

Dear All

Welcome to the BBJ Jeddah update. Quite a lot has transpired since I last wrote for the Riyadh Business Group newsletter

Let me start with our annual State of the Nation Dinner, held at the British Consulate. We reverted to the car port area this year, having used the tennis court the previous year. It was determined that the new found spin on the tennis ball was in fact due to the "pivots" caused by the stiletto heels worn during the previous SOTN. The shoes worn by the ladies caused just as much damage!!!! A great time was had by all with Sir Sherard and Lady Bridget our guests of honour, for the last time I am afraid. More later on this subject

We have had numerous monthly meetings with various guest speakers. Brad Bourland gave an excellent presentation on the Saudi economy. Gerard Russell, our new CG in Jeddah (again, more later) gave a very good presentation at another of our events. A senior representative from the Jeddah airport management team gave us an update on the plans for a new terminal at the airport and just recently, Sami Bahrawi, JCCI board member and Chairman of the 2007 Jeddah Economic Forum gave an excellent presentation on the plans for this year's forum which actually will just have finished by the time you read this letter-a topic for my next letter perhaps? A note worthy of mention was a most generous offer by Sami to offer 17 FOC tickets for the forum to BBG member in Jeddah. A most magnificent gesture on his part.

We also undertook our first BBG workshop this year, under the auspices of the Business Development Group. A very successful event which we intend to repeat again.

The Charity Fun Day at Sierra Village earlier this year saw the BBG again host the Tug of War competition. A great day was had by all

Although starting somewhat late, we have held the Captain's Dinner for the 2007 BBG/ABJ Sports Challenge. As many of you are aware, this is an event we hold every year, challenging the Jeddah ABJ to a number of sporting events. The Challenge has been held for as many years as I can remember. The BBG has won this event for a similar number of years! None of us can quite remember the last time the ABJ won the Challenge. And may it continue as such! The challenge will culminate in the Survivors Ball (an informal SOTN!), to be hosted this year by the BBG and held, with our thanks to the CG in Jeddah, at the consulate.

It would be remiss of me at this time if I did not introduce you to our new Consul General in Jeddah, Gerard Russell. Gerard has been with us a number of months now and has hit in the ground running in all respects. I hope you will all join me in welcoming Gerard to Jeddah

We have, for the second time that I can recall, undertaken a survey of all of our members resulting in

a great amount of detail emanating from this survey and a quite excellent report to our members. We hope to organize a number of focus groups to go over the replies received. Overall, it would be fair to say that the committee and the organisation in general is on the right track, albeit a few improvements could be made

On this same subject, the BBG Jeddah has just undertaken its AGM with the existing committee carrying on for another year. To be more open, disappointingly no member put their name forward when invited, so the committee was automatically extended for another year. My thanks go to all of the BBG committee members for the excellent work they put in on behalf of our members

It is with great pleasure that I am able to advise that a number of very worthy individuals in Jeddah have been honoured in the New Year's Honours list. Jane Yagamour and Jan Lauclan have been honoured for their charity work for underprivileged children through the Star Givers organisation, in addition to Jan's work with the British Women's Group. Judy Houry has been honoured for her work with children with special needs, through the Open Skies therapeutic riding school. Abdullah Mayoub, the consulate driver for all of the C-G's and ambassadors over the past thirty years has also been honoured. All have been awarded MBE's. On behalf of the BBG, may I also take this opportunity to send them our many congratulations.

As all of you are aware in Riyadh, it is a very sad time for us all as we say farewell to Sir Gerard and Lady Cowper-Coles. The three and a half years they have spent in the kingdom they have been tremendous supporters of the BBG in Jeddah, attending numerous events throughout this period. They will both be sorely missed. As ever, the BBG gave them both a tremendous farewell party and at a later smaller event, the committee presented them both with gifts of two books, on Arabic culture and history, which were very well received

If I may be a little informal at this stage, Sherard, Bridget our love and best wishes to you both and we wish you well for the future

Until the next update

Best regards

Notes from the BBG Jeddah



Dawood Taylor
Chairman, British
Business Group
Western Province

BBG Secretary & Office Location

Arabian Homes, Sierra Village,
Central Reception/Recreation Centre
tel: (02) 662 4000 ext 2366 fax: (02) 6620090
mobile: 0557 360 286 e-mail: secretary@bbj-jed.org

The office will be open at the following times:

Saturday 17:00 - 19:30
Sunday 17:00 - 19:30
Monday 10:00 - 12.00
Tuesday 17:00 - 19:30