

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



From
Steve Wagstaff

Dear Members,

Obviously the RGBB calendar & events have been overshadowed by recent events. However, I think these events prove even more that a strong network is required to disseminate both information and help one another out.

Whilst the British Embassy operates an effective "Wardens Network", the RGBB through both the board, secretary and it's members try to ensure that an additional information stream helps the British community. We urge current RGBB members who know of British Nationals in the workplace who may not be aware of the group to pass on joining information, which can be obtained from the web site - www.rgbb.com.

In respect of current membership status, we live in a transient society, however, we have traditionally always had a flow of new members to replace the old. In the short term at least, I think this will change, with new people taking a cautious approach to starting a new working life in Saudi Arabia.

Without wishing to sound downbeat, work in respect of membership continues, however, we hope more productively during September onwards, when a full assessment of the impact can be made.

ADDITIONS TO THE RGBB MEMBERSHIP LIST AS AT JUNE 2003

Mark Aldridge	TQ EDUCATION AND TRAINING LTD
Christopher Bastin	KANAL CORPORATION
Geoff Calvert	SAUDI BRITISH BANK
Leslie Elliott	NORCONSULT TELEMATICS
Adam Gordon	MARCONI MIDDLE EAST
Alan Janvier	Ernst & Young
Harry Jones	SAND TRACKS 4X4
Peter Leach	ALMISEHAL
Simon Messum	UNITED MOTOR COMPANY
Tim Newbery	HAJAJ & ASSOCIATES
Richard Pickles	BAE SYSTEMS
Graham Read	BRITISH SCHOOL
Stephen Turner	REZA INVESTMENT COMPANY LTD
Peter Wolfe	DABBAGH GROUP HOLDING CO LTD

IN THE NEWS



Paul Dugan, a former RGBB Chairman, has been appointed an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours announced on 13 June. Paul is General Manager for BAE SYSTEMS' operations in the Central Province.

The award was for Paul's services to British business interests and the British community in Saudi Arabia. He will receive the award at a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace later in the year.

Paul has served as Chairman of the Riyadh Group of British Businessmen and is a major supporter of the Multinational School in Riyadh, originally developed for children with special needs, but now a leading private school for all children, expatriate and Saudi.

In addition, Paul has been a supporter of worthy causes in Saudi Arabia - such as the Disabled Children's Association - for many years, both in his own right and through his encouragement of others.

"I am very honoured by this award, highlighting as it does the importance of ties between my two homelands of Saudi Arabia and Britain," said Paul Dugan. "It is a privilege to feel that I may have helped strengthen the relationship."

Coincidentally, Paul arrived in Riyadh to work for the BAE SYSTEMS' forerunner, British Aircraft Corporation, exactly 30 years ago this month. "The development and progress I have seen in Saudi Arabia over the last three decades has been breathtaking. I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

COVER IMAGE

Saudi teacher becomes "Jubilee scholar"

Adel Mohammed Soraia, an English-language teacher at the GOTEVOT Secondary Institute in Unaizah, has been awarded the prestigious "Jubilee Scholarship" as part of the 2003 Chevening Scholarship Awards. The three British Businessmen's Groups, in Riyadh, Jedda and the Eastern Province, raised money for the scholarship to celebrate HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee.

At the Awards ceremony on 17 June, Adel spoke about his background. Having been born and brought up in Unaizah, Adel speaks English fluently having studied the language at school and from the BBC World Service on radio and television and language cassettes.

The scholarship will provide Adel with the opportunity for Adel to go to the UK for the first time - he will be studying for an MA in Education at the University of East Anglia. Such a degree will give him the chance to improve his professional abilities and prepare him for a much sought after Ph.D.! Adel explained that he is looking forward to visiting the sites of London, including Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and the Tower of London