

The Social Whirl



by
Martin Shaw
Events Secretary

We had some tables operating after the meal and with your kind generosity we managed to raise over SAR 5,000 for charity. Included in this total is a bid of SAR 1,000 by Paul Bevan, who at the time was grappling with a rather large Cuban (cigar!), for some fine crystal donated by Sara Thompson. Sara had won two of the nights raffle prizes and her generosity in returning the prize was much appreciated. Since Paul Dugan has agreed to double our efforts I am delighted to announce that our nominated charity will benefit from a SAR 10,000 donation.



HMA delivered the traditional State of the Nation address

Our first social function of the year was a big one, and if I tell you we started to organise New Year Ball back in October 2001 it will give you some idea of the planning that went into making the event run so smoothly. Members seemed to be very pleased with the evening, both the food and the entertainment were first class and without exception it went extremely well. These events don't happen by magic and mention should be made of Mick Brown, Frank Drayton, Peter Thompson & Steve Wagstaff who all gave huge amounts of their private time to support me in what I was trying to achieve - Thanks very much Lads.



The pictures that were taken on the night, can never capture the great atmosphere and pleasant surroundings that made the evening, but I did promise those few that over indulged, that I would not reveal their secrets and it is with immense self-control that I keep my promise and do not reveal their foibles in these pages, but you know who you are!!!



Oh
what
a night!



We changed the format around a little bit from previous years, added some different aspects and from the feedback received it seems that these changes should now be made permanent for future functions of this nature. Since the week of the function had seen the first heavy rain of the season, there was more than a little concern that the skies would open up at some point during the evening. Thankfully the weather was kind to us and nobody seemed to notice the lower winter temperatures as they mingled and chatted outside after the meal.

