



# FROM THE CHAIR

Since the AGM in April your new Board has been busy and I would like to extend my thanks to them for their commitment and enthusiasm and I would extend my especial thanks to Luke Bowen as the outgoing Chairman for his service to the RGBB over the years. The support we receive from the Embassy, from the Ambassador and from all of his colleagues remains excellent and I extend on behalf of the RGBB our thanks to them.

As previously noted the finances of the RGBB are in good order and the retention of adequate reserves has allowed the RGBB in the past few months to support not only the Embassy with sponsorship of the Queen's Birthday Reception and the summer concerts of the Riyadh Choral Society, but also donate prizes towards the fund raising raffles held at the recent successful ICING Ball, the St. George Society Ball and the Wadi Club Ball. The RGBB has also been able to sponsor the British International School Robotics Club and I would offer my congratulations on their recent success in fielding the victorious Saudi Arabian Girls Champions team. As I write the RGBB has committed to further support of the British International School by agreeing to assist with the funding of the school's involvement with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Membership of the RGBB remains strong with over three hundred members, and I would note that our fellow business colleagues, the BBA and the BBG in Al Khobar and Jeddah, have been formally included within our membership. Following discussions with David Lloyd of the Middle East Association I am pleased to advise that reciprocal membership has been agreed and details of the MEA will be included in the next edition. Membership of the Saudi British Society is also under process.

With regard to the membership the consideration of the inclusion of details on the website elicited a positive response. It is therefore intended to allow membership access to a limited release of data, subject to a secure access and an 'opt out' facility. This matter will be attended to along with the overall review of the website over the coming months.

As I noted at the AGM the primary objective of the RGBB is to promote UK PLC and to benefit British business in a business and social context. The Board has been working hard in this regard and the success of the recent Business Briefing and Summer Ball are self evident. The Board was delighted to assist the Embassy in welcoming the International Business Wales trade mission – I gather that members of the mission had a successful visit to the Kingdom and it is good to know the benefits and talents of Wales and the Welsh are being spread abroad! The expansion of sport activities is under way, and notwithstanding the fact that the 'Raw-Rees Family Team' won the boules competition, these activities will be a welcome addition to the RGBB calendar. Both the business and social context are amply highlighted in this magazine and my thanks to all who have contributed copy. Thank you to all of our members who have supported the RGBB by sponsorship and advertising – their valuable support is much appreciated.

As this edition of the RGBB News goes to print it is difficult to believe that already we are half way through 2008. Time flies for all and I suspect that most, if not all, of us are eagerly looking forward to the summer holidays. May I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support of the RGBB and wish you all a safe and not too expensive summer.

**Owain Raw-Rees**



**Owain Raw-Rees**  
Chairman



**Ian Crawford**  
Deputy Chairman



**Luke Bowen**  
Magazine & Advertising



**Ian Hay**  
Special Briefings



**Marcus Cleverton**  
Treasurer



**Simon Messum**  
Events



**Gary Richardson**  
Sports



**Chris Maybury**  
SIGS & Website



**Paul Williams**  
Embassy Representative