



# FROM THE CHAIR

## Record Membership

At the time of writing our membership stands at its highest figure ever, hovering around the 260 member mark, which reflects the amount of time and effort that has been put into the Group by my colleagues on the Board. Of the total membership, encouraged we hope by the change of name, just under 5% are ladies working in Riyadh and we are confident that this percentage will continue to grow.

We believe that the concerted effort that has been made to present the RGBB as an organization that welcomes all those who share the common aim of promoting UK Plc, with a dash of enlightened self-interest of course, has really borne fruit.

A special mention must go to Andrew Mead, who manages to knock contributions of sometimes variable quality into the stylish and professional publication that we see today as well as taking the majority of the photographs (...*enough grovelling...Ed*). This is the first edition that new committee member Nick Oakes has been involved with in his Public Relations role and we look forward to Nick taking some of the heat off Andrew in securing advertising and content for future editions.

In May, Owain Raw Rees and his team organised a Charity Fundraising Dinner which thanks to generosity of all those who attended, raised over SR 130,000 for ICING, which will go directly to projects to help children, a big thank-you to all concerned. This was followed in June by another Raw Rees extravaganza, the RGBB Summer ball. Held in the delightful surroundings of the best garden in Riyadh, a gentle breeze ensured that an excellent time was had by all.

The programme of "Special Briefings" have continued to attract capacity audiences, in June Saad Bin Dhaffer of STC gave an enlightening presentation on "Telecoms in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Saudi Arabia", followed after the summer break by Mohammed Sarhan, Chief Operating Officer of The Al Faisaliah Group, who gave a thought provoking talk on the Al Safi-Danone the JV Story.

We are pleased to announce that future speakers include HH Prince Abdullah Bin Faisal bin Turki speaking on the Investment Climate in Saudi Arabia in November and Khaled Al Maena editor of Arab News who will give a presentation entitled "Saudi Arabia after 9/11" in December.

We would like to thank SABB for their generous sponsorship of these events, which will cease at the end of this year. We believe that the formula involving interesting speakers, followed by networking opportunities over a buffet supper is a winning one. We would like to hear from members who have suggestions for speakers in 2007 and from companies who would like to take advantage of the opportunities available to sponsor one of these events. Please contact Nigel Astbury or myself for more details.

For those of you who enjoy chasing the little white ball around the countryside, there will be an RGBB v ABGR (American Business Group of Riyadh) golf tournament on 19<sup>th</sup> October, when we look forward to a result at least as good as at this year's Ryder Cup!

Last but certainly not least we would like you all to extend a warm welcome Adele Kerlin who has taken over the position of Secretary to the Group. Adele can be reached at [secretary@rgbb.org](mailto:secretary@rgbb.org) or at the Embassy on Saturdays.



Luke Bowen  
Chairman



Ian Crawford  
Deputy Chairman



Bill Nicolson



Nick Oakes



Owain Raw-Rees



Graeme Douglas



Nigel Astbury



Chris Maybury



Sharon Wardle