



Chair's Report to the BBCA AGM - 18th May 2017

Introduction

The BBCA continues to go strong in its role as an umbrella group for the British/English-speaking community and remains in good shape financially. Since the last AGM, there have been a couple of changes in our committee. Alexandra Rogers and Tony Enevoldson have left the committee and we thank them for all their hard work and personal commitment to the Association.

Chair	Caroline Laske
Vice chair	Rex Parker
Secretary	Glenn Vaughan
Treasurer	Christopher Thubron
Membership	Stuart Dowsett
Communication	Tim Reynolds
Website	Jeremy Dixson
Social Secretary	Nikki Hayes Janssens
	Tracie Ryan
	Ed Cutting
	Miguel Toledano
	Sara Leventhall
	Glynis Whiting

Highlights since May 2015

- Summer Pimms Party kindly hosted by Tracie Ryan was a sunny and wonderful event (June 2016).
- The Christmas reception at the British Residence with the British Chamber of Commerce was, as usual, a festive occasion at which Ambassador Rose presented the charity donations of €5500 for the year to the British Charitable Fund, the Community Help Service, the Royal British Legion and the Wednesday Club. (December 2016).
- The now well-established Presidents Group reception was much appreciated by all who attended and it is an event that appears to be gaining momentum (January 2017).
- A Practical Brexit seminar organised by the British Chamber in collaboration with the BBCA on the topic of employing EEA and non EEA nationals in Belgium (February 2017).

Future challenges and events:

- Thanks to the strategy review of the BBCA, the committee has undertaken a fundamental rethink of what the Association stands for and what it is trying to achieve. In view of the limited resources in both time and funding, it was decided to concentrate on the following priorities. For each point a task force was put in place:
 - Brexit: how best to help the community with Brexit related questions
 - Communication: how to improve communication and reach the largest possible part of the community
 - Britcham: closer collaboration
 - Events
 - DORB
- membership: growing and retaining. So far, only one payment request was sent, which explains the slightly lower figures for 2017. Payment reminders will be sent out shortly.

17-May-17		Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
Members Numbers	Active	2017	2016	2015	2014
constituent group	42	20	36	33	29
family	39	14	25	24	26
single person	69	29	41	42	33
student	0	0	1	0	0
Totals:		63	103	99	89
		42%	67%	61%	57%

- Leveraging our support networks to help maximise projects, event participation and fundraising activities.
- Continue to redraw the BBCA's future financial and donation strategies.
- Practical Brexit information evening: Tuesday 23rd May at 6pm at the ING Auditorium
- Pimms Midsummer Party: Sunday 18th June.
- Christmas reception with the British Chamber.

Thanks:

- To our supporters and their leaders, whose commitment is key to our annual donations for charity:
 - patron supporters : Fry Group, ING;
 - corporate supporters: British Chamber, BDO, Eurocity, BSB.
- Donations, in particular BICS (film club).
- To our President, Ambassador Rose, for her support and the help from her staff, as well as that of Vice Consul Sara Leventhall.
- To the British Chamber, notably Glenn Vaughan.
- To our committee - this wonderful team of dedicated volunteers.

Outlook:

It is positive, but much work still needs to be done. We hope to increase participation in our core group of activists to further realize the full potential of the BBCA.

We also hope that the BBCA continues to be regarded as a priority partner for the Embassy, and a resource in reaching out to one of the Embassy's key constituencies, the British community in Belgium.

Thanks to the British Chamber of Commerce for generously allowing us to use their premises. And thank you all for participating in this AGM.

We look forward to your continuing support.

Caroline Laske
Chair, BBCA
18th May 2017