



# FROM THE CHAIR

At the Summer Ball I noted that the evening felt like the end of term and that the Riyadh social calendar had been over the past few months quite hectic. There had been the British School Ball, the St. George's Society Ball, the Corona Ball, the Wadi Club Ball, the ICING Ball and finally the RGBB Ball. I commented that we should all raise our glasses to Sir William and Lady Patey for putting up with such a load of Balls! This list of events clearly demonstrates the focal point which the Embassy has become within the British community in Riyadh. The aim of the RGBB is to "Promote UK PLC" and to "Benefit British business in a business & social context," and indeed through the good offices of the Embassy we are able to fulfil these aims – and on behalf of the membership of the RGBB I would thank all at the Embassy for what they do in support of the community and the promotion of British business. In the year to date Paul Williams, Tim Dearden and their team have supported over 30 Trade Missions to the Kingdom. The volume of Trade Missions is a clear indication of the importance of the Saudi market to UK PLC.

Since the last edition of RGBB News the AGM has been held and a new Board elected. RGBB stalwart Chris Maybury stood down and his years of service to the RGBB are greatly appreciated and we all wish him well. In his stead the RGBB is delighted to welcome to the Board Nicola Quick who is now responsible for the development of the Special Interest Groups and on behalf of the RGBB I wish her all success in this role.

In returning to the end of term theme I was privileged in mid-June to attend the Prize Day of the upper school of the British International School and present the prizes. It was clearly evident that there was an enormous sense of pride in the assembled audience of pupils, parents and teachers in what the school does. I extended my congratulations to all of the pupils who received commendations and prizes – levels of attainment, positive attitude, outstanding progress, exemplary behaviour, positive contribution, enthusiasm, effort and commitment were all justly and rightly acknowledged. Not only do these awards serve to reward particular individuals but they set goals to which others may aspire to.

This occasion also marked the last such Prize Day that Alan Aitken, the acting Principal, would attend before leaving the Kingdom. Alan and his family's contribution to the success of the school over the last 20 years is immeasurable and on behalf of the RGBB, and our children, I would thank him for his dedication to the school and the role he has played in the education of many of our children over this period.

The British International School in its own way also promotes UK PLC by actually being here in Riyadh and providing both the British and general expatriate community the opportunity to actively engage in British academic excellence.

On such occasions as school Prize Days I believe it is traditional that the speaker includes in his speech



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