## New Age Aerobics, Anyone? by Tatiana C. Ling, FIT 4 LIFE

CHEK III Corrective Exercise Specialist, CHEK Nutrition & Lifestyle Coach, CHEK Golf BioMechanic FISAF (Personal Trainer, Group Fitness Leader & Aqua Instructor)

Aerobics? This term so common in the 1970's and 1980's is facing out with aerobic schedules becoming more "new age" with stability, flexibility and strength training being included, not just "aerobics". The new term now is **Group Fitness** – exercising as a group with an instructor leading – from high to low impact aerobics, kickboxing, Reebok Step \_ to stability training with the Reebok CoreBoard, Reebok Slide & FitBalls \_ to strength and circuit classes - and to our new age Pilates and Yoga - all of which are taught to suit and challenge every fitness level!

By cross training, you are making sure that you are getting various kinds of stability, cardiovascular, strength and flexibility exercises, as well as relaxation work. By varying the intensity, frequency and duration of your workouts, your body gets a better chance of staying fresh and ensures your fitness level does not plateau. By participating in a wide variety of classes, you are **therefore reducing the risk of repetitive injury & joint injury,** which is caused by over-use of a particular muscle or joint.

Fit 4 Life is the only center in Sarawak utilizing the **Reebok** CoreBoard as a group fitness workout. The Reebok CoreBoard, a first-ever exercise board that offers 3 dimensional motion that tilts, twists, torques and recoils with the body's movement thus enabling you to build power, balance and real life functional strength like never before - challenging you to work harder, use more strength and to "fire" your inner unit core muscles to stabilize. Reebok Core Training ™ Program is a breakthrough innovation in exercise & fitness based on the premise that improved torso strength improves limb function. By focusing on the root of usable strength, the torso, Core Training improves functional conditioning, reactive movement, and quality of exercise. therefore making all other exercise and training more effective as a result of strengthened and conditioned core muscles.

It seems that there is a general perception that Stability
Training programs are too hard and not necessary
for the general population but in reality, with
the proper guidance, stability training,
which is essentially training your
sense of balance - is crucial and
should be emphasized for all, from
professional athletes to sedentary
people and fitness enthusiasts. After all,

most major orthopedic visits are due to falls. Having better balance and agility can make a difference as to whether you catch yourself in a fall, thus lessening the impact. Not only do we use the Reebok CoreBoard to achieve remarkable stability through ankle, knee and hip joints, we also encourage clients to cross-train with the Slide Reebok and FitBall Training Programs.

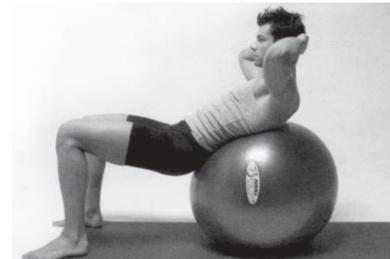
Most traditional conditioning systems concentrate on straight ahead or up and down moves like walking, cycling and stepping. Because conventional training typically de-emphasizes side-to-side or lateral movement, our joints and muscles are usually unprepared for the stresses involved with lateral movement. As a result, a large proportion of sports-related injuries to the knees, hips or ankles occur during this phase of motion. The Slide Reebok<sup>TM</sup> Training Program is the first comprehensive lateral training system, which offers a safe, low impact way to reduce the risk of these kinds of injuries. It heightens postural

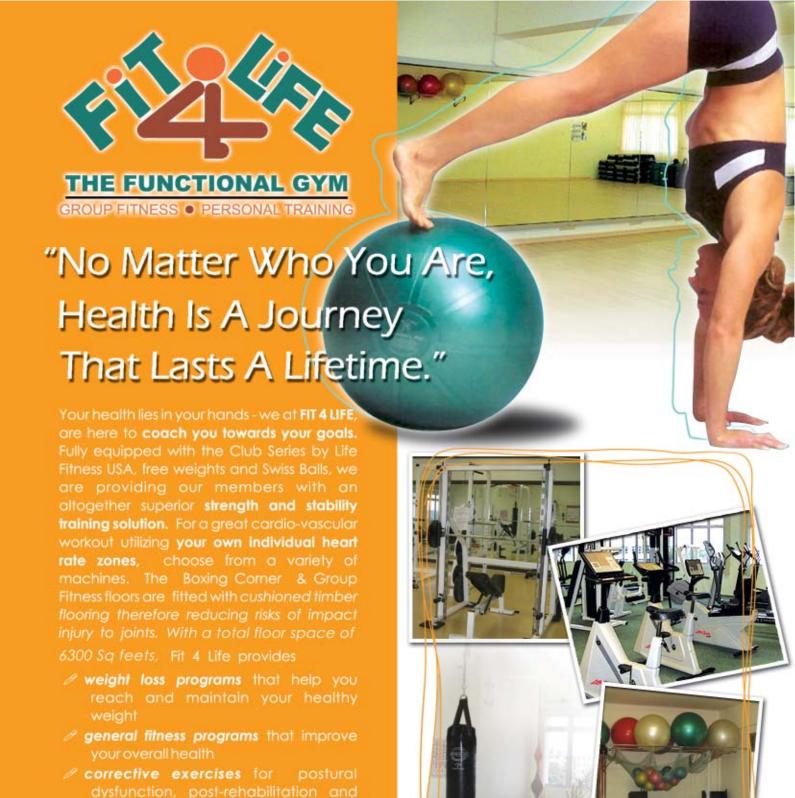
awareness and prepares the body for the demanding lateral moves and does so with minimal stress, while developing cardiovascular and muscular endurance & improving balance and agility. Although side-to-side movement is most obvious in sports such as football and tennis, research has proven that even cyclist, runners and walkers, all of whom seem to be moving solely straight ahead and forwards, are also constantly making side to side demands on their musculoskeletal system. Slide Reebok™ is also great for shaping inner, outer thighs & hips!

The fitball (also known as Swiss Ball or Medi Ball) is used by professional sports teams, world-class athletes, therapists, personal trainers, dancers, educators, fitness instructors and people looking for effective cross-training and exercise programs. The simple act of sitting on the fitball, unconsciously activates your postural muscles in order to maintain balance, helps align your spine, increase alertness and enhance respiratory & digestive systems while bouncing on the ball increases the endurance component of your postural muscles. Due to the round surface of the ball, "cheating" by compensating with stronger muscles is difficult, as you will lose your balance, thus forcing the stabilizers of your body to work hard at maintaining balance. The Fitball Training™ Program thus helps produce balanced muscles.

Another exercise format that focuses on the "core" is our Pilates Matwork Classes. The Pilates Method systematically addresses the whole body. Having a dynamic support structure of the core muscles gives pelvic stabilization and provides a built-in central support system while building strength and coordination, clients learn to maintain correct, efficient alignment and keep muscles flexible through the power of movement. The Pilates Method is about movement - the journey through the movement of the body parts holds more importance than the destination. It is not about aerobics or bulking muscles. Joseph Pilates, the creator of the Method originally called his body conditioning "Contrology"<sup>TM</sup> and the intent of the work is reflected in the name it was first given. The key to the Pilates Method is a strong abdominal core, from the deep inner layers of muscles to the ones on the surface. Combined with pelvic stability these areas are the origins from which to create a strong mid section of the spine, both front and back, thus stabilizing the torso. From this stable and firm central area all movements can flow with less effort and more grace.

So if exercising in a group format provides the kind of fun and encouragement you need to kick start your fitness journey, you now know it's important to cross-train!





3rd Flr, Shoplots 5 - 6, Eastmoore, Jln. Rock, Kuching Tel: 232929 Fax: 421428 www.fit4life.com.my

athletes and the general public

nutrition (metabolic typing) & lifestyle

group fitness classes with emphasis on

coaching for improving your vitality and