



Mick Brown  
Former  
RGBB Chairman

For those of you who could not make the event we have printed here the outgoing Chairman's Message.

Chairman's Message  
NEW YEAR BALL  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2004.

Welcome to everyone gathered here this evening, I am delighted that we have the opportunity to join together and celebrate the New Year and a special word of gratitude to our hosts for once again allowing us the use their unique facilities here on the DQ. We are very appreciative of the support we receive from the Embassy and I can assure you that this support is certainly not taken for granted by any of us.

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer a very warm welcome to our guest of honour HMA Sherard Cowper-Coles and his most charming wife Bridget to this evening's dinner. Sherard has only quite recently taken up office here in Riyadh, so therefore it is our honour and privilege for him to be amongst us for the first time at our festive dinner.

I am sure most of you, like me, would have been very happy to say farewell to last year. I have worked and lived in this region for many years but I cannot remember a time like the year just passed. For 2003 commenced with a most disturbing incident and as the year got older, the incidents went from bad to worse.

However, this must not be an occasion of compunction only celebration but please as you enjoy this evening and it's proceedings spare a thought for a moment would you for Mr. Rob Dent, Cliff & Jane Hoban and all those other poor souls who are no longer with us.

The effects of last year can be seen in many areas of our businesses including our daily life and our membership has also declined. From a high of 265 in late 2002 we currently stand at 217, but I am determined that we can (and will) regroup and actually surpass previous membership highs. Martin Shaw has resumed the hugely popular dinner evenings to great success and Luke Bowen continues to beat the drum on behalf of the SME's. We also welcome Ian Crawford to the Main Board responsible for membership growth and I feel confident that in Ian we have someone who can claw back the numbers, you can also do your bit of course!

Thanks must also go to our sponsors who once again have come forward to support us with some fabulous prizes. This will make the raffle part of the evening a little bit extra special for a few people, I do hope that you are one of the lucky ones.

Finally, on behalf of all the members of the Main Board I do hope that you have a truly wonderful evening; enjoy yourselves.

Thank you  
Mick Brown Chairman RGBB 2002 – 2004

**2004 MONTHLY DINNER NIGHTS**  
Please make a diary date NOW  
to avoid getting double booked.

Thursday 19th February  
**VALENTINES CANDLE LIT DINNER**  
Venue 2

Thursday 25th March  
**IRISH NIGHT**  
Venue 2

Thursday 28th April  
**SHAFI'S FAMOUS PIE NIGHT**  
Venue 2

Thursday 13th May  
**CHARITY DINNER**  
Venue 1

Thursday 20th May  
**MEXICAN NIGHT – ARRIBA ARRIBA**  
Venue 2

Thursday 17th June  
**MID SUMMER BALL**  
Black Tie Lounge Suit Venue 1

Thursday 20th June  
**FRENCH EVENING**  
Venue 2

Thursday 15th July  
**CHINESE STIR FRY NIGHT**  
Venue 2

Thursday 12th August  
**BORING BACHELORS CURRY NIGHT**  
Venue 2

Thursday 23d September  
**GOURMET FISH NIGHT**  
Venue 2

Thursday 7th October  
**CHARITY DINNER**  
Venue 1

Thursday 21st October  
**ITALIAN NIGHT**  
Venue 2

Thursday 4th November  
**FISH & CHIP NIGHT**  
Venue 2

Thursday 2nd December  
**FESTIVE NIGHT**  
Venue 2