



FROM THE CHAIR

We trust that as you read this, recharged following the Summer Break, the second half of the year will be even more successful on the Business and Social front than the first! Certainly it has been a long time since the business climate here has been so buoyant, with oil prices fuelling increased expenditure in both the public & private sector. I'm pleased to report that our social events continue to be very well supported, with tickets being sold out shortly after going on sale – keep an eye out for those emails from Denise & respond quickly to avoid disappointment. Membership numbers are steadily increasing, but I would ask everyone to do their bit in signing up new members to the group, especially newcomers to the Kingdom, as the bigger the group, the more effective the network.

Since the last issue:

- Following the AGM, two new faces have joined the Board. Nigel Astbury will take over the External Relations role & Graeme Douglas Membership. Our thanks to Chris Murray & Peter Howarth Lees who have stepped down due to increasing responsibilities elsewhere.
- Our themed dinner evenings continue to be very popular and will continue to be held on a regular basis in 2005/6.
- We had a very successful New Members gathering hosted by Sharon & Peter
- SIG momentum continues thanks to some sterling work by Chris Maybury who has now found volunteers to fill the Chair positions. A number of SIG meetings are planned for September.
- Charity Work. The ICING Dinner, arranged by RGBB volunteers, raised SR50,000; a superb result for Friends of Hadhramaut, enabling the complete restoration of a School in Yemen.
- The Summer Ball was enjoyed by all who managed to get tickets. Owain & his team put on yet another memorable evening.

Dates for your Diary:

- Opportunity Arabia 2 - 15th September at The Institute of Civil Engineers in London
- ICING Charity Quiz Night 22nd September
- Special Briefing – “SABIC and the Petrochemical Industry in the Middle East” 27th September
- Festive Dinner 8th December



Luke Bowen
Chairman



Ian Crawford
Deputy Chairman &
SME's



Bill Nicolson
Treasurer



Public Relations
Jim Milne



Owain Raw-Rees
Events



Graeme Douglas
Membership



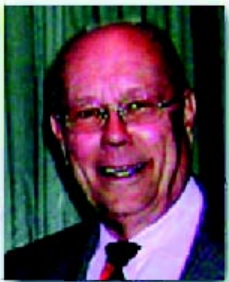
Nigel Astbury
External Liaison



Chris Maybury
BDC Chairman



Sharon Wardle
Embassy Representative



In memoriam: It is with sincere regret that we have to inform you that Brian Willey, the Chairman of the Eastern Province BBA, passed away earlier this year. Brian was a stalwart supporter of the British Community in the Kingdom for many years and anyone who came into contact with him could not fail to be impressed by his boundless enthusiasm, humour and wise counsel. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife and family. He will be sorely missed.