton	22	3	2	6	8	12	4	0	7	14	18	-8	23
16	Newcastle	22	4	4	3	18	19	1	4	6	10	18	-9	23
17	Blackburn	21	3	3	5	13	17	2	3	5	12	19	-11	21
18	M'brough	22	3	4	4	10	15	2	2	7	8	18	-15	21
19	Stoke	23	5	3	3	12	11	0	3	9	8	27	-18	21
20	West Brom	23	5	2	5	16	21	1	1	9	4	21	-22	21

M'brough v Blackburn, 22:00

Another game that might best be avoided if you're a neutral. 'Boro are in freefall while Big Sam is up to his old tricks, and we take the Rovers to nick this by the odd goal.

Sunday, 1 February 2009

Man Utd v Everton, 00:30

The Toffees have been steadily going about their business without a recognised striker and are comfortable in 6th, while United are just turning on their afterburners. Lively match and a narrow home win.

Newcastle v Sunderland, 20:30

Both managers may well be still scouring the transfer market while this match takes place, but maybe they should focus on what they have got. This will be a fiery derby, and the Geordies will take it.

Liverpool v Chelsea, 23:00

The pundits match of the week but we fear this could be very dull. Neither team are in great form and look once again to have been trumped by Sir Alex; a win is vital for both but a draw is on the cards.

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Manchester City sign Kate Winslet

■ MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

Mark Hughes today signed actress Kate Winslet, to 'shore up our defence a bit, and put a bit of backbone into the team. Our abysmal away record can only be improved by Kate, and she'll be pulling on the famous blue shirt today - in front of the crowd.' But the transfer fee of £109 million, from top American side Hollywood Hamsters, was enough to send Miss Winslet into a hysterical speech at a press conference in Manchester.

'Oh wow!', she shrieked, 'I mean, I can't believe this! A hundred million for prancing about for an hour in front of an audience in nice silk clothes, and getting my hair done every day. I've got to thank Harry, where is he? And the Sheikh, and - I've forgotten his name! It's, it's - Gaga! No, Kaka!'

'And Cristiano, he gave me all the advice about make-up and pretty hair. And of course Sir Winston Churchill and Mahatma Gandhi, for all they did. And Willie! Is he here? Willliam Wilberforce, he helped me in all this, though he had to nip out for an hour or two to abolish slavery. What a team! I can't believe this!'

Kate Winslet has been one of Britain's most successful film actresses in recent years, but many were surprised that she was also an expert at bringing down strikers just outside the box, and curling in crosses when she's going forward in the wing-back position.

But fellow Hollywood actress Emma Thompson said: 'Yeah, she's one of the greats, and it's only because of acting commitments that she didn't sign up for City two years ago. She can dish it out too - she was challenging Ewan McGregor for the ball at last week's celebrity game in Los Angeles, and caught him with an impressive follow-through with her elbow. Though she was red-carded later in an off-the-ball incident, when she spat at Tom Hanks and used foul and abusive language towards the referee.'

Hughes himself said 'I'm over the moon, with just this one signing we can turn the club from an underachieving waste of money into league champions. No, Kate is worth every penny of the money. No, I'm not living in a Hollywood fantasy world. Yes, I am a rabbit.' City are expected to bid for Sylvester Stallone next week, after he's finished filming 'Escape From Relegation'.

Kate Winslet shows how good she is up front

Manchester United Announce New Sponsors

■ ALSO MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

Manchester United announced this week that troubled US insurer AIG will not be renewing its shirt sponsorship deal that expires in May 2010, and the club have, therefore, signed a new deal with thrifty retailer, Poundland.

The £14million-a-year AIG deal is to be replaced by a £14-a-year arrangement with the Wolverhampton-based cheap goods merchant, who are the only UK-based organisation to have come through the current economic downturn unscathed.

Sources at Old Trafford say the deal is an indicator of current financial trends, and should serve as a warning to fans about the lack of funds available for expensive new players.

Other changes at Old Trafford will include a new change strip of Poundland green, and a reduction in admission prices to, you've guessed it, £1.

Players wages will also be brought into line with the new sponsors apparently.

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