

This last month was a very exciting one for the BBG. The dinner cruise along Obhur was a resounding success. Starting before the sun went down, the upper deck was alive with activity and discussion between the members and their partners, with the children onboard commandeering the deck above for their exclusive use! Dinner was served in the air-conditioned lower deck with a grilled whole lamb being the centrepiece of a spectacular buffet. After dinner drinks and tea, along with a shisha, for those with a taste for the Orient, rounded off a wonderful three-hour event. The BBG would like to thank Lady Bridget for coming down from Riyadh to specifically attend this event, which mitigated the disappointment of Sir Sherard being unable to attend due to the presence of a visiting dignitary in Riyadh on that particular day. We have left open an invitation with Sir Sherard to "do it again" anytime in the future when he is available.

March also brought about the "demise" of British Airways flying to the Kingdom. There is very little one can say that has not been said already. Regardless of the many and varied reasons put forward for this decision, none in the British community can really believe this decision was made in the first place. I have no doubt that at sometime in the future, BA will again appear on the horizon (please excuse the pun) and with time, all will be forgiven. But in this time of consolidating British business interests in the Kingdom, this decision on the part of BA is remarkable by any standards!

As many of you will know the Survivors Ball is being organised this year by the BBG. It will be held in May at the British Consulate. Preparations are well

in hand. Now that we have the Secretariat Office on Sierra Compound of Arabian Homes, it should make payment and ticket collection somewhat easier. The evening will require smart casual dress and the catering will be designed to reflect this more informal style to the event as well as recognizing the more formal nature of the function. It is also intended to have live band to provide dance music to see out the final hours.

It must be remembered that the Survivors Ball is a celebration of the friendly (?) sporting activities that have been conducted between the British and American teams over the last few months. The participants of these sports will have absolute priority in obtaining tickets. Following that allocation, tickets will then be offered to members of the BBG and ABJ.

Only after that will any tickets left be offered to other guests. In all cases, an applicant can only request a maximum of two tickets, one for self and the other for spouse. The British Consulate has set a limit of 200 for this event. It will be imperative that you get in early with your request when the booking arrangements are opened. I fully expect tickets for this event to be like the proverbial "gold dust". All requests will need to be made through the BBG Secretary. This is the only way that tickets will be allocated.

I hope all of you who managed to travel for the Easter break had a wonderful time and your return to Jeddah will see you at one of our upcoming BBG events during this next month

With best regards

Notes from the BBG Jeddah



Dawood Taylor
Chairman, British Business Group
Western Province

New BBG Secretary & Office Location

We can now confirm the location, working hours and contact numbers of the new BBG office/ secretary as follows:

Location:

Arabian Homes, Sierra Village,
Central Reception/Recreation centre

The office will be open at the following times:

Saturday 10:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Monday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Tuesday 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:00 noon.

The contact numbers are as:

tel: (02) 662 4000 ext 2366
fax: (02) 6620090
e-mail: secretary@bbj-jed.org

If life in Saudi sometimes seems a bit strange, don't despair. The BBG Email Newsletter includes a number of anonymous contributions this month including these reminders:

Be very proud to be British Because:

- Only in Britain... can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.
- Only in Britain... do supermarkets make sick people walk all the way to the back of the shop to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.
- Only in Britain... do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a DIET coke.
- Only in Britain... do banks leave both doors open and chain the pens to the counters.
- Only in Britain... do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on the drive and lock our junk and cheap lawn mower in the garage.
- Only in Britain... do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.
- Only in Britain... are there disabled parking places in front of a skating-rink