



“Absolutely amazing”

was how Chargé d’Affairs, Roddy Drummond concisely summed up the ICING Summer Fundraiser this year. Roddy and his wife Yasmin, attending their first ICING Bash, threw themselves in at the deep end to help out after the announcement that Sir William and Lady Patey would not be able to attend this years function.

Vanessa, as ICING’s patron had been involved in the weeks before the event in all the usual preparations but even the volcanic ash cloud failed to keep her and her husband in Kingdom long enough to be there on the night. Sir William, however, had ‘ring-fenced’ the furniture to ensure the evening had its usual sparkle!

Three hundred others though turned up ready to hand over their cash and pledges for an extensive selection of auction and raffle items. Over half a million riyals were made on the night for ICING with almost a third coming from the auction list.

Highest bidder on the night, Majid Fustok, was not even at the event but bid down the telephone line for a copy of the Manchester United Opus, a magnificent book donated by Karl Fowler, Chief Executive of the Kraken Group and signed by Sir Alex Ferguson and Sir Bobby Charlton. Paul Williams from the British Embassy who had had a hand in securing the donation from the company about to publish the book “Journey to Makkah” later this year was absolutely delighted at the result.

Majid also picked up one of the ‘sporting memorabilia’ items donated by Sean McPoland. Sean’s growing reputation as a man able to secure the unique, had somehow managed to obtain Michael Schumacher’s signature on a Mercedes shirt signed at the Bahrain Grand Prix earlier in the year. Simon Ward outbid the opposition for another of Sean’s unique items; this time an F1 picture signed by Webber & Vettel also while they were in Bahrain in April.

An Afghan tribal carpet from Alex Imbimbo went to Lynn Waring, fresh off the plane from Kabul, and a package of flights from Robert Lickley at bmi and a hotel package organised by Stuart Birkwood at the Sheraton went to Rachel Start. The Crowne Plaza and the drive experience at the BIC in Bahrain proved attractive to Marcus Cleverton with Laura Cox bidding to win both the Olayan donated laptop and the nas flights to Jeddah. Other winning bids

were made by Gordon and Pat Nisbet, Rob & Monika Wood, Deidre Marshall and Simon Ward. The Maaden donation of a Pet Rock from the Muad Al Dib Gold mine proved as popular as ever as did several ‘baby’ rocks sold as souvenirs of the evening.

Quite the most magnificent donation however was a package put together by Erik Huyer and the Alkhozama Hotel, who catered the event, and H.E. Jan Thesleff the Swedish Ambassador who offered a splendid dinner evening at his residence where Mike & Dave, who entertained the three hundred, also provided entertainment for the evening. The ‘syndicate’ with the winning bid are featured in the photograph bottom right.

The Swedish Ambassador’s waistcoat, donated at the 2009 Fundraiser and won by Noura Al Haider found its way back onto the auction list this year and raised another SR5000 on the night and the team from BAE with their green baize tables collected another useful amount.

The RGBB who had administered the SABB/VISA donated prize of tickets to attend the World Cup Final in South Africa pulled in SR165,000 by the time the tickets were drawn on the evening. Particular thanks should go to Marcus Cleverton from SABB who brought the whole FIFA/SABB/VISA package together.

It’s a testament to the ICE Maidens persuasive skills that although pockets had been well and truly emptied by the Football draw they were still successful with the usual raffle. Andrea Corbett, Alex Gray, Helen Bowen, Trish McPoland, Tina Cleverton, Caroline Bell, Natalie Wienand, Kirsty Edwards, Rachel Start and Amanda Richardson did some amazing work to pull another SR48,000 in ticket sales from the guests on the evening.

Gary Richardson, Phil Pannel, Hugh Crouch & Ian Crawford joined with Luke and Andrew to make the evening work and as a few of Roger Harrison’s photographs show even the rain couldn’t wash out the enthusiasm for a party.

ICING was begun a few years ago, as a mechanism for the British community to show they were prepared to give something back to the country that has given many of them a good living. But it seems to be growing beyond the original concept. Many individuals who couldn’t actually make it to the evening donated prizes of goods and services to assist in generating funds. Many of the sponsors who donated so generously and many of the guests who ‘shelled-out’ on the night are from a whole host of countries. At least a dozen different nationalities were sat around the tables in the garden this year.

Half a million riyals is an incredible amount for the community to donate in one evening and I offer my sincere apologies to all those who helped achieve it and who I’ve failed to mention in these few paragraphs.

We’ll tell you what we do with the money in the next edition of the RGBB News.

Andrew Mead