

# Notes from the BBG Jeddah

**Brian Hawley**  
Chairman, British  
Business Group  
Western Province

Dear All,

It would not be appropriate for me to take over the baton from Dawood without recognizing the service he has given to the BBG as chairman over the last four years. I have been a BBG member for almost 30 years, most of that time as an ordinary member, and I do not think it any exaggeration to say those last four years have seen some of the biggest ever changes in our organisation.

In the early days, the BBG was called the British Businessmen’s Lunch. To join, one had to be a “Senior British Businessman”, a criterion that was rigidly applied, to the exclusion of doctors, engineers, scientists, teachers, all females and of course anyone not holding a British passport, whatever their British connections. Dawood has taken us through a period that has seen a considerable liberalization of the membership requirements, something that was desperately needed if we were to survive as a viable entity, particularly during the security crisis when British businesspeople seemed to be leaving the Kingdom in droves, many dragged out by their companies against their will.

Throughout the security crisis, despite the additional safety requirements, the BBG carried on as normal.

Under Dawood’s leadership, the BBG has I think become more representative of its members than ever

before: Elections are now transparent and by secret ballot, accounts are audited, committee meeting minutes and financial records are openly available to all members, and any BBG Committee Member who travels in Kingdom or overseas to represent the BBG (as have I, John White and others) does not do so at the expense of BBG funds. Committee members pay to attend events, just like anyone else, and not even the few biscuits we have at committee meetings come out of your funds. (Thanks, CG!)

Dawood, we will miss you at committee meetings, but I’m sure we will see you at many future BBG events.

I am glad to say we have a solid team to take the BBG thorough 2008 – indeed it was always going to be a good committee, whatever the outcome of the election, as all of the new candidates were eminently qualified. Congratulations to those who were elected and to those who did not quite make it this year, don’t think you have escaped! We still hope to make use of your talents.

E-mail addresses for all committee members may be found below. Please use this information to contact me (or call 0506 684 463) or any other committee member at any time if you have any concerns, comments or suggestions. Remember that the BBG committee works for the members and not the other way around. We would like to hear from you.



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