



Mick Brown
Chairman
RGBB

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members

By the time you read this, all of us should have our batteries recharged after a summer break, but then you realize that we are half way through my tenure as Chairman. This naturally makes one reflect on what the Board has achieved and what challenges still are to be met.

First achievements.

- The membership at the time of writing stands at 220. This hides the effort made by Luke Bowen since we have lost 46 members through members leaving the Kingdom etc. but we have gained 55 in new members.
- The Embassy briefings are more structured and more informative.
- The charity fund raiser in June was unprecedented in its success and we will start the process of selecting our scholar. Your ideas on who that should be are as always welcome.
- The BDC has grown significantly with the formation of the Petrochemical and Healthcare SIG's. I am convinced that a strong and active SIG's are the future of our organization.
- The help we did in redesigning of the Warden's Network that will ensure quick and efficient information flow when needed.

Secondly the Challenges ahead.

- Continue to grow the membership across the spectrum from the decision makers to the technical experts who are all promoting Britain Plc and at the same time helping in the continuing development of Saudi Arabia.

- A new initiative being launched by Dr David Burton.
- Continue to improve the interaction with Trade Partners UK.

I would like to say a few more words on David's initiative. The Board has agreed with the following objectives:

1. There is agreement that the RGBB should try to generate sustainable dialogue with the Saudi constituency, and to establish itself as a credible and trustworthy partner and point of reference on bilateral commercial issues.
2. The focus of most bilateral interest will be business, and the likely focus for that interaction within the RGBB will be the BDC and its SIGs. The most likely natural (but not exclusive) partner on the Saudi side would be the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Specific SIGs may have additional sector-specific natural partners. How might it work?
3. Any contact with Saudis must add value to the membership, and support (not duplicate or interfere with) external relations work undertaken by David Hodgkinson. It is unlikely to work, or to be sustainable, if it remains on an ad hoc basis. There must be some structure!

An action plan is in place and you can be assured that you will be hearing much more about this in the weeks to come. As always if you have ideas for this or for the Board in general do not necessarily wait until the Embassy brief to express them, email us at secretary@rgbb.com

Finally I would like to thank Sir Derek Plumbly, Philip Parham and the entire Embassy staff for their support and encouragement. In this ever changing and challenging environment a strong and supportive British Community will ensure that we are successful in our individual endeavors whether that relates to our business or social lives in the coming times.

COVER
IMAGE



The Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM, First Minister for Wales, stepped up to the mark to launch this years Charity Golf Tournament. Watched by a crowd of more than a hundred fellow golfers, the visiting Mr Morgan displayed considerable composure to drive his first ball over a hundred yards down the fairway.