



Owain Raw-Rees
Chairman

As I write the memory of the Summer Ball remains fresh and I would extend my thanks to all involved in making the evening such a success. The novelty of formal dinner without auctions, draws or raffles was commented upon and it was an especially nice way to end a busy season of social events, many of which were highly successful in raising funds for ICING. Further to the donation by the RAGBB of SR250,000 to ICING being the proceeds of the RAGBB Golf Tournament I received a formal letter of thanks from Lady Patey which is published overleaf.

Saudi Arabia remains the place to do business in with British exports to KSA now exceeding those to China and Trade Missions from the UK remain an important feature in our diaries. The Saudi Government continues to spend on infrastructure – power, water, health, education and transport. This in turn has boosted confidence in trade with retail sales increasing and also increasing private sector spending on imports. This stimulation of economic growth is a strong commitment of the Government and will also endeavour to address the ever present challenge of creating job opportunities for Saudi nationals.

I appreciate that many of the members of the RAGBB are not involved with nor represent British business interests, however their presence as representatives of the United Kingdom is an important aspect of promoting Britain - as we await the appointment of the new Ambassador we all in our own ways act as ambassadors for Britain and thereby indirectly the promotion of UK plc!

On a very sad note the RAGBB has lost in relatively quick succession three of its members - Julian Cottenden, John Lappin and Roger Webb. All three were regular supporters of the RAGBB and also keen supporters of various activities within the British community and their deaths will be deeply felt by their families, friends and colleagues. Our lives here in the Kingdom as expatriates are in comparison to many others, more than comfortable and the deaths of these three friends are timely reminder to us all that nothing can be taken for granted and we should be ever mindful of our good fortune.

(continued overleaf)



Julian Cottenden



John Lappin



Roger Webb

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