



our members with discounts on purchases at a variety of retail outlets both in Kingdom and in the U.K.

The RGBB remains committed to our role in providing business opportunities and social benefits for our members. Consequently, to enable us to better achieve these objectives, earlier this year we revised our constitution - a copy of which is also included in the hand-out I have provided you today.

Other goals we have, are the further development of Saudi-British relations and to promote better relations between other British Business Groups in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Region. Accordingly, this year we have created two new positions on our Executive Committee, namely; External Affairs and Internal Relations. The former role being entrusted to Sandy Flockhart (M.D. Saudi-British Bank) and the latter role being entrusted to Roy James (Regional Executive Rolls Royce).

We continue to hold regular meetings with our fellow Saudi BBG colleagues in Jeddah and Al-Khobar with the objective of developing ideas for the mutual benefit of our members and we have already agreed several reciprocal arrangements (one example being the cross-transfer of membership). We would also like to explore the potential for reciprocal arrangements with our BBG colleagues in the Gulf and we hope to have the opportunity to discuss this with you during the conference.

Additionally, we are now in the final stages of developing a Joint KSA/BBG website on the Internet, which will be linked to the DTI website. Furthermore, as a result of the efforts of our own independent Internet Task Force team, which the RGBB established earlier this year and was capably led by my colleague Ian Maddison, Riyadh now has its' own dedicated website operating at RGBB.com.

Ian Maddison is another fellow delegate and will be known to some of you, since he participated in the discussions on the Internet at last year's Intergulf Conference where he gave a presentation on behalf of the working group. He is also the I.T. representative on our Business Development Sub-Committee. Consequently, we welcome this opportunity to share our experience with other BBG's who are either already operating a website, or are contemplating establishing a website and look forward to discussing this subject with you during this Conference.

That concludes the report from Riyadh.  
Thank you gentlemen.



### CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

By the time you receive this issue of the Newsletter, we will have held our annual festive dinner at the Embassy and I hope those of you who attended had an enjoyable evening. For the benefit of those of you who were not able to attend, the "state of the nation" speech which Sir Andrew Green gave at that event, will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter.

At the September RGBB/Embassy Briefing we had an interesting talk from HMA on Crown Prince Abdullah's visit to the U.K., where he met with H.M. the Queen and also with Tony Blair. By all account, it was a highly successful visit during which the links between Saudi Arabia and the U.K. were strengthened and a clear commitment was given by the Crown Prince to further develop the economic relationship.

During this period, we also bade a fond farewell to two stalwarts of our Executive Committee; John Jackson and Kevin O'Brien. Luke Bowen has replaced John in the ex-officio BDSC Chairman slot and Gordon Bennie has been appointed to replace Kevin as Treasurer. We wish both John and Kevin every success in their new positions and we extend a warm welcome to Luke and Gordon.

October was a busy month, with three Trade Missions visiting Riyadh; the Energy Industries Council, the British Equestrian Trade Overseas delegation and the Middle East Association delegation (led by Lawrie Walker, the ex-Consul General in Jeddah). Additionally, Richard Northern, Ian Maddison and myself represented the RGBB at the annual BBG Intergulf Conference, hosted this year by Bahrain BBF.

On the social scene, we held a Sportsman's Dinner, with Robert Norster (ex- Welsh International, British Lions and Barbarian Rugby Union player) as our guest speaker and flown in courtesy of BA ( thanks to Colin Roy). We also held a golf tournament and barbecue at the Intercontinental Hotel.

In November we had another Embassy Briefing during which the oil price (surprise! surprise!) was a hot topic of discussion. We also received two more Trade Missions last month, from Rotherham Business Link and the Welsh Office.

Finally, on behalf of all the Executive Committee, I should like to take this opportunity to extend to all RGBB members and their families our sincere greetings for the festive season and our best wishes to you all for a happy and successful New Year.

