

British Club Active Living Section

Lunch Presentation: “Who Speaks for you when you can’t: Why a Living Will and Healthcare Directive should come first ”

Chairperson’s Introduction of the Speaker:

It gives me great pleasure — and I might say a certain sense of reassurance — to once again introduce our speaker, fellow British Club and Active Living Section member, Greg Beatty. Greg is becoming something of a regular fixture for us... which, given today’s topic, may actually be a very good thing indeed.

As many of you will recall, Greg has previously guided us through topics ranging from Thais and Farangs ‘Getting Along”, writing and publishing... to the rather sobering realities of dying in Thailand. Not your typical light lunch conversation — but always delivered with clarity, insight, and just enough humour to keep us comfortably in our seats.

By background, Greg is a Canadian, a highly experienced lawyer with a Juris Doctorate from the New England School of Law in Boston, a long-time Bangkok resident, business owner, and a much-respected lecturer across the region.

He is also a published author, co-writing with his daughter Mai, and, in what I still find a slightly surprising twist, a current well-padded ice hockey goalkeeper. Which may explain his ability to deal calmly with fast-moving and potentially dangerous situations...

And that brings us rather neatly to today’s subject.

“Who speaks for you when you can’t?”

Now, it’s not the sort of question we naturally wake up wanting to address over breakfast... and yet, it is one of the most important questions any of us — particularly living here in Thailand — will ever need to answer.

Many of us, even if we think of it, may assume that things will simply be “taken care of”... by family, by hospitals, or by systems we only partly understand. Greg’s role today is to gently — and I suspect quite firmly — move us from assumption to understanding.

Because as Greg has shown us before, when it comes to these matters, what we don’t know can matter rather more than what we do.

There will be time for questions — and I strongly encourage you to take advantage of Greg’s experience — but for now, let us lean in, listen carefully... and perhaps begin putting a few important pieces in place.

Please join me in welcoming back Greg Beatty.