



Firstly let me say that I am honoured to have been re elected to the Executive Committee of the Riyadh Group of British Businessmen and to have been chosen by my fellow members to chair the Committee. I hope that I can justify everybody's support in the coming year.

Details of the AGM held in March and the results of the subsequent election of officials are covered in Mark Gunton's report on Page 4. Also starting on page 4 is the text of my inaugural address to the Executive Committee conveying my vision for the future of the RGGB which we have included for the information of all the members of the group. I am confident that with your support, we can work together to achieve these goals and I am also confident that you have elected a good team that will work effectively in this direction for the benefit of all RGGB members.

Another notable event in March was the visit of HRH The Prince of Wales to the Janadriyah Festival in Riyadh, upon the invitation of HRH Crown Prince Abdullah at which he announced the formation of the King Faisal Foundation/Prince of Wales Chevening Scholarship Scheme. During Prince Charles's visit, the Committee members and wives were presented to HRH at a reception held in the garden of the Ambassador's residence.

Also worthy of note is the re-commencement of the Embassy Briefings, the first one being held in March where we had an attendance of

80 and more recently, the meeting in May which was attended by 50 - the difference in numbers being no doubt attributable to the England-France Rugby Match coinciding with the earlier event. Nevertheless, the attendance levels indicate a healthy level of interest for this forum, which I am sure will prove to be a key part of the future RGGB agenda.

The May forum was chaired by the new Commercial Counselor, Richard Northern, who replaced Chris Segar, and this occasion provided me the opportunity to welcome Richard on all our behalf. We were also privileged with the presence of the Deputy Head of Mission, William Patey, who provided up-to-date comments on several key issues of interest, including the high-profile visit of HRH Prince Sultan to London in April. The Embassy Panel was ably supported by Ted Cole and Malcolm Ives, in addition to Geoff Nuttall from the Projects Export Promotion Directorate of the DTL, who was visiting at the time.

On the social scene, we also had a very successful evening at Location 2 in May and once again, sincere thanks to our hosts for their hospitality and to our Prize Draw sponsors - Attar Travel and British Aerospace. Many thanks also to Paul Dugan and his team for their splendid efforts in organising the event. A good time was had by all and we look forward to the next function.

Finally, let me talk about membership. As you read these pages I'm sure that you'll come to the conclusion that a great deal is happening within the RGGB. Development of the privilege card, the social calendar, the newsletter and the special interest groups mean that there's never been a better time to be a member. We are including an application form in each issue from now on and we offer a warm welcome to British businessmen who share our ideals and would like to join us.

JOHN H. FREELY, Chairman

RGGB Events Calendar

7 June	BDSC
8 June	RGGB Lunch
9 June	Aviation Group
15 June	Executive Committee
5 July	Embassy Briefing
7 July	BDSC
13 July	Executive Committee
8 August	BDSC
10 August	Executive Committee
6 September	Embassy Briefing
7 September	BDSC
8 September	Aviation Group
14 September	Executive Committee
25 September	Social (Black and White)
4 October	BDSC
5 October	Couples Breakfast
12 October	Executive Committee
1 November	Embassy Briefing
8 November	BDSC
9 November	Executive Committee
10 November	Aviation Group
1 December	BDSC
7 December	Executive Committee
10 December	Seasonal Social (Venue 1)

Volunteers are needed to help organise Social events and sports activities, so if you have the time and inclination ladies or gentlemen please contact me, Paul Dugan on Tel: 493 3070