

to be published. Max Fletcher is working incredibly hard to find new sponsors and if you happen to be approached by Max I do hope that you will be able to assist him in order that we can maintain our current stance on what is after all the envy of all other BBG's around the region.

Bombing 21st April, Shooting 1st May 2004.

I along with everyone else, had hoped that we could have had many more incident free months but the attack on the security forces building here in Riyadh and the dreadful events in Yanbu perpetrated by Abu Ammar Mustafa Al- Ansari and his brothers put paid to any notion that we were returning to anything like normality. The Embassy continues to put out regular Warden's Messages when there is something new to tell and all the wardens have been invited up to the Embassy to hear our Ambassador's views on these matters. I am sure I speak for everyone when I say how much we appreciate Sherard's frankness and plain speaking in these discussions, a very welcome posture on a very difficult subject.

Trade Missions.

We had a very good Middle East Association (MEA) Trade Mission to Riyadh Saudi Arabia on 17-20 May 2004 and it seemed to me that of all the companies represented Cintec International Ltd who were over here displaying their Counter terrorist products for security and commercial services and departments were by far the busiest of all the vendors – it would seem every cloud must have a silver lining!

Lord Mayors Breakfast. Tues 30 March 2004

I can only apologise to all those members who got scrubbed up really early and made their way down to the Intercontinental Hotel expecting to meet up with Red Ken! But the Honourable Alderman Robert Finch was well impressed by the way we all sat there and looked interested when listening to his speech about all the financial institutions in the square mile. As I said at the time we were equally impressed that he driven through the teeth of the FCO travel advice and braved war torn Riyadh. He wrote a nice letter of appreciation to me (right) so we must have looked really interested.

HRH Prince Sultan Lunch. Saturday 8th May

The Lunch with His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn Salman was a huge success and I am sure very entertaining for those who made the effort to attend. His Royal Highness is a very eloquent speaker and talks very passionately about the Supreme Commission for Tourism & Antiquities – we have asked that he come back and meet with us again in the future in order that we can hear about the progress that he has made. Could I also mention a special " Thank You " to Kevin Millington who worked really hard and had to pull in a few favours when acting as intermediary to secure His Royal Highness's commitment. Thank you Kevin!

ICING Cricket Match & Dinner Thurs 13 May

The Afternoon's Cricket event was a real cracker and how none of the fifty something year old players didn't keel over and perish under the glare of 50^o of sunlight is just beyond

me. However, the omniscient Hunty had earlier warned to bring plenty of water ... looking at some of the auld fogies out there he should have mentioned bringing along the odd de-fribulator too!

The evening Dinner was wonderfully catered by the InterContinental Hotel and the pictures shown on pages 12-15 should get the memories flooding back for all those who managed to get through the DQ security check point and in time for the cheese course. Special thanks must rightfully go to all the team who put on the event but to Paul Gent in particular who worked extremely hard to get this off the ground.

Midsummer Ball.

No sooner had the boys put the Charity Dinner to bed, than another band of hardy souls had been corralled up at Chez O'Brien's and force fed a diet of "How to put on a Midsummer Ball". For some this is easily digested but for others it brings on some wicked indigestion. Anyway by the time you read this, the event should be in the final phase of delivery – I hope that you enjoyed the evening ! (see pages 20+21)

RGBB / ABGR Golf Event.

We had hoped to put on a cheerful Golf event at Dirab but Mohamed Al Ansari and his brothers threw that notion right out of the window. Reading between the lines I think that those from north of Watford would have been up for it but for some reason our friends from across the pond were a little reluctant. We shall try to stage this event in October when it gets a little cooler and more of the bad guys have been rounded up.

Monthly Dinner Evenings.

Not withstanding the comments made above we have maintained our monthly dinner evening profile to huge success. Thank you to all those members who continue to support these events. There are some images captured by Andrew Mead on page 34, which I hope you like.

Events Calendar 2004.

Members will be notified by email with details of specific future events. The highlights so far have been the Dinner > Theatre > Disco which was a huge success and will be repeated again in the fall (I sound like an American!) and the jazz evenings at Venue 1. The Farm visit would have been attended by double the amount of people had there been more notice given about this event taking place. We shall repeat this visit again in the autumn (that's better). The National Air Museum continues to be a highlight on any events calendar in the City and I thank Doog for all his support in getting this off the ground – no pun intended.

Have A Good Summer

Martin

FROM THE CHAIR continued

