



FROM THE CHAIR

For those readers who may not have realized, Martin Shaw departed Riyadh a few months ago to a challenging new job in Qatar, resulting in the writer taking over as Chairman of the RGBB. We wish Martin well in his new position and thank him for the huge amount of work he put into the RGBB during his time in Riyadh.

Several other board changes have also been necessary and I'm pleased to report that board vacancies have been now been filled with the enthusiastic members alongside who bring with them a wealth of experience across a variety of disciplines.

Despite the many changes, life in Riyadh, since our last magazine in the Summer, continues to be interesting, to say the least! Issues both large and small have had to be addressed, debated and decided. Certainly not the least of these has been the name change of the Group.

Although the RGBB will continue to be known as the RGBB, the small print has been amended. To widen the appeal of the group and to a degree underline the 'raison d'être', we shall henceforth be known as The Riyadh Group for British Business.

To many of course we will always be the 'Argy-Bargy', and it's interesting to look up many of the alternative dictionary definitions of the phrase. The American Heritage dictionary defines the term as "*Chiefly British Slang – A lively or disputatious discussion*". Well, we certainly have a few of those on the board, but hopefully, the name change will also rub off on those who still think that the group consists mainly of "*tired old fuddy-duddies*" rather than the assemblage of energetic, dynamic, vibrant members of society I know you to be!

As the cover of the magazine so clearly demonstrates, the RGBB can be a very effective force. The tremendous support, you the members, gave to the Cricket Ball when we raised over SR50,000 for ICING, has already resulted in the provision of a school in Basra. (more pictures on page 21). At the October Charity Fundraiser pictured on the center spread another SR40,000 was raised for ICING which will be used to support the Downs Syndrome Society here in Riyadh.

As this issue goes to press, arrangements for the annual Festive Dinner are being finalised, and we are looking forward to a full & active social calendar for 2005.

As your new Chairman, I certainly intend that that the reputation of the RGBB shall continue to be 'lively', let's trust it will not be too 'disputatious'! In case I don't see you at the next event I'd like to wish all readers both old & new the very best of Seasons Greetings, and peace and prosperity for you and yours in 2005.



Luke Bowen
Chairman



Ian Crawford
Deputy Chairman &
SME's



Bill Nicolson
Treasurer



Public Relations
Jim Milne



Owain Raw-Rees
Events



Peter Howarth-Lees
Membership



Chris Murray
External Liaison



Chris Maybury
BDC Chairman



Gareth O'Brien
Embassy Representative