

**Message from British Chamber CEO, David Dawson**

Dear Member

Greetings from the British Chamber, with this, our Second Newsletter.

Spring has arrived in South Africa and the Rugby World Cup is well under way in an autumnal England, which is shaping up to be one of the most exciting and competitive competitions in memory.

As most of you will be aware, we held a successful AGM in September and the commitment and support of members in this regard is appreciated.

Over the past quarter, the Chamber has held interesting and well attended Briefings in Johannesburg and Cape Town and at the end of September, a reception on board HMS Lancaster in Cape Town coincided with the SA vs Samoa Rugby match, an important event if ever there was one. Please keep an eye on your inbox for additional Chamber invitations, including the Members' Gala Dinner in November.

We look forward to a visit from the Lord Mayor of London in October, and also Baroness Scotland the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to South Africa. There will be a Bilateral Forum in London in October and this will provide an opportunity to raise, at Ministerial level, some of the issues concerning the business community.

Best Wishes



**There's something EXTRAORDINARY developing at the Waterfront**

...Ben Coster – Project Director at MACE showed us around The Grain Silo project in Cape Town.

A project of staggering complexity, Principal Agent and Project Manager MACE are currently overseeing the carving out of the centre of forty-two 33 meter high concrete tubes to create a unique, industrial yet state of the art space to house the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary African Art ([MOCAA](http://MOCAA.com)).

The development has been designed by the internationally renowned architect Thomas Heatherwick. The London based architect and his team's vision, was to create a world class art gallery that would rival the likes of The Tate Modern, London or Metropolitan in

New York.

The Grain Silo complex will also house: PWC's African headquarters, a Radisson Blue hotel, a restaurant and sculpture garden, a Virgin gym, apartments, an extensive car park and retail space. The cocktail bar at the top of the Silo building will boast the best views in Cape Town and it will definitely be the place to see and be seen. It is testament to the quality of work on such a challenging build, that Chamber members MACE have an outstanding safety record of 2 million hours without death/injury. Originally built in 1921 the redevelopment is due for completion at the end of 2016.

## **Chamber member cycles the length of Great Britain**

Reaching half a century is cause for celebration. For Chamber member Nick Kendall of Capability Group it was a reason to set himself a personal challenge, to cycle from Lands End to John O' Groats an impressive 1,587km (including occasional circular detours!). Nick started planning the trip about 6 months ahead and had a detailed plan for each of the 11 days. Maps of the back roads and canal paths that he was predominantly following were downloaded onto his trusty iPhone, B&B's booked along the route and arrangements made to call family daily to let them know all was OK. Unfortunately Nick's phone died as he left Land's End car park, leaving him to navigate by the sun!

### **I asked Nick what were your defining memories of the expedition?**

The UK really is a green and pleasant land. I was impressed by the contrast of village life and life in the big industrial cities. The true remoteness of some houses, people who are living (almost) off the map in the Scottish highlands. The warmth of the people I met along the way.

### **What was your hardest day?**

Day 2, I got lost on the outskirts of Bodmin. I arrived at a Post Office and asked directions to Tiverton. Cycling through the wind and rain, passing sheep and cows and some more sheep, along unsigned, narrow roads, 1 ½ hours later I arrived back at the same post office! I was wet, cold, bedraggled and I still had 80 miles to ride that day. The Post Office lady was rather embarrassed and offered me a map!

### **Would you do it again?**

It was very do-able and I am keen to do something similar, perhaps Cape Town to Joburg? However there are two things I would do differently. I would publicise my trip to raise money for charity and next time I would like to travel in a small group to share the experience.

**If you are inspired by Nick's adventure you can read more on his Facebook page:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/kendall50cycle>



## 8th Rugby World Cup 2015



Saturday 26th September, Chamber members had an unforgettable evening watching South Africa vs Samoa on the flight deck of HMS Lancaster, which was docked at the V&A Waterfront, Cape Town. The cheers reverberated around the ship as Rugby fans watched the match live from Villa Park, Birmingham. From the ship, Rugby fans headed to the V&A to watch England vs Wales. At the end of the evening, South Africa and Welsh fans were elated, alas disappointment for English and Samoan fans.

## Membership Update

Membership currently stands at 75 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: **Virgin Atlantic, UK Food Emporium, Toll Group, SDV, Clarke Energy, Bahlaloga Technology, Awakening Excellence, JSE, Ascon Africa and Vodacom**



**Save the Date:** Members' Business Briefing on the 27th of October at the Inanda Club.



### Look out for...

...the British Chamber's Member of the Month on our website:  
<http://britcham.co.za/member-of-the-month>

**British Chamber of Business in Southern Africa**



**Gauteng**

15 Alice Lane, Sandton, Johannesburg 2196

**+27 10 245 4788**

**+27 21 418 3764**

**Cape Town**

c/o British Consulate 15th Floor, Norton Rose House, 8 Riebeeck St, Foreshore, Cape Town 8001

[info@britcham.co.za](mailto:info@britcham.co.za)

[www.britcham.co.za](http://www.britcham.co.za)

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