



SOUTH WIND

Charter Granted 7 August 1961

President : Krin Charnmaytesakul • Immediate Past President : Narain Suradejvibul • President Elect & Membership Director : Jon Plate • Vice President : Finbarr O'Connor • Vice President : Vitool Tantiunanant • Secretary : Dean Outerson • Treasurer : Peter Upperton • Administration Director : Prasobsook Thawilvejjakul • Service Projects Director : Alastair Timblich • Communications Director : Roy Howard • Fundraising Director : John Casella • Rotary Foundation Director : Ola Holmgren • Sergeant at Arms : Mark Wolf

No. 2655
26th May 2017

Today's Topic: **"LEARNING THE THAI LANGUAGE"**
Andrew Biggs

MEETINGS : EVERY FRIDAY AT NOON

PP WANIT "EDDY" MEKDHANASARN, 1960-2017

By PN Dean Outerson

As you know, Past President Wanit "Eddy" Mekdhanasarn was tragically killed in a cycling accident on Tuesday, 16 May.

He was 57 years old. PP Wanit is survived by his mother, Khun Saain, his sister Ann Mekdhanasarn, his brother RTN Manu Mekdhanasarn, his wife, Prisana, his current partner Jo Stevens, and his four children: Net, Nan, Satang, and Penny. And of course, his cousin, President Ken.

Wanit Mekdhanasarn was born on 3 January 1960, the oldest son of PP Wudhi Mekdhanasarn, a charter member, and the fifth President of our Club.

From 1974-1980, PP Wanit attended The King's School, Canterbury, one of the most prestigious "public schools" in the UK. In fact, it is considered the oldest school in the world, having been founded in 597 AD.

PP Wanit then received his BA in Southeast Asian Studies, Economics and Politics, from the University of Hull, and then an MA in Marketing from Lancaster University in 1985.

Upon returning to Bangkok, he joined Bangkok South on 24 October 1986, when he was just 26.

In 1987, Eddy became the founder and CEO of the Witch's Group of Restaurants and Bars, bringing one of the first English-style pubs to Bangkok. The Witches brand soon became an institution in the city and for many years, Wednesday Ladies Nights at Witches Tavern were legendary mid-week events.

But a few years ago, Eddy closed Witches Tavern in Thong Lor and just last year, he sold Witches Oyster Bar on Soi Ruamrudee. A few months ago, he commented that for the first time in over 30 years, he did not own a bar or restaurant. He said it was strange but he was ok with it.

PP Wanit served on our Board of Directors six times, and was our Club's 45th President in 2001-2002. In our 50-year history



book, he reflected on his year as President by writing, "When I accepted the job, I didn't realize what I was in for (but I feared it would be a long year!) Sure enough, I discovered it was much harder than running a restaurant or managing a wife." By all accounts, it was a successful year, despite some initial turmoil.

PP Wanit was a Paul Harris Fellow, a Luang Sit Fellow and a Water Sponsor.

He was known for his sartorial splendor, (especially his unique and colorful jackets) and his various hairstyles. Famously, his father, PP Wudhi, donated 50,000 Baht to charity for the right to cut off Eddy's ponytail during his Installation Dinner in 2001.

For the past 31 years, PP Wanit was one of the great characters and leaders of Bangkok South. In many ways, his personality reflected the character of our Club: he was generous, honorable, an old-school gentleman, but he also had a wry, sometimes irreverent sense of humor and was always quick with a joke and a laugh.

He was, to borrow the French phrase, a true "bon vivant". Whether he was welcoming you to one of his bars, or hosting a Club event, like his annual cooking contests, or even if he was just heading down the road for a drink on a Friday afternoon, Eddy was always the life of the party.

For that, for everything that he did for our Club, for his leadership, and his friendship, he will be missed.



PN Dean remembers PP Wantit



PP Nart contributes his memories



PP Chatri offers his memories of PP Eddy



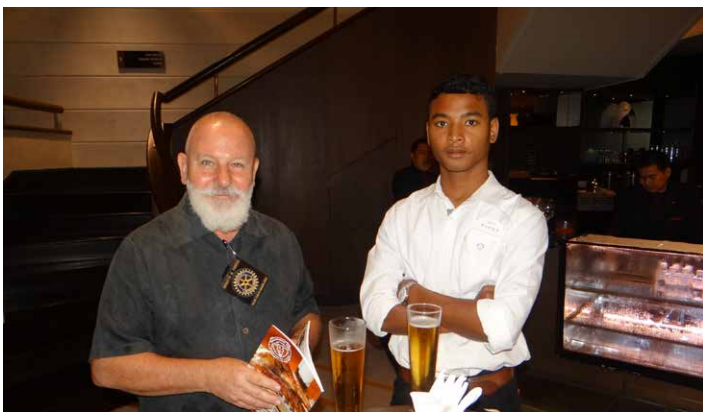
PP Andrew adds his memories



P Krin exchanges banners with Tim Wong of RC Kowloon Edden Mile



PP Chatri and RTN Paul enjoy fellowship



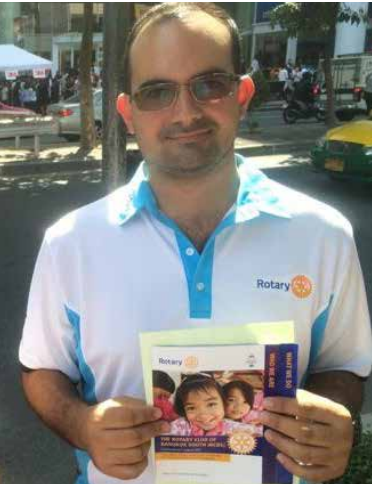
PP Renato with his son, Tunlakan Porzio



RTN Mark takes home the Cosmos whisky



HIGHLIGHTS FROM COINS ON SILOM, 2016



Khun Khob's Club Almanac #2655

26 May 2017

Happy Birthdays:

IPP Narain Suradejvibul May 30

Wedding Anniversary Greetings:

None

Attendance for 19th May 2017: 71%

Present 42, Make-up 12, Absent 22, Exemption 31, Total 107

Visiting for 19th May 2017

From Local

Andre Gehrman	RC Bangkok
P Charles Cheung	RC Bangkok
PP Kriangsak Srisilpavongse	RC Bangkok
Robert McAdam	RC Bangkok

From Abroad:

Tim Wong	RC Kowloon Edden Mile, HKG
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Invited Guests:

Andrew Raming
Eddie Hawarth
Dr. Ian Fenwick
James Bradley
Kanya Pisalyaput
Mina Ho

Introduced by:

Robert McAdam
PP Renato Porzio
PN Dean Outerson
Tom Banker
PP Nick Pisalyaput
Tim Wong

Invited Guests:

Peter Formhals
Tevin Baechtold
Tunlakan Porzio

Introduced by:

P Krin Charnmaytesakul
PP Philip Baechtold
PP Renato Porzio

Recent Makeups:

RC Bangkok, 9th May 2017: Arie Boled, PP Peter-Michael Schuster

Makeups:

TRF, 11th May 2017: PE Jon Plate, PP Krit Wong, Moto Kakiuchi, Ola Holmgren, PP Ole Madsen, Pat Bunsongsikul, PP Per Dibber, Van Tang, PP Vichai Tantrativud

Past RI Officers Lunch, 12th May 2017: PDG Alex Mavro

Multi District Conference Translation Team, 13th & 14th May 2017: PDG Alex Mavro

Multi District Conference Dinner, 13th May 2017:

PDG Alex Mavro, Wolfgang Minderjahn

Board, 15th May 2017: PN Dean Outerson, P Krin Charnmaytesakul, Mark Wolf, IPP Narain Suradejvibul, Ola Hoplmgren, Peter Upperton, Prasobsook Thawilvejjakul

CLUB CALENDAR

Friday, 2nd June 2017 – Wuttiphol Wanglee on The State of the Rice Business in Thailand – The rice business has one annoying by-product: rice. Which makes it complicated. How is the classic rice business model evolving after the Shinawatras? Wuttiphol Wanglee – from a family of rice traders – brings us news from a sector that fills plates, stomachs and some pockets.

Friday, 9th June 2017 – Frank Crocker on Wildlife Photography and Conservation – Frank has many talents and is well known for his fun, music and auctioneering. Here he lets us in on one of his most true-hearted devotions: his love for birds, wildlife photography and wildlife conservation.

Friday, 16th June 2017 – Robert MacAdam on First Aid – There are simple and uncomplicated steps that anyone can take in an emergency, any of which might save a life. Rob, a former Emergency Department Nurse, healthcare trainer and manager

will take us through simple, easily remembered First Aid steps that could make a life saving difference.

Friday, 23rd June 2017 – Fellowship – P. Ken's Farewell Party – Countdown to the day of relief when P. Ken will have survived, and so will have our Club. Hard to believe that it soon is time to say farewell to President Ken, at a fellowship luncheon at Charcoal Restaurant in Soi 11 Sukhumvit.

Friday, 30th June 2017 – No Meeting – due to Installation Dinner Sat., 1st July 2017.

Friday, 7th July 2017 – President's Day – Newly installed President Jon presents his board, the club's projects and targets for the new Rotary Year 2017/18.

For more information about Bangkok South events contact:
rotarybangkoksouth.org/calendar-of-events

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