



# DG's Newsletter

## District 105A

### District Governor: Mike Hendy

### November 2000



Hello everyone and welcome to newsletter Number 5, where is the time going to?

Thank you for turning out in such large numbers for Winter Forum on October 8<sup>th</sup>. There were 150 attendees representing 44 clubs. I hope that you learned something from the day. Other members of the cabinet and myself have given some feedback to Lion Viresh Paul, our Leadership Development Officer; if you, as an attendee, have any further feedback please phone or e-mail Viresh.

Brigid and I are really enjoying our roles this year – it is great going round the district meeting Lions whether at work in a club meeting or at play at a Charter Night. I have only been late once so far – for a club visit, will my luck hold? We do not possess a digital camera (ah!) but wherever possible we are keeping a photographic record of visits and Charter Nights to go in our personal scrapbooks. Already we have four books on the go; we started in Honolulu and are amassing content all the time. If you have any photos of us taken at YOUR club function or a District function then please send us a copy or the negative.

As I start to write this newsletter, it is the day after the second full Cabinet meeting of the Lionistic Year. Once again a full session well attended by Cabinet Officers and also members of some clubs. Don't forget, any Lion can attend a Cabinet meeting as an observer; all you need to do is let the District Sergeant at Arms know in advance for the catering arrangements. The next Cabinet meeting is being held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January at the Oxford Belfry Hotel, Milton Common, Thame – the convention venue for 2001 – so why not come along and see the facilities for yourself; I am sure that once you have seen them you will be rushing to book your room for what promises to be a great convention weekend

#### **New members September 2000**

During the month of September, we were pleased to welcome into Lions Clubs in this District the following new members:

Robert Jones (Banbury)  
Ian Targett (Banbury)  
Adam Pepper (Shefford)  
Victoria Farr (High Wycombe)  
Sue Denny (High Wycombe)  
Chris Johnson (High Wycombe)  
Ann Higginbottom (High Wycombe)  
Jeffrey Tyrrell (Wantage & Grove)  
Richard Curl (Hemel Hempstead)  
Sylvia Gomm (Aylesbury)

In addition the following Lions transferred into our District:

Anthony Simmonds (Banbury from Hilton, S Africa)  
Miriam Tomkins (High Wycombe from Burnham, Bucks)

Sadly during the same month we lost another 10 members but we are in a balance of plus three members for the first quarter of the year so congratulations, lets keep that positive balance for the next quarter and the rest of the year.

#### **Zippo's Circus**

At the end of September, 600 children came together under the Big Top of Zippo's Circus in Ealing Common for a special afternoon performance of the action packed and fun filled circus put on especially for the guests of the Lions Clubs in this District. 24 schools were represented and a special thanks must go to Region Chairman, Rana Dhawan and the clubs in Region 2, who took on the organisation of the event and ensured that the Lions were able to do what they do best – help others. IPDG Parveen and Lion Brigid joined the Mayor of the Borough of Ealing at the event and all reported that the look of delight on the children's faces was worth being there for. Congratulations.

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## **World Sight Day – October 12th**

What went on nationally? The London Eye was reversed, a photo-call took place in front of the London Eye, several senior Lions did radio interviews but as yet I do not know exactly what has been broadcast/published. Certainly it did not hit the main news coverage – just what do Lions have to do achieve this? (Answers on a postcard please). I do know that many clubs in this District, and others, got valuable local publicity by undertaking one of the options suggested by Ketchum and I congratulate them for that. Please do not forget to send copy of any publicity received to District PRO, Lion Paul Anstice who will collate it all.

I will receive a full report on National/International coverage at the Council of Governors meeting at the beginning of November; when I have the detail I will make sure the information is made available to you all.

## **DG's Newsletter Distribution**

I have been amused by comments from some Club Presidents and Secretaries that they have been getting more than one copy of my newsletter. Others just as you might expect have been complaining that they are not seeing my newsletter. The situation is this. At the beginning of the year I asked all clubs to provide me with an e-mail address for a 'club postman' who would be willing to receive important District correspondence and pass it on to the rest of the club. The pilot vehicle for this was the DG's newsletter. There have been some teething problems with the e-mail address groups in bringing them all to the same stage but now we think they are in good shape. In future therefore, the newsletter will go to all those listed as club contacts plus the President and Secretary if they are on e-mail. Yes, it is a bit belt and braces but we must ensure that everyone gets a copy so bear with us on this. We all know that sometimes communication, if left to one person, can break down for all sorts of legitimate reasons.

By the way the only clubs that we do not have an e-mail address for now are (4 out of 85):

Newport Pagnell & Olney  
Rickmansworth  
Shepperton & Sunbury  
Walthamstow

If you are a member of any of the clubs listed and have an e-mail address – even at work – then please e-mail me and I will add you to the

distribution list. Whilst on the subject of e-mail, the issue was raised at Cabinet about those who use an e-mail account at their business. This also applies to one of my accounts and I am very much aware that the company has strict protocols for the transmission of e-mails. Please ensure that we do not put anyone in an embarrassing position by inadvertently breaching the protocols they work under.

## **Zone Meetings**

At Winter Forum comments were made by many Zone Chairmen that they were experiencing low numbers attending their Zone meetings and would like to see more. Well sometimes it is necessary to look at the fundamental way that Zone Meetings are structured and see if this is the reason for low attendance. Why not try something different next time – invite more speakers and spend less time on reports; circulate reports beforehand and only take comments on them by exception or if there is a query from another club; invite speakers external to Lions, but easiest of all ask the clubs in your zone what they would like. So clubs, if you want to see Zone Meetings conducted differently the answer lies with yourselves to put forward and agree suggestions.

## **International Presidents Visit**

As previously advised, our International President, Dr Jean Behar, is visiting MD105 over the weekend of 8/9/10 December. He will be hosted for lunch in this District on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at the Heathrow Park Hotel – 12.00 for 12.30 – cost £11 per head. So do come along, have lunch with the International President, hear his Presidential address and participate in the Question and Answer session with the President & International Director Phil Nathan facilitated by Council Chairman David Firth. Lion Andrew Allen is co-ordinating bookings for this event – not only for this district, but also for the nine other districts that have so far indicated that they will be represented. So get your booking in now, cheque with order please. You will be issued with tickets and, due to limitations of space, admission will be refused to those who do not have their ticket. **No tickets will be issued on the day.**

## **Brigid's Charity – REACT**

Brigid wishes to thank all those who have contacted her enquiring about the charity and how they can help. As I write this newsletter, nearly £2000 has been raised in clubs and donated. It is our intention to forward this

money from the District account to the charity in December, April and then finally in July. This ensures that the money is working as soon as possible for those who need it. Also we have now been advised that, as a result of this appeal via Lions of this District, information about the charity and it's work is now available throughout Milton Keynes Community Trust and also in the trusts in Oxfordshire – this is the other objective that Brigid wished to achieve and it is being achieved. Thank you all.

### **Zone Accounts**

At the last Cabinet meeting the question of Zone Accounts was raised and there appeared to be some confusion over the issue. PDG Vanmali Mistry – a past District Treasurer and currently Chairman of the Honorary Committee – has taken this matter up with Lion Mike Greenaway, the Multiple District Legal Advisor, and has received this ruling and advice which is re-produced here for your guidance:

“At the request of the District Governor, I pen below my views on the banking accounts established other than for Lions Clubs, as, at the last cabinet meeting, it was found that some Zones and Regions had at one time or another established banking accounts in the names of the Zone/Region to facilitate fund-raising projects, District projects and activities to include that relating to hosting of District Conventions and other projects jointly undertaken by two or more clubs.

Whilst I understand and appreciate the reasons for such accounts being opened, and that they would be properly administered and accounted for, I am of the opinion, that it is entirely out of order in that neither Zone nor the Region have any legal status, (in the accepted sense and as confirmed by the MD Legal Advisor) and, as such, as a ‘Body’ i.e. Zone/region (which is purely for District Administration purposes only) do not have the powers or rights to establish, hold and operate bank accounts. In the context of Lions, only clubs organised under a standard club constitution as well as District, Multiple Districts and such other properly constituted ‘bodies’ are entitled to and can have a bank account opened in their respective names.

That being the case, and in the event something goes wrong, and whilst the banks may have unknowingly opened the accounts in the names of Zones/regions, they will have the right of recourse on the signatories to the bank mandate, i.e. those Lion members who are

mentioned on the bank mandate will be personally liable as individuals.

I therefore suggest that any such accounts now in existence be closed forthwith or as soon as practicable.

It is also appreciated that there is still a need to have banking accounts to manage various Projects and Activities which are jointly undertaken by a group of clubs i.e. zones/regions. In which event it is suggested that the accounts be opened as a ‘sub account’ of a club in that group or, with the permission of the District Governor/Secretary/Treasurer, a ‘sub account’ under the mandate of the District designated – Lions Clubs International District 105A – say Zone E project, District 105A Convention, Region 3 Activity etc, etc.

The signatories to these accounts will be those authorised under the respective Bank Mandates of the Club or the District, or as varied to accommodate smooth operation of those designated sub accounts.

*PDG Lion Vanmali Mistry  
October 2000*

### **Welfare**

Please join me in expressing our wishes for a speedy recovery from illness/surgery to:

- Lion Luke Adams
- Lion Rana Dhawan
- Lion John Rudd
- Anju Acharya

I am sure that there are other club Lions that we do not get to hear about; don't forget all of you, welfare items please to PCC Bert Randall - tel no 0208 504 3202 - who will ensure everyone is informed.

### **PDG Bob Brooks – District 105BN**

I am sure also that, by now, everyone will have heard of the death on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October, after a long and painful illness, of PDG Bob Brooks. Bob was the MD Convention Chairman who organised last years Convention in Bolton – his hometown. He was also International Convention Chairman for the Multiple District and, in that capacity, he and his wife Edna provided invaluable assistance to myself and Brigid – and to the other District Governors and their wives – prior to and during the District Governor Elect School and Convention in

Honolulu. Thank you most sincerely Bob and May you Rest in Peace.

like me to attend any other similar events, if I am free then I would be delighted to do so.

### DG's travels – November 2000

Date	Event	Site/Occasion
Wed 1st	Thame	O/V
Thur 2nd	Convention Meeting	
Fri 3rd	Kenilworth	COG
Sat 4th	Kenilworth	COG
Sat 4th	Milton Keynes (Stony Stratford)	C/A (25 <sup>th</sup> )
Sun 5th	Kenilworth	COG
Mon 6th	Holland	Business
Tue 7th	Holland	Business
Tues 7th	Banbury	O/V
Wed 8th	Wanstead	O/V
Thu 9th	Gt Missenden	O/V
Sat 11th	Lord Mayors Show	
Sat 11th	London Swiss Cottage	C/A
Sun 12th	Redbridge	C/A
Mon 13th	Hitchin	O/V
Tue 14th	Amersham & Chesham	O/V
Wed 15th	Biggleswade & Sandy	O/V
Thurs 16th	Barcelona	Business
Fri 17th	Barcelona	Business
Fri 17th	Milton Keynes	Children in Need
Sat 18th	Stevenage Corey's Mill	C/A (10 <sup>th</sup> )
Sun 19th	District Youth Award	Hatfield
Sun 19th	Shepperton & Sunbury	C/A
Mon 20th	Sudbury	O/V
Tues 21st	Uxbridge	O/V
Wed 22nd	London Kingsbury	O/V
Thurs 23rd	District Convention Mtng	
Fri 24th	Zone G Social	
Sun 26th	Wallingford	C/A
Mon 27th	Hadley Wood	C/A
Tues 28th	Ruislip	O/V
Wed 29th	Chipping Barnet	O/V
Thur 30th	Zone Convention Committee	Meeting

This week I enjoyed a social evening, along with Brigid, in the company of Hemel Hempstead Lions Club at a Charity Darts Marathon. It would appear that my darts arm (and eye) has got a bit rusty but it was a good opportunity for me to relax in the company of fellow Lions, to network with officers of Rotary who had organised the event, and also to help raise funds for Multiple Sclerosis which was the designated cause for the funds. I do not have many evenings spare at this time of the year but please feel free to contact me if you would

### Don't forget:

- **Kids Festival Party on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January for the children of Lions in this District. Details have already been circulated by Lion Ken Rouse – remember attendance is limited to 150 children so it's first come, first served.**
- **Multiple District Convention – Guernsey – May 4/5/6 2001. The official travel organiser in Guernsey has block-booked many flights so beware, if you are intending to travel independently, you may find it difficult to get the flights you want as there is also another convention on the island that weekend. The simple message therefore is that as soon as you have made up your mind to attend, book your travel and accommodation.**

### Watch out for:

- **Those who were at Winter Forum will have seen the bookmarks produced by John & Jennie Smith and Eric Roshier to raise funds for REACT and £191 was raised on that occasion. Our thanks to those who helped make this a successful launch. Brigid and I will be sending a small sample, priced at £1 each, to all clubs commensurate with the number of members within that club,. There is no obligation to buy – a stamped addressed envelope will be enclosed should you wish to return them.**

**Enjoy yourselves and have a good month  
Mike & Brigid**