

# Jock-ularity



It would appear that the government, at long last, have got the mafia, who control the drugs racket in this country, under control. It took only an amount of shootings and a considerable amount of incarcerations to bring the country into a state of relative sanity, and perhaps tranquility too!

State attention as a result has turned to road safety (not before time). On Phuket at least you may have noticed the increase of the white helmeted gentlemen standing about on street corners, hiding in shop doorways, up trees etc. Well all to the common good at last. You will now be fined (at time of writing) 200 Baht, for failure to wear a helmet. This is actually a good deal because up until recently the levy was 300 Baht. Value for money now! Also, however, if the correct license is not submitted; i.e. preferred a Thai license or at least an international permit, at time of being stopped you now run the risk of having your bike confiscated and impounded until such time as you can acquire same, which means one of two things.

1. You sit the driving test in Phuket town or,
2. You rush off home to your respective homelands and get yourself an International permit. Could be expensive so bear that in mind.

Car drivers will not be excluded either, as if you are stopped for failure to wear a seat belt all of the above apply to you too. The authorities are getting tough, and a good thing too, I say. But, question; why should the rider of the bike have to wear a helmet when the pillion passenger or passengers! get off scott free? Very silly ruling that, as it is law in Thailand that EVERYONE on a motorcycle must wear the relative safety protection, as is the case in Bangkok. So come on Phuket, rules is rules!

Perhaps also it may be useful if the authorities take a wee looky at the roadworthiness of some of the vehicles plying the roads of Thailand, particularly the heavy goods vehicles. Tyres for instance should not only be round and black, but should also have the vestiges of some tread also! Food for thought!

A point to ponder. Recently while on business on Phuket, an expat resident from Phetchabun had the misfortune to be involved in a minor road accident in his almost new Ford Laser Ghia. Whilst travelling northwards along the beach road in Patong, he was required to make aright

turn into Soi Eden. He made his manoeuvre to the centre reservation, indicating right. Stopped, awaiting a free space in the oncoming traffic. On seeing his opportunity, he attempted his right turn across the road into the soi when, "BANG", he was struck on the right hand side of his car by a motorcycle that was attempting a high speed overtaking manoeuvre.

Fortunately (or so he thought at the time), the incident was witnessed by a passing traffic policeman, who came to his aid. Upon surveying the scene of devastation and after dusting down the somewhat dazed and abraded Thai gentleman who had been riding the bike, it was decided that due to the fact that the Thai lad had no insurance or money to speak of, that the Ex-pat should continue on his way as should the Thai. This resulting in a hefty 11,000 Baht repair bill to the car. Payable by it's owner!

Happy motoring my friends.

## THE CRYPTIC SOLUTION

### Islands In The Sun

By Andrew Sutton

\*\*A reader emailed referring to our sample clue last month suggesting that "plough the lands" (12 down) meant the answer was an anagram of "the lands" (Shetland).

When we contacted Andrew, he agreed, and said (chuckling) it was an easier way of getting to the answer than the one we described.

