



# DG's Newsletter

## District 105A

### District Governor: Mike Hendy

#### August 2000



#### **Welcome**

Hi and welcome to this, the second of my newsletters for the lionistic year. By the time you read this I will have already started on the long journey of club visits, charter presentations, Council of Governors meetings and Cabinet meetings – all component parts of the 'part-time' job of being a Lions District Governor. Those to whom I have already made my official visit will be aware that instead of offering a traditional DG visit, I am offering clubs the option of an Open Forum. This allows members to ask the DG any questions they wish be it at District, Multiple District and International level. Those who have taken this option I think have enjoyed it, those who I have not yet visited – think about it.

My first full weekend at Council of Governors as a serving Governor was interesting and enjoyable. We are a very sociable group and mix well together (those of you who were in Honolulu can vouch for that) and under David Firth's leadership we are not looking to change the world, but rather to look carefully at certain aspects of the Association and, where necessary, take action to change. The area I have been asked to look at is the use of the MD Website – what it should look like and what Lions would expect from it. As you know in this District we have been making strides with web technology and the use of the website for a few years now and it gets better and better all the time. In fact the District Website and IT strategy written for IPDG Parveen last year by Lions Geoff Brown and Satnam Loyal is now likely to form the basis of a future MD strategy. Which leads me on nicely to...

#### **District Website**

Since the year 2000 website went live at the beginning of July many changes have been made by the Webmaster to incorporate comments and feedback received from various

Lions members. As a team we are always striving to improve what we have and, whilst we very clearly have the skeleton in place, we need to put the flesh on it. This applies not only to the District officers who all have their own websites that need to be populated but also all the clubs in the District for whom the team have set up individual sites. To use an analogy, what we have at the moment is a newspaper with a front page and an index but with nothing on the inside pages. Fellow Lions, you do not need web skills – the District Officers have those in abundance. Just give them the text and layout that you want to appear on your page and they will do the rest. Let me give you an example of the power of the web. Within 6 hours of my new front page going live on 25<sup>th</sup> July, I received an e-mail from an ex-Lion from Zimbabwe now living in the Milton Keynes area who was interested in joining a club again. His wife was also an ex-Lion and I was able to forward his details immediately to the nearest club for them to follow up the enquiry. It does demonstrate that people do 'surf the web' and, if they know whom to contact, they can and will use the technology to find out more about a subject. So get the information you want to appear to Lion Geoff Brown or Lion Satnam Loyal and let the web help you to do your Public Relations.

#### **International President's visit**

At the Council of Governors it was announced that the International President, Dr Jean Behar, would be visiting MD105 over the weekend 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2000. His itinerary is to spend Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December in Dublin hosted by District 105I; Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December in Swansea hosted by 105W and then to travel to London on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December to be hosted by 105A. This is a great honour that we have been given – we are hosting not only for 105A but also on behalf of the other Home Counties districts – 105D, 105EA and 105SE. Already I have received confirmation from my fellow Governor in 105NE that he will be joining

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us in London and it is likely that, because of the ease of travel to London, we will be joined by Lions from 105C, 105E and 105M as well.

The District Sergeant at Arms has booked the Heathrow Park Hotel for the Sunday afternoon and the likely format will be:

- 12.30 Int Pres arrives
- 13.00 Roast Turkey lunch
- 14.00 Int Pres address followed by, at the International Presidents request, an Open Forum until it is time for him to leave for the airport at approx 15.45.

This is obviously a first draft timetable and will be firmed up as arrangements progress. I have asked Lion Andrew Allen to co-ordinate bookings, not only for this District but also between the other districts as well who may attend. Andrew will advise you when bookings will be accepted but, to be fair to the hotel who will need to know numbers, only people with tickets will be allowed to attend the event. So the message to remember from now on is "No booking and money, no ticket. No ticket, no entry". So as soon as we have agreed the price and programme for the afternoon all the districts will be advised simultaneously and thereafter tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis. Get the date in your diary now – **Heathrow Park Hotel –Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 12.00.**

### **Membership**

For those of you who do not have access to the website, I am re-iterating here the message I have recently published regarding the continued importance of retaining the quality members that we currently have and not relying just on extension for membership growth. Last year IPDG Parveen and Membership Extension Officer Kumar formed 4 new clubs with a total of 150 Charter members yet we ended the year with a net increase of only 86 members. We did in fact drop 162 members last year some of whom had been Lions members for some years and had been in senior positions. Most worrying of the statistics I have compiled is that of the 162 dropped, 65% were for the anonymous Category 1 on the membership form "Resigned in good standing". Whilst there will be many valid reasons – pressure of work, family reasons etc, there will also be many hidden reasons – disenchantment, not being involved, bored, personality clashes etc. We must find out the true reason why people leave and therefore this year I will be conducting exit

interviews by post for those who leave Lions in Category 1. I hope that the subsequent findings may help to ensure that future District Governors, District Membership Officers and Club Presidents put in place the appropriate programmes to ensure that the membership stabilises, retention becomes the norm and growth comes from within.

### **DG's travels – August 2000**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue/ Occasion</b>
Tues 1st	Carterton	O/V
Wed 2nd	Northolt	O/V
Sat 5th	Hadley Wood	Charter Presentation
Wed 9th	Seven Kings	O/V
Fri 11th	London Tottenham	O/V
Mon 14th	London Hendon	O/V
Tues 15th	Shepperton & Sunbury	O/V
Wed 16th	Royston	O/V
Tues 22nd	Berkhamsted Fete Meeting	
Mon 28th	Northwood Carnival	
Mon 28th	Staines & Ashford Carnival	

### **Welfare**

During the last month, District Officers Doreen Carr (Redbridge) and Charles Collins (Feltham & Whitton) have both had surgery and are now back at home recovering. Lion Wesley de Mendonca (London Hornsey) was involved in a car crash in which his car was written off; luckily for us Wesley was not seriously hurt and is now taking it easy at home. We wish you all a speedy recovery. Don't forget all of you, welfare items please to PCC Bert Randall who will ensure everyone is informed.

***That's all for this month folks, look after each other and yourselves***

***A bientot (see I am already practising)***

***Mike & Brigid***