



Jock-ularity

Of Rulings and Cock Fighting

Rules and regulations seem to be the order of the day. New opening hours were imposed on the first of the month (March), only to be lifted again because the government could not agree on the legal wording of the act. (Hope you checked your facts - Ed.) Hence we wait in abeyance, should this draconian act ever see the light of day.

March 12th saw just about every bar, restaurant and nightspot owner scrambling to correlate business papers, plans of the establishment, health certificates, passport photos, residency papers, etc. times two copies, I may add. This to be submitted to the licensing authority at Kathu with a view to acquiring new licences to trade within the new letter of the law.

All of this was due to the fact that zoning and "the entertainment act" had been invoked. No actual edict was submitted to the populace at large, only an early editorial in the Bangkok post and more

recently online by other journals.

Even the local lawyers and accountants knew little or nothing of these impending changes, so as a result queues of honest publicans were to be found on the 12th, armed to the teeth with every document known to man, to comply with the new laws.

As it turned out all of the new legislation applied only to the "new" entertainment zone, which only local government knew exactly where this was! So, 90% of all who applied were sent away. "Only in Thailand."

But enough of all this.

How about a case of "Chicken 'N' Chips"? As we all know by now, SE Asia is amongst the areas to have suffered with the bird flu virus.

Thailand or to be more accurate, The Department of Agriculture has become proactive in an effort to stamp out this blight from the country by wishing to insert a

microchip into the legs of all of Thailand's registered fighting cocks. It is estimated that over 6 million fighting birds go from province to province throughout Thailand on a regular basis to venues and areas. It is argued that if these birds are "chipped" a track of their movements will keep the dreaded bug at bay, as all chipped birds will have undergone a medical check to ensure they are virus free.

Unfortunately, the deputy agriculture minister, Mr. Newin Chidchob, considers this scheme to be too expensive and unjustified. But the best comment comes from Prathana Ngamwongwan, an associate professor and a member of a group conserving and developing Thai indigenous chicken, when asked why fighting cock owners didn't want to join the project. He stated, 'And I Quote' "Who wants to insert artificial objects into their expensive cocks?"

I Ask You!!!

Is This How Schumi Started??

I have never really been into fast cars, only fast women, so it came as a bit of a surprise when I was asked to come down and have a look at the inaugural GP at the go-cart track over the hill from Patong and heading for Phuket City (it is now a city, by the way!).

A man of small stature, but a big presence by the name of John, showed me around and explained what was going to happen that day. John has been mixed up with go-cart racing in the UK for quite some time and he is out here to help Jorg with some of the more successful ideas

from John's tracks in the UK.

The go-carts come in two styles; fastish and bloody quick.



Twenty-one turned up for this first GP. All the preliminary races were conducted in the slower carts to sort out who could drive and who couldn't. Everyone had five five-lap races in a rotating order and different carts in the lead-up to sort out the ten semi-finalists. It was quite interesting to listen to all the excuses coming from some of the drivers after their races, blaming everything but themselves on their poor performance.



After each had ten races, the highest points scorers went into the semis to work out the final five for the GP. It was almost pitch black by this time so I guess with the faster carts and nighttime combined you would really have to know what you are doing. There are lights around the track, but it still looked pretty dark, but a lot cooler.

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