

..... Still on the theme of change, we said farewells in the autumn to two members of our executive committee, James Sullivan-Tailyour and Sandy Flockhart. James has been replaced by Mick Brown and David Hodgkinson was co-opted to fill Sandy's position until we hold our election at the next AGM.



Richard Northern, Jamie Bowden and Kevin Lynch who regularly hosted BDSC & SIG meetings at their homes. Once more, we give a special thank you to our Ambassador for allowing us the use of the Embassy facilities for tonight's event and the Bi-monthly briefings.

Moving onto social matters, last year, Geoff Hopkins our events secretary was constantly thinking of innovative changes and ideas for our functions and he organised several interesting events. One in particular proved to be quite novel when Geoff and several of our members found themselves locked in a Brides Bedroom. Geoff has a plausible explanation for that episode although I'm not sure if his wife Odile was totally convinced by it. Nevertheless, Geoff deserves our congratulations for his attempts to bring a touch of variety to our events, Sadly however this evenings event will be his last time with us since he leaves the Kingdom shortly to retire to his chateau and vineyards in France. So please join me in wishing Geoff all the best for the future. Good luck Geoff



I would especially like to thank all of our committee members for the tremendous work they have done this year. I recognise your time is valuable however you can all take encouragement from the fact that your dedication to the RGBB is the main reason why the group is in such good shape. I also recognise your efforts are not without the vital support you have received from your wives – so our sincere thanks to all you ladies and hopefully we can count on your patience again next year.



To sum up, 1999 was an eventful year of change for the RGBB, the results of the changes were in the main successful and we have made positive strides towards being a more effective organisation and towards achieving our goals. Consequently the Group is well positioned and your committee is well focused to take the RGBB forward into the new millennium.

Last year our Financial situation moved again in a positive direction, producing another improvement in our balance sheet, so once more we are in a healthy condition financially enabling us to give support to several worthy causes including; The British School Calendar, Riyadh Boy Scouts Group and the Leukaemia Research Charity.



To conclude I'd like to wish all of you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and I hope you all have a successful and prosperous New Year.

At this point I'd like to say some thank you's to those who gave the RGBB their valuable support again this year.

I'll start with the Saudi British Bank who kindly provided the facilities for our Executive Committee meetings and sponsored our Newsletter. We hope we can rely upon them again next year. Our thanks also go to our Embassy colleagues particularly