

# CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



This issue of the Newsletter is the first to be published by our new Editor, Andrew Mead and his team, so I expect we will notice some changes in the style of presentation. I'm confident however, that all our regular contributors will welcome this change and will work well with Andrew on future publications and I also hope our readers will be pleased with the new format.

Following the summer break, we moved into the usual busy Autumn period with visits to Riyadh by several trade missions (Coventry & Warwicks. / Middle East Association and Birmingham Chamber of Commerce) and we held several social and sporting events including; breakfasts, lunches and golf tournaments.

In addition, we participated in the Inter-Saudi BBG's meeting in September, hosted on this occasion by Eastern Province BBA where we were represented by Luke Bowen and Richard Northern. This was followed by the annual Regional BBG's Intergulf Conference, hosted by Qatar BBF in Doha during October, which I attended personally alongwith Faiq Anayi representing Jeddah and Brian Willey representing Eastern Province. The conference was ably chaired by Ron Hollis, Director of the Committee for Middle East Trade (COMET). A report on the conference proceedings will be published in our next Newsletter.

A keenly contested election was held during the Embassy Briefing in September for the vacant position of Internal Relations on the

Executive Committee and Mick Brown was the successful candidate. The Executive Committee was extremely encouraged by the response to this vacancy which initially attracted 7 candidates, with 5 candidates eventually appearing on the ballot papers. Our congratulations go to Mick and our thanks go to the other candidates for their interest.

In October, we saw the departure of Sandy Flockhart to take up a post in North America. Sandy's contribution to the RGBB was highly valued during the period he held the External Affairs portfolio on the Executive Committee and he will be sorely missed. I'm sure you will all join me in extending our thanks to Sandy for all his efforts on behalf of the group and wishing him every success in his new assignment. We also extend a warm welcome to his successor David Hodgkinson, both in the M.D's role at the Saudi British Bank and as a co-opted member of the Executive Committee.

I hope this issue reaches you before the festive season and I look forward to seeing most of you at the "annual dinner event" in December, when our Ambassador gives his "state of the nation" address.

Finally, on behalf of all the Executive Committee, I should like to take this opportunity to extend to all RGBB members and their families and indeed to all our many readers around the Gulf and in the U.K., our sincere greetings for the festive season and our very best wishes to you all for a happy and prosperous (Y2K bug-free !!!) New Year.

John H. Freel  
Chairman RGBB

If you would like to contribute to or advertise in the next issue of the RGBB News, or indeed would like to just make a comment about the style, content or presentation, please contact me at any of the numbers shown below.

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