



**Mick Brown
Chairman
RGBB**

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Member,

I trust you and your family had a peaceful summer break. I think we all needed it. I also deduce with 850 plus children back at the British School that many of you have returned with your families; that gives me a good feeling because I was afraid that Riyadh would become a community of bachelors. I hope that the efforts of our Saudi Hosts (and they have been considerable) will enable us to continue to rebuild the trust, and get us back where we were a year ago. On the topic of security, please check regularly the Embassy web site www.ukm.org.sa plus that of the FCO site in London www.fco.gov.uk/travel and follow the advice. I know it can be tiresome but it's for your own safety and that of your family.

I would like to welcome the new Ambassador Sherard Cowper-Coles; he comes to Saudi Arabia from his last posting as Her Majesty's Ambassador to Israel. Having already had the opportunity to meet him, he is an Arabist of distinction and I am sure he will do exceptionally well in promoting UK plc. With the experience of his previous position he will bring a unique insight to the troubles (and hopefully solutions) in the Middle East. He has kindly agreed to attend our next Embassy brief on the 8th November; so put it in your dairy now.

Barry Lowen arrived in the summer to take over from Philip Parham. Barry too is an Arabist and was previously responsible for the Middle East at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. Many of you have already met him at the previous Embassy brief in September.

As for our organisation, I want to concentrate on three themes.

Firstly; put back the "buzz" we had in the organisation ten months ago before all this madness began.



The new British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia was among the speakers at the RGBB Briefing in November. About 100 members attended the event



Secondly; push to regain the lost members. We are currently down to 214 and I suspect this number will reduce further as and when memberships fall due.

Thirdly; re-engage the organisation both socially and commercially. We have restarted the social evenings and we have to redouble our efforts to re-engage the Government and Saudi managers and decision makers. May 12th has had a terrible affect on us and we have to put that behind us; otherwise the "bad guys" will have won!!

I look forward to your support especially regarding the membership drive; if each one of us enlists one extra member then our numbers will rise to over 400, it's that simple.

My best regards to you and your families

Mick



Ian Crawford, (pictured left) the newest member of the RGBB to step up to the plate is a Senior Maintenance and Training Manager with BAE SYSTEMS in Riyadh.

Elected unopposed at the EGM in November, Ian's "Candidates Profile" contained the following paragraph:

Given the length of time I have spent in KSA, I have an understanding of both business and social activities in Riyadh. There is a whole raft of business personnel in Riyadh who even though eligible still fail to take advantage of the Group. I would hope through being a Board Member that I can contribute sufficiently to see the membership increase.