



For those members who were out of Kingdom or otherwise engaged, the New Year Ball was an absolute cracker!

I hope that the few pictures that we could safely reproduce here in the newsletter bring the memories flooding back for those that were able to attend. We also have some pictures that we are not allowed to show in public and if those gentlemen would like to come along to the next briefing they can take possession of the negatives. Roger Smith, Paul Dhami and Dave Howarth may like to make that meeting!!!!

Those who have been here long enough to know have stated that this evening was the biggest & best of it's kind that the RGBB have ever provided. Praise indeed!

We managed to entertain 260 members & their guests in a special marquee constructed on the tennis court for the evening and particular thanks must go Philip Parham who worked tirelessly on our behalf to get the approval for the marquee in the first place. Some of you may recall the last time we put a tent on the tennis court, the accidental damage that was caused to the playing surface was nothing compared to the damage inflicted to our relations with the Embassy and it has taken the full preceding eighteen months to go some way to restore relations to their former glory.

As I have said many times before, events like these do not happen by smoke & mirrors. This event was unusually large and the planning process commenced way back in November 2002. Thanks to all who supported me and did such a magnificent job, David Howarth, Graham Turner, Luke Bowen, Andrew Mead and Gareth O'Brien from the Embassy. - *Martin Shaw*

