



## Message from the Chairman of the BGG Jeddah

The summer break is approaching very fast. We are all looking forward to our holidays and adventures, meeting up with old friends and family, fitting in so much 'activity' in a short space of time. This is all the more welcome as social life in Jeddah came to a virtual standstill after the State of The Nation and has not recovered since. The Iraqi crisis followed by the Riyadh bombing had a ripple effect impacting all our daily lives. School closures, increased checkpoints and being 'welcomed' by machine guns at our compounds have all added to an air of insecurity and fear—— so, as I was saying, roll on summer holidays!

The summer is also something of a watershed in expat life. Not only do wives and kids leave these shores for a couple of months turning Jeddah into a 'ghost town' and leaving a great many summer bachelors but this is also the time when a lot of families – friends that you have made here – leave for good. This is doubly hard because it leaves a large gap in your life. In a sense, we, as expats, need to 're-invent' ourselves continually by this ongoing process of making new friends, losing them and then making new ones.

You might wonder why I am rambling on about this. Well.... as I was thinking about writing this article, I suddenly realised that quite a number of friends and families in my circle are leaving for good this summer. I believe although that the current security situation has exacerbated the normal departures one would see in a normal summer, it does not alter the reality of the departures.

Amongst those leaving this summer is Andy Henderson, our Consul General (in fact, he will already have left by the time you read this message) who has been here for the last three years. Lest this be misunderstood, Andy is leaving in the normal course of Foreign Office rotation and is off to another 'hardship' posting – Sao Paolo. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy for his help and support to the BGG during his time here. I would also like to wish him and Julia good luck in Sao Paolo.

In all this nostalgia, we must not forget that life in Jeddah goes on. I am very pleased to announce that after two successive draws, the BGG won the Sports Challenge against the ABJ by a 3½ to 2½ margin.

The BGG won Golf, Tennis and Swimming and drew Bowling whilst the ABJ won the ABJ won Darts and Horseshoes.

Our special thanks go to Dawood Taylor, our Sports Co-ordinator, Robin Rice, the sports Captain and all the Team Captains and players for a magnificent achievement. Our thanks, also, to the ABJ for their very 'American' style sportsmanship in the competition.

As the Survivors Ball was postponed from May, we have tentatively pencilled it in for mid October so this should be an incentive for those of you who are in two minds about whether or not to come back to Jeddah after the summer! Where else will you be able to attend two top quality BGG style Ball in the course of three months (the other being the State of the Nation in January)?

We are also planning a Members' Monthly Evening Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June – details elsewhere. As this is the last full meeting before the summer, please do try to attend. We shall also be sending a follow up email with full details —— so keep checking your email.

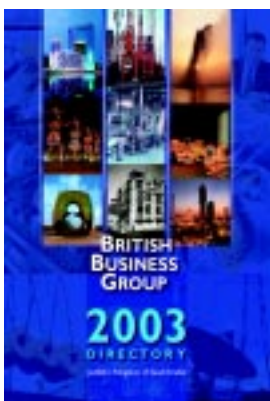
The 2003 Members Directory has now been completed and we expect delivery in the next few days. We shall be arranging delivery to all the members very soon so if you have not received your copy in the next week to ten days, please contact the BGG Office.

A couple of months ago, I mentioned that the BGG had approved a charitable donation of SR10, 000 to The Maharat Centre to help pay for a workshop to train Saudi female teachers to teach children with cognitive disabilities. The Workshop will take place in early July and will enable the teachers to return to their hometowns and implement the techniques learnt at The Workshop. We are hoping that, albeit in a small way, this will improve the lives of many disadvantaged Saudi children.

Anyway, have an excellent summer and hope to see you at our next Meeting.

Keep smiling. Best regards

Nasir Pasha



### The 2003-4 BGG Directory is now in circulation.

All advertisers should have received their personal copies and bulk deliveries have been made to British Business Group Offices in Jeddah, Riyadh & Al Khobar. Others have been sent out to BGG offices around the Gulf.

The directory can also be viewed on the web at [www.sbt.d.co.uk](http://www.sbt.d.co.uk) by following the link from the left hand navigation bar.

### "Lifted" from the BGG's Newsletter.

#### Things you really ought to know:

- ◆ It's physically impossible for you to lick your elbow!
- ◆ American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating 1 olive from each salad served in first-class!
- ◆ Michael Jordan makes more money from Nike annually than all of the Nike factory workers in Malaysia combined!
- ◆ The Electric Chair was invented by a dentist!
- ◆ Almost everyone who reads this will try to lick their elbow!