

The RGBB has a new look website and whilst much of the information contained therein has been freely available for sometime there are a couple of new items.

A couple of extra 'Useful Links' have been added and there's a new feel to the 'How to Join the RGBB' section. A change to the structure will we hope make it a little easier to navigate.

The RGBB News archive has been established with copies of the magazine dating back to 1989. There are still a few gaps and if any of you 'old hands' have copies of those missing editions please get them to Andrew Mead for copying. They will be returned to you.

Looking back over previous editions has revealed some regular features and some a little more surprising. One of the 1997 editions claims the advantages of the RGBB can be summed up in one word...SIN. That's Socialising, Informing & Networking, in case you were wondering, and was contained in a piece encouraging existing associates to recruit new members. Membership numbers back then hovered around the 150 mark and almost everyone's home and work contact details were circulated with every magazine.

Twenty years ago the objects of the RGBB were simply stated to: 1, Promote UK plc and 2, Benefit British businessmen in the business and social context and despite a current membership of more than double those days, the objects remain primarily the same today.

Looking back at the 1989 edition, I see a welcome note to a new member - Luke Bowen - and a quick read through the then existing member list shows up that 'old stalwart' Bill Nicholson. Sadly, although a few of the names are familiar, hardly any are RGBB Members today and a few have already passed on to that great social club in the sky.

In the August 1990 edition I see the RGBB introducing Aviation as the first of the LWGs, (Liaison Working Groups) which became our SIGs five years on. The Chairman's Letter of the time mentions an OPEC target price for oil of \$21 per barrel and in the list of Clubs and Societies I see the Riyadh Morris Men. (I wonder if they're still going?)

By the time we get to 1993, John Freel's name appears on the committee list along with Luke Bowen and in 1994 Chris Maybury's name also appears. It's good to know there are still some regular RGBB supporters who are around to remember how we have grown and developed as a Group.

By 1997 the mag was in colour and I see the British Embassy, 'recklessly' according to Ian Ewart had challenged the RGBB to a cricket match. Paul



## SIN for Britain

by Andrew Mead

Dugan was then on the committee but unfortunately we don't have the next edition to find out who won. (How's your memory Paul?)

By 1998 the RGBB were asking for anyone with experience in using a Word Processor to assist in preparing the magazine and a 'record' number of 70 persons attended the AGM. Mick Brown has a feature on the newly formed COMMIT Group and I see from the article that the first RGBB website was due to go live in mid 1998.

By 1999 the RGBB News had a new editor, moi, and the magazine had a new style. One of the gems from the 'Crackers' page was a note that Pfizer was suing the British government for advising Doctors not to prescribe the new Viagra pill.... Said a spokesman: "These Brits have to realize that sometimes it's just not enough to have a stiff upper lip." I seem to recall a lengthy discussion over whether that item was a bridge too far for the RGBB.

Since then, many of the topics are still the same as today; A rant from the Chairman; notes about visiting Trade Missions; notices reminding members to register with the British Embassy; and that old chestnut, the usual request for advertising support for the RGBB Magazine!

What is missing from our current editions is the list of Clubs and Societies in Riyadh, a decision taken some years ago after concern about the 'security' aspects of giving out contact information. It might