

May - June 2014

The Scandinavian

Bulletin

Coming up:
Crayfish Party
2014.

Save the day:
20th of September



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Scandinavian Society Siam



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Chairman's Message

Christer Holmvall
Chairman
Scandinavian Society Siam



Dear members of Scandinavian Society Siam

Firstly I would like to thank everybody whom has the confidence in voting me in as new Chairman of the Board of SSS which took place at the AGM at the Rembrandt hotel in late April.

The AGM was attended by many people and we feel that we have put together a new board of great members and great team players. The board consists of both earlier board members and new ones and they will be presented a bit further into this edition of the Bulletin

I want to also thank Robert Kronberg for all his work he did the past couple of years and hope that I can be at least equally good in this position.

The meeting was very positive and followed by a great dinner at the Rembrandt hotel in Bangkok.

The board has already started the event planning for this coming year including the infamous cray fish party which will take place either on the 20th or 27th of September this year.

We have experienced a very warm and humid first half to 2014 and am sure that many are looking forward to a cooler summer – whether in Thailand, Scandinavia or elsewhere. We experienced the coldest day in 30 years in Bangkok in January and one of the warmest Aprils on record.

The 7th of June marks the last tournament of the season for the SSS golf section. It will take place at Thana City and it is Danish Golf Day. The golf section has already planned the 2014-2015 season and the schedule will shortly be available at www.zabaigolf.com

It has been an interesting year in Thailand politically and we are all hoping that stability will soon come. It is still one of the best places in the world to be and I am sure that you all agree and this is why you are living here now. There will be another election this summer and hope that this is one that stabilizes the country.

As mentioned above, we are in the midst of planning the coming events which include the Cray Fish party, the Viking party, the traditional Garden Party and much more. We will try and also have some smaller events during the year and also keep you updated on other activities of interest for Scandinavians.

We have also developed a web based calendar for all Scandinavian organizations so that we make sure that events don't clash in the calendar and that all can enjoy as many events as possible.

Please also feel free to contact us in case you would like for us to help in an event or if you have desires for specific types of events.

Wishing you all a great summer and look forward to seeing you at our first big event which will be the crayfish party on either the 20th or 27th of September.

The golf section will announce their schedule but the preliminary schedule shows tournaments on the 30th of August and the 13th of September – but please remember to check in at www.zabaigolf.com

Looking forward to a great year together.

Please don't forget to visit www.sss.or.th and also www.facebook.com/scandinaviansocietysiam for further updates.

Enjoy the summer

Christer Holmvall

Christer Holmvall is new SSS Chairman

Christer Holmvall, an active member of the Golf section of Scandinavian Society Siam, was elected new Chairman of Scandinavian Society Siam at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 23 April. Another new member of the board was Savija Korslund.

Outgoing Chairman Robert Kronberg left the board in high standing after three years of dedicated service, the last two as Chairman of the almost 100-year-old association of Danes, Swedes, Norwegians and Finns in Thailand.

The remaining board members were all re-elected. They are Christina Hammarlund, Thordur Adalsteinsson, Claus Gundersen, Lars Anderson, and Knut Hauslo.

The AGM took place at Rembrandt Hotel and the members were treated to a full course sit-down dinner in the Senor Pico Restaurant after the AGM, supervised by General Manager Eric Hallin and David Nilsson of Rembrandt hotel.

The activities of the past year was presented by Robert Kronberg, including the financial report. He was assisted by Christina Hammarlund regarding the membership situation – counting over 200 members – by Thordur Adalsteinsson regarding the Bulletin and the website, by Erik Dahlstrom regarding the golf section and by Gregers Moller regarding the heritage section.

A special task of this year's meeting was to merge the new legal foundation of the SSS, the articles of association that have been registered with the Thai authorities, with the old ByLaws of the SSS. The members voted unanimously for the new set of ByLaws worked out by Claus Gundersen and Gregers Moller, that synchronizes the two documents in all key aspects.



Christer Holmvall, second from left, with the mostly re-elected board: Thordur Adalsteinsson, Christina Hammarlund, Lars Andersson, Savija Korslund (new board member) – and Knut Hauslo. Claus Gundersen was on assignment in Cambodia.



Minutes from the 95th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Scandinavian Society Siam
Tuesday 31st of March 2014, 19:00
Rembrandt Hotel, Bangkok

Board members present:

Mr. Robert Kronberg, Chairman
Mr. Thordur Adelsteinson, Website and Bulletin
Mrs. Christina Hammarlund, Membership Secretary
Mr. Lars Andersson (Substitute), Golf Section Liaison
Mr. Knut Hauslo, Substitute
Board members absent:
Mr. Claus Gundersen, Treasurer
Mr. Flemming Winther Nielsen, Heritage Section

Members present:

36 members joined the event and /or the following dinner

Agenda

1. Election of Chairman of the Annual General Meeting
2. Approval of the minutes from last year's Annual General Meeting
3. Approval of the Societys activities the last year
4. Approval of the audited accounts
5. Discussions on proposals of changes in the Bylaws
6. Discussions on other proposals (none received)
7. Election of Chairman of the Board
8. Election of four members and two substitutes to the Board
9. Election of Auditor and substitute Auditor
10. Proposals of activities for the following year
11. Other matters

1. Election of a Chairman for the AGM.

Gregers Moller was proposed as Chairman and the meeting approved. He scrutinized the evidence and concluded that the AGM had been called in accordance with the bylaws.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the 93rd AGM.

The minutes were approved.

3. Approval of the Society's activities the last year

Robert Kronberg asked for permission to go through the financial result together with the activities as they were linked.

GM replied that a voting would have to take place separately but otherwise it was OK if noone else had remarks.

Robert Kronberg then talked about the AGM in April last year, the Viking party in May, the reception for Kristian Boe as Honorary Member, the Wine tasting in September, the Crayfish party in October, the excursion to the Danish dairy in Muak Lek, the golf introduction day in December, the Christmas Service reception, and finally the Garden Party in January.

From the floor there were requests to explain what sponsorship income was. It was income related to sponsorship of one event, the Crayfish party. Erik Dahlstrom requested a set of dates as early as possible. He otherwise encouraged the board to keep the existing events, but boost the marketing of the Garden Party.

Horst Wiezorreck, a new member, suggested charging more for non-members to participate.

As part of the Chairman's report, Christina Hammarlund reported on the state of the membership base. She noted that in 1920 there had been 67 Danish members. Today there were 128 Swedish members, 100 Danish, 35 Norwegian, 15 Finnish members, 5 Thais, 2 Icelandic, one Spanish, one Dutch and 1 Belgian. On the date of the AGM, 41 were yet unpaid, she added.

Thordur Adelsteinson reported on the media side that his 1st priority had been to establish the current website in WordPress which any successor could easily update. As for events, the Society used mainly Facebook to spread the invitations as well as direct email and ScandMail.

Erik Dahlstrom asked if the Society could be more generous with reminders. Marianne Klerk asked if Facebook was such a good idea since it did not work as good before and Horst Wiezorreck suggested issuing a email newsletter.

Thordur said he personally felt the distribution of Bulletin by postal mail four times per year was sufficient along with the electronic media.

The Golf section was presented by Erik Dahlstrom. The section had in average 60 – 80 participants for their tournament. The largest event was the 2 day SAAB / SEB tournament in Hua Hin. The section relies heavily on where and what events their sponsors prefer to support.

Gregers Moller presented the activities of the Heritage Section. The section had completed the restoration project for the Danish graves, which was also supported by the Danish EAC. The trip to Muak Lek had been another highlight of the year. He briefed on the death of Flemming Winther Nielsen, and said he had promised to take on the activities for the coming year.

Finally, the Chairman's report with all the sub-reports were approved by show of hands.

4. Approval of the audited accounts

The Treasurer's report was likewise approved following comments by the Auditor Eric Hallin. He said that everything was so correct in the accounts that "he wished he could make treasurer Claus Gundersen his own staff."

5. Proposals for changes of the ByLaws

Gregers Moller went through the changes proposed that had been distributed along with the invitation. Claus Gundersen had been in charge of establishing the new set of Articles of Association in connection with the legalization of the Society and the changing of the By-Laws was a consequential adjustment. The members voted by show of hand for bringing the two sets in harmony and the show of hands were well over the required two thirds of the members.

6. Other proposals

As no other proposals had been tabled, the Annual General Meeting proceeded to electing the Chairmand and the Board for the following year.

7. Election of Chairman

Christer Holmvall was proposed by the outgoing Chairman as his successor. No other person was proposed from the floor. Christer Holmvall was elected as new Chairman for 2014 – 2015. He gave later during the ensuing dinner a short speech about himself and thanked for the election.

8. Election of four members and two substitutes to the Board

Robert Kronberg nominated and the floor approved of the following composition:

Mr. Claus Gundersen
Mr. Thordur Adalsteinson
Mrs. Christina Hammarlund
Mrs. Savija Korslund

—
Mr Knut Hauslo
Mr. Lars Andersson

9. Election of Auditor and substitute

Eric Halling was reelected auditor and Gregers Moller substitute auditor

10. Proposal of activities for the coming year.

No serious proposals were brought up – except a bicycle trip to Ayutthaya

11. Other matter

Robert Kronberg motivated the election of recently departed Flemming Winther Nielsen as Member of the Year in recognition of his outstanding efforts to highlight the role of Scandinavian Society Siam and custodian of our historical Scandinavian heritage in Thailand.

Erik Dahlstrom motivated the election of Flemming Heide as a Golfer of the year. Prize is an honourable position given to a person who has been a good friend and well liked by all the golfers. Flemming Heide had also sponsored the Sherwin Williams cup.

Closing remarks

Gregers Moller thanked the members for good conduct during the meeting. He also thanked Robert Kronberg for his two year as Chairman of the Society – a period in which the SSS had "consolidated itself and confirmed its position as a stable player among the social organizations for Scandinavians in Thailand."

After the AGM, a dinner was served in the Red Pepper Restaurant on the 2nd floor of Rembrandt Hotel.

By Gregers Moller

The New Board



Christer Holmvall
Chairman of the Board

I moved to Thailand in September of 2008. The original plan was to stay 6 months but it has soon been 6 years since my arrival. I already came to Thailand the first time in 1998 and loved the country, people and of course the food.

I was born in Sweden but have moved several times across borders. I spent my youth in Canada where my father was General Consul and Trade Commissioner for the Swedish Consulate and Swedish Trade Council. I then moved back to Sweden for 4 years to work and study and again went back to Canada for 18 months before moving back to Sweden again for a few years. I moved to Belgium in 1997 where I worked for a US company, then France for 2 years and back to Belgium for another 5 years before coming to Bangkok.

I was responsible for "activities" in Sweden for my company there and also a part of the Swedish Association in Belgium. I have also been active in the golf section of SSS for the past 12 months. Workwise, I have worked now in the environmental industry - working for companies that make oil and chemical spill control and clean up products for the past 20 years. Both companies are USA based - and my role is to develop the markets in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia and Australasia.

In Sweden I lived in Stockholm and Söderhamn, before moving to Toronto. Have since lived in Antwerp, Paris area, Brussels and now Bangkok. This is my first year on the SSS board and it is an honor to work with this organization. We will as a team make this a fun year with as many activities as possible.



Savija Pannark Korslund
Vice Chairwoman and Event Manager

When I was 14 years old, in 1994, I moved to Denmark with my mother and my sister. Arriving to a new country and trying to adjust to Denmark and Danish culture was not easy, as everything was new and the language felt absolutely 'impossible'. But I managed to achieve my Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and later on worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers (pwc).

In 2006 my husband got the chance to work at UNODC in Bangkok and I came along. Shortly after moving to Bangkok (thanks to Gregers Møller) the Danish Embassy approached me with a job offer which I accepted, after which I served the Danes and their families in and around Thailand for 4 ½ years. For one year (2010-2011) I decided to return to Denmark - because of serious illness in my family - and during that time was working at the Danish Immigration Service in Copenhagen.

The year in Copenhagen seemed to fly by fast and when a new exciting opportunity presented itself to me, I jumped at the chance and returned to Thailand once again in July 2011, taking on the challenge of heading the Danish-Thai Chamber of Commerce as Executive Director. Once again, I was surrounded by (mostly) Danes. My professional career among Danes continued when I, in June 2013, accepted a position with Kvik Asia Co., Ltd.

I have always been closely connected to, and felt at home in, the Scandinavian community in Bangkok which seems to continue to be a good match for the future, as I was elected as one of the SSS Board Members last month. Besides being on the Board of SSS, I am also a committee member of TDC (Thai Danish Club) which is an active group of people who either have lived or worked in Denmark - mostly, the members are Thais.

With my Thai and Danish background, I believe I can contribute a lot to SSS and I will do my best to serve our members as long as I am part of the Board.



Claus Gundersen
Treasury

I came to Bangkok to retire at the beginning of 2011 after having worked in Africa, America and Asia for 35 years.

My career began at the East Asiatic Company in Copenhagen, where I started as an apprentice at the age of 17. After completion of my apprenticeship and military service, the company sent me to Ghana, and thereafter to Virginia in the USA, and then back to West Africa, this time Nigeria.

After having worked overseas for the East Asiatic Company for 13 years, I spent a few years in Denmark, and then moved abroad again, this time as a consultant for a tree planting project on the outskirts of the Sahara desert. After seven years' attempts to halt the desertification process, I spent some time in the Sudan and Uganda before moving to Cambodia.

I came to Cambodia on a contract for two years, but ended up spending eleven years there, working for various projects supporting the government in its efforts to develop the sectors of agriculture and rural development. While in Cambodia, I also worked for a few years for the delegation of the European Union.

After Cambodia, I moved to Vietnam, where I spent five years at a project aimed at assisting the Ministry of Education with its nationwide management reform efforts.

During my time in Cambodia and Vietnam I made frequent visits to Bangkok and got to know and like the city, so when my last contract in Vietnam ended, I decided to retire here.

Shortly after arriving in Bangkok in 2011, I was invited to join the board of Scandinavian Society Siam. This turned out to be a good opportunity to get to know a large number of Scandinavians living in Thailand and it has resulted in many new friendships.

While in Bangkok, I go bicycling every morning to keep fit, but I also do some consultancy work in between, mostly in Cambodia, and I spend a couple of months every summer in my summerhouse in Denmark.



From the Time of the Crocs

Flemming Winther Nielsen, the author of "From the Time of the Crocs" was a board member of the Scandinavian Society Siam. This new book about the Danes in Siam from 1865 and upwards. We learn about Marqvard Jensen, the brave young Danish soldier who saved the North of Thailand from British colonisation; Jenny Nielsen from Aalborg whose husband, the American Medical Doctor Thomas Heyward Hays, built the "The Neilson Hays Library" in her memory; the impressive Danish Consul Frederik Carl Christian Købke, and of course the most influential of them all, Vice-Admiral, Commander-in-Chief of the Siamese Navy, Andreas du Plessis de Richelieu, and H.N. Andersen, the founder of the East Asiatic

Company. And many more outstanding personalities.

The book is available at www.scandshop.in.th. The price of 750,- baht is incl. of VAT, but exclusive of postage and handling.



Christina Hammarlund
Secretary & Members Secretary

I and my husband Jan have moved to Bangkok in mid-March 2012. We have been to Thailand a few times before coming here. Bangkok was therefore not a complete new experience to us. In fact I fell in love with Bangkok the first time I came here, which was in 1998. I love the city, the food, the friendliness and its contradictions.

When leaving Sweden I left a working position as Head of Finance for a Swedish aid organization, Individuell Människohjälpen, IM. During my years with IM I have been in contact with many devoted voluntary workers. So I knew I would like to take on some voluntary work in Bangkok. My interests are mainly about environmental issues and fair trade.

14 years ago, I and my family were relocated to Melbourne, Australia. A lovely and very livable city and a wonderful country where we spent a full four years. Since then we have kept our fingers crossed that such an opportunity would take place again having a similar experience once more but elsewhere. And now we are grateful for the opportunity given to get to know another city, Bangkok, and its community.

In between we've been living in Malmö although originally coming from Stockholm, which we left in 1994.

This will be my third year on the SSS board. As a member of the board of SSS I hope I would be able to contribute in making SSS better known by everyone within the Scandinavian community in Thailand and the obvious center and contact point when living in and moving to Bangkok.



Thordur Adalsteinsson
Editor

I came to Thailand for the first time 6 years ago to work and to start up a company with some friends. My background is that after my economics studies in Iceland I travelled to Copenhagen to study Media and Graphic Design. Soon after graduation I started working for MTG Interactive which was the Media House owned by Investment AB Kinnevik Group in Copenhagen. This was early days for the Internet in 1995 where I would be designing and programming websites for the likes of Nordic Films, TV1000 and TV3.

I was then appointed Web Production manager of Icon Medialab and set to manage a production unit of 25 people. In 2002 when the Dot Com burst came our company was closed and I went back to Iceland to work in TV commercial production for the Media House 365 Midill. Where I would be designing and Video editing TV commercials.

It was then in 2007 that I decided to join up with old friends and start up an online ad agency in Asia. Thailand became the logical choice and Area Digital co Ltd was founded in Thailand 2007. Our idea was to move the web production to Asia where the cost would be minimal to service clients in Scandinavia. Our focus is to offer Web development and Graphic design for online marketing and branding. Then in 2011 Area Digital ownership was restructured and I became the Managing Director of Area Digital Co Ltd which is now an Online Media Ad Agency in Bangkok.

I hope to help SSS with their overall media presence.



Knut Hauslo
Board member

My first visit to Thailand was in 1987, on a job related trip, coming from Japan on the way back to Europe and Norway. Only a short stopover for a couple of days in Bangkok. I found the city with the river Chao Phraya, the klongs, temples, and people very exotic. And the food arroy, arroy! At that time I had no idea about what would later be my possibly "last return" to Thailand, that took place beginning of June 2000. Since then I have been here. ABB Offshore Systems in Norway, as my employer, had placed a contract for building of a number of offshore topside modules (for converting a tanker into an FPSO) with their sister company in Thailand. I came here as site manager on the project that lasted for 6 months. However, the project turned out to be a big success. So new projects were awarded, and I was asked to stay on, partly site manager, partly project manager. End of 2004 my employment was taken over by the Thai Company. ABB had at that time sold out their Oil & Gas upstream business. And Vetco Aibel was now the name of my employer. Later it changed to only Aibel Ltd, a subsidiary of Aibel AS in Norway.

With Aibel I was working as Business Development & Bidding Manager. The biggest module fabricated during my time with Aibel was a single unit of about 4000 ton weight. At that time the biggest single unit ever shipped out of Thailand. Only beaten by a 6000 ton unit that Aibel sent to Statoil and Norway last year.

I retired in 2009, however, my wife Anne-Marie is still working, at the Norwegian Embassy. And we have no plans about a return to Norway. My educational background is within engineering and economic from Karlsruhe in Germany. After my studies I worked at the Technical University in Karlsruhe. And I spent around 12 years in Germany, where I also met my wife, and we have been together for more than 43 years by now.



Lars Andersson
Golf Section Liaison

As a backpacker in the early 90s I fell in love with this part of the world and already then I decided that I one day should come back and settle more permanently.

After finishing my university studies, which ended up with a law degree with focus on business law and intellectual property, I stayed in the academic world but moved to Chalmers University of Technology where I spent 10 years working with spin-offs and education within the field of entrepreneurship and intellectual capital management – something that I long-term want to do in Thailand too.

I moved to Bangkok 6 years ago but as a consultant I still work with Chalmers and also with an incubator in Lillehammer so I travel to Scandinavia 4-5 times per year. In Thailand I spend most of my time with Capaciton Ltd, the master dealer for EnerSys in Thailand but also representing a couple of Scandinavian companies pushing for safer, cleaner and more energy efficient usage of traction batteries. To fill up my days I work with some other local start-ups, a couple of Thai universities and I am a board member in the Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce.

In SSS I hope to be part in strengthening a collaborative Scandinavian community.



The Racing Viking

One of the very active Viking Wheelers, Claus Bergenfelt, is also joining a racing team, which consists of some farangs and many Thais, much younger than Claus, who is now almost 63 years old. It was obviously his engagement with the Viking Wheelers, which put him in touch with these “racing guys”, and, when he discovered that he could actually compete with them, he got bitten by the racing side of this sport.

The racing team, which Claus has joined, mostly trains on a closed road around the Suvarnabhumi airport, but for their races they go out of town, often to Khao Yai. The photo shows Claus in the middle of the picture during a recent race of 100 km near Nakhon Nayok, when he beat the entire team in an uphill “sprint”. At the end of the race he came in as a proud number 2. Not bad when you consider his age compared with the other competitors. Look at the utter astonishment in the face of the rider in the right side of the photo. He seems to say “where did this guy come from?”. Claus says that he always beats all of them up hills, but they catch up with him riding down hills and on flat roads.

Claus adds “without joining the Viking



Wheelers in 2005 then I would never have got any interest in bicycling here in Thailand. Our weekly rides together and some weekend trips of more than 100 km plus the yearly Viking Wheelers marathon ride of 4-5 days did create the basic power conditions and motivation to do the road racing on a real road bike.

Doing a road racing is always a challenge not only physically and mentally but also in

terms of training, preparation and the race itself

Since beginning of this year (2007) I have been biking almost 4,500 km on my road racer (mostly) as well as on the mountain bike. Training has to be done according to a well defined schedule and that is necessary if you have to match the other elite riders. I have to plan how many kilometres to ride on a weekly basis and where in terms of flat roads, hills or a combination of both. Besides the bike training then I have to look carefully into the daily intake of food. Without a proper fuelling of the “engine” before and during the race or training then you will soon get the warning signals in the form of fatigue, cramping, nausea and a cadence that slows to a crawl.

“Before a road race or a longer training ride then I have to overhaul and test the bike to catch eventually the small problems that can lead to a mechanical breakdown, or worse, an accident. This routine check-up and tuning takes normally an hour and includes cleaning, check/adjustment of the gear system, lubrication of the chain/gear, inspection of the brake pads and make sure that they strike the rim squarely, check/adjust for any play in

the headset, inspection of the tires for sidewall cracks, tread cuts, baldness and inflate the tires to the correct pressure (120 PSI or 8.3 Bar). Though major components should't loosen with normal use it is wise to check them with appropriate wrenches. Further, the fore/aft position of the saddle has to be adjusted too, depending of where to ride like climbing in the hills or racing on flat roads. In other words I have to choose between increasing the pedalling leverage and producing higher leg speed.

"The preparation does not only include making the bike ready but also making yourself ready for the ride. Intake of food/liquid with a high content of carbohydrate, proteins and fat in the right ratio is very important if I have to survive more than three hours in the saddle and still be among the leading riders.

"The racing day is always exciting and



eventful. That is the day where I hopefully will be awarded for the time spent on training and preparation. There is really nothing like being in a road race. It's like being in a swarm of bees and that noise of gears meshed with chain, the smell of embrocation in your nostrils and the closeness of other riders is something that once experienced, is never forgotten, and seems to drag me back for more and more of it.

"Riding together with a bunch of motivated and well trained guys are a big challenge. I always think: 'Can I be successful today, avoiding any crash and do I have the necessary power to sit together with the best riders to the final end?' Sometimes I am happy with the ride and sometimes not; but that is one of the attractive features with road biking; you never know before the end of the day. Besides the competitive factor, road biking also includes a social element which is very important to keep you going. There will always be time for a chat and exchange of views among the riders. On top of that I will also have the opportunity to experience the country site in a different way. Thailand has many nice and beautiful places which are not easy to experience when you pass by in your air conditioned car or a bus.

"In general, biking is one of the best means to keep you fit and healthy, and the feeling of having used my body to the limits is great and delightful. After a longer ride I will never have any problems relaxing and sleeping" Claus finally concluded.

Viking Wheeler weekend in Hua Hin.

The Viking Wheelers spent the weekend July 7 and 8 in Hua Hin. When Henrik Friis with Po and Simon, Bent Laasholdt, Claus Boman and Suppreya, Alan Valtas, Claus Bergenfelt, Morten Luxhoi and Hans Henrik Melchior turned up for the early morning start on Saturday morning it was raining heavily. But that was no problem for the hardened Vikings – they just waited a couple of hours until the rain stopped. Then they headed south towards the Pranburi area through Khao Takiab.

It became a wonderful 67K ride, in the fresh, cool air after the rain. (Those following Bent rode a little longer, as he missed a couple of turns). The Pranburi ride took the Viking Wheelers through many very scenic areas, on good roads, without much traffic. Part of the ride was through a beautiful hilly area, with some challenging climbs, and part of the ride quite flat, along lakes and also along the beach in Pranburi.

We passed through several very small villages, where we are sure we were the first visiting farangs this year, probably the first Vikings ever. Many shouted "Farang" when they saw us and some of us shouted back "Khon Thai", so we communicated well with the locals. But a late start of the ride meant

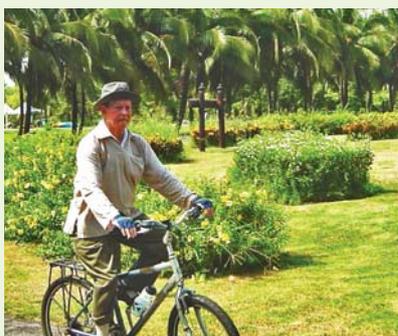
that we only returned to Hua Hin after 2 pm, so it was a very tired and very, very hungry group of Vikings, who met at the Admirals for a very, very, very late lunch at about 3 pm.

Jan Peter Jensen and Pat had arrived in time for lunch Saturday, and joined the rest of the group for the 62K Sunday ride. By now Bent had learned to use his GPS, so no detours that day. Claus Bergenfelt, our racing Viking, missed all the pit stops, so we only saw him at the beginning and at the end of the ride.

The Sunday ride was quite different from the Saturday ride. First of all it was a very sunny day, meaning hot, very hot, around 36 degrees centigrade. And this time we went north, starting cycling at Cha-am beach and then along the coast up to Chao Samran Beach, southeast of Petchaburi, where we turned and rode back to Cha-am. A flat, but hot, ride and with a challenging head wind in between. Also this road is quite scenic, viewing the hills on the west side and sometimes the ocean on the east side and the pit-stop at the Chao Samran Beach was just out of this world. Most of the group had lunch in Cha-am, before returning to Bangkok after another wonderful Viking Wheeler weekend. Looking forward to cycling with you all again soon.



The Bangkachao Riders



Every Saturday the Viking Wheelers go for a ride around Bangkachao, a green area with little traffic and no pollution on the peninsular opposite the Bangkok Port. Participants meet at the temple behind the Klong Toey 7-eleven at 08.15 to take the boat across the river. Former Chairman of SSS and DTCC, Poul Weber, 71 years, joined the team one day in June and impressed everybody by doing a 25 km ride at a good pace.



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GOLF REPORT

By Lars Andersson



Hot, hot, hot - three words that I believe very well summarizes the last few months. For most of us the heat have probably reduced the golf appetite a bit but a good thing is that the golf courses have been quite empty and the game fast. Personally I have developed a growing appetite for night golf and I know I am not alone. Maybe it's not an alternative to the day variety but is sure is an alternative to a lazy evening in front of the TV or grabbing a few beers at the local pub. Hopefully though, the hottest days are now behind us - and they very likely are for those of us that are returning to Scandinavia for the summer months.

We are also approaching the end of this season. A season that started of with excitement regarding who would end up as this year's MVP. Already around Christmas however, one Dane could show an impressive record and he has continued in very much the same manor during the second half of the season. So even if we have two tournaments left when I am writing this, the excitement is gone - and Bjarne Kjersner can relax and play even better golf. It's more exciting in the putting competition

and if Erik Dahlström, who came second last year, manages to keep his game together he might be the one ending up winning this year. For Erik's sake we can only hope he doesn't have to play with someone that makes him drink a lot beer again, as his position looked more comfortable before the last two tournaments. The margins are tight with Erik at an average of 28.4, followed by Carsten Andersen at 28.8, and Kristian Wensell at 29.4.

SSS biggest tournament of the year - with more than 110 players this year - is the SAAB/SEB tournament, which includes the Elephant Trophy, where Thailand is competing against the rest of the world. The competition has for quite a few years now been played at Black Mountain in Hua Hin. As there is no reason not to play such a nice course we did it this year again on March 22. The big difference being that while SAS has flown out and given up on us Scandinavians in Thailand, SAAB has flown in and helped conserving this tournament as the best of the year. SEB is still the second sponsor - it's a good thing money doesn't have wings...

As usually Black Mountain proved to have difficult greens which is obvious from the putting statistics. Even if we don't have the putting statistics for everyone that participated the numbers are quite clear, with only two players with less than 30 putts, Fredrik Bergman at 25 and Carsten Andersen at 29. Carsten has been a strong putter the whole season but Fredrik must have had a really good day, bringing down his average from 36 to 32.3. For the game as such, Group A saw a Norwegian winner in Geir Bing at an heroic 40 points followed by Mats Holm who had an impressive 4 birdies and 39 points. Jan Hammarlund picked the third spot, also on 39 points but with a higher handicap. Jan had 36 putts so obviously I was wrong in my speculations in the last issue. The B group winner was Dan Ekssted from SAAB followed by Daniel Häggmark, one of our international guests, and Bjørn Bjerkaas.

Thailand won the game against the Internationals and kept the Elephant Trophy, which requires no further comments. The team competition was won by a real oldies and local team consisting of Kristian Bø, Sverre Haug, Wichien Harnpraween and Roby Janssens - kudos to them. For the first time since I started writing about our competitions half of the nearest pin prices ended up in female hands (Gry Rosvold Groven and Petcharat Jiambutr). Also one of the two longest drive prices (the one for women) was won by a female through Sherry Fager. Bo Palmqvist showed how much power, and also accuracy, he has and hit the longest drive for men.

April 26 we played the Oakwood/Blufox at Rachakram, one new sponsor and a new course in our repertoire. From the comments we got it will very likely be on the play schedule also next year. It was a hot day in the sun but there was enough wind to cool us down and to make some of the holes really challenging. Especially in Group B the scores were not on top with the winner, John Andersson, having a meager 34 points. Mats Holm grabbed the victory in Group A.

For those of you heading to Scandinavia or elsewhere over the "summer" months, I hope you will have a great vacation and hopefully there will be some time and weather for golf practice so we can avoid having Bjarne picking the MVP victory next season as well!



Friendly golfer of the year

Flemming Heide was recently selected as golfer of the year in the Scandinavian Society Siam's Golf Section. He was chosen not because he is the best golfer but because of his persistence and his kind spirit.



Above: Jan, Flemming, Dennis and Malene.
Left: Mr. Flemming Heide

It is his passion that plays a big role in his life. Flemming Heide who turns 59 next month has been golfing for two decades but he is still borderline obsessed with the game and eager to improve his skills.

Golfer of the year

When talking to Flemming Heide, I tried to figure out why he thought he was selected as the SSS golfer of the year. I asked if it was because he was the Scandinavian Tiger Woods but got a snappy reply.

"I can only imagine that I was chosen because of my friendly personality. Because my skills on the golf course are not something to speak loudly about," he said.

He joined the SSS Golf Section five years ago and enjoys socializing with other members so much and Flemming was spottin in his assumption on why he was granted the title.

Erik Dahlstrom, who is in charge of the Scandinavian Golf Thailand and also voted for Flemming, had the following to say:

"When we play, it is not like in America. We do not discuss business or anything like that. We enjoy each other's good company and of course swinging the club on the course," he said.



"He participates a lot and he is a very outgoing and social person. Flemming is always happy and he never complains about anything. He might not be the best golfer, but that is not important to us. It is all about having fun on the course and Flemming certainly helps putting smiles on the other's faces,"

Always wanting to play

Being the managing director at Sherwin Williams in Asia, Flemming Heide is a busy man, and at times he feels like there is too little golfing and too much work. At Sherwin Williams, Flemming is also responsible for the integration of Becker Acroma Asia into Sherwin Williams, which acquired Becker Acroma Asia in 2010 a challenging task to fulfill.

For Flemming Heide it is all about prioritizing.

"I love my job, but I love golfing as well and if it was possible I would play golf 24/7, but that is not possible at this time, so for me it is all about prioritizing," said Flemming Heide, adding that his best round ever was 101 golf shots, which, according to him, is not anything to brag about.

Flemming is very eager to improve on his game and even said that maybe he was a bit stubborn about it.

"101 is not great, so of course I want to be better. But as I said before, I also just enjoy the atmosphere and good company that I also experience on the grass," he said.

Flemming Heide also urges more people to join the society as he says that the Danes are dropping like flies.

"Golfing is just a great way to meet new people and socialize. But unfortunately there are less and less members in our society," he said. So if you feel like swinging the golf club and making a birdie, to fine more information, visit Scandinavian Society Siam's Golf Section: www.zabaigolf.com.

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