



FROM THE CHAIR

“THE KINGDOM’S LOSS WILL BE AFGHANISTAN’S GAIN”

Occasionally the headline makers in the Green Truth really hit home - and this was one of them.

By the time you read this edition of the RGBB News, “Abu Henry” and Bridget will have left Saudi Arabia. They will be sorely missed. Our somewhat ‘cheeky’ cover picture illustrates how much a part of our lives they have become and how fondly remembered they will be. Our good wishes go with them both wherever life and duty takes them in the future.

The next major event in the RGBB Calendar will be the AGM on the 26th March and as there have been no new candidates the existing Board members have volunteered to serve again. I would like to thank each of them for continuing their efforts on behalf of the membership.

Board positions for the new term have not yet been allocated but I’d like to remind you of what each has contributed during the last year.

Ian Crawford as Deputy Chairman and head of the Aviation Special Interest Group

has provided all round assistance at a number of events during the year including the onerous responsibility of ‘table planning’ at each of our social events.

Bill Nicholson, as Treasurer has reorganised our accounting procedures, completing the often thankless task of tracking the RGBB income and expenditure. As you will find out at the AGM, our finances continue to look healthy and I would like to take this opportunity to say a special word of thanks to David Howarth for casting his expert eye over our books and suggesting ways in which we can improve our transparency.

Nick Oakes, the newest member of the team replaced Jim Milne a few months ago and has been assisting with the preparations for this magazine. Nick’s efforts have resulted in new advertisers and some good copy, which I trust you’ll enjoy in this issue. A short note of thanks must go to Jim for his sterling assistance over many years and our good wishes go to him and Margaret as they plan to leave the Magic Kingdom for the last time.

Our intrepid Events Organiser, Owain Raw-Rees has continued in what he does so well and has ‘pulled-off’ a large and varied number of social events which so many have enjoyed. Only those who have been involved may recognise just how much time and effort has gone in to making it all happen.

Time and effort have also been the keywords to Nigel Astbury’s contribution in arranging the Special Briefings. In the External Liaison role he has given the membership a hugely popular mix of subjects. I am pleased to advise that the schedule for

2007 is already in place with a new program of speakers and sponsors. Nigel is already looking to the 2008 calendar for more space!

Graeme Douglas, in his role as membership coordinator has seen our numbers rise to their highest ever level. He has also started to develop a ‘Team Strip’ for some of our activities and we hope to have a new RGBB Polo Shirt on sale at the AGM.

As BDC Chairman, Chris Maybury has made sure the views of the various SIG’s have been brought to the Board’s attention.

Sharon Wardle has given the RGBB an unprecedented level of support during the previous year including hosting new members evenings and countless committee and SIG meetings. As the ‘hard link’ into the Embassy she has quietly made sure ‘things happen’. Special mention should also be given to Peter Millman and Adrian Bell whose support at the various events has been invaluable.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work put in by Adele Kerlin who took over from Denise Douglas as RGBB Secretary this year. Both the girls have kept the Board in order and have performed ‘above and beyond’ the level of their duties. Our best wishes go to Adele and Sean for their impending happy event. We look forward to seeing Adele back in harness in the not too distant future.

And finally, to you the members, your support for the various events has made it all worthwhile. We look forward to working with you all again in the coming year and continue our efforts to raise the profile for British business in the Kingdom.



Luke Bowen
Chairman



Ian Crawford
Deputy Chairman



Bill Nicholson



Nick Oakes



Owain Raw-Rees



Graeme Douglas



Nigel Astbury



Chris Maybury



Sharon Wardle