

Notes from the BBG in Jeddah



Brian Hawley
Chairman,
British Business Group
Jeddah

Brian Hawley BBG Chairman writes:

It is a pleasure to be back in Saudi Arabia again after a protracted holiday in the UK, which included a family wedding. It's great to be able to get back to work so I can get some rest!

I'm pleased to say that Sandie and I managed to spend a week in London with Cecille El-Beleidi, former Deputy Consul-General to Jeddah, whom many of you will know quite well. She sends her regards to all BBG members and she misses Jeddah!

There are noticeable effects from the recession in the UK, at least there were during the time that I was there. It is remarkably easy to get a table in a good restaurant that would normally need to be booked weeks ahead, tourist attractions were not crowded (apart from the commendably free museums in London, which were packed) and even on the Bank Holiday weekend, the roads did not seem particularly crowded. I heard on

Sky News today that some pundits are saying the recession is ending. Let's hope so!

I just managed to get back in time to attend the Survivors' Ball and was very surprised to hear we had lost this year. Well that's what you get if you include horseshoe-throwing and exclude cricket. But seriously, congratulations to the ABJ on a hard-fought, friendly and enjoyable competition. And watch out next time for the British horse-throwing team in secret one-year intensive training. Many thanks to all who helped out – particularly our Consulate-General for providing the venue.

You will all have received an invitation to a networking reception at Kate Rudd, our Consul General's house. Indeed there are at least three receptions as the BBG has too many members to fit in at the same time. As I write, two of these have already been held and there is one to come. Thanks to those who attended and of course sincere thanks to Kate for her kindness.

Finally, I was glad to attend a function recently at Open Skies, the hippotherapy organization which we support from time to time. All is in apple-pie order and Nejma, the horse the BBG purchased for Open Skies, is in good condition and having fun with the children. You may be confident the funds we contributed are being put to good use. Congratulations to Judy and to her dedicated army of volunteers! (pictured left)



come on big boy make me happy, you might be surprised to see how a small donation makes a big difference

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OPEN SKIES

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