



# THE STRANGE TALE OF TRANSVESTITES, CROOKED COPS, A MUTILATED BODY AND TWO SCOTS KNOWN AS THE GAY McMAFIA

By Neil Mackay  
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**IT'S got it all: transvestites, Thai gay clubs, crooked cops, drug-dealing, a burned and butchered body in a hotel room, allegations of con-tricks on a massive scale, a campaigning Scots journalist hounded by the law and slap bang in the middle of the whole fawdly affair is a pair of Scots businessmen known in Thailand as the Gay McMafia.**

The story begins in 1987 with the misappropriation of almost a quarter of a million pounds from a property company in Edinburgh called Teague Homes Ltd. The two men now at the centre of the so-called Gay McMafia story in Thailand were then senior figures in the company. Gordon May, from Edinburgh, was a director and James Lumsden, from Falkirk, was the company secretary. Both are now big players in Thailand's gay sex tourism industry and Lumsden is often seen cutting a swathe in a stunning array of frocks and blonde wigs.

After the pair left Teague Homes, the firm's annual report noted: "The directors discovered that Mr G May had misappropriated £243,438 from the company fund in collusion with one of the company's legal advisors (sic) in contravention of the Companies Act 1985."

May was subsequently charged with fraud but later acquitted. May and Lumsden later cropped up in a report ordered by Sir William Sutherland, a former chief constable of Lothian and Borders Police, which investigated claims

Kampanya was also a witness to the will. As MacDonald's estate, she says, his role as witness makes the will invalid. Eileen also states in her affidavit: "I am told also that Kampanya is or was the boyfriend of Gordon May... I believe that Kampanya received no proceeds of the estate and that my son's investment of £250,000 was kept by the principal persons in a company known as Bodishorn."

Eileen said: "It's about time the truth was known about how Ian died. I'm traumatised every time the case is mentioned. The Thai police have been told by my lawyers to investigate the case thoroughly because I believe Ian was the victim of foul play. I want justice for my son, then I can get on with my life and for all." Her partner, Graeme MacBean, said: "Thailand has a notoriously corrupt police force and there may have been a cover-up." He said that he did not believe that Ian's death was a cover-up. "Someone tortured and killed him in that fire. We want to know who."

Lumsden and May were arrested and quizzed, but both were released after several days. The police later filed a report on the fatal fire stamping the case "accidental".

Then in April 1996, Thaveepan Wuthiri, a 21-year-old male go-go dancer at "Boyz, Boyz, Boyz" was charged with the murder of a Swedish tourist called Erik Bohman. The Swede had arrived in Pattaya to invest in property and gay nightclubs. Police said Wuthiri was in the party of foreign businessmen called Kevin Quill met Lumsden and May and decided to leave England, where he had three bars, two discos and a hotel, in order to shift his hospitality business to Pattaya, leaving his two teenage children behind in the UK.

Quill was more than Bash with his cash. He bought a house with a pool and two apartments, which he rented out, and a penthouse for himself. Quill entered into a 50-50 partnership with Lumsden and May, spending around £500,000 on premises and refurbishment. The biggest controversy surrounding Lumsden and May began around the same time as the death of Erik Bohman. In 1996, a successful Halifax businessman called Kevin Quill met Lumsden and May and decided to leave England, where he had three bars, two discos and a hotel, in order to shift his hospitality business to Pattaya, leaving his two teenage children behind in the UK.

Quill was more than Bash with his cash. He bought a house with a pool and two apartments, which he rented out, and a penthouse for himself. Quill entered into a 50-50 partnership with Lumsden and May, spending around £500,000 on premises and refurbishment. When Quill says that "I must have left my brains behind in England", he isn't far from the truth. He readily agreed when May suggested that he fork out hefty bribes to a Pattaya police sergeant "to take care of all future problems". He even went along with Lumsden and May when they said he should put his Mercedes in their names as he didn't have a work permit.

Quill even gave Lumsden an interest-free loan of around £20,000 to buy a house, and paid the police sergeant he had already bribed another lump sum for the funeral of his wife, a mobile phone and a gold Rolex.

**Things started to go awry when Quill suggested an overhaul of the company,** saying he was concerned about the number of Thai friends of Lumsden and May working for the firm. Not long after, he was beaten up in the street by market traders, and then in September 2000, his penthouse was raided by police from the Foreign Crime Reporting Co-operation Centre searching for bank books and financial documents.

The police sergeant who'd already been bribed by Quill then returned saying another lump sum would smooth things over, but Quill refused. In October that year he was about to return to the UK for a brief visit, and he foolishly decided to take 170 cartons of cigarettes back to Britain with him. He ordered them from May. May arrived at the Ambiance with an immigration police officer from Bangkok and delivered the goods. Five minutes after leaving the hotel, Quill's car was stopped. In one packet officers found 100 amphetamine tablets, or "yasa baat" tablets as they are known in Thai.

Quill was soon in the notorious Chon Buri Prison on remand. Drugs charges don't usually come with a slap on the wrist in Thai courts. Smugglers can find themselves facing a firing squad or, at the very least, a lengthy stretch in jail like Bangkok Prison - the so-called Bangkok Hilton. A number of foreign nationals have been executed in recent years in Thailand for drug offences.

Documents signed by Deryck Fisher of the British Embassy in Bangkok show that the highest levels of both British and Thai officials don't believe Quill was set up. One letter from Fisher



From left: Former Teague Homes executive Gordon May, from Edinburgh, co-owns the Boyz, Boyz, Boyz bar and The Ambiance Hotel in Pattaya with Jimmy Lumsden, from Falkirk, also pictured in drag with one of the 'lady boys' who frequent their clubs

reads: "I accompanied Mr Kevin Quill ... to a meeting with Lt Gen Nopadai Sombonsub, police assistant commissioner-general ... Nopadai was in possession of the case documents and video of Kevin Quill's arrest. He said that having reviewed the evidence he believed that Kevin Quill had been framed and that there was no substance to the allegations against him. He offered an apology on behalf of the police. He further instructed the head of Chonburi Police Division to urgently investigate the matter."

One of the arresting officers was even caught on tape saying: "No more. Once I have enough money I will not do this again." Nevertheless, Quill served six months on remand and was then sentenced to six years in prison on the drug charges. He is now on bail pending appeal. Quill cannot leave Thailand. While he was in prison, his computer containing all his business ownership records was wiped clean, and around £50,000 entrusted by Quill to Lumsden and May for defence costs vanished. It is now that Andrew Drummond comes on the scene. He is an ex-pat investigative reporter originally from East Craigs in Edinburgh who began looking into the Quill case. His investigations, carried in the Bangkok Post, revealed that Lumsden and May began stripping Quill's assets almost as soon as their one-time friend was swallowed up in the prison system.

As Drummond wrote: "First went his luxury penthouse apartment ... then his Mercedes. Finally went his company which owned two bars and a mini-hotel. Lumsden removed him as director and appointed May." Drummond also wrote that when police stopped Quill and searched him for drugs "no other packets of cigarettes were opened, suggesting police knew immediately where to look". He discovered that the tip-off which led to Quill's arrest "came from within the Ambiance Hotel".

While on bail pending appeal, Quill complained to the police and Lumsden and May were charged but the charges were dropped. At a meeting brokered by police Quill was told that if he dropped the charges he would get his property back. Quill said he had no alternative but to agree, even though he was at least £100,000 in cash out of pocket. Quill told the Sunday Herald: "Lumsden and May were very plausible, but I was very wrong about them. The time I served in jail was exactly like what you'd imagine it to be like in a Thai jail. It was very violent, there were gangs and the cell I was in was just 10 metres square but it held 94 men."

"The violence was brutal. You'd see one guy on the floor being attacked by 30 other men. There was no fresh water and a few people died in the prison while I was there." Drummond filed a copy of his investigation into the bizarre saga, which was headlined "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Boys", to the English language newspaper The Bangkok Post. He was then hit with a defamation writ for alleging that Quill had been set up and then asset stripped by Lumsden and May. Last week after a court battle, he was given a suspended

jail sentence for libel. After the judgment, Drummond was threatened with deportation, but his lawyers managed to put in a bid for an appeal. Drummond says: "I have been here for 15 years but now I may be deported from a country which I have enjoyed, not least because of its light-hearted and gentle people. If this happens I lose my home, girlfriend and partner of 15 years and, of course, my job."

**The finding against Drummond has rocked Quill.** "Andrew reported the facts," Quill said. "He provided evidence to back up what he was saying and I'm at a loss to understand the judge's decision. I gave evidence for him as well and produced documents to corroborate what I was saying. I'm just astonished. It beggars belief. I was sure that my appeal would be successful until I saw what happened to Andrew in court, now I'm just frightened. This just wouldn't and couldn't happen in the UK. There are rich pickings to be

made in this country through exploiting gullible foreigners."

Quill says his life was threatened when he left jail and a man, who was found with photos of him and a map of his house, was later given a suspended jail sentence this year. Armed police protected him for a while. Quill has also made a complaint to the police about an alleged assault on him by Lumsden two months ago.

Quill spotted Lumsden and May sitting at a bar with a police officer he believes is in their pay. He took photos of the three, he says, to show that "they were one big happy family". According to Quill, Lumsden dashed over to him and assaulted him. He's been told the case is now with the prosecuting authorities.

May is now in Canada. On Friday, the Sunday Herald learned that Lumsden had flown from Bangkok and made his way back to his mother's house in Falkirk. By the time the Sunday Herald arrived in Falkirk, Lumsden had gone. A relative said he'd just left on a plane ... for Canada.



The Boyz, Boyz, Boyz club in Pattaya, which revels in a sleazy anything-goes reputation

that senior members of the Scottish judiciary and prosecutors had been blackmailed into dropping criminal cases because of links to the gay community. May and Lumsden then moved to Thailand. A check on the records of the company they set up there, Bodishorn Ltd, shows they bought the firm for around 11 million Thai baht, around £240,000, during the same period that the funds were missing from Teague Homes.

Business boomed in Thailand for the pair. They set up a gay club called "Boyz, Boyz, Boyz" in the resort of Pattaya some 100 miles from Bangkok. Pattaya is one of those resorts with an anything-goes reputation. Like Tijuana in Mexico, or Falaraki in the Med, its claim to fame is sex, drink, drugs and porn. While Pattaya is liberal and free-and-easy on the surface, it has like Tijuana and Falaraki, a dangerous and violent flipside that tourists seldom see.

In 1990, Ian MacDonald, a 28-year-old from a wealthy Inverness family and a major investor in "Boyz, Boyz, Boyz", was found burned to death in the Ambiance Hotel in Pattaya, which is co-owned by Lumsden and May. The blaze was confined to the room MacDonald died in and the fingers of both his hands had been hacked off.

MacDonald's mother, Eileen, has called on Thai police to re-open an inquiry into her son's death. MacDonald paid May and Lumsden £250,000 to go into partnership with them. Before he died he wrote a will leaving all his shares in the Bodishorn company to a Thai man called Supan Kampanya. May and Lumsden witnessed the will. In an affidavit from Eileen signed on August 24, 2003, she says that Supan