

## KCC Hockey Tour to Bangkok

A tour party representing all teams in the men's hockey section, including a fair selection of up-and-coming young players, went to Thailand in August to play hockey against the Royal Bangkok Sports Club in the second leg of the annual Interport. With silverware at stake, KCC opted to play on the badly waterlogged field at the Polo Club rather than make an early retreat to the bar to determine the outcome in some other gentlemanly manner.

Difficult conditions underfoot gave the home side a distinct advantage as it took a while for those more accustomed to playing on astroturf to get used to the roll of the ball, assuming it rolled at all and did not get stuck in the mud. This was highlighted in an early tackle when Siddick Khan contested a ball on a particularly wet area of the pitch and was given a free mud bath for his trouble.

Undeterred by a couple of well-taken, early goals, the KCC youth proved a constant threat on counter attack to keep KCC in contention but RBSC made the most of their home advantage to emerge as deserved winners. Though magnanimous in defeat, the aggregate score from home and away fixtures was 8-6 in KCC's favour with no dispensation for away goals.

Davinderpal Sethi as tour manager presented the coveted Interport Trophy to the RBSC team captain at an evening reception in the clubhouse. Good food, good company and the gracious hospitality of the RBSC made for a memorable occasion that was lauded by Don Healy in his welcoming speech that drew on recollections of similar sporting encounters dating back more than forty years. Siddick Khan was presented with a man-of-the-match award by the opposition who may or may not remember celebrating his first mud bath, although his fluency in Thai is a credit to us all.

Other youthful members of the Hockey Section who acquitted themselves well according to Ken Wong, team captain, were Siddick's brothers, Fahim and Wasim,



*KCC 1984 team (above) and 2011 team (below)*



*KCC 2011 team with hosts RBSC team*

Sethi's sons, Ravi and Bobby, Jasper Au, and, the Brothers Jolly, Edmund and George.

KCC may well have met its Waterloo at the Polo Club ground but all who took part in this exceptional weekend, including the wives and family members who travelled

in support, surely had a great time. Thanks go to Davinderpal and Pinky for organising the tour and special thanks are extended to the RBSC Soccer Section for allowing us to use their pitch in exceptional circumstances.

**Sawasdee Krap**



## KCC C Team start the season winning the Recreio Centenary Cup

Sunday, 4 September at Club de Recreio

KCC C Team beat Valley C, 2-1 in a thrilling encounter at Club de Recreio for the Centenary Cup which is the season curtain raiser. The newly assembled team blending experience players and players from KCC youth team played their first competitive game together. From the start, this new team exhibited teamwork and strength in many areas on the field and very quickly was in control of the game. KCC C had 3 goal-scoring opportunities and the efforts just went wide by inches. A quick break from Valley C midway through the first half from a counter attack gained them a short corner and they duly converted the opportunity into a goal. The KCC C Team was not disheartened and quickly regrouped and started the comeback. After a string of attacking play and near-misses, our young midfielder, Almas, received a pass from the 25 yards line in the opponents half, beat a defender and with a beautiful reverse stick hit, drilled a glorious ball past the goalkeeper and both the players and supporters celebrated.

The afternoon 2pm temperature was boiling hot despite an earlier light shower. The strategies and tactical plans were discussed and refined at half time lead by coach, Harry and the senior players. The

second half started in similar fashion with the KCC C Team exerting their dominance on the pitch showing great positional play at defense with George, Hau, Patrick and Wasim marking out their opponents, and 'keeper Jason making great goalkeeping. Ken, our midfield general, with Richard, Douglas and Almas won the midfield with their skills and intelligent marking and distribution. In attack, we had Matt, Jonathan, Jimmy and Usman making darting runs, controlling the ball and in the first 15 minutes of the second half, had numerous chances and were very unlucky. In the

20th minute, a move that started from the back, to midfield and passing the ball to our young attacker Usman in the D, and he smacked his first shot into the mask of the keeper, the rebound being hit again by Usman into the chest of the keeper and the second rebound, Usman confidently slotted the ball into goal. The "crowd" went crazy.

The remaining time of the game, we played to ensure that we win with smart positioning and despite Valley's gallant effort to launch a fight back, we managed to emerge winners at the end. Special thanks to the "crowd" of supporters and the KCC C Team for giving the team a dream start and something to remember for a long time.

**Boon**

