



## FROM THE CHAIR



We held our Annual General Meeting on Saturday 6 March 2004 at the British Embassy and after nearly 9 years as a member with the last 4 years on the Board in one capacity or another, I was greatly honoured to be voted in as Chairman for the year ahead. To all those members who supported my application, may I take this opportunity to thank you for the confidence you must have in me and in turn I will try my best to represent the Group and the British Community as a whole with all the professionalism and dignity possible.

I am delighted to welcome Max Fletcher, Owain Raw Rees & Chris Murray as new members to the Main Board. The composition and responsibilities now look like this;

**Martin Shaw – Chairman.**

**Luke Bowen – Deputy Chairman / SME's.**

To deputise for the Chairman during periods of absence and Board responsibility to promote initiatives for companies that fall under the Small to Medium Enterprise category and when required and to champion their cause where appropriate.

**Treasury - Currently a Vacant position**

The Board is seeking a volunteer to assume responsibility for the position which is to ensure that our finances remain sound and we retain a healthy bank balance. Also to ensure all payments are verified and made in a timely manner.

**Ian Crawford – Membership.**

Board responsibility to maintain, in liaison with the Secretary, accurate records with regards to the membership directory, including contact details, statistics etc and to initiate a drive to grow the membership to a target of 300.

**Max Fletcher – Public Relations.**

Board responsibility to ensure best practice approach in all our PR with host country national etc, to ensure correct corporate identity is maintained in relation to the use of our logo etc and lastly but perhaps most importantly special portfolio for the production of the Newsletter.

**Owain Raw-Rees – Events.**

Board responsibilities to schedule, organise and basically see through both the Business and Social events calendar

throughout the term of this Board. Also, to be responsible for the general housekeeping and maintenance of our Constitution.

**Chris Murray – External Liaison.**

Board responsibility to engage the key players and decision makers within the host country nationals in meaningful formal dialogue at Breakfast, Lunch Dinner meetings etc. Interact with outside groups e.g. MEA and suchlike when appropriate. Liaison with BBG's in East & Western Regions of KSA.

The Board composition is completed with,

**Gordon Blackwood – Chairman BDC**

Chairman of the Business Development Committee and as such Chairs a monthly meetings for all the Chairman of the Special Interest Group (SIG's).

**Barry Lowen – British Embassy**

Liaison point for any and all matters concerned with the Embassy.

I would also like to use these pages to offer congratulations to Barry Lowen who has recently been promoted from Director of Trade to Deputy Head of Mission. I am sure all the members will join me in wishing Barry all the very best in his new position and we can only hope that his successor (due here in September) will be as positive and supportive of our group as Barry has been.

Our congratulations as well to Her Majesty's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles on his knighthood.

**Newsletter, advertising support.**

I fear that the Newsletter in its present format could be under some serious threat as we continue to lose vital revenue from some of our long time sponsorship supporters. This view is shared by all my colleagues on the Board and we have discussed ways on how we can best tackle this situation. One option was to do away with the Newsletter altogether and go electronic, but we gather that the general feeling is that the Newsletter is something that everybody is very proud of and would like to see it published three times each year. We continue to seek commitments from new advertisers for the Newsletter in order that this fine publication can continue