

Message from British Chamber CEO, David Dawson

Dear Member

Welcome to this first issue of our Chamber Newsletter.

Once a quarter, it will keep you, our members and friends, in touch with the Chamber's activities and events through concise and relevant articles that you can read through in less time than it takes to drink a cup of coffee.

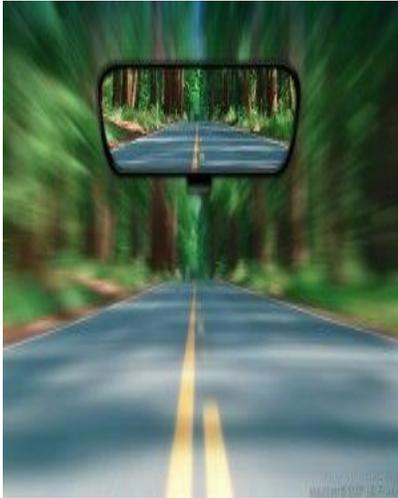
I've recently spent time in the UK, meeting with our regional counterparts in the London, Surrey, Hull, Manchester, Birmingham and West Midlands Chambers of Commerce. Be assured, interest in South Africa from UK companies remains high and your Chamber is committed to assisting those companies and, where appropriate, connecting them to Chamber members who can support their entry into this challenging and dynamic market.



I look forward to seeing you at a Chamber event in Johannesburg or Cape Town soon, and I hope you'll 'spread the word' and encourage others in your networks to join us. And finally - please do let us know what you think of the newsletter!

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.



One Year On...

Since its official launch in April 2014, the Chamber has made steady progress. Our first AGM took place in August 2014, and the new Board of Directors sat for the first time in September. Since June 2014, the Chamber has been represented in Cape Town by Eimear Costigan, who is based at the British Consulate. Our membership numbers are approaching 70 and the level of member engagement in both locations has been encouraging. Much work has been done to raise the Chamber's profile in the media and 2014 saw articles published in *Business Day* and *Financial Mail*, with David Dawson also being interviewed on CNBC Africa. Our ongoing

advocacy work aims to effect positive change in the business environment for our collective and particular interests and for society at large. The Chamber is truly becoming the voice of British Business in South Africa.

British Business Centre

The British Chamber will launch a **British Business Centre** in Sandton towards the end of this year, in partnership with Chamber Sterling member, Barclays Bank. As well as being the new home of the British Chamber team, the Centre will provide a focal point for members and a physical hub of British business activity in South Africa. The Centre will offer hot-desking and meeting facilities to visiting UK companies and indeed Chamber members. In the meantime we have relocated to the Barclays Africa Campus. Please see the end of this newsletter for our new contact details.





British Chamber Events

Our calendar of monthly Business Briefings at the Inanda Club, Illovo is now well-established and well-attended. Speakers in 2015 have included Zweli Mkhize, Treasurer-General of the ANC, Prof Nick Binedell, Dean of GIBS and Robbie Brozin, Co-Founder of Nandos. We look forward to welcoming new DA leader Mmusi Maimane next week. Cape Town members have enjoyed a varied programme of events at locations as diverse as the High Commissioner's Bishopscourt residence and on board HMS Dragon, a British warship visiting the V & A Waterfront! See the Chamber website for [upcoming events](#) and [photos](#) of previous events, and check our Save the Dates

below...

Membership Update

Membership currently stands at almost 70 and we are targeting 100 by year end. The Chamber is only as strong as its members' network so we encourage you to introduce companies that meet our membership criteria: any British or South African company engaged in and promoting the bilateral trade relationship between our two countries. We welcome the following recently approved members: **Aggreko, Allen & Overy, Avanti Communications, Baker & Mckenzie, BCD Travel, Mace Group, Odgers Berndtson, Santa Fe, Shell, Statucor, Taxability, The Saxon Hotel and Virgin Atlantic.**



Save the Date:
Johannesburg
Members' Business Briefing with Mmusi



Save the Date:
Cape Town
Chamber Networking Event with Tim Harris



Look out for...
...the British Chamber's full page ad in July's *High Life*, British

Maimane 16th July,
Inanda Club.

(Wesgro) 27th August,
Cape Town Club.

Airways' in-flight
magazine.

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