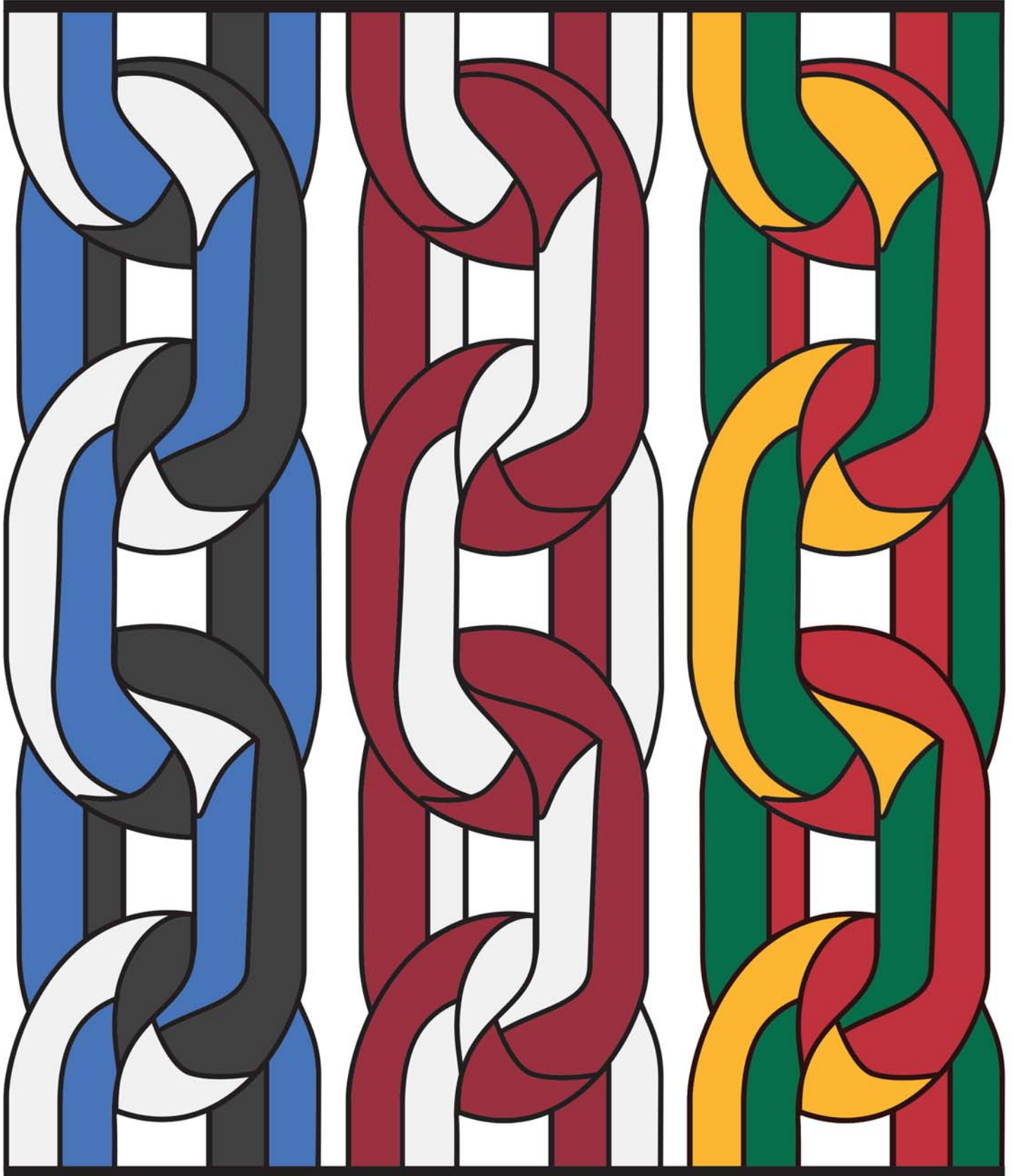


ESTABLISHED 1947

# DIPLOMAT

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019 £10



THE BALTIC WAY AT 30



## THE AMBASSADORS VS THE HURLINGHAM CLUB

By Alastair Brett of the Hurlingham Club's Tennis Committee

The Ambassadors reigned supreme at this year's friendly tennis match between the London Diplomatic Corps and the Hurlingham Club in SW6. Not only did Ambassador to Kazakhstan Erlan Idrissov win the prize for most games, but he led his team to an easy victory. The two teams battled it out just a few days before Rafael Nadal and Maria Sharapova were due to appear in the Aspall Tennis Week at the Club.

Lindsay Smallbone, a former Kiwi diplomat, played for the Diplomats and helped them to their well-earned victory. Both their Excellencies, Nabil Khedher and Rami Mortada, Ambassadors for Tunisia and Lebanon respectively, were wonderfully diplomatic about the British weather – not as hot as they are used to at home, but at least the Hurlingham tea was on a par with the Ritz! His Excellency Erlan Idrissov treated players to champagne, plus various Kazakh delights: caviar, vodka, honey and chocolates. He also presented the Club with a beautiful crystal vase of the Baiterek Tower in Astana.

The Hurlingham Club owes much to the Diplomatic Corps and FCO for helping to stave off the compulsory purchase of the Club back in the 1950s. During World War II, the Club had been used as a meeting place for allied diplomats so the Labour Council was advised that it would not be wise to upset them! Today, the Club has 50 places for Heads of Mission. On submission of an application form, and payment of a full adult subscription, they can become a member. Only three members are currently diplomats, so word needs to get out about the extraordinary peace and quiet and sporting facilities of Hurlingham – as well as the annual tennis match!



PHOTO CREDIT: JEFF SPICER / PA

Jorge Martin, (Red Bull), Richard De Villa (Malaysia Airlines), Malaysia's High Commissioner Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, Manoharan Periasamy (Tourism Malaysia) and Shahrir Mohd Ali (Tourism Malaysia).

## VISIT MALAYSIA 2020

On 28 August, at the Malaysian High Commission in Belgrave Square, Malaysia Airlines and Tourism Malaysia launched their latest campaign 'Visit Malaysia 2020.' The event was the first of a series of events surrounding a season of promotions and sales to entice UK tourists to visit one of Asia's most popular holiday destinations known for its beaches, rainforests and cuisine.

Overall, tourism is performing well in 2019, with the number of tourist arrivals to Malaysia increasing by 4.9 per cent to 13.35 million in the first six months of this year. The UK continues to perform as a key market, and ranks the second highest for tourist expenditure per capita, after Saudi Arabia. A Malaysian-style brunch followed the proceedings.



1. Ambassador of Tunisia Nabil Khedher with his host, Ambassador of Kazakhstan Erlan Idrissov
2. The two teams: London Diplomatic Corps and the Hurlingham Club
3. After play, players were treated to caviar from Kazakhstan
4. Counsellor at the Embassy of Kazakhstan Anuar Kurzhikayev, Chairman of Hurlingham Club Nicholas Pawson and Ambassador of Kazakhstan Erlan Idrissov

## AFGHANISTAN-UK BUSINESS CONFERENCE 2019

The Embassy of Afghanistan and International Chamber of Commerce in Afghanistan will be hosting the second Afghanistan-UK Business Conference on 14 October. The aim of the event is to further enhance trade between Afghanistan and the UK, and unlock potential investment in Afghanistan. Taking place at DLA Piper's offices in the city, the conference will focus on Afghanistan's trade and investment climate, with the theme 'Invest and Protect.' It will also cover commercial opportunities resulting from the 'Regional Initiatives for Afghanistan's Economic Connectivity' programme, plus recent developments in mining and infrastructure, energy, agrobusiness, business arbitration and investment security in Afghanistan.

Attendees will include public and private leaders from Afghanistan and the UK, leaders of international companies, NGOs, think-tanks involved in the formulation of Afghan policy, traders, and other stakeholders involved in nurturing a strong, transparent private sector-led economy in Afghanistan. Speakers at the event include: Ambassador of Afghanistan to the UK Said T Jawad, Abdul Bahman, Secretary General of ICC Afghanistan, Lord Tariq Ahmad, plus various ministers from the Afghanistan government. 200 delegates are expected from over 30 countries. For information, contact E: [events@afghanistanembassy.org.uk](mailto:events@afghanistanembassy.org.uk)



## 2019 KOREAN AMBASSADOR'S CUP

by Romana Sustar & Master Daeman Sung

The 2019 Korean Ambassador's Cup, the Second Taekwondo and Korean Martial Arts championship, took place at Surrey Sports Park on 14 July. The Korean Martial Arts Masters Association (KMAMA), with the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and local businesses, welcomed 300 young martial art athletes from a wide range of backgrounds and ages to show their skills in Taekwondo, Hapkido and Teukgong Moosool.

Mr Nam Kook Sun, Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy, opened the Ambassadors Cup 2019 stating: "Korean Martial self-defence technique cultivates the mind, practices manners and trains personality. I hope to continue the bilateral sports exchange between the UK and Korea and help form a foundation to strengthen cooperation in various other areas. The spirit of the championship is to conduct yourself with courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and the indomitable spirit of Taegeuk."



## AFGHANISTAN-UK MEDIA CONFERENCE

Continuing the work of the FCO Media Freedom Conference, the Embassy in London organised the first-ever Afghanistan-UK Media Conference on 12 July. The theme of the conference was 'Afghan Media for Democracy,' aiming to recognise and assess the important role of Afghan journalists and media professionals in promoting rule of law, sustainable development, transparency and accountability in Afghanistan post-9/11. Within the framework of the 26th edition of the World Press Freedom Day celebrations, the event acted as a platform for Afghan media leaders and representatives from the international media industry, journalists, civil society and academia to discuss the current challenges faced by the Afghan media, along with their potential to support the on-going peace and reconciliation processes in Afghanistan. Over 20 journalists – both men and women – attended from Afghanistan, with opening remarks delivered by Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations Lord Ahmad, and Ambassador Jawad.



## PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA AT CANNING HOUSE

As part of his first official visit to the UK, President of Colombia Iván Duque Márquez gave the Canning Lecture hosted by Canning House on 17 June. The President was introduced by Mark Menzies MP, the UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Argentina, Colombia, Chile and Peru, and Lord Mountevans, Honorary President of Canning House and former Lord Mayor.

Since 1997, the prestigious Canning Lecture has been delivered by visiting Latin American and Iberian Presidents and Heads of Government. Previous speakers include Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile, who gave the Lecture in 2008 and 2016; and Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico in 2015.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF CANNING HOUSE



## #EURIPIDEXIT

Farewells are a regular part of diplomacy. Some, of course, are more difficult than others. During his six years in the capital, the Cyprus High Commissioner has made a massive contribution to London's diplomatic corps and community. The High Commissioner even has his own Twitter hashtag for leaving the capital! Certainly a first. In the first event of the season, Ambassador of Slovakia Ľubomír Rehak and Ambassador of Honduras Ivan Romero Martinez hosted a garden party to bid farewell to the High Commissioner and also the Ambassador of Uruguay, Fernando Lopez-Fabregat on 2 September. He and his wife Carolina however, are here for another couple of months.

## AN EVENING WITH RWANDA AT ARSENAL

Earlier in the summer, Visit Rwanda and the Rwanda Development Board hosted *An Evening with Rwanda at Arsenal*. Guests learnt about this modern, creative and proud country's vibrant tourism and investment opportunities, as well as some highlights of the partnership between Visit Rwanda and Arsenal, including a beautiful video produced in partnership with National Geographic.



Emmanuel Ruhumaliza of the Rwandan High Commission with footballing legends Tony Adams and Thierry Henry

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE RWANDA HIGH COMMISSION



## THE 2ND HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR'S CUP

On 13 July, the Cowdray Park Polo Club hosted the Hungarian Ambassador's Cup, sponsored by the Hungarian Tourism Agency. For a second year in a row, His Excellency Kristóf Szalay-Bobrovniczky welcomed distinguished guests to watch the King Power Gold Cup Quarter Final match between Murus Sanctus and VS King Power. The Ambassador presented the Hungarian Ambassador's Cup to the winning team, VS King Power, and rewarded the best playing pony of the match, Oroite, ridden by Polito Pieres.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE EMBASSY OF HUNGARY

## CARICOM DAY

On the occasion of CARICOM Day 2019, CARICOM Heads of Mission hosted a delightful reception at the IMO on Albert Embankment, attended by the great and the good of London's diplomatic community, including Secretary General of the Commonwealth Baroness Scotland. Taking place on 4 July, CARICOM countries had their wares on display – spices, cocktails and rum tasting were in abundance.



1. CARICOM Heads of Mission
2. High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago, Orville London
3. Wilfred Adderley II (Bahamas) and Cheri Wood (Bahamas)
4. High Commissioner for Belize Perla Perdomo

## VIC CASIM

We were sad to learn that a long-time friend of *Diplomat* magazine, Vicente Ang Casim had passed away on 21 June 2019.

There were three places that Vic (as he was known) would eventually call home: Manila, New York and London. After studying Law, he worked in the banking sector in Manila, before moving to New York in the late 1960s where his career spanned from Wall Street to the UN. In 1993, he moved to London to work at the Philippine Embassy. Appointed Commercial Attaché in 1995, it was at the Philippine Trade and Investment Centre-London, the commercial section of the Philippine Embassy, where Vic made his mark on the diplomatic and business communities in the UK. During his long stint as Commercial Attaché, Vic had fallen in love with London, and continued his service to the Philippine government as Marketing Officer, Consultant and Honorary Investment and Trade Representative.

Vic was a natural diplomat; he enjoyed networking, and helping Philippine businessmen navigate the UK market. He promoted the Philippines with great pride and belief in what the country offered, and he loved engaging with people of all ages, sectors and disciplines. Even after his retirement, Vic continued to assist the team at PTIC-London using his extensive network. Vic's humour, fashion-sense and love of entertaining meant he always remained young in spirit.

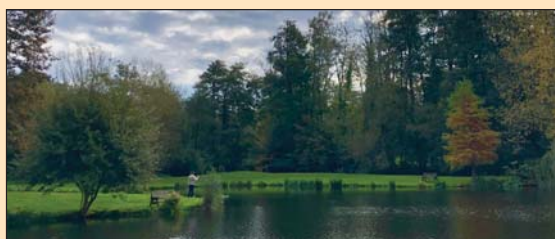


Vic Casim, with Ambassador of the Philippines Antonio M. Lagdameo at the 2019 Diplomat of the Year Awards in April 2019

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROLAND KEMP

## MEDALS FOR BRITISH GURKHA VETERANS

On the occasion of the Conferment of Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal to the British Gurkha veterans, High Commissioner of Malaysia Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany hosted a ceremony on 7 August at the High Commission in Belgravia. Guests of honour included Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Ealing Richard Kornicki, Suzanne Marklew from the UK's Ministry of Defence and Chairman of the Ex-British Gurkha Association Major (rtd) Chandru Rai.



## FISHING FOR GOATS!

Kids for Kids' annual Fly-Fishing Day will take place on Saturday 12 October at Park Lake, Albury, Surrey. Due to kind sponsors, every single penny raised from ticket donations will go directly to Kids for Kids. Attendees really will be fishing for goats – goats whose valuable milk will go to hungry children. Park Lake is beautiful and secluded, and full of rainbow trout. A brilliant day out for both beginners and experienced fishermen!

[www.kidsforkids.org.uk/event/fishing-for-goats-executive-fly-fishing-day-2019/](http://www.kidsforkids.org.uk/event/fishing-for-goats-executive-fly-fishing-day-2019/)

## MONGOLIAN ROCK

Back in June, the Mongolian Embassy in London hosted an event for Mongolian rock band The HU, who were touring the UK. The band is the first to reach No. 1 on Billboard's Hard Rock Digital Song Sales chart. Blending heavy metal and traditional Mongolian throat singing, their first two videos immediately went viral, garnering the band over 18 million views.

