



105A News



Incorporating the District Governor's Newsletter

Mission: To inform, update and entertain

Issue 6, March 2005

DISTRICT CONVENTION IS A BIG SUCCESS

By all accounts we had a very successful Convention this year, *writes DG Max Mongia*

We re-introduced a brief pre-convention cabinet meeting on the evening of the 4th March 2005 and reviewed the convention business, presentations, resolutions and important updates. *Many thanks to all the District Officers for making a special journey to attend.*

We were fortunate to have our International Director Howard Lee in attendance. ID Howard Lee also addressed the Cabinet meeting and joined in for the pre-convention dinner at the Marriot Hotel with his wife Clare. Dinner was attended by some 90 Lions.

District Convention has come to be regarded as the finale for the Lionistic year. With some three months to the completion of this year I look at it as the climax to date. With several weeks of planning by our host committee and the supporting teams they were rewarded by the successful outcome on the day.

I take this opportunity to thank the Chairman of the host committee Lion Ashok Bhardwaj and his team from Lions Club of London Central. Likewise, the supporting teams from Lions Club of Ealing and Lions Club of Staines and Ashford for their support in planning, administration, and finally executing on the day. A job well done!

I acknowledge the support of Lion Vijay Jain of LC of London Central in securing

the Convention wallets and Convention Pins. He shouldered the burden with the chairman. Here I want to thank Lion Alistair from LC of Stains & Ashford who a sterling job in the management of convention and function bookings.

I would also like to thank PDG John Hunt, District Treasurer FT Chin, PDG Vanmali Mistry and Colin Davies, Constitution and Nominations Officer for certification and registration of voting delegates.

The Convention committee Chairman Lion Ken Rouse took the floor for the smooth running of the convention day which began with the reception of The Mayor of Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Barry Phillips and our International Vice President Lion

Ashok Mehta and his wife Kokila Mehta along with DG Janusz Kmiecik and his wife Mrs Malgorzata Kmiecik, IPDG Dr Elliot Shubert and his wife Dr Eileen Cox and VDG Erach (Eric) Amaria and his wife Arnawaz Amaria.

This was followed by the flag ceremony conducted gracefully by the Leos of Golders Green, Edgware and Robert Clack. Lion Ben Uttam President of Lions Club of London Central welcomed the visitors and the Convention. The Mayor duly opened the Convention.

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THANKS FOR YOUR VIEWS

Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It motivates one to do even better but above all it provides confidence to the appreciated that he or she is doing something right.

At the District Convention your Editor was inundated with compliments from Lions on the quality of the publication that has been produced this year. More than one Lion remarked about the professional feel and quality of this Newsletter and at

least one was kind enough to say that the 105A News could not be bettered even if it was produced by a professional design studio!

To all those Lions my humble thanks. I regret that at least one member - who expressed thanks to the Editor for coming back to the job of the Editor after a break of two years - will be sorely disappointed that I will not be carrying on this job in the future. I made up my mind some time ago that I would let others carry this torch and only came back to the fold

for this year because I was excited by the challenge of taking the 105A News into a full colour publication. Having set relative that standard, I feel I can go back to obscurity once again because there are so many others who can and will, I am sure, take on this job and do it as well if not better than me!

At Convention it was good to see so many Lions being appreciated by the DG. To them all our congratulations. Keep up the good work! - THE EDITOR

Editor :
Viresh Paul
District Governor :
Max Mongia

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HONG KONG TOURISM BOARD



Help for 25,000 Local Children

It is recognised that children aged from three to five at nursery, pre-school and in reception classes are going through a critical stage in their education involving personal, social and emotional development collectively referred to as life skills.

Lions Clubs International has recognised the importance of life skills education and there are many projects promoting these skills throughout the world. In the United States it is QUEST, in New Zealand it is Skills for Life, and in MD105 it is "Lifeskills".

Lifeskills, Youth Outreach and Tacade were treated as synonymous for a number of years. Many members will know of Tacade, which is our partner organisation, and they produce resources which we as Lions can sponsor into schools or nurseries (settings). For further information about Tacade see www.tacade.com tel 0161 836 6850.

Tacade had produced a number of resources for young people aged 5 and above about confidence building, bullying etc but about 2 years ago early years' practitioners (Government, teachers and local education authority staff) were saying that helping children at the nursery age was just as important. The result is a new resource for early years known as "Little Steps". But these resources have to be paid for and nurseries and reception classes often do not have the necessary finance.

This is where Lions come in. Two Lions from Harpenden Lions Club, Neville Osmond and Dave Price had an idea to provide the resource - not to one or two settings but to 400. With the help of 9 Lions Clubs in Hertfordshire, Luton & Dunstable £20,000 has been raised. Roughly split £10,000 from Lions and £10,000 from sponsorship.

Having provided the money for 400 settings, the project team set up by Lions Neville and Dave realised that training manual resources alone were not enough - just as important is their effective use. So what did they and the project team do? Tacade and Early Years Advisers from three local Education Authorities provided training for some 400 teachers. Inspired by the success of this venture Leighton Buzzard Lions have taken up the challenge with 35 settings in and around Leighton Buzzard.

This project is the culmination of the work of a unique partnership between Lions, Tacade, Local Authorities and generous donors and shows what can be done locally with determination to achieve success.

In closing this article I would like to thank the project team for their tremendous hard work and dedication over many months. I would also like to mention and thank Lion Wesley De Mendonca of Lions Club of London Hornsey for his past pioneering work with Tacade over a number of years.

Lion Mike Baldwin, District Life Skills Officer

A jolly good time was had by all thanks to the Lions



It was 8 am in the morning and all go with Lions, Lionesses, Leos and their spouses decorating the Hall, cutting the white table cloths placing the crockery and cutlery and of course the Lions regalia in readiness for our Annual Senior Citizens Celebrations writes PDG Parveen Verma, co-chairman of the committee. A mild telling off was imminent if the meticulous colour planning with Lions colours of purple gold yellow with purple helium-filled balloons were not followed or the trumpet or garland was overlooked for any of our 1,000 guests. Our resident MC was there to ensure we had music whilst we worked. Ordinary People Doing Amazing Things is exactly how one can describe the work of the helpers who transformed an unattractive warehouse like room to a colourful regal venue fit for our special guests who deserve nothing but the very best.

A quick piece of pizza at 1 pm before our attendees started arriving gave an opportunity for those working outside to feel the warmth of the Hall and atmosphere created by their fellow volunteers which was transformed even further when the party goers started arriving, earlier than expected. It is not unusual for guests to come early as an 87 year lady said: "I was here at the Millennium Celebration in 2000 and I wanted to make sure I did not miss a single minute of the great time I had, and it takes me a bit longer to walk from the car park too." The Fairy was there to greet them all.

The entertainment with the ever popular Luton Jazz Orchestra started almost immediately and the senior folk loved the old tunes and sang along or whistled as took their fancy. When prompted they were happy to blow their own personal trumpets as hard as they could to create a cacophony of loud "noise". The Young Ones was an appropriate song. The customary bingo with new sharp pencils provided by a new branch Lions Club was as welcome as were the excellent prizes generously donated by Lions. It was a pure joy to witness the clapping, singing and dancing with abundant laughter as the afternoon progressed with those with wheel chairs having as good a time as those who moved around with the assistance of a walking stick. The generous food helpings of snacks sandwiches and cakes provided by professional caterers with hot and cold drinks ensured everyone present had plenty to eat and drink. Lions volunteers from the 45 participating Clubs from all around our District acted as their hosts and waiters/waitresses for the day. A Lion of longstanding commented: "I enjoyed myself as it gave me tremendous satisfaction to be helping in our District's biggest hands on activity. A great activity and may it long continue". It was not until past 4.30 pm that the 2,000 smiling faces started departing. We hope they enjoyed it. Thanks to the all the Committee members for another roaring success.

Next Year the Convention is in Borehamwood

Next year's District Convention will be hosted by the Lions Club of London Swiss Cottage at the Elstree Moat House Hotel, Borehamwood on Saturday 4 March 2006.

The Lions Club of London Swiss Cottage, formed in 1999, is a relatively young club but fortunate to have an experienced, committed and enthusiastic membership made up of 35 members.

The club proposes to hold the DG's informal dinner at a cost of

£20 pp on the Friday evening. On Saturday morning delegates will be welcomed with complimentary tea or coffee and lunch will only cost £10 per head. The DG's banquet and ball will be £25 per head.

The club has succeeded in negotiating a very good room rate: £60 per room with breakfast but you will need to book early for this special rate! Car parking is available on site and will be totally free. For fur-



ther details contact Club Secretary (Ajay Ganatra on 020 8650 4555) or President (Dinesh Kotecha on 0206954 7050)

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The pre-lunch period was dedicated to the Lionistic Business where the DG and his principle officers presented their reports followed by the group Chairpersons who not only introduced the district officers in their group but also highlighted the updates. Delegates and Membership were given the opportunity to ask questions which were addressed by the officers concerned. This process proved fruitful in not only recognising the work that officers had done but also gave the members an opportunity to review the reports and recognise their officers.

Lion Martin Jenner was unmistakably recognisable as the tail twister in his flashy costume. He performed his duties with panache but with a unique twist. His victims were given a chance to escape the fine by answering his quirky questions correctly.

This was followed by the winners of various competitions, who were invited and presented with their appropriate trophies. The highlight of the session was the introduction of the winner of the Peace Poster Holly Francis, the Young Ambassador winner Michael Austin and the winner of the music competition Anna Victoria Hughes who also played a few delightful pieces at the Convention.

The Convention then broke for lunch. The host committee once again needs to be congratulated for offering the package that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The afternoon session was packed with very interesting programs, the highlight being the signing of Twinning Agreement with the Lions from District 121 in Poland by the respective District Governors.

The Twinning was witnessed by IVP Ashok Mehta in the presence of Consul General of the republic of Poland Dr Tomasz Trafas from the Polish Embassy. We had the privilege to have a team of 19 Lions including IPDG Mariusz Szeib from Poland who specifically came over for the weekend ceremony. We sincerely hope that our associations will bring together our communities and extend our fellowship in the extended Europe. My sincere thanks to Lion Andrew Allen the Twinning Officer for his outstanding work.

We were then addressed by David Maidment, Co-Chairman of the Consortium of Street Children. David highlighted the plight of Street Children and the work of the Consortium of Street Children.

This was followed by a revealing presentation from Professor Roger Hitchings FRCS FR-COphth. He gave a spell binding presentation to Convention on the causes of blindness in Europe. Examples of Glaucoma included a demonstration of restricted field of vision and its serious effects.

We were delighted to have Philip T Albano LCIF acting division manager from Oakbrook to give us an up to date success history of Sight First and introduction to the future campaign.

We were of course kept alert by the introduction of a surprise presenter Roger Kitter, a well known celebrity who livened up the afternoon by his humorous stories. We were in hysterics throughout his presentation.

The convention was addressed by International Vice President Ashok Mehta who congratulated us on our work and shared the success of Lions work in the Lionistic community world wide.

DG presentation and recognition

A Melvin Jones fellowship was awarded to Mr Richard



Page MP for his extended services to the committee and support to Lionistic activity both inside and outside the Commons. He has been responsible for sponsoring the lunch at the House of Commons for the UN day.

The District Governor also awarded further progressive Melvin Jones fellowship to IVP Ashok Mehta, PCC Viresh Paul, PCC Geoff Leeder and District Secretary Ashok Bhardwaj.

The delegates having followed the due process of election expressed their wish by electing Lion Erach (Eric) Amaria as the District Governor for year 2005/6 and Louvain Allen as the VDG. Our very best wishes to both of them for their success, we wish them a successful year. I also would like to offer my sincere commiserations to Lion Kishore Pattni who will no doubt be given the opportunity another day. We are fortunate that our District is rich with talented volunteers able and willing to serve.

The DG hosted a reception in the evening for the PDGs and visiting Lions to meet and exchange notes with the International Guest followed by a Champagne reception and Banquet and Ball.

The Banquet was very well attended virtually sold out, full of fun, fellowship and surprises.

Finally I would like to record my special thanks to PCC Geoff Leeder and his team for an excellent presentation and management of the IT infrastructure during the day. My personal thanks to PDG Rati Shah for acting as the Minute Secretary to the Convention.

Farewell Lunch

A farewell lunch was held on Sunday 6th March in honour of our International guest IVP Ashok Mehta and his lady Kokila at the Bombay



Brasserie in South Kensington. Despite the late night dancing and the exertion of the Convention day, we had some 40 Lions in attendance. PDG Donald Lyon was presented a progressive MJF delivered by our MD LCIF Officer Stefan Erentraut. IVP Ashok departed on Monday 7th am when PCC Lion Viresh Paul, Chairman of the Honorary Committee personally saw him off at the airport for his onward journey to Oakbrook.

CSF II (Campaign Sight First II)

I have been nominated as a Multi National Co-ordinator by the CSF II committee. I flew off to Frankfurt on the 6th evening to attend a National/Multi National Co-ordinators orientation meeting, headed by Dr TS Lee, the chairman of the campaign.

Lions Day at United Nations

Aruna and I hopped off to New York on the 10th March to attend the 27th Annual Lions day with the United Nations. The event this year represented a proud moment for Lions to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter in 1945.

That day in 1945, when the U.N. Charter was signed also proved to be a proud event for Lions the world over because of our founder, Melvin Jones, and Past International Presidents D.A. Skeen and Fred Smith who helped to formulate the non-governmental section (NGO) of the charter. Their efforts were successful and their words are now part of the world document. And, as you know, our association received another honour. In 1947, as an NGO, we were granted consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (UNESCO), the U.N. body committed to the welfare of people around the world.

In addition, the association is affiliated with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organisation) WHO.

We were privileged to hear the address of International President Clem Kusiak, presentations of Peace Poster Award and the presentation of the cheque to Unicef by our International Director Howard Lee. We heard some memorable speeches by Mr Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, United

Nations on behalf of Secretary General Kofi Annan, presentations to the Tarumi Violin Children's foundation for Arts followed by H.E. Mr Stuart W



lect Committee, Lion Judge Brian Stevenson Past International President, Lion Eddie Cook MD Peace Poster officer, Mr David Bull Executive Director UNICEF UK, Mr Keith Hindell Member of the Policy Committee United Nations Association.

The programme was well co-ordinated by UN MD officer Ian Jones. This has now become a very popular date in our calendar.

Lions in the District are encouraged to visit next year to see the broader side of our association.

Awareness Week

Lions awareness week planned for 28th March – 4th April is well advanced throughout the Multiple District. Most of the clubs have already collected posters and promotional leaflets for their local activities.

The launch date via National Newspapers, Radio stations is Good Friday 25th March, which we hope will spill over to the Saturday's press.

Please make the most of this promotional activity; it will not only create awareness for lionism but also an opportunity to recruit new members.

Kidz day at Chessington

We have once again organised a Kidz Day at Chessington scheduled for 15th May 2005. Please support this event for the benefit of the children. Lion Brindar has negotiated a very affordable cost of £10 per person, please contact him directly for further information:

Lion Brindar can be contacted on Tel: 020 8903 9326(Day)/ 020 8907 3379 (eve), Fax: 020 8903 1706 Email: kembley@aol.com.

Your early bookings will help in finalising the organisational details.

Holliday, Ambassador, Alternative representative for Special Political Affairs, United States Mission to the United Nations and other prominent speakers.

United Nations day is a Lions function and made me proud to be a Lion and a member of the largest service organisation in the world.

We spent the weekend sightseeing New York. A visit to ground Zero brought back the daunting memory of 9/11. Much work and effort is being done to rebuild the structure and communities.

United Nations Day, HOC London

We flew back to London on the 14th March to attend the House of Commons Lunch on 15th March 2005. In keeping with the annual tradition in UK, MD105 hosted a Lions Day with the United Nations in the House of Commons, Westminster. Pre-meeting Lunch was sponsored by MP of South West Herts Richard Page in the Terrace Pavilion followed with a session in committee room 14, arranged by courtesy of Lion Mark Francois MP Shadow Economic Secretary to the Treasury which was filled to its capacity. A welcome speech was given by Council Chairman John Goodchild which was followed by a galaxy of eminent speakers to include Rt Hon Donald Anderson MP, Chairman House of Commons Foreign Affairs Office Se-

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