



Lions Club International
District 105A
Newsletter Editor
Maria Azcona

THE TEAM THAT
TURNS DREAMS
INTO REALITY

Pride of Lions

AUGUST 2003

More of the Dream Team

ISSUE 2



Sergeant at Arms Luke Adams (St Albans) *"Faith in your friends is a strength, not a weakness"*



Lion Tamer Tony Church (Oxford Isis) *"It's good to be back!"*



District Minute Secretary Vanilal Vaghela (Sudbury) *"To write, or not to write..... That is the question"*



Convention Chairman Ken Rouse (London Walthamstow) *"I won't take NO for an answer"*

Och Aye The Noo Part 2

You could have been forgiven for thinking that the Scottish Highlands had moved South few hundred miles, when Harpenden Lions Club hosted the much publicised Highland Gathering on 13th July. With a crowd of over 8,000, Harpenden were out in force, raising in excess of £8,000 for Grove House.



The Highland Games, a tradition going back to time immemorial, (when men were men and women ruled the roost), were a highlight of this Gathering: tossing the caber, hammer throwing, were amongst many other activities featured. A great crowd sat and watched as teams of girls and boys, some as young as 6, danced so gracefully in the sunshine with the heat reaching up to 35 degrees.

This year was a very special year, as the Tug of War National Heats took place. The men and women, (yes, you heard me the first time, I did say women) were sweaty, but the muscles were warmed up, as the huffing, puffing and pulling of the rope used up all their concentration. The

final was one of the most gripping finals ever. Thanks to the hard work of Harpenden Lions, we can say that Lionism produced a National team and we saw it here first

It is said that the mark of a true Scottish Gentleman is one who knows how to play the bagpipes, but chooses not to. This was one occasion where we were please that they did not act in a gentlemanly fashion. The soloists and bands were amongst the top pipers in the world.

Mark Handford, newly elected President of Harpenden Lions Club said, "We've been building up this event for 8 years now and this has got to be the best yet. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the all the team, my fellow Lions, 3 Counties Radio and the St Albans and District Caledonian Society. This is the result when we work in harmony with others."

Welcome to London Westminster!

The Club Branch of London (Host) formed a new Lions Club on 23rd June 2003 with 20 members, (50 female and 9 nationalities!), including the Rt Honourable Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Jan Prendergast. The formation took place in the stylish Restaurant, Vasco and Piero's Pavillion in Poland Street, under the watchful eyes of DG Mike Baldwin, ZC Farokh Daruwalla and Guiding Lion Kumar Acharya. The new Officers are: Dr Eileen Cox (President), Rajiv Sharma (Secretary) and Frank Thaxton (Treasurer). May they live long and prosper!

But chiefly Yourselves

Down at the Old Bull and Bush.....

In the immortal style of Leonard Sachs and with much ventriloquial dexterity.

For your delectation and delight, Bedford Lions Club are putting on an extravaganza to tickle your taste buds, delight you fancy and entertain you.

On Friday 22nd August, these brave Lions will be putting on a show for 200 Senior Citizens, who will be entertained by The memory Lane Theatre Company from London, wine and dined at the Addison Centre, Addison Howard Park, Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedford, MK43 8PN. Then on Saturday 23rd, it's everyone else's turn to see this egregiously entertaining, fantastically funny show whilst you dine in style in witty company. Roll up and get your tickets now from Lion Bob Chisholm, telephone 01767 640699, at only £15 each! All proceeds to go to St Johns Hospice, (a Sue Ryder Home in Moggerhanger, Bedford.

Europa Calling.....

Come on, you know you deserve another holiday, but can't justify just sitting in the sun. Then why not come to Cyprus for Europa Forum from 13th to 16th November? You will be among friends if you decide to go.

Over 20 Lions and partners are making the trip from 105A and more than 60 Lions and partners from 105D (who are hosts at Bournemouth in 2006). The 2003 Forum is at the Hawaii Hotel on the south shore of Cyprus near Limassol. The cost effective way to make the trip is by booking a 1 or 2 week package tour at about £600 for 1 week for 2 people sharing a room, half board, at the Atlantica Hotel. Contact David Firth in 105D for this option as he has negotiated a special deal, (contact details on page 5 of the new MD Directory). If you can't go for a week or two, one way to make your own arrangements is by buying a Cyprus Airways ticket (Heathrow to Larnaca) for £159.30 from Moon Travels (020 7242 2704), which is the cheapest fare I can find, and book a hotel at www.cyprus-hotels.com. Questions? Contact Les Westley District Europa Forum and Twinning Officer. P16 in Directory.

Round your day off to a Tee!

By Peter Gent
Golf Competition Officer

If you cannot wait until next year to get your golfing shoes on, then you will be able to swing those hips at the **Bicester Golf and Country Club, (just off Junc 9 of M40) on Friday, 7th November 2003.** You will be playing for the "Lion Elliot Shubert Cup".

Teams of 2 (male or female). Each team must have at least one Lions Club member and Clubs may put in more than one team.

The cost is a very reasonable £40 per person, which includes hot coffee and sizzling bacon rolls on arrival, 18 holes of golf and a 3 course meal and presentation to finish this perfect day off to a Tee! I hope these will be massively supported by all clubs in our District, (especially K,L, M and N!)

The Ram Jaggi Trophy, following last years amazing success in which Lionistic challenges were set and Lions played in the name of fellowship. This challenge will be repeated on Friday, 19th March 2004.

Application forms are available from Club Secretaries or direct from myself, 16 Dellfield Close, Berkhamstead, Herts HP4 1DS, tel: 01442 864472

Run for your Life?

No Run for someone Else's!

There's no stopping South Herts Moor Park Lions Club and there may be no stopping **YOU** either! How would you like to do something fun, raise money for the MacMillan Cancer Care Unit in Northwood **and** go back to your own Club with half the money **YOU** have raised for your own worthy causes? Now is your chance.....

On **Sunday, 5th October** Moor Park have joined forces with MacMillan Cancer Care Centre and have organised an amazingly well thought out **FUNRUN** in the stunning grounds of Moor Park, Northwood, Middx.

Kick off (or best foot forward), is from the grounds of the prestigious Merchant Taylor School from 11am, with the maximum run being 10 kilometres. The whole family can join in, as ages will go from 5 years old and upwards, (and if you think you can't do the 10Ks, then do one of the smaller fun runs instead).

If you just want to watch, there will be plenty to keep you entertained, with the market stalls and carnival type atmosphere.

Now last year, this event raised over £11,000 with 260 runners taking part, so just imagine what can be achieved this year!

For more information and to take part, contact Lion Barney on 07977 522073 or 0208 238 9300. Check out the website on www.ljmc10k.org

Giorgio Garofalo—The Lions Heart

Giorgio is a true family man in all sense of the word. His family is the most important thing in his life. Something that comes a close second, is his love of Lionism and everything it stands for. Having heard so much about Giorgio, I wanted to check him out myself, so I could share this delightful Lion with you all. Giorgio's home, just outside Bedford, has the richness of a Russian home, the comfort of an English home and the welcome of an Italian home, all rolled into one. Over a glass of his best wine and a plate of prosciutto, this is how the interview went....

M: is it true that you are one of the longest serving members in Bedford Lions Club?

G: Yes, I joined 34 years ago, and have never regretted a minute of it. Lionism has given me back a lot more than I could ever have imagined. When I was first asked to go to a meeting, I asked, "What will I get out of it?" (I had just started up my own business, so my mind was set on making this grow) "Nothing", the Lion replied, "Look-just come and see for yourself". That was my first lesson I learnt—you can get more back by giving.

M: So, you mean it helped your business?

G: No—it made me a better person. It put me in a unique position to help people, which is what I enjoy. It gives so much back to me.

M: What is the most memorable thing you have done?

G: There are so many, but one that sticks out in my mind is when I was on the Welfare Committee and I went to visit an 85 year old called Jack, who lived alone and was housebound. He was comfortable, but I still asked him if he needed anything. "A bird", was his reply. Not wanting to point out that a "lady" at his age may not be the answer, he said, "You know, a parrot to keep me company" I was relieved, but we still had a good laugh at the club when I proposed it. For relatively no money or effort, we bought Jack the parrot and cage. He was so happy and never lonely.

M: Tell me about why you chose England as your home.

G: My parents were already living here when I came over at 18, having just finished my training as a tailor and hairdresser. After 7 years, I set up my own business and never looked back. It is so exciting to enjoy two cultures. It is like having two sets of parents. This is where my motto "ADOPT AND ADAPT" has come from.

M: So have you ever had any difficulties or set backs because you are not "a native"?

G: No. You see, everyone can always find something negative in everything, but if we bear in mind the simple rules of tolerance, acceptance and not judging people, then we can all see how wonderful everything really is. I have an amazing family, my wife Anna, my daughter Jennifer and fantastic friends and fellow Lions.

M: I heard that Bedford Lions does projects with the Italian Community. Tell me about this.

G: Not just with them, but Bedford Lions Club has developed roots in Bedford. Over the last 35 years, the foundations have been laid.

M: How did the Club manage this? Share your secret.

G: By developing links within our community, we have spread harmony everywhere. Good communication is the key: flexibility, observation and picking up the best from everyone and everything. Multi-cultural is good. It makes us sociable and tolerant to others. We are all important and individual. We need to understand each other. "LEARN TO LISTEN AND LISTEN TO LEARN".

M: Is there a final message you would like to give to everyone?

G: Yes. Thank you for the support shown to me as President this last year from my fellow Lions at Bedford Lions Club and surrounding area. We raised more money this year than any other year!

I would love to write up the entire interview, as we all have something to learn from the man, who can captivate an audience, just with his enthusiasm for what we do. The full interview will be available on the website from mid August onwards. Log onto www.lions105a.org.

Trauma Teddies to the Rescue!

St Albans Leos were out in force on a blazing hot Saturday and managed to raise £500 for St Albans Fire and Rescue by putting their shoulders to the wheel, quite literally, by washing cars. Trauma Teddies are a vital part of a fireman's/woman's kit now. They are little cuddly teddies given to children involved in fires or accidents, which help the children to focus on something whilst going through any type of trauma. The money raised will allow the Fire Brigade to buy 50 teddies. If any Club wishes to make a donation, then please forward to St Albans Leos Club, who will happily buy even more teddies. Remember, the next child to receive one of these fantastic teddies, could be someone you know.....

Your Leos need YOU!

Did you know 2003 is the European Year of the Disabled? No? well now is your chance for your Club to do something positive about it. Our St Albans Leos, are calling us all to arms on Sunday 7th September, when they will be hosting one of the largest Disabled Sports Day at the Dunstable Leisure Centre, Beds.

Ok, so what's so special about this event and why do St Albans Leos need our help? With 300 people taking part, it takes a lot of manpower. They are looking for volunteers to assist the organisers on the day, perhaps helping out in some of the games of curling, basketball, football, archery, tennis, volleyball, cricket and of course Welly Wanging! (Don't panic, as we will all be briefed before activities commence. Nobody will be thrown in at the deep end! All the activities are programmed to finish at 2.30 pm, to facilitate the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire presenting The Queen's Gold Jubilee Award For Voluntary Service by Groups within the Community. If you can't manage to stay all day, it doesn't matter. We still fully appreciate your help. To find out more, telephone (the newly appointed just to come up to Lions after decade in the Leos) Kevin Hopley, 23 Rye Road, Hoddesdon, EN11 0JD, call him on 01992 422909 or email dadds@khopley.net or visit the DADS website www.dadds.org.uk. GET CALLING NOW!!!



Lions Club International
District 105A
District Governor
Dr Elliot Shubert

REALISING
THE DREAM

DG'S NEWSLETTER

What's Happening Now? DG & District Diary Dates for August

- 1-9 August:** Elliot & Eileen teaching course in Scotland
10 August: Cabinet Meeting, Oxford Belfry, 9-9.30.
All Cabinet Meetings are open to ALL Lions
11 August: Zone F Meeting OV
14 August: Dinner with VDG Max Mongia and Aruna
18 August: Redbridge OV
19 August: London Westminster
23 August: Bedford Music Hall
24 August: Meeting on Membership & Impact at MDHQ for DGs and VDGs

What's Simmering? DG & District Diary Dates for September

- 6 September:** London Walthamstow Charter
7 September: Disabled Sports Day at Dunstable OV
11 September: Convention Meeting
21 September: Zone F Picnic—Harrow Wealdstone Watford Horseride
27 September: Membership Meeting at MDHQ
29 September: Zone L Meeting High Wycombe OV
9 October: "Your Ideas" Forum—High Wycombe

A Rockie Adventure

Eileen and I set off for Denver, Colorado USA on the 24th of June. The week prior to leaving was as busy as ever, since we attended London Finchley's Handover, Hadley Wood's Charter, hosted the DGs Garden Party, and the formation of a new club, London Westminster.

Needless to say, we put our feet up and relaxed once we were on the plane. When we finally arrived at our hotel it was 5.00 AM London time. We needed a day to offset the jetlag before the DGE school began. Everything was so very well organised and we were within walking distance of the Convention Centre. It was great to see my fellow DGEs from MD 105.

We were in a group of 32 DGEs representing Illinois (MD1), South Carolina (MD32), Nigeria (MD404), and East Africa (MD411). Our presenter was PID Herbert Watanabe, from Hawaii. We got used to saying *Aloha!* Being the 'Mile High City' the sun was intensive and it was very hot...reaching the high 90s every day.

DGE school ran for 4½ days (8 AM – 5 PM) and was a combination of work (presentations and discussion), social (luncheons, twinning luncheon, and commencement banquet) and fun (photo sessions, networking and a talent show). **The topics in the DGE school included diversity, creativity, delegation, innovation, effective listening, membership growth and extension, leadership and conflict resolution. At least 90% of the topics focused on members and clubs. I am full of ideas, which can improve our District.**

The Convention started immediately after the end of the DGE school with a parade in downtown Denver. MD105 was near the end of the parade order. It was very hot standing in a carpark waiting for our turn to go, but once we got started the excitement of waving to the crowd and being cheered by the crowd made the heat more bearable. It helped that we had a pipe band fronting our delegation and we looked smart in our blazers. Days were spent attending the business session of the convention, individual sessions (e.g. Lions Women's workshop, Extension, Membership, Retention, and the Impact programme) or touring the various information stalls in the convention centre, and evenings were spent attending various receptions (Italy, Germany, Scandinavia, etc.). The B&I reception was very well attended and the DGEs (in their white coats—groan!) were introduced to the assembled crowd fronted by a piper. Eileen and I opted for a baseball game with American friends one night, which was followed by a fantastic fireworks display (appropriate for Independence Day). The last day of the convention involved enjoying a free pancake breakfast, voting for candidates, and the closing session. Dr Tae-Sup Lee (Seoul, Republic of Korea) was installed as International President. His theme is *Innovation: Gateway to the Future*. I took an oath, and I became official DG. Eileen had the pleasure of ripping off the 'District Governor Elect' red ribbon from my name badge. Eileen and I spent the weekend with American friends making the rounds of various parties and BBQs and we enjoyed an overnight stay at a cabin in the mountains (with a spectacular view of the snow capped Rockie Mountains).

Now that we are back on British soil the pace has picked up. We recently visited the District 108A Congress in Courgne, Italy (with Les Westley, Europa Forum/Twinning Officer and Christine, for the purpose of establishing a twinning relationship with District 105A. The plan is to apply for an International Assistance Grant to support a "Talking Book", project for District 411A. This will open up the world of literature to blind or visually impaired people. Eileen and I attended the Hand Over at Oxford Belfry on 20th July after experiencing a stressful morning trying to get back to London from Milan due to a wildcat BA strike.

The Story of the Tiny Frogs.....

There once was a bunch of tiny frogs who arranged a running competition. The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower. A large crowd had gathered around the tower to see the race and to cheer on the contestants. The race began—no one in the crowd really believed the tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. You could hear the crowd making the statements, such as, "it is too difficult!" or "There is not a chance that any will succeed, the tower is just too high!"

The tiny frogs began collapsing; all except for those, who in a fresh tempo were climbing higher and higher. The crowd continued to yell, "It is too difficult!", "No one will make it!". More tiny frogs got tired and gave up, but one continued higher and higher and higher. This frog would just not give up.

At the end, everyone else had given up climbing the tower. Except for the one tiny frog who after a big effort was the only one who reached the top! Then all of the other tiny frogs wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it. A contestant asked the tiny frog who succeeded how he found the strength to reach the goal. There was no response..... Because the winner was DEAF!!!

The wisdom of this story is "Never listen to other people's tendencies to be negative or pessimistic, because they take your most wonderful dreams and wishes away from you.... the ones you have in your heart! Always think of the power of words that you have, because everything that you hear and read will effect your actions. Therefore, try to be positive and above all, be DEAF when people tell you that you cannot *realise your dreams!*"

Thanks to Alan Newton, Editor of the Lions 105SW Newsletter

Handover Officialis 2003

On Sunday 20th July, we all gathered at the Oxford Belfry to celebrate the District Handover and to swear in the Cabinet Officers.

Hush descended upon the room, as PDG Mike said a fond farewell, and Vice DG Max Mongia and myself were sworn in. The Ceremony of the "Weigh In" was performed, only to find that PDG, Mike Baldwin had not put on an ounce after attending countless Charters and Celebrations. That's a testament of "will power".

I wanted to share with you all, excerpts from my speech I gave, which sums up what I want to achieve this year,.... with your help.

" Family of Lions,

I can hardly believe that Eileen and I are here! I can still vividly remember being elected at the District Convention in St Albans.

I have learnt a lot in the past year as VDG, by attending your Club meetings, Zone meetings, VDG and DGE seminars and most recently attending the DGE school in Denver.

I am as ready as I will ever be and I am raring to go! And it is a good thing, because the District Officers have been deluging me with ideas, proposals, meetings, etc. I have to say it is the most exciting time of my life (aside from the day when I married Eileen!).

I know what you are thinking...we have had a zillion DGs before Elliot, so why is this year going to be any different? **Why?**

Because I say it will be a very exciting and innovative year.

We are going to try some new service projects.
We are going to try some new fund raising projects.
We are going to try some new social events.
We are going to try a new convention venue and format

We need a new emphasis on membership.

We need more women in Lionism.

I don't mean more all female clubs.

I mean more mixed clubs.

That will keep Lionism interesting.

We need more culturally mixed clubs.

That will keep Lionism interesting.

We need to learn from each other.

That can only happen if we mix things up.

Diversity is the strength of Lionism.

Let's use it to our advantage!

We need better communications between members!

How are we going to do this? We are going to talk, write and listen to each other. **How?**

By using the Internet, Email, letters, telephone, fax, seminars, newsletters, socials, you name it—we will use it!

I want to know what you think,
I want to know what you want,
I want to know what drives you.

It is called "bottom up" management. You take ownership of an idea or project and it will happen. **Look for your star and follow it...Your dream will come true.**

If we communicate effectively, then we will work together effectively.

Teamwork achieves more than any individual could achieve alone.

By using Teambuilding methods, we show interest in each other and we also build friendships.

If we do not have friends, how can we say that we have a full life?

If we are friends, then it will be easy to work for the common good of Lionism and the politics will be minimised. We will have more fun and fellowship as a result. Isn't that what Lionism is all about?

You the members, underpin everything we do in Lionism.

You have the eyes to see what is needed.
You have the ears to hear what is needed.
You have the hands to help the people in need.

I have the vision to lead you as your next DG.
I have the vision to see the dreams.

But to "realise the dreams", I need you! The District Officers have committed themselves to be part of my Dream Team. However, I want every member of 105A to be part of my Dream Team.

Melvin Jones said "Every Lion has a dream. Will you join my Dream Team?"

Will you be part of the Fun and Fellowship?"

Amendments Passed at International Convention

All Amendments passed. Thus there will be a dues increase spread over the next three years, (approximately £3 per year). You can now have joint membership in other like minded organisations, (eg Rotary). A clarification was made for the election process of District Governor and Vice District Governor, and clarification was made for the procedure involving redistricting a Multiple District.

Congratulations to PDG Howard Lee & Claire on election to the International Board of Directors for 2 years.

In Memoriam

It is with much regret that the DG has learned of the passing to Higher Service of...

Amaratlal Rajani
(London Finchley)

Derek Ringer
(Stevenage)

Bob Goodin
(Hitchin Lions Club)

Valerie Green
(Bedford Lions Club)

I know they will be sadly missed and I extend our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.

REMINDER

Applications are due on 1st September for the Emerging Lions Leadership Institute in Walsall

Congratulations to Redbridge on the Formation of a School Based Leos Club on 24th June 2003

NEW APPOINTMENT

IP T.S.Lee has initiated a plan to recruit more women into Lionism. He requested all DGs to appoint a District Women's Development and Participation Chairperson. After consultation, I have appointed Jill Mary Chisholm, Bedford Lions Club. Jill is a professional actor and believes that women are important to Lions. Her focus will be to encourage recruitment of women into mixed clubs. I have asked Jill to form an advisory Committee selecting Lions from all 14 Zones. Jill will also be a member of the MERCLPR Committee. Jill can be contacted on actnow@lions105a.org.

Club Officers Please Take Responsibility

We belong to a premier International voluntary organisation and we should take pride in what we do as Lions. This includes complying with the reporting requirements of LCI. Secretaries are expected to submit Activities & Membership Reports to Ivor Poole, District Administrator at the end of each month. Likewise, Treasurers should pay the balance owed by the **20th of each month** to Dilip Shah, District Treasurer. Completing these tasks on time, every month will make your DG very happy!!