

British Business Association – Eastern Province

16 May 2017

Members' Update

Dear BBA Member

AGM and New Committee

A very successful AGM was held on Wednesday 5 April 2017 with members turning out in good numbers. Formal business was transacted smoothly, and all attendees enjoyed an excellent dinner afterwards courtesy of Rezayat Catering. Formal minutes will be available in due course.

A new Committee was elected at the AGM, comprising the following members who will serve until the 2018 AGM:

Chairman – Gary Hawkings
General Secretary – Edward Rose
Treasurer – Stuart Neilson
Membership Secretary – Ben Jones
Saudi Aramco Liaison – David Burck
Business Development – Keith Stephen
Social Secretary – Umar Khan

Plus

Chairman of the Jubail Committee – Daniel Gorman
BTO - Two Representatives (ex-officio).

(Please note that Gary Hawkings and Umar Khan were nominated to the vacant positions of Chairman and Social Secretary (respectively) shortly after the AGM, and were then invited by the Committee to take up these roles.)

At the AGM, we were delighted to nominate George Dinic as an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his many years' of service to the BBA(EP) in the role of Chairman of the Jubail Committee, on the BBA Committee, and as a BBA member. The appropriate resolution was passed in support of this nomination, and George now joins the list of those who have been duly recognised as having given exceptional service to the organisation. Congratulations!

Attendees at the AGM will recall that the audit of the 2016-17 accounts had not quite been completed by the date of the AGM. The audit has since been finalised, and the Committee is pleased to notify members that the BBA's accounts show a healthy cash surplus (with no material matters to report). Members who wish to obtain a copy of the audited accounts for the period to 31 March 2017 may apply to the BBA Secretary.

Business focus

As ever, the new Committee will work hard to ensure that members have available to them a wide programme of business and social events for the coming 12 months.

A particular aim will be to broaden the number of business-oriented Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in operation. Any member should feel free to contact the Committee's Business Development member (Keith Stephen) in order to organise a SIG on any topic relevant to business in the Eastern Province. The existing Oil & Gas SIG will continue, a new Major Projects SIG is being launched, and we are hopeful that SIGs focused on the RAK Maritime Project, IKTVA, the power sector, and the retail sector will get underway.

A flyer about the first meeting of the Major Projects SIG will be issued shortly.

Venues

Members are asked to note that, as the result of the British Trade Office moving from the Oasis compound in coming months (not least on the basis of recent security advice), 50A is no longer available to external organisations for the holding of large-scale functions. The BBA(EP) is very grateful to Steve Graham and his predecessors for such generous access to 50A over the years; the use of the house and garden has been a huge bonus to us.

The new Committee is already seeking to identify other suitable venues for our events; could members please let us know if they have ideas for appropriate locations in and around Alkhobar? As a result of this change and the on-set of Ramadhan, please note that there is unlikely to be a major social event during May or June. We are planning to set up a business dinner within the next fortnight, however.

Gary Hawkings, Chairman

Edward Rose, General Secretary