

Dear All

Let me start by reflecting on a wonderful evening at the recent Survivors Ball hosted by the BBG at the consulate. Not only did we win this year's event (well under the "Ashes" rule, drawing the event, "yer win, yer keeps it!"), we also had a great time. The band was great, but who was that familiar face, front and foremost on the stage? Was it Sade'? Was it the next "Arabian Idol"? Or was it just our Commercial Consul, Cecille El Belladi having a great time and ensuring we all had a better time. Thanks Cecille, (and Magdi her husband on drums) and the entire band. Our thanks as always go to the Consul General, Geoff Cole, also our guest of honour on the evening, for allowing the BBG to host this event at the consulate

Also in June we undertook a "first" with the BBG inviting the MBO (Minaret Businessmen's Organisation), the prominent Saudi business group, when we hosted our first luncheon event of the year with Andrew Cahn, Head of UK TI at the FCO who was visiting the kingdom, making an excellent speech. This proved to be a very successful event but we wished we could have seen more BBG members at this luncheon which was the type of event our members had asked us to organize more of, when replying to the recent BBG membership survey.

Also in June the BBG hosted an event sponsored by a Dubai property developer. An excellent review of the property market in Dubai was provided along with an excellent lunch

It is sad to advise you all that Nigel Clarkson, our well known committee member who heads up the Business Development Group and in his "spare time" every year, also acts as the BBG sports coordinator/secretary, has had to resign from the committee due to pressure of work. Kindly, Nigel has offered to still be involved in the BDG in some way and we do look forward to seeing Nigel in this capacity throughout the year. Our wholehearted thanks go to Nigel for all his efforts throughout his tenure on the committee. After due process, Steve Taylor has been appointed as the replacement committee member. We welcome Steve to the committee and also thank all of the other

members who put their names forward for consideration.

It is even sadder to report the death of Dick Denning, Chairman of the BBG during the 80's. Although I did not know Dick personally, as I was in Riyadh during this decade, everything I have heard of him makes my role as chairman pale into insignificance when you see him as one of the pioneer BBG chairman during the early days of our organisation's development. Some of the long serving members of the BBG in Jeddah will, I am sure, remember Dick well and with fondness. On behalf of the BBG I have sent our condolences to his family at this sad time.

If I may end by sharing a more happy piece of news, albeit slightly on the personal side. I am very pleased to announce that Prudential plc .one of the largest life insurers in the world, and Bank Aljazeera, have entered into a MoU to create a new JV company under the new SAMA insurance regulations to offer Takaful Ta'awuni (Islamic life insurance) both in the Kingdom and eventually throughout the Middle East and North Africa. I am sure you will join me in welcoming such a significant UK company and household name to the Kingdom

As always we look forward to seeing any visiting members from Central or Eastern Province at any of our regular monthly events.

Best regards

**BBG Secretary & Office Location**  
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The office will be open at the following times:

Saturday 17:00 - 19:30  
Sunday 17:00 - 19:30  
Monday 10:00 - 12.00  
Tuesday 17:00 - 19:30

## Notes from the BBG Jeddah



Dawood Taylor  
Chairman, British Business Group  
Western Province

Below:  
BBG Members  
and Guests at  
the QBP in April

