

Notes from the Eastern Chair



Brian Willey
Chairman, British
Business Association
Eastern Province

We held our AGM on 25th April and at the first meeting of the new committee yours truly ended up in the hot seat. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our previous Chairman, Colin Clarke, and our previous Treasurer, Carl Gordon, for doing an excellent job. Their wit and wisdom will be missed at our committee meetings. At the same time I would like to welcome on to the committee Jonathan Hugo as our new Treasurer – his move to Al Khobar is our gain and Jubail's loss. Also Norman Sheppard, who has bravely (and I should know) taken up the mantle of Bulletin Editor.

Despite the most recent tragedies in the Kingdom, the EP British community are as stoic and pragmatic as ever and I am pleased to say that I have not heard of anyone feeling the need to depart. It is the old adage of keeping the upper lip stiff and getting with the job coming to the fore again.

With the oil price at it's current level, business is buoyant and prospects for the future look good. The new proposed change in the way the FCO issue its travel advice, once it has been agreed, should see a welcome increase in business visitors to the region. Nice to see Lawrie Walker of the Middle East Association still persuading British companies to visit us despite the travel advice. His latest mission of 12 companies visited the Eastern Province on 25th and 26th May.

The new committee look forward to an active year, both business and social and I will endeavour to live up to the high standard set by the previous holders of this office.

With all good wishes

Brian Willey – Chairman
British Business Association – Eastern Province

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