

# BDC NOTES



Since our last News Letter of the summer, we have seen some significant changes within the RGBB, both within the board and the members in general.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2004 I received the honour and privilege of being elected to the Chair of the BDC. I now look forward to working with the board, the Embassy and the individual SIGs in an attempt to re-establish the BDC as a useful and viable entity, within the RGBB. Meanwhile, I wish to thank Gordon Blackwood for keeping things together during the difficult times when members were dropping out until he also was moved elsewhere.

As a new boy ("old" member) the tasks and effort needed to re-build the BDC look formidable but in reality, can be done with a systematic and measured approach. We need to start at the grass roots of the membership by asking members new and old to be re-assess their expectations of their RGBB membership and to declare their "Special Interests".

For example, you may be an accountant working in the Aviation field, or an I.T. expert working in Construction. Personally, I have had interests in several of the SIGs and actively supported four of them. It can be a lot of fun and, who knows, you may even get some business benefits through shared interests.

The BDC has always enjoyed a productive exchange of information with the Commercial Section of the Embassy. In the past few years, Gareth O'Brien has been representing the Embassy and hosting the BDC meetings. Gareth is also moving on and will be a tough act to follow.

In spite of the relatively strong value of the pound sterling, UK trade with Saudi Arabia continues to thrive and we, as members of the RGBB, can sustain and improve this through our individual and collective actions.

Support the RGBB by encouraging more members, support the SIGs by joining the groups that appeal to you, support the bi-monthly Embassy briefings, support the Social and Charity functions and support the Trade Missions. At a recent poll, the membership voiced the opinion that the business environment and prospects for British Trade were improving within the Kingdom. However, we all need to reinforce the effort to win back some of those nice oil dollars.

At the time of these notes, the special interests groups are listed as:

- Aviation
- Communications / Information Technology
- Construction
- Financial
- Human Resources
- Oil, Gas Petrochem, Power and Water
- Security

There was a Healthcare Group which struggled a bit but with the positive move to recruit more Lady Members into the RGBB, I can foresee a growth in Healthcare interest emerging soon.



Chris Maybury  
BDC Chairman  
RGBB