

Notes from the Eastern Chair



Michael Nugent
Chairman, British
Business Association
Eastern Province

As a result of the sad loss of our good friend and colleague Brian Willey, I have assumed the Chair for the Eastern Province. I had the highest regard for Brian, as did all who knew him and it is my intention to carry on his good work plus develop the many new initiatives he was working on.

As they say some are born great and others have greatness thrust upon them. I can assure you that in my case the latter applies. When a replacement was sought for Brian (not an easy act to follow) the silence was deafening, so here I am. Having been the Events Secretary for the last three years, I have retained this role in the short-term, in addition to my new portfolio.

We have just held our Winter Ball in Bahrain at the Bahrain International Grand Prix Circuit and whilst it does not get the attendance or have the glamour of the Winter Ball, it turned out to be a good venue and fun was had (pic below). We moved our Winter and Summer Balls to Bahrain, as now that British Aerospace personnel have multiples visas, they can attend freely. Oddly enough the membership seemed to raise no objection when Bahrain was suggested as a venue and I know not why! We took the liberty of extending an invitation to the BBBF in Bahrain and in the interest of transatlantic relations, plus the Bush/Blair friendship even invited our American cousins from the ABA. Members attended from both groups and they will reciprocate, so all good for developing neighbourly relationships. However we drew the line, when the ABA attendees wanted the DJ to play "Achy Breaky heart" and indulge in line dancing!

On the business front, of course, the Eastern Province is enjoying an economic boom and we look forward to good times ahead. This is reflected in our membership numbers which are edging upwards again. We look forward to meeting several trade Missions over the 3rd and 4th quarters of the Year and we will work closely with the BTO, who continue their sterling work promoting the commercial relationship between the Eastern Province and Britain.

I look forward to playing my part in the ongoing development of the BBA EP during my tenure in the Chair and as always we welcome any interaction with the Business groups of all nationalities, throughout the Kingdom and beyond.





**British
Business
Association**

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