

CM&I S.I.G.



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SIG Chairman

Happy new year to you all!

The SR 41.6 billion allocated towards new projects in the Saudi 2004 budget bodes well for those involved in the construction sector. Health, Education and Aramco related projects are obvious areas for concentration.

For those of us sourcing materials from the UK the GBP/SR exchange rate is not doing us or UK manufacturers any favours and there appears to be no light at the end of the tunnel. A serious problem for UK exports.

The SIG is making major efforts to increase the amount of networking amongst members and with RGBB members as a whole. Construction is a market segment that involves a lot of RGBB members, not just those directly involved in Construction (Insurance, Finance, etc). We can make each others lives a lot easier by dealing with Brits wherever possible and at the same time benefit UK Plc !! To this end socials and sports events are currently being organised with the intention of getting more of us talking to one another. The cricket match planned for May in which the Construction, Manufacturing & Industry SIG takes on a team made up of RGBB members and which will be followed by a Charity Dinner will hopefully prove to be a step in the right direction.

The SIG meetings that have been held lately have been lively affairs and the individuals that attend are from a variety of organisations.

The SIG currently has 55 members, 20 of whom attend/regret meetings on a regular basis and the balance like to kept informed of events and receive minutes of meetings. It would be encouraging if more SIG members could attend the meetings so that we can benefit from their input to the group. Interestingly, individual members have benefited from attending the last two meetings through numerous contacts being given to them from others present. It would also be extremely useful to all individuals in the SIG if everyone could complete and send in the spreadsheet containing brief personal details that has been circulated on a number of occasions so that Andrew Mead can get the list organised and circulated to all SIG members. This list will enable SIG members to go straight to other members on business and social matters. The list details what we and our companies do and what our social interests are.

Reminder. Ronnie Middleton, MD of Al Hilal Publishing (Publishers of Gulf Construction & Gulf Industry Magazines) will provide either of these monthly publications to SIG members free of charge. If any one is interested send Ronnie an e-mail with your contact details and ask to be added to the free mailing list. (ronnie.middleton@tradedarabia.net) Gulf Construction's latest issue had an interesting feature on Iraq that detailed projects mobilized to date.

Looking hopefully forward to more involvement and input from SIG members in 2004.

The term 'crease' has a much earlier usage and lies in the dictionary definition indicating 'a furrow in the surface' because they were originally cut in the turf. This method of marking lasted until the time of W.G.Grace when painted white lines were introduced.

The term 'Popping Crease' is also couched in the antiquity of cricket. This was because in the earliest days of cricket, a hole was cut in the pitch between the stumps. It was big enough to hold the ball, or the bottom of the bat. The object was for batsmen when running, to place their bat in the hole at the other end before the wicket-keeper, or fieldsman, was able to place the ball in the hole to effect a run out. However, the number of hand injuries in achieving this requirement resulted in a change, firstly to touch a stick held by the umpire, and then, once the umpires probably got tired of being assaulted by batsmen, to a line three feet 10 inches from the line of the wickets which later became four feet over which the batsmen were required to place their bat to register a run.

One generally accepted description of the expression 'out for a duck' suggests that the old description was actually of the batsman having made a 'duck's egg', the shape of which resembles the figure 0. To be dismissed first ball is to be out for a golden duck. Other animal terms would seem to be rather more recent in their usage, A 'Rabbit' for example is someone

not really regarded as being at all proficient with a bat. The ultimate derogatory expression for a batsman is to be regarded as a specific bowler's 'rabbit' or 'bunny,' which generally grows from the number of times a batsman gets out to the same bowler. A 'Ferret' mind you, is so terrible a batsman that he is called after the animal that rabbiters send into the holes after the rabbits.

Cricket of course does have its own embarrassing moments as this report of a true incident before the Aus-Rest of the World series in 1971 indicates: Ackerman:(To elderly gentleman receiving him at the airport whom he had given his bag to carry): "Are you connected with the Australian board?" Elderly Gentleman: "Yes" Ackerman: "Played any cricket?" Elderly Gentleman: "Yes" Ackerman: "Test Cricket?" Elderly Gentleman: "Yes" Ackerman: "Really? What's your name?" Elderly Gentleman: "Don Bradman"

And can you believe that it was actually as far back as 1976 that British television viewers were entertained by that famous line from the inimitable Brian Johnstone. At an England-West Indies match at the Oval when describing the scene: "The bowler's Holding," he observed, "the batsman's Willey."