



FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the last RGBB News of 2007. With our membership now standing at over 300, I'm very pleased to report that the RGBB is alive, well and most definitely kicking.

Not least of the reasons for our success has been the tremendous series of special briefings arranged primarily by Nigel Astbury, though I suspect Nigel would like to say that several others have also been involved in making things happen. The most recent of these is covered within the pages of this edition.

Speakers for briefings in the first half of 2008 are already being lined up and we look forward to a full programme of interesting speakers and fascinating subjects.

The next date for your diary is 5th December 2007 when we will be holding the RGBB Festive Gala dinner. I'm sorry to say that with our increasing membership numbers some of you may well be disappointed but please remember that our resources are limited and do try to respond quickly when future notices go out.

Community events in Riyadh continue at a pace and I'm delighted to see that several organisations are offering places to RGBB members where space allows. The Village Fete, also reported on in this issue was a tremendous success and full-marks to all who were involved in the set-up of that wonderful day.

Across the region, our relations with the BBA in Alkhobar and the BBBF in Bahrain continue to be extended. As Geoff Fennah says in his letter on page 3, it was good to get together in London at an event promoting British business in the Kingdom and we look forward to hearing more about the current initiatives being introduced by both business groups in due course.

As I'm sure you all know by now, the RGBB is 'managed' by the members, for the members, and under the constitution both Ian Crawford and I will be standing down from our respective positions at the next AGM. In order for the Group to continue to improve we do need some 'new-

blood' to come forward and join in the committee process. Even if you do not wish to stand for election, please do attend the AGM and place your vote. On a personal note I'd like to put on record my thanks to both past & present Board members as well as the membership at large for their support since I've been in the Chair.

Looking forward to the New Year I see there is already a crop of events building up in the Diary. Keep your eyes peeled for details of the Spring Golf Day, for example, that we hope to announce shortly. The annual ICING fundraiser, the St Georges Day Ball and of course the RGBB Summer Ball, are already on the organisers lists of things to do. Owain Raw-Rees has continued to perform over and above the call of duty behind the scenes at so many of these events, all of which have extended the networking opportunities for RGBB members and been reported on in various editions of this magazine.

And with mention of the magazine I must add a word of special thanks to our advertisers. Although our costs are kept well below that for 'commercial' publishing, the magazine can only continue with the financial contribution from those companies who have been prepared to show their support for the RGBB by taking space in each edition. A full page advert costs only SR3000 which means it costs you less than SR2 per head to get your message to some of the most important people in the Kingdom. *(By that of course I mean you the readers.)*

I see as well that the RGBB Camera has been put to good use both in KSA and the UK for this edition with our very own member of the 'paparazzi' being invited to a few prestigious venues for some special shots during the recent State Visit. Watch out for the 'By Royal Appointment' to appear on Mister Mead's business cards!

In closing I wish you all the very best of Season's Greetings and a very happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year.

with best regards

Luke Bowen
Chairman RGBB



Luke Bowen
Chairman



Ian Crawford
Deputy Chairman



Bill Nicholson



Nick Oakes



Owain Raw-Rees



Graeme Douglas



Nigel Astbury



Chris Maybury



Sharon Wardle