

# Notes from the BBG in Jeddah



Brian Hawley  
Chairman,  
British Business Group  
Jeddah

## Brian Hawley BBG Chairman writes:

Dear All, it's been a very a busy few weeks, with the State of the Nation Ball and the BBG Annual General Meeting and committee elections. It is an honour and a privilege for me to have been re-elected to the BBG committee and once again asked to fill the role of chairman.

Congratulations to the other members of the committee upon their re-election and welcome to new committee member, Sam Thanvi. It is interesting to note that all members of the 2008 committee who stood for re-election were in fact re-elected. I do hope that means the membership approve of the way we are running the BBG. Commiserations to candidates Cliff Halls and Gordon Atkinson on not making it this year, but I hope that will not prevent either of you from standing again or putting your names forward should a committee post fall vacant during the year. It is not unusual for candidates to stand once or twice before being elected, as Sam himself did before being elected to serve the membership this year.

The following notes have been extracted from the BBG Newsletter: Know Your 2009 BBG Jeddah Committee

### Brian Hawley – Chairman

Brian Hawley was unanimously voted in again as Chairman for 2009. Brian works for Zedan. He has lived in Jeddah since 1978 and has been a BBG member most of that time. He has served on the committee for the last five years, and was Chairman in 2008. Brian is married to Sandie Hawley, Program Director for Education at IMC Hospital. They were married in Riyadh in 1988 at the then new British Embassy.

### Edward Ogilvie - Deputy Chairman

Edward Ogilvie has been a resident of Jeddah since 1993 and works for an advertising and marketing agency International Marketing Communications (the original IMC!) as General Manager. He is an active member of the expat community through his involvement with the Off-Runway Players (ORP). Edward is a long-term BBG member and has served on the Committee for the past three years, as Membership Secretary and then as Deputy Chairman in 2008.

### Chris Barsby – Treasurer

Chris Barsby has been on the BBG committee for the last 5 years and is the BBG Treasurer. He has lived in Jeddah for just over 11 years working for major Saudi companies which included Savola, Baeshan and Fritos Lays and is currently with the Ambah Group at Pharmaceutical Solutions Industry Ltd. Chris is married to Wendy, who lives with him in Jeddah, and they have grown up families with 3 children in the UK and 3 children in New Zealand.

### John Lockhart – Events Secretary

John Lockhart is again the BBG Events Secretary. He has been in Jeddah for 10 years. He is the Client Services Director for Synovate Ltd, a British company and one of the world's largest Market Research organisations. Previously, he worked for Savola, the largest Saudi owned food company.

### Sam Thanvi – Membership Secretary

Sam was elected on to the BBG Committee for the first time this year (2009) and has been given the remit of Membership Secretary. Sam is Acting General Manager in Islamic Life Insurance Division of Bank Aljazeera. Hails from Leeds, Yorkshire where he also completed his Masters degree from Leeds University. Sam has had 19 years in Saudi with wife Fozia and 5 children. He has been a BBG member for over 15 years, is active in the community and member of local thespian society

### Steve Thomas – Hon Secretary

Steve is a Master Mariner and commands one of the royal yachts. Commissioned from Sandhurst, he enjoyed 8 years in the British Army leaving at the rank of Captain. After the army, Steve worked in Turkey as operations manager of a travel firm and for more than 20 years he has worked in the super-yacht industry both as Captain and in senior management. Steve is married and has lived in Jeddah since 1998. He was first elected to the committee in 2008, and served as Honorary Secretary, a position he will be continuing in during 2009.

### Dave Wheen – Sports Coordinator/Secretary

Dave has lived in Jeddah for 10 years, and works with Arabian Homes as Sales and Marketing Manager. A keen love of the outdoors finds Dave diving, quad biking, 4x4ing, camping and generally playing anywhere there is sand! Dave served as Membership Secretary in 2008 and has now moved to the position of Sports Coordinator/Secretary for 2009

### John V White – Publications/Newsletter Coordinator-Secretary

John continues as Publications/Newsletter Coordinator-Secretary, a position he has held for several years. John is in his 25th year in Jeddah & is employed as Group Marketing Services Manager for Yousuf M. A. Naghi & Sons Group, handling numerous British Products & UK companies. He has been involved with the BBG for many years, as Chairman of the FMCG Working Group then eight years as a full committee member.

His responsibilities are the monthly Newsletter, Directory plus all promotional and publicity material. Married to Tina, they have four children, 3 of John's attended British Schools in Jeddah and are now in the UK, whilst Tina's daughter lives in Sweden.