



Paul Dugan  
Chairman RGBB

# FROM THE CHAIR

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the RGBB to congratulate John Freel for the award of his OBE. John currently serving as a Board Director, a long time member and former Chairman of the RGBB was recently recognised in the New Years Honours List.

A special welcome to British Business Group members across the Kingdom, in this issue we have included contributions from Eastern and Western provinces British Business Groups. You will notice a considerable expansion in the size of the Newsletter you are currently reading; this is another success for the Boards strategy to develop relationships and information flow between the groups as well as delighting our sponsors.

As we all wind up our end of year business results I would like to take time to reflect on the 2001 for the RGBB. A year that proved very successful for the development and growth of the RGBB. The later part of 2001 culminated with my attending the regional "Intergulf" for business groups held in Abu Dhabi. The weekend conference hosted by the British Business Group-Abu Dhabi and chaired by Jim Sillers, Assistant to the Secretary-General, Arab British Chamber of Commerce, was a great success. Several actions for the chairmen to follow up with their respective groups were agreed. BBG members were represented throughout the Middle East including Yemen and Iran. After a short break for most of the members, we are now well into the 2002 program. You will recall in March 2001 when elected as Chairman my strategy was to allow the Board to focus on RGBB policy, Saudi and British government relationships and KSA business Groups. I believed the growth for membership was dependent on the interest provided by the Business Development committee and the special interest groups. During the past year Board Directors and special interest group chairman and members (SIGS) have worked hard to successfully implement this strategy. I am pleased to advise that the BDC, under the outstanding directorship of Graham Turner continues to develop and add Special Interest Groups demanded by member's interest.

In accordance with our constitution the board are now preparing for the 2002 AGM. Due to school holidays we have set the date for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2002. I would encourage all members to get involved and support the group with your votes and by stepping forward to participate. Please remember the board represent your interests and needs for the future.

We have been very fortunate to receive support from several sponsors during the year, in particular The Saudi British Bank have continued to sponsor the major portion of the RGBB newsletter, a special thanks to David Hodgkinson our External Relations Board Director for this support.

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