



the team of ICE Maidens. On this occasion, ICE stood for Infamous Cash Extractors and Denise Douglas, Sue Ferguson, Julia Courgeau, Natalie Wienand, Karen Clancy and Jacqui Oakes made a lot of promises, I'm sure they'll never keep, in order to raise almost SR30,000 from raffle sales alone.

Such was the enthusiasm on the night that at least one of the guests (Rob Wood, pictured above) actually bid against himself to raise the amount for one auction item and then with the help of his colleague AB, bought back another of the auction items they'd donated only to give it away again.

A couple of the raffle winners, gave back their prizes asking that the items be auctioned or sold to raise even more cash for the charity. That exercise brought in SR9000 a few weeks later from the prize clearance draw!

And it's no longer just the British getting involved. Some of the guests on the evening came from other expat communities in Riyadh. A couple of Americans, (I think it was David & Marie) came up to me at the end of the evening and gave all of the cash they had with them, saying that since they'd failed to spend it on the night, ICING should have it anyway and although many of the others were



initially unprepared for the amount the 'crazy' Brits were giving, they too became wrapped up in the bidding for some of the bubbly aspects of the evening. One anonymous frenchman (merci Olivier) paid SR5000 just to have the Ambassador bring furniture to his table!

David Howarth, who had found himself 'volunteered' to assist the 'Unholy Trinity' of Mead, Bowen and Raw-Rees to organise the bash, has now counted all his beans and advises that after all the expenses have been paid, over SR375,000 has been raised for ICING to disperse in various directions.

One of the recipient organisations, Kids for Kids, aims to improve the lives of children in one of the harshest enviroments in the world - Darfur in Sudan. As a result of the generosity of the participants at the event, ICING has been able to adopt an entire village. More information about Kids for Kids can be found on the website at www.kidsforkids.org.uk

My apologies must go to all of those generous people I've not mentioned, whose names I just can't squeeze in. With a garden full of 250 stars all shining brightly on the night I confess to being somewhat overwhelmed. A huge vote of thanks to all who played a part.



Alison Messum with the SR20,000 RSSG cheque



HMA with the anonymous frenchman



Sean McPoland and Luke Bowen



ICE Maiden Denise with husband Graeme