

are to be thanked for their hard work. The Christmas Dinner was a great success and the various sports activities continue to be most welcome and eagerly anticipated. The RGBB Open Golf Championship involved a great deal of planning and the success of the competition which also raised SR110,000 for ICING is an acknowledgement of this effort.

In continuing the RGBB's engagement with the British community I was delighted to be able to present a cheque on behalf of the RGBB for SR5,000 to the UK Project Team at SANGCOM in support of their February Charity Half Marathon and Fun Run which raised funds towards the disabled Children's Association of Saudi Arabia and Help for Heroes.

Relations with similar associations in the region prosper and further to effecting reciprocal arrangements with the BBA and BBG all three Saudi Groups have now signed up to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, and Dubai Groups and it is hoped that this will be

further extended to include other British Business groups within the GCC.

In addition to all of the above much work is done behind the scenes by the Treasurer, Marcus Cleverton and our Secretary Jane Brierley and I extend my thanks to them both. I note that at the coming AGM the Vice Chairman Ian Crawford will stand down after four years in the role. I would take this opportunity to formally thank him on behalf of the Board and membership for his hard work and support.

Finally I would take this opportunity to ask all of you to ensure that you have registered or updated your details on Locate, on the FCO website: [www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/Locate](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/Locate) all Board members have ensured that their details are up to date and all RGBB members are recommended so to do.

Owain Raw-Rees, February 2009



## The Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George

by Owain Raw-Rees

*The appointment of Her Majesty's Ambassador as Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George has prompted Owain Raw-Rees to give us a brief history of the award.*

The British honours system has grown and evolved from its origins in fourteenth century and today there are ten orders and one appointment available to those performing meritorious service to the nation. The following awards are made personally by The Sovereign:

- The Most Noble Order of the Garter
- The Most Ancient and Noble Order of the Thistle
- The Order of Merit
- The Royal Victorian Order
- The Most Honourable Order of the Bath
- The Order of St Michael and St George
- The Order of the British Empire
- The Order of the Companions of Honour
- The Imperial Service Medal
- The Distinguished Service Order
- The appointment of Knight Bachelor

This honours system recognises exceptional achievement and service to the nation and the different awards listed each recognise a different type of contribution and are awarded to people for all types of service, including actors, athletes, broadcasters, community volunteers, diplomats, nurses, politicians, scientists, servicemen and teachers. These honours are awarded twice a year, in mid-June on the date of The Queen's official



Left: HMA seen at a banquet during the State visit in 2007 wearing the CMG

birthday and at the New Year and consist of three lists, which are published in The London Gazette - the Prime Minister's List, the Diplomatic Service & Overseas List, and the Defence Services List. Non-British nationals who have made a significant contribution to the UK can also be considered for UK honours. These awards are classed as honorary and granted on the advice of the FCO.

Until 2005 Honours Committees were chaired by civil servants, thereafter the committees have been headed by eminent people from outside government, with a majority of non-civil servants as members. This change followed a Government review with the aim of improving transparency and accountability within the honours system. The committees meet twice a year to help advise the Cabinet Secretary on candidates for the Prime