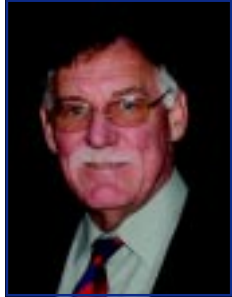


Notes from the Eastern Chair



Geoff Fennah MBE
Chairman, British Business Association Eastern Province

Summer is rapidly approaching and time for most of us to take a well earned vacation – assuming it can be afforded given the significant escalation in oil price and the resulting knock-on effect on prices generally. Saudi Arabia has just called for a special OPEC meeting to discuss the “unjustified” oil price so maybe we will start to see a return to normality in the not too distant future. Let’s see what happens!

Firstly, let me offer my congratulations to Owain Raw Rees and Brian Hawley on their appointments as Chairman of Riyadh’s RGBB and Jeddah’s BBG, respectively. Best wishes also to Luke Bowen and Dawood Taylor with their new endeavours. I look forward to working with Owain (again!) and Brian to share ideas and strengthen the working relationship between our respective groups.

The BBA Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in April with two new committee members being appointed, namely Michael Rollings, aka Rolly (Events) and Zane Thirlwall (Business Development). While it is always good to welcome new blood it was also sad to say goodbye to Tony Mulrain and Gavin Ames both of whom served with distinction and left their mark on the BBA. We wish Tony the best of luck in his new venture in Abu Dhabi and Gavin who is planning to spend more of his free time with his recently obtained family addition.

On the social scene, our annual Summer Ball was held on 6 June at the Golden Tulip, Bahrain and once again it seems a great time was had by all. The regular Khobar quiz nights and the Jubail social program continue to be well supported. For this year’s Winter Ball, BBA is looking to join forces with the Bahrain



The Eastern Province paid host to three separate Trade Missions when more than 50 British companies took part in British Week in April. The party above are assembled on the steps of the Alsharqia Chamber of Commerce.

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BBF to hold a joint function in Bahrain – watch out for more information on what should be a memorable evening. I believe this cooperation between other business groups is an excellent way to expand the network of business contacts and is of benefit to all.

I would also like to note that the BBA office has moved within the same location – the postal address remains the same but the new contact number is 03-882-5288 Ext. 1651. In addition, we have a new secretary as Donna has moved on to greener pastures. So a big thanks to Donna and a warm welcome to Pam. If you need to contact us then contact me directly or send an e-mail to our Secretary, Pam at bbakhobar@atheer.net.sa or via the website www.bbaep.com

Geoff Fennah
Chairman, EPBBA

We are saddened to report that John Evans, husband of Terry Evans, the Head of the British Trade Office in AlKhobar passed away in June whilst on a short holiday in Beijing. John is pictured below greeting Geoff Fennah at the QBP celebrations held in April.



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