

British Business Association – Eastern Province

[24] May 2015

Members' Update

Dear BBA Member

The following provides an update about recent and forthcoming BBA activities:

1. Annual General Meeting. A successful AGM was held on Monday 27 April 2015. Full minutes will be made available in due course. However, in summary, the AGM received a report on membership numbers, approved the Treasurer's report for the year, and elected a new BBA committee.
2. BBA committee. As from 27 April, the new BBA committee comprises the following members:

Geoff Fennah (Chairman) – FENNAG@saudichevron.com

Ben Jones (Membership) – ben.jones@wilhelmsen.com

Danial Shaikh (BTO, ex-officio) - Danial.Shaikh@fco.gov.uk

George Dinic (Jubail Committee Chairman) - dinicg@rcjubail.gov.sa

Gary Hawkings (Saudi Aramco Liaison) - gary.hawkings@aramco.com

Bob Lee (Treasurer) - rlee@enermech.com

Steve Graham (BTO, ex-officio) - Steve.Graham@fco.gov.uk

Edward Rose (General Secretary) – erose@jonesday.com

Jeff Stewart (Business Development & SIGs) - Jeff.Stewart@sa.eagleburgmann.com

Vacant (Events) – *one position remains unfilled.*

The new committee held its first meeting on Monday 18 May and, amongst other things, agreed to conduct a survey of the BBA membership in order to help establish how the BBA can best serve its members. The survey will seek to obtain feedback about what members want the BBA to offer and to collect new ideas, especially about promoting networking.

The survey will mostly likely be conducted in the autumn once members are back from their summer holidays. The overall aims are to ensure that future BBA activities continue to attract existing and potential new members, and to ensure that British business interests are promoted as effectively as possible across the Eastern Province. As part of this process, the purpose of the roles assigned to committee members may be adjusted if that will help make the work of the committee more relevant.

BBA members employed by Saudi Aramco should note that Gary Hawkings has agreed to act as the committee liaison for Aramco members. This is a first for the committee and an important step in creating close links with the world's largest national oil company.

Please feel free to contact any committee member with thoughts about the BBA's objectives and potential future initiatives. Contributions from all BBA members are always welcome; it is your organisation.

3. UKTI. On 18 May, the committee was also addressed by Vic Annells, the Director of UK Trade & Industry (UKTI) based at the British Embassy, Riyadh. Vic noted that UKTI is expecting a strong focus on the UK-GCC business relationship by the new UK Government.
4. Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Last year the BBA launched a SIGs initiative. A successful Oil & Gas Industry SIG has been up and running over recent months. Jeff Stewart will be emailing all members with a reminder about the SIGs initiative, with the aim of generating interest in members leading and forming further SIGs. Please let Jeff know if you have ideas for a SIG or would like to participate in an existing SIG.
5. Current events
 - **Friday 12 June** - The BBBF has invited the BBA to co-host a Golf Day in Bahrain to help say farewell to the out-going British Ambassador there. An email has been sent to BBA members about forming teams and giving arrangements for this event.
 - **Tuesday 16 June** - A BBA Business Dinner will take place at 19hrs, to be held indoors at 50A Oasis Gardens by kind permission of Steve Graham. Stephen Joseph of Bechtel will speak about the Royal Commission Jubail's plans for a new Logistics Park. An invitation, with full details, has been issued by email to members. Numbers will be limited due to space constraints and places will be allocated on a "first-reply, first-served" basis, so please sign up promptly.
 - The June dinner will be the first in a planned programme of quarterly Business Dinners, each to be addressed by a speaker. More details will be announced in due course.
 - **Oil & Gas SIG** – Jeff Stewart is arranging a meeting provisionally for the evening of Monday 15 June. Please contact Jeff [Jeff.Stewart@sa.eagleburgmann.com] if you are interested in attending.
6. BBA office. Please be aware that the BBA office will be closed for the duration of the summer from **Monday 25 May until Monday 7 September**. Rachel will be in the office on Monday 25 May, so if you need to see her, please visit the office between 09.00 – 11.30hrs. Up until 16.00hrs on that Monday, Rachel will be available on the mobile telephone number below also. After this time the mobile number will be switched off (as it is a personal one) and will not be turned on until Monday 7 September. Contact details: Rachael Routledge, BBA Secretary, Tel: 013 8825629, Mob: 059 7112644 (Sunday – Thursday 09.00 until 16.00hrs), Email: secretary@bbaep.org .

The committee hopes all members have a relaxed and enjoyable summer, and looks forward to welcoming everyone back in late August / early September. We will update members further about events for the new business season.

Geoff Fennah, Chairman

Edward Rose, General Secretary