

In order to focus more effectively, the special interest group is no longer linked with Manufacturing & Industry. It is once more purely a Construction related SIG. This however does not limit membership to those directly involved in the Construction sector (we have active members from the Insurance and other sectors). Any current members that are Manufacturing & Industry related and would like to remain in the SIG are of course most welcome. Your names will not be deleted from the contact list unless you specifically request that this be done.

(Drop me a line at sppg-pg@shabakah.net.sa).

The group has numerous active members with a wealth of experience in Saudi Arabia who are always prepared to help and offer advice/contacts. I look forward to meeting those members that have joined the SIG recently at our next meeting scheduled towards the end of June.

Good news on the Embassy liaison front. Zaman is our contact once again and will be attending future meetings if he is available .

We have not had a formal SIG meeting since the 14th December 2003. A number of the members have however met regularly over the past four months with regards to organising the cricket match and the charity dinner to raise funds for ICING on 13th May. This appears to have been successful on two counts. Firstly, the objective of getting RGBB members together to improve networking proved successful (great idea for the cricket match from Brian Suggitt) and secondly the events raised SR50,000 for ICING. Thanks to all of you who so generously supported these events and to the Ambassador & Mrs Cowper Coles for allowing us to use their garden for the dinner and allowing the SIG to associate itself with ICING.



Paul Gent
ConSIG Chairman

The following individuals put a great deal of time and effort into making both events possible: Brian Suggitt, Luke Bowen, David Hunt, Kevin Millington, Andrew Mead, Richard May, John Mulhearn and David Howarth. (Both David Hunt & Kevin Millington are not Construction SIG members but volunteered their services for the cause !). Thanks also to Tom Welsh & Chris Maybury for their rapidly developed scoring skills for the cricket match.

The following sponsors supported the above events and we thank them profusely:

British Airways, Intercontinental Hotel Riyadh, Rolls-Royce, Arabian Food Supplies, Seder Village, Four Seasons Hotel Ammam, Kanoo Group Dirab Golf Course, KPMG, Saudi British Bank, Norwich Union, Al Rabie, Al Marai, Saudi Oger, Saudi Development & Trading Co, Nofa Farm, Multinational School, British School, Group 4, & Al Faisaliah Hotel...In addition we had contributions from Sport Photo Gallery/Getty Images and Cricket Clubs in the UK for the cricket memorabilia auction arranged by David Hunt.

Any of you SIG members that have not attended a meeting to date...I recommend you try and get to one....the regular attendees are an interesting and varied bunch with an abundance of local knowledge!



MAD DOGS AND ENGLISHMEN GO OUT IN THE NOONDAY SUN

Inspired by the words from the Noel Coward song (right), members of the Construction SIG challenged a group of like-minded 'Other' members to a game of "Cricket - a game which the English, not being a spiritual people, have invented to give themselves some conception of eternity." - Lord Mancroft (1914-1987)

In tropical climes there are certain times of day
When all the citizens retire to tear their clothes off and perspire.
It's one of the rules that the greatest fools obey,
Because the sun is much too sultry
And one must avoid its ultry-violet ray.
The natives grieve when the white men leave their huts,
Because they're obviously, definitely nuts!