

Midland News



INC The District Governor's News Letter

District 105M The International Association of
Lions Clubs

Issue 70 January 2008



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It's a stark fact. By the time you finish reading this page, one child somewhere in the world will have gone blind. One goes blind every minute. Half-a-million will have lost their sight by the end of the year.

Childhood blindness is only one part of the global vision crisis. If nothing is done, experts say that the world's blind population could double from 37 million to 74 million by 2020.

Why the World Needs CSFII

SightFirst has been extraordinarily effective but Lions' "Vision for All" has not been realised. The growth and ageing of the world's population pose new challenges. Changing patterns of eye disease, barely discernable when SightFirst began, have become serious threats to sight all across the world.

Cataract, a disease closely tied to ageing, remains the world's leading cause of blindness.

Today, more children than ever before suffer from blindness or low vision.

River blindness and trachoma, which take the sight of millions, can be controlled, but increased global awareness and funding are required.

Diabetes and glaucoma silently stalk the vision of millions who may not even know that they are at risk.

The SightFirst approach is a three-part strategy to halt and roll-back this onslaught. The goals of Campaign SightFirst II reflect this plan.

Goal 1 - US\$100 million
To contain and eliminate where possible the leading causes of avoidable blindness.

Goal 2 - US\$50 million
To combat emerging threats to sight.

Goal 3 - US\$50 million
As a "challenge goal" to provide "Vision for All" through research, rehabilitation and reaching-out to vulnerable populations.

DG's News Letter

Fellow Lions,

I hope you all had good break during the Christmas and New Year.

I was fortunate enough to attend Sri Lanka for the ISSAME Forum from 5th December 2007 to 8th December 2007. I was accompanied by Lion Josna, PDG Harry Hunjan and ZC Charanjit Hunjan.

The Forum was very well organised, with excellent transportation facility. The Forum covered several interesting topics like:- Challenge to Change, the 20K programme, Motivation, Membership, CSF II.

The Forum was very well attended with over 800 participants with International personalities. This being my first visit, I was very impressed with the warmth and wonderful hospitality extended by the Sri Lankan's.

I also managed to visit the Bushby Village at Kalutara and swimming project in Galle. I received a warm welcome from DG Gordon and paid a visit to Hikkaduwa Lions Club. It was actually interesting to see the activities done by the Hikkaduwa Lions Club and all the records kept in dealing of other Club.

The building at Hikkaduwa Lions Club is sponsored by North Sea Lions. Brian Eland from Droitwich is held in a very high esteem by the Hikkaduwa Lions Club. I have now received agreement with several Districts to twin and their details have been passed over to our Twinning Officer, Chris Haynes, for him to communicate further.

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“CONNECT NEWS” - SOME important CHALLENGES AHEAD

Greetings from your friendly District Registrar. I hope you all enjoyed successful Service and Fund Raising in the run up to Christmas.

It seems to me that every fiscal year is a game of two halves. Your response to significant administrative changes was very encouraging in the first half and now is the time to build on that good foundation by addressing some important challenges in the second half, so please: -

“CONNECT” WITH THE CHALLENGE TO CHANGE.... to Electronic Reporting.

Thank you for an increasingly impressive response here. We are closing in on 100% with only 4 Clubs yet to reap the benefit of submitting Membership Reports electronically. It is easier, quicker and more efficient and cost effective for everyone, with the ability to input data instantly rather than taking weeks to process by paper from Club to LCIHQ.

“CONNECT” WITH THE CHALLENGE TO CHANGE.... the Trends of Membership.

Again, thanks to the Clubs’ response and the support of the MERL Team, the downward trend has at last been reversed. As at half-year end, our District Membership Database recorded: -

1060 Members: a net gain of 11 since June after 41 New and 31 Drops.

This includes the emergence of Birmingham Northfield Club from Status Quo with 10 New

Members inducted in December. Great news indeed, so let’s keep maintaining the upward trend.

“CONNECT” WITH THE CHALLENGE TO CHANGE.... the PU101 Reporting of Club Officers.

Early Spring will see the Elections of Club Officers taking place and the reporting of their details promptly is imperative to achieve efficient and powerful inter communication.

The process of electronic submission of PU101 Forms is covered in my Guide Notes on the District Website. Just click on Resources, then Guides and Manuals to find out more.

Please note in particular that it is vital to include email addresses on PU101s to ensure receipt of Clubs’ new Passwords for 2008-9 because, whether there are changes of Officers or not, the current Passwords will cease to function by 31 July 2008.

Please note also the good news from MDHQ in the Dec/Jan LION Magazine on Page 19: - (Quote) “We are now working closely with International HQ to cut down on the administration that our hardworking Club Secretaries have to do, and we hope very shortly to be able to announce that you will only have to input information via PU101s or eMMR once to us at MDHQ and we will communicate that on your behalf on to International HQ.”

“CONNECT” WITH THE CHALLENGE TO CHANGE.... to the power of e-Communications.

We all know that IT has its bad points, but there are many more good ones and, with proper use, it can be a great source of powerful, speedy and effective communication.

Contact Lion Simon Moss at webmaster@lions105m.org to broadcast by email: also, surf all the Lions Websites regularly via www.lions105m.org.uk to keep up with news throughout Lionism

APRIL IN KETTERING

Kettering & District Lions Club are again organising their special 15th. annual

DAY IN THE PARK

at the famous Wicksteed Park on 26th. April 2008, and all Lions clubs are invited to join us in providing a fabulous day out for disabled, handicapped and underprivileged children and families. We will act as hosts, and will be available to assist with any problems that arise, but each club must be responsible for the children that they bring.

Wicksteed Park, opened in 1913 and was the first leisure park in the country, is set in

147 acres of parkland, lakes and nature trails, and is unique in still offering free admission. It has kept well up to date with the addition of a huge variety of rides and attractions, including traditional swings and slides, a 7 metre high Astraglide, Pirate Ship Swing Boat, Dodgems, Drop Tower and a Laser Dome. The famous Water Chute and Miniature Railway, from the early days, (but now modernised to meet current safety standards), along with Paddle boats, Monorail, Veteran Car Ride etc, offer a fun filled and exciting day for young people.

Kettering Lions club have negotiated free car and coach parking, and a very generously discounted price of just £10 for the wrist bands that give unlimited free access to rides and attractions, subject to a minimum height requirement of 1 metre on most rides. This varies slightly depending on the safety rules, and can require an adult to

accompany the child. Wicksteed has made a big effort to ensure that the majority of rides can be accessed by people with disabilities, but usually requires that an adult accompanies them. Wheelchairs are available free, but you must book them well in advance, direct with the park, with a £5 deposit.

Food and drink is widely available at the park, varying from fast food such as hot dogs burgers & chips etc. to children’s set meals in the restaurant, but this can add considerably to the cost of the day. Experience from previous years has been that clubs have provided a picnic, or tell the children to bring a packed meal with them.

If your club would like to join those that come each year, or if you are one of our regular visitors, we would be delighted to welcome you to Kettering, so please contact Lion Neil Manns on 01536 518922, who will send you a booking form.



DUCK RACE

The Lions ran their annual duck race on the River Welland at Medbourne with the feathered variety looking on with great interest. As the Lions had 400 numbered ducks, the feathered variety were surplus. The photograph shows the race organiser, David Thake and Derek Hewitt who spent several hours in the river prior to the race making a smooth path for the ducks. All tickets were sold for the four races and three prizes were won in each race. Almost £1000 was raised for local and Lions charities.

Lion Roger Merchant attended despite being extremely unwell and this was his last event before his untimely death on 26th October. Lion Roger will be much missed not only for his work for Lions and the community but also for his friendship. Our thoughts at this time are with his wife Tina and the family.



TALK TALK FROM BEDWORTH LIONS

The next 'slightly odd' event is Bedworth Lions Awareness Month in January.

January 1st 2008 sees the start of Bedworth Lions Awareness Month.

Lion President Brian will open his home once again for the month for this.

He and other members of The Coventry Amateur Radio Society will be operating GB4BLC. During the official opening on the 2nd January.

The Mayor of Nuneaton & Bedworth is scheduled to talk with the Mayor of Cambridge by amateur radio. The significance of this is that Cllr Jenny Bailey, the Mayor of Cambridge is the only Mayor in the UK who is also a radio amateur.

G0VQH. I hear you shouting what has this to do with Lions....firstly the publicity...

secondly are you aware that amateur radio is used by Lions for humanitarian aid proposes?

VU2LCI being a permanent disaster station in Bangalore.

Please run all the callsigns in this article through Google for greater explanations.

Lion President Brian G8GMU

DROITWICH LIONS BOOK SALE



This was one of our special extra book sales in aid of Acorns Hospice. Left, in the foreground is Lion Phil Wallis, one of the stalwarts of the sale and the king of cake sales. He also is the super salesman for items I give a sacred quest to sell. Last time he got £10 for a clock! In the background is Lion President Dave Jepson looking for a book with short words to read.



LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

We have names on a waiting list for each of the workshops below. As soon as there are enough names against one, we will arrange to deliver it at an appropriate time and place. Please let me know if you would like your name added to any of the lists.

Workshops/information sessions are delivered to groups of 10-12, in a professional manner, by a team of qualified presenters.

Action Planning, Conflict Resolution, Creative Thinking, So you Want to be a District Officer, Leadership, Managing Meetings, Motivating Club Members, Presentation Skills*, Public Speaking, The Lions Structure, The Operation of District 105M and Team Building.

Each session is approximately 2 hours duration. However, * can be expanded to either 1 day or 2 full days, day 1 utilising IT (PowerPoint) and day 2 (about 4 weeks later) allowing the opportunity to practice a short presentation in a safe environment.

The 2 day session would incur a nominal charge for refreshments and we would have to find a suitable venue with PC access.



More DGs News



Continued from page one

I also had the privilege to accompany DG Gordon during his visits to eye camp, eye hospitals and present spectacles in the village. I was also impressed by the work done by the Club offering free check-ups for diabetes, blood pressure, eye tests and delivering free spectacles. It was a very memorable experience.

The next Cabinet meeting is due on 10th February 2008. I would also like to remind all the Lions that our District Convention is due on 7th to 9th March 2008. The Past International President Ashok Mehta will be visiting. Please make your reservation in advance.

DGs Club Visits

In my previous News letter, I had only mentioned my Charter visits and fund raising visit. I apologise if there was confusion amongst the Lions. I give below some of my business visits proposed for the month of January 2008 and February 2008: -

January 2008

- 7th January 2008 – Kettering L C
- 9th January 2008- Brixworth Branch LC
- 10th January 2008- Droitwich
- 16th January 2008- Shirley LC
- 21st January 2008- Kettering Charter
- 23rd January 2008 – Handsworth Ladies
- 25th, 26th & 27th January 2008- Council Meeting
- 28th January 2008- Edgbaston LC

February 2008

- 6th February 2008- Bushby LC
- 11th February 2008- Lutterworth LC
- 12th February 2008- Stour Valley LC
- 13th February 2008- Coventry Leofric
- 14th February 2008- Dudley LC
- 19th February 2008- Solihull L C
- 25th February 2008- Kingswinford & Stourbridge LC
- 28th February 2008- Walsall L C

DG Suresh Gohil-BSc.ACII.MCMI

WELCOME TO THESE NEW LIONS

I am pleased to welcome the following 27 new members to the family of Lions:-

<u>Club:</u>	<u>Name:</u>
1. Birmingham Chinatown	Louise Woo
2. Wellingborough & Dist	Steve Watkins
3. Nuneaton	Lorraine Atkins
4. Nuneaton	Julie Jackson
5. Knowle & Dorridge	Paul Ferreira
6. Dudley	Doreen Preece
7. Rugby Rokeby	Iain Black
8. Barwell & Earl Shilton	Chris Sutton
9. Birmingham Handsworth	Joginder Phul
10. Birmingham Northfield	Jean Bateman
11. Birmingham Northfield	Jenny Birch
12. Birmingham Northfield	David Cullen
13. Birmingham Northfield	Lesley Cullen
14. Birmingham Northfield	Barbara Evans
15. Birmingham Northfield	William Pearce
16. Birmingham Northfield	Dorothy Harris-Pearce
17. Birmingham Northfield	Marion Savage
18. Birmingham Northfield	Claire Tombs
19. Birmingham Northfield	Janice Wones
20. Birmingham Northfield	Mike Sneyd
21. Droitwich	Elaine Harris
22. Droitwich	Don Russell
23. Droitwich	W G Boddy (Bill)
24. Southam	Iain White
25. Bushby	Dullabbhai Patel
26. Bedworth	Martin Salzman
27. Birmingham Handsworth	Pradeep Pithadia

I would also like to congratulate LP Barbara Waldron of Birmingham Northfield LC for persevering and adding 11 new members into the Club. Also wish to thank RC Jackie McGuirk and membership Chairman Heather Lee for the hard work put into membership drive overseen by PDG Doug Cross. The total number of new members as at 31st December 2007 is 44 and 33 drop out which including several deaths.

However, several new members have been inducted in the month of January 2008 and I am positive that every Club will endeavour to induct new members and while keeping the existing members. We need a net growth of 100 members for this Lionistic year.

Man can not discover new oceans unless he has courage to lose sight of the shore.