



**Message from the Chairman of the BBG Jeddah**



It is a great pleasure to be writing this introduction to the latest RGBB magazine and I would like to applaud the efforts of first Paul Dugan, and now Mick Brown, to try and create some sort of a national identity for the three different British Business Groups in the Kingdom. At the moment, the three Groups function separately in trying to serve the interests of their respective memberships. Those interests are, of course, largely different in that each region is characterised by different industries (e.g. the Eastern Province is predominantly oil based) and, therefore, the membership has a different, and unique, persona.

The above is not to say that there is no merit in closer co-operation. We can all benefit from the synergies accruing from working together. Above all, we must remember that one of our collective aims is to promote British trade with the Kingdom. What better way than to have a national membership directory of all the 'BBG' members thus enabling the nationally represented firms to have a 'single' face so that potential British exporters have one point of contact. In addition, the BBGs themselves can, hopefully, develop a single voice when it comes to talking to our sponsors, the British Embassy, and more importantly, to the local authorities, when it comes to discussing issues which concern us all.

I know that the British Embassy is very keen to help along this process and the matter was discussed at a lunch hosted by HM Ambassador for the three Chairmen earlier this year. I believe that another such meeting is planned in June.

The BBG Jeddah has a social aspect as well and one of these involves an annual sports challenge against our American counterpart, the ABJ. The two groups compete against each in six sports – Tennis, Golf, Swimming, Bowling, Horseshoes and Darts (it used to be seven sports but one was dropped, at the ABJs insistence, a couple of years ago because the BBG kept winning it!). The whole competition was completed earlier this week and, for the second year running, it has resulted in a 3:3 draw with the BBG winning Golf, Tennis and Swimming whilst the ABJ won the others. Normally, this culminates in a Survivors' Ball which is hosted, alternately, by the two Consulates and is usually a very enjoyable affair. This year it was the turn of the ABJ/US Consulate to host the event but, alas, security concerns have led to the cancellation of the Ball. There is a possibility that it might be held in the autumn.

I would like to extend an invitation to any RGBB/BBA member, who happens to be in Jeddah, to come along to one of our functions (be they the speaker lunches or the social events).

Best wishes

**Nasir Pasha  
Chairman  
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