

## Message from the Chairman of the BBG Jeddah



Above: Nasir Pasha, BBG Chairman delivering the address at the "State of the Nation Ball" in Jeddah at the end of January

My! Oh my! It is amazing how things can change in a few months. It some months since the last RGBB Magazine was published and I well remember writing my 'Message' back in the quiet days of August 2002.

The atmosphere has completely changed. As I write this piece, war has already started in Iraq. The build up to this action, which has been going on for sometime, has actually brought the reality of the current situation nearer home to us in Jeddah. Until now, we have been very fortunate, because we have been relatively untouched by the incidents in Riyadh and the Eastern Province over the last couple of years or so. For the first time, there is an apprehension in the air and people are feeling vulnerable about what may happen in Jeddah. So far, touch wood, life goes on more or less normal. May it long continue to do so.

Turning to the BBG, there are a number of things to report. Our AGM was held in December and two new members joined our Committee: Kevin Havelock, the Chairman of the Unilever Companies in Saudi Arabia, has taken responsibility for Marketing and Chris Phipps, Country Commercial Manager for the Kingdom for British Airways, is now responsible for Membership issues. At the subsequent Committee Meeting, I was re-elected Chairman for another year whilst Pat Folliard was elected Vice Chairman.

The highlight of the BBG Calendar (indeed, probably of Expat Jeddah) is the State of the Nation Ball which is a black tie event. The highlight of the evening is the State of the Nation address by HM Ambassador! The 2003 event was held on 30<sup>th</sup> January at The British Consulate and, understandably, the address by Sir Derek Plumbly was quite sombre. However, once the speeches were out of the way (including one by your correspondent), the festivities continued until well after

midnight and, by general consensus, everyone had an excellent evening.

The 2002/2003 Sports Challenge against the American Businessmen of Jeddah started recently. Just as a background, this is an annual sports challenge over six sports (these change from time to time but currently, they are: Swimming, Tennis, Golf, Bowling, Darts and Horseshoes). The Challenge was started some years ago in an attempt to bring the British and American communities together and we have always taken an Olympic approach to the event i.e. we have tried to emphasise the social aspect whilst keeping a competitive spirit. Regrettably, the same cannot be said of our opponents' approach. Anyway, the competition culminates in The Survivors' Ball hosted by the UK or US Consulate (in alternate years) where the overall trophy and the individual sports trophies are presented). Overall, it's an excellent evening. For security reasons, the Survivors' Ball in May 2002 was postponed and was held, eventually, in October 2002. All being well, the 2003 Survivors Ball will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2003. We are looking forward to the competition and the Survivors' Ball.

In the meantime, we still have a number of other events lined up before the summer is here.

Keep smiling!

### 2003 BBG COMMITTEE

Nasir Pasha (Chairman)  
Bank Al Jazira

Pat Folliard (Vice-Chairman/  
Business Development Sub Committee)  
Lubrizol Transarabian Co

Bob Collier (Website  
and External Relations)  
Saudi Bulk Transport.

Kevin Havelock (Marketing / PR)  
Unilever Arabia

Joe Murphy (Treasurer)  
Ernst & Young

Chris Phipps (Membership Secretary)  
British Airways

Steve Ryall (Honorary Secretary)  
Allied Engineering Enterprises

Dawood Taylor (Events Organiser  
and Sports Co-ordinator)  
Bank Al Jazira

John White (Publications)  
Naghi Group

Below: Lady Plumbly presenting the British Airways ticket to one of the winners of the Jeddah "State of the Nation Ball" lucky draw, watched by Julia Henderson the wife of the Consulate General.

