

BDC

NOTES



Chris Maybury
BDC Chairman
RGBB

Again, the months are passing too quickly since my previous notes and we are still struggling to restore the previous popularity of the Special Interest Groups.

To remind you, the Business Development Committee is made up from representatives of the individual Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The BDC should meet at regular intervals to discuss activities and developments affecting the respective business fields and climates. However, as we are not yet back to our full complement of SIGs, there have been no BDC meetings as such in the recent months. Normally, a summary of the salient information would be passed back to the membership via the main board through this Newsletter or at the bi-monthly Briefings.

Over the last few months, things are starting to pick up again and the good news is that six of the SIGs are active again. We now look forward to recovering the time lost to reach this position. We are all indebted to our colleagues, heading up the Commercial Section at the Embassy, for their encouragement and hospitality.

As a further reminder, the SIGs have been classified as follows:

- Aviation
- Communications and Information Technology
- Construction, Industrial and Manufacturing
- Financial Services
- Healthcare
- Human Resources
- Oil, Gas, Petrochemicals, Power and Water
- Security and Safety

During the month of June, there was a "New Members" Meet and Greet function whereby some were able to express their respective interests to strengthen the SIGs.

We now have leaders for the following SIGs:

- Aviation - Ian Crawford
- Financial Services – Simon Blackledge
- Healthcare - Philipa Kirkpatrick
- Human Resources – Spencer Hawthorne
- Oil Gas Petrochemicals Power and Water – Justin Powell-Tuck
- Security and Safety – Charles Wink

Please note that the OGPPW team has arranged for a special Guest Speaker from SABIC to address the RGBB membership, in September, to bring us all up to date with the exciting happenings in that important sector. Please watch out for the official notice and book early. It will be a unique occasion, too important to miss.

Those of you out there still not attached to a SIG, please come in from the cold (heat?) and join us. We are planning a social side to enhance the actual business aspects.

As our valiant Ambassador mentioned, at a members briefing, a couple of months ago, "...you need to put yourselves about a bit" to gain the rewarding benefits that are out there for the "enlightened" ones. However, the SIGs are not cliques and should not be thought as such.

FAREWELL to TOM WELSH



July sees the final departure from KSA of our friend and colleague, Tom Welsh.

Tom has just completed 11 years service here, as the Training Consultant to the Saline Water Conversion Corporation, locally known as SWCC (or "Swick").

This was Tom's second period of service in KSA, having being with ARAMCO during the early eighties before working in Libya until coming back here to SWCC.

During his time in Riyadh, Tom learned to play golf and was a prominent member of the Riyadh Motocross Club, as results secretary and general dogsbody. He was the Membership Secretary for the Caledonian Society and further served the British community as a caring and active Warden. Tom was also a valuable point of contact in the "Water Sector" for the Embassy commercial section and for visiting Trade Mission delegates.

Tom's membership of the RGBB has been very productive, particularly with his enthusiasm for the SIGs. His input to the Human Resources and OGPPW in particular, were so valuable to us all. The theme for the revival meeting of the OGPPW group was Tom's inspiration and has proved to be a significant turning point.

Tom was an enthusiastic supporter of all the social functions and was very successful in encouraging extra "bottoms on seats" for the Charity Events.

Have a good and active "retirement" Tom, we will all miss you.