

# Notes from the Eastern Chair



**Geoff Fennah MBE**  
Chairman, British Business Association Eastern Province

Summer is here and the temperature is over 45 degrees C and I expect many are drifting off for their long awaited vacations. It certainly continues to be a hectic year with Eastern Province continuing to be very busy and clearly not hit as badly by the recession as other places. We have also had the added distraction of the General Election and the installation of a new Government and now look forward to the World Cup. Come on England.

Sadly we said goodbye to HM Ambassador Sir William Patey KCMG and Lady Patey who left Kingdom prematurely to accept a new challenge in Afghanistan. For sure they will be missed for their contribution across the Kingdom over recent years. I know Sir William welcomes the opportunity to make a difference in this Afghanistan and we wish him every success in this new venture.

Turning to the Association, I am pleased to report that the Committee was returned to office unopposed at the AGM in April. Membership is currently running at 160 with new applications coming in every month. The Jubail group, led by George Dinic, continues to be active and hold regular monthly dinners including a very pleasant evening recently at Jim's in Bahrain.

On the business side, our successful series of

monthly dinners continue to be very popular and in May we welcomed Mike Eddison of the Society of Will Writers who provided an excellent review of the considerations and pitfalls to be aware of when planning your estate. A morbid subject but nonetheless relevant to everyone.

In March, the British Trade Office hosted the third Saudi-British Business Week and what a fantastic event it turned out to be. Almost 60 UK businesses participated in the event and preliminary indications are that some useful opportunities were identified. The BBA contribution to the week was a Celebrity Dinner with football legend Tommy Docherty as guest of honour. Tommy turned out to be quite a character and very entertaining with everyone in attendance having a memorable evening. It was pleasing to raise over SR28,000 which was donated to the International Children in Need Group (ICING) charity. Congratulations to the British Trade Office, Al-Khobar on a very successful week. I know that they all put a tremendous amount of effort into the arrangements and deserved the success.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the BBA or need to contact us then feel free to call me directly, send an e-mail to our Secretary (Pamela) at [bbakhobar@ather.net.sa](mailto:bbakhobar@ather.net.sa) or via the website [www.bbaep.com](http://www.bbaep.com)

Pictures - Clockwise from right.

Geoff Fennah with Tommy Dochery at the BBA celebrity Dinner evening in March.

Dr Abdullah Dabbagh, CEO Maaden, who addressed the monthly meeting in February.

HMA Sir William Patey and Neil Wilson from the BTO inspecting some of the exhibitor materials at the Eastern Province Chamber of Commerce event

Anita Wakefield from Cambridge College with Mumtaz Abdullah from the BTO during Saudi British Business Week

