



FROM THE CHAIR

As this will be the last magazine to be published before I stand down as Chairman, I thought that it would be a good idea to review what the RGBB has achieved since I took over the position back in the autumn of 2004.

I have been very fortunate to have worked with an extremely talented and committed team, whose hard work has resulted in the strong position the RGBB is in today.

Our success has been greatly assisted by the support we have received from the British Embassy at the highest level, from Sir Sherard Cowper Coles and from William Patey, both of whom have been hugely supportive of the group on a business and a social networking level.

We are all very sad to bid farewell to Sharon Wardle and Peter Millman, (see elsewhere in this edition) whose enthusiasm and commitment to our mutual aims have been an invaluable asset to the group. Their replacements, Paul Williams and Tim Dearden have some firm foundations on which to continue with their task of putting UK Plc on an even stronger footing in Saudi Arabia.

Membership of the RGBB has risen from its nadir of 164 to its present 310+, the highest ever, so we must be doing some things right!

The group is financially sound, our 2007 accounts have now been approved, including SR 75,000 placed on a term deposit in the bank but what may not be apparent to the majority of members is the amount of work that has gone in to revising all our procedures to fall into line with acceptable accounting practices. Even more importantly our financial statements can now be prepared relatively easily by the RGBB secretary.

These changes will ensure that the transition from one responsible committee member to another can be carried out seamlessly. I would like to thank Bill Nicholson specifically for his tireless work on

achieving this objective and David Howarth who has spent a considerable amount of his time reviewing the books and advising on appropriate changes.

Since our inaugural "Special Briefing" in September 2005 these networking meetings have proved to be a winning recipe. We have enjoyed a wide range of interesting speakers from the Saudi Business community and have forged closer ties with some of the key players in our host country. Nigel Astbury's sterling work in arranging speakers, sponsors and handling the logistics of these events has been essential in making it all happen.

Bill Nicholson and Nigel Astbury will be standing down at the AGM due to increasing other commitments; both will be sorely missed.

In addition to the business sessions, we have held sporting events ranging from golf competitions against the ABGR to Boules evenings courtesy of Arabian Homes. These have all been well supported but I know the incoming board would appreciate additional input from the membership on what other sporting events would be enjoyed.

I am heartened that we will be having an election for Board member positions this year, as we have more volunteers for positions than we have slots to fill.

I would ask you all to do your best to attend the AGM on April 7th, as each candidate standing for election will have the opportunity to address those present. If you cannot attend you can still vote by nominating a proxy.

Finally it has been an honour and a privilege to lead the RGBB through some "interesting times". I would like to thank each and every one of you who have helped the group during my time as Chairman; it has been a thoroughly enjoyable and satisfying experience.

Best wishes to all.

Luke Bowen



Luke Bowen
Chairman



Ian Crawford
Deputy Chairman



Bill Nicholson



Nick Oakes



Owain Raw-Rees



Graeme Douglas



Nigel Astbury



Chris Maybury



Sharon Wardle