

# CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS



John Freel  
Chairman RGBB

*The screen had been set up, the projection equipment procured and those lucky enough to have obtained tickets to the annual event had been primed to receive the sequel to last years video promotion. Then quelle surprise, 'that man again' was there. The following passages are extracts from Chairman Johns' speech:*

Your Excellency, Honoured guests, Ladies & Gentlemen. Good Evening and a warm welcome to you all. It's a pleasure to be with you tonight, in the flesh so to speak instead of on video like last year. Although it was a close call, since I was scheduled to be in Tehran today on a business trip which fortunately was postponed until next week.

So you've all been spared from watching the video sequel we made to last years speech, entitled 'Chairman Two'...although some suggested it should be called 'Nightmare on Siten Street.'

As we approach the third millennium I thought it might be appropriate to review the RGBB achievements during the last millennium – but then I thought no - we would not have sufficient time to do ourselves justice... So you can all relax and instead I'll just provide a snapshot of the past year.

In my third year as your chairman, I'm pleased to say that once again we've had a very active and successful year. Nevertheless your Executive Committee continued to examine our operations and to seek ways of making improvement which could benefit our members.

We saw many changes in our organisation during 1999 but we succeeded in making them seamless and have maintained the standards we set for the group. We made several changes to our constitution and we've identified other areas for revision, which will be presented to you prior to the next AGM.

We changed the presentation of our Newsletter in both style and content and here I'd like to thank our new editor, Andrew Mead for his initial efforts, which have been demonstrated this week in his first production.

We changed ways of communicating by utilising electronic mail and the Internet. In this context I'd like to pay tribute to Doug Read for his unstinting work on our new membership database, and to Mick Brown, our new webmaster for his guiding hand in what for many of us is new territory. As a result of both their efforts, we are now able to communicate more efficiently with our members and more effectively with our overseas contacts.

Some of our SIG's also have a new chairman; Bob Bryant now leads the Aviation Group, Brian Suggitt heads the construction Group and Peter Lyall chairs the Financial Services Group. One activity we did not change however was the Embassy Briefings, which continued to be extremely popular with regular high attendance. In this regard I'd like to thank Richard Northern and Jamie Bowden for their valuable contributions to this popular forum. Furthermore it is worth noting that these briefings are a good example of how our relations with The Embassy continue to develop in a positive manner. Speaking of the Embassy, this is perhaps an opportune moment to mention a change that involves his Excellency the Ambassador

I'm sure many of you will be aware that Sir Andrew will be leaving Saudi Arabia in a few months from when he retires from the Diplomatic Service. As you all know, he has been a great supporter of the RGBB during his time here in Riyadh and since tonight's occasion will be their last Christmas with us. I'm sure that you would all like to take this opportunity to extend your good wishes to Sir Andrew and Lady Green on their well-deserved retirement. So ladies and gentlemen, plead join me in a toast To Sir Andrew & Lady Green.....



Luke and Alison Bowen (the pressgang) doing a grand job of organising the charity auction