



Lions Club International  
District 105A  
Newsletter Editor  
Maria Azcona

THE TEAM THAT  
TURNS DREAMS  
INTO REALITY

# Pride of Lions

APRIL 2004

ISSUE 10

## Get the Charaban ready-It's a day out!

It's the time of year again when the weather starts to brighten up and District 105A looks to Clubs to treat children to a wonderful day out at Chessington World of Adventure.

It is happening on Sunday, 16th May 2004 from 10am to 6pm. Cost is only £9.45 per person.

Forms are available from Lion Brindar Singh Nandra, tel: 0208 903 9326 (day) or 0208 907 3379 (eve). Cheques payable to "Lions Club International District 105A" no later than Tuesday 4th May.

## John Hunt—Does He Need an Introduction?

Ask anyone who knows John Hunt from Harpenden Lions Club about his Lionistic record and they will come back with the words "How long have you got?"

Having just received his 35 Year Service Award, DG Elliot Shubert chose this very special man to receive the third highest International honour, namely the International Leadership Award (Medal) at the District Convention.

Ray White, secretary of the club said of John, "There isn't an office that John hasn't held, apart from Treasurer. He is a Lion through and through". Together with his wife Brenda, they can be seen at every Zone Charter, as well as fundraising activities not just in their Club, but throughout the District. John first joined Lions over at the Walton and Weybridge Club in 1969, where for the next fourteen years, he acted in varied roles, as President and Secretary, as well as serving on various committees, such as Medic Alert, Fundraising, Youth Award and still found time to serve his District as Zone Chairman and Deputy DG.

When he moved to Harpenden in 1983, he immediately got his feet wet and jumped in at the deep end, by serving and then Chairing the Services Committee. Anyone who knows Harpenden will appreciate that his is a huge task in that neck of the woods! Again, two years later he was again thrown into acting Zone Chairman. Harpenden have kept strict records for exactly what he did and when, but let's just say that over the following nineteen years, his enthusiasm hasn't waned at all, and he has served Lions as District Governor, Editor of 105A News, on Membership, Youth award, MERL, Fundraising, PRO, Council Secretary and Youth. On top off all this, he still finds time to dedicate to the Harpenden Society as Secretary.

Apparently, I am told he has one of the sharpest minds around, having trained as a chemist at the University of London and is a keen mathematician to boot.

On behalf of friends and the family of Lions, let's just say that John truly deserved the recognition and award. If we all took a leaf out of John's book, and we did everything with such joy, enthusiasm and commitment, and if our own Lionistic career could measure up to John's, we would all of us have something to be proud about.

## LCIF Trophy By PCC Lion Bert Randall

At the District Convention, congratulations went to Leighton Buzzard Lions Club, the winners of the LCIF Trophy for 2003/04. Edgware were the runners up, with Enfield and Greenford Willow Tree being in joint third. There was only one point difference between the Clubs—well done!

As a reminder, the Rules for the LCIF trophy are as follows:

Points are awarded to clubs who support the most Projects under the umbrella of LCIF, not necessarily the most money raised, or the greatest number of Melvin Jones Fellowships awarded. They fall under two categories:

### Unrestricted donations (General Funds):

Hospitals, Hospices, schools etc. by International.

### Restricted Donations (Clubs Designate)

- Eye camps
- Melvin Jones Fellowships
- Education—sponsoring students
- Water Aid—wells, pumps etc
- Drug awareness—sponsoring local schools
- Diabetic Screening—organised day checks
- LEHP—talks to local organisations
- Collection of spectacles and hearing aids
- Clothes collected and donated
- Emergency donations—earthquakes, floods etc
- LCIF grants—international twinning with other clubs
- Appeals—Support for Peace posters competition etc.

Results are judged on information obtained from Clubs' Activities Reports and from District Officers Reports; so, secretaries, do not forget to include all relevant information in your monthly reports.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, PCC Bert Randall, on 0208 504 3202.

## Women in Lionism— a Frank Discussion

On Tuesday, 4th May there will be a frank series of discussions and workshops which, among other things, will focus on women and how they can become more involved in the service sector. There will be case studies, interactive exercises, discussions and open forums on things that affect us, from health to civic life and minority issues.

There will be guest speakers from all walks of life and different topics. This will be a wonderful opportunity to make new links, learn something new, give your views and opinions and enjoy yourself. It will prove to be riveting and worthwhile time!

For more information contact Dr Roselle Antoine, District-Women's Development and Participation Officer on tel: 0208 206 2912 or 0793 2050 149.

## Fellowship Golf Day—The Ram Jaggi Trophy By Lion Peter Gent

Ignoring strong winds and rain, 18 golfers supported by PDG Ram Jaggi united for the third golf meeting at the West Herts Golf Club in Watford on the 19th March.

Everyone agreed that despite the awful weather, it was a very enjoyable occasion. It commenced with a superb English breakfast, culminating in a late lunch/early dinner—the golf club did us proud!

In presenting the prizes, PDG Ram thanked everyone for attending. He thanked me for organising the event and the winners were as follows:

First were Peter Gent and guest Joe Melia who won the Ram Jaggi Trophy, golf bag cases and Easter eggs with 37 points. Second prize went to Sing Chan and Joe EE from London Chinatown, with 36 points and they won golf balls and Easter eggs.

Third was Michael Vigurs and Bede Mullen, who played for Hertford, and they had 35 points, winning golf towels and Easter eggs.

Congratulations to all who took part.

### Sleeping Bag Project Helps the Homeless

On Wednesday, 24 March 2004, twenty sleeping bags, scarves and hats were donated to the Salvation Army offices near Oxford Circus. On hand to make the presentation was DG Elliot, IPDG Mike (also Deputy MD Street Children Officer), District Street Children Officer, Brindar and two members of London Golders Green (Sanjay and Jayash). The Salvation Army Officers explained their programme for assisting the homeless. Later, Brindar, Elliot and Jayash drove around central London looking for homeless persons, who needed a sleeping bag. One cold, young man, Brad, who was begging gladly accepted our offer of a sleeping bag, scarf and hat and said it was better than money. Six additional sleeping bags were given to homeless persons in the Holborn area. They were all very appreciative of Lions' generosity, especially since it was a cold night. Thank you Lions of 105A for donating your charity funds to the sleeping bag project. The DG said, "This is a true example of Lions' action on the ground".

### And the money Kept Rolling In...

Friday, 26 March 2004, Lions Clubs and Zones manned 17 stations in London and the Home Counties. Lionism was promoted with posters, banners, PR stands and tabards. Lions conducted tin shakes for local charitable projects and for the District project to support the survivors of the Madrid railway bombing. Collection totals are not available as the April issue of the newsletter went to press. An update will be published in the May newsletter. The DG would like to thank Dipak Shah, District Partnership Officer, for organising the event and Zone Chairpersons and Presidents for organising the rota for stations. The DG said, "Just think, thousands of commuters now know that Lions Clubs exist".

### Budding Photographers / Video Camera Enthusiasts

If you took pictures or videos at the District Convention, I would appreciate seeing the results. Although I hired a photographer for the day, you can't be everywhere at the same time and you may have some photos or videos that have captured something special. Please contact the DG at [dg@lions105a.org](mailto:dg@lions105a.org).

**Late bookings are still being taken for the MD105 Convention to be held in Bournemouth, 30 April, 1-2 May 2004.** Download booking form from [www.lions.org.uk](http://www.lions.org.uk)

## Winners of District Trophies

**As the day went on, anticipation grew as which Clubs and Lions had won all the different trophies:**

- Henry Popper Trophy for Medic Alert, sponsored by London (Host), won by London Golders Green.
- The ever popular District Quiz this year, sponsored by PDG John Smith, won by Harpenden.
- The coveted Travelling Lion, sponsored by PDG Harbhijan Dhariwal, won by Uxbridge & Hillingdon
- The Leo Scrap Book, sponsored by PCC Viresh Paul, was won by Robert Clack Leo's.
- The District Youth Exchange, sponsored by Lion Kishore Pattni, was won by London Golders Green.
- District Peace Poster, sponsored by John & Jennie Smith, was won by Redbridge.
- The District LCIF Trophy, sponsored by PCC Bert Randall, won by Leighton Buzzard.
- Website Trophy, sponsored by PDG Parveen and Ranjena Verma, won by Biggleswade Sandy.
- Lions Scrap Book, sponsored by PDG Cecil Worbey, was won by Witney
- The Cramped Hand Award, sponsored by The District, was won by ZC Mike Moon of Abingdon.
- Newsletter award, sponsored by PCC Viresh Paul, was won by Redbridge.
- First Timers to Convention, sponsored by PDG David Green, was won by Dinesh Shonchhatra of London Kingsbury.
- The Environment Trophy, sponsored by PDG Alan and Marlene Kings, won by London Walthamstow.
- Youth Award Winner, sponsored by the District was James Juggapah sponsored by London Seven Kings.
- The District Officers Award, sponsored by DG Elliot Shubert, won by Vijay Arora of Stanmore.

**Congratulations to all the winners. There will be other awards for clubs and individuals, which will be presented at Handover.**

### Whitchurch and District Lions "Eye to Eye" Event

Whitchurch and District Lions (105BS) are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. To commemorate their silver anniversary, the Lions of Whitchurch & District are organising a sponsored motorbike ride beginning on Thursday, 10 June departing from the London Eye in central London and reaching the Eye at Newcastle on Tyne on 11 June. The motorcyclist will be wearing a Lions' costume and an accompanying van will have Lions signs. Funds will be raised through sponsorship to support the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Lingen Davies appeal to establish a specialist treatment area for head, neck and eye cancers. I have assisted with car parking arrangements for their overnight stay on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2004. They need assistance with accommodation for seven persons for the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> of June. For more information and offer of assistance, please contact the Club Secretary, Mary Macpherson. <[fmmacphe2@hotmail.com](mailto:fmmacphe2@hotmail.com)>

### District 105A Convention Pin

A distinctive triangular pin with Big Ben and a rainbow commemorated the 39<sup>th</sup> annual District 105A Convention. For those Lions who received a pin at the Convention, I have a new pin for you, as the original pin was not the best quality and the company replaced them. Keep the pin you received and get a replacement at no cost. Please send the DG an SASE and he will send you the new pin *gratis*. If you would like to purchase the pin, please send the DG a cheque for £2.50 made payable to: "District 105A" with an SASE and you will receive a pin by return mail.

Lions Club International  
District 105A  
District Governor  
Dr Elliot Shubert



## DG'S NEWSLETTER

REALISING  
THE DREAM

### Silver Anniversary of the Twinning with District 111NB Bremen, Germany

At the invitation of DG Reinhard Meyer and his wife, Ingrid, DG Elliot Shubert and Eileen Cox, VDG-elect Max and Aruna Mongia, IPDG Mike and Janet Baldwin, and Les Westley and Christine Goode attended the District 111NB Convention in Bremen, Germany, from the 19th to 21st March 2004.

Our German Lions friends were consummate hosts the entire weekend! The setting was breathtaking. Bremen is a beautiful and historic market town on the River Weser. The Rathaus (circa 1405) is the town hall and dominates the Market Square. The Convention was actually held in the Rathaus on Saturday from 9.00 AM to 1.00 PM (more about the Convention later). Also, on the Market Square is the gothic St Petri Cathedral, which is more than 1,200 years-old. Not only is it an impressive architectural masterpiece, but it also has outstanding acoustics (we were fortunate that the organist was practicing during our visit and the sound was mzing). It did rain off and on during the weekend, but that did not deter the Brits! Friday night an informal and lively dinner was held in a former monastery. DGs from their twinned Districts in Poland and The Netherlands also attended. There were no formal speeches, but it was an opportunity to share some humour and to socialise.

Saturday morning was Convention day. The interior of the Rathaus is auspicious with carved wood panelling and wall paintings. The German Convention is primarily business and speeches (in Deutsch). *Yours truly* knows some Deutsch, so I could get the gist of some speeches (it helped that Eileen is fluent in German).

I was given the opportunity to give a short speech commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning between 105A and 111NB. PDG Peter Senger acted as my translator.

Previously (6th March) 105A presented an engraved brass bell to 111NB, and in Bremen, 105A received a framed picture of a newspaper article which reported the twinning in the local German newspaper, 25 years ago.

Once the Convention was over, we reassembled near the Market Square for a ride on a tram to the Bremen Space Center, a theme park attraction. After a brief tour and a wild ride on a virtual reality roller coaster, we all joined up for an experience of a space trip in the IMAX theatre.

That evening was a formal banquet for over 100 persons in the "heaven room" of the Hilton Hotel. This room was designed in the 1920's in an art deco style. It is a "one of a kind" beauty. Aside from the excellent food and wine, was the entertainment. We were entertained with Shakespeare in the form of Romeo and Juliet. It was part serious, part comic and very enjoyable. In one particular scene, Romeo asked the audience to set the scene with the whistling of birds, the rush of wind and trees. Our own Les Westley demonstrated his true skills by performing as a tree (strong trunk and branches extended!). The evening ended in the hotel lounge lasting to some ungodly hour.

Sunday included a walk in the old town, the Schnoor Quarter, and a lovely lunch in a local pub before we departed Bremen for London.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable trip and an opportunity to cement our friendship with the German Lions. A special Lions' thank you goes to DG Reinhard and Ingrid, PDG Peter and Pieternel, Heike and Karola.

### One Man - One Walk - One Thousand Miles

The Multiple District Council of Governors approved the partnership of Lions with Leonard Cheshire.

Leonard Cheshire (Cheshire Homes) is a charity, which creates opportunities for disabled persons. They are embarking on a nationwide charity event involving the world adventurer, Chris Moon.

Chris lost an arm and a leg when a landmine he was clearing exploded. Despite his disability, Chris is going to walk the length of Britain, from John O'Groats to Land's End, in 25 days (over 1,000 miles).

Chris said, "I am taking on "One Walk" because no one goes further than Leonard Cheshire to support disabled people. Chris' goal is to raise £1million for Leonard Cheshire.

How can the Lions of 105A help? You can conduct a fund raiser to help Chris reach his goal. You can do a sponsored walk with Chris when he reaches the Home Counties (Grand Union Canal) on 21st of June or central London on 22<sup>nd</sup> of June. The Lions will receive public recognition for their involvement with this Leonard Cheshire charity event. For more information, go to [www.onewalk.org.uk](http://www.onewalk.org.uk)

Chris Moon will be a featured speaker at the MD105 Convention in the MD Bournemouth Convention.

### Setting the Record Straight

Our international guests for the 39<sup>th</sup> annual District Convention, PIP Bill Biggs and PDG Dana Biggs, were given every courtesy throughout their stay in London.

*Yours truly* saw to all of their needs prior to and during the Convention. Eileen and I drove our car into London, so that we could escort Bill and Dana to and from the Convention venue, affording them comfort and convenience.

It was *yours truly's* intention to take them to Gatwick airport on Sunday morning, since they had 6 pieces of luggage. However, a senior Lion offered to take them to the airport without first checking with me what the arrangements were. This is called common Lions' courtesy for the DG.

If I had been consulted beforehand there would not be the misimpression going around that I was not looking after our international guests.

In a post Convention Email, Bill and Dana expressed their satisfaction and delight with the 105A Convention and they said that it was one of the best District Conventions that they had ever attended.

Thank you Lions of 105A for showing your hospitality and friendship to Bill and Dana.

## Miles Hilton-Barber - World Adventurer

Miles Hilton-Barber was the final speaker at the District Convention. For those who heard Miles speech, they were unanimous in their praise that he motivated and inspired them. Miles has been blind for 25 years, but that has not deterred him from accomplishing some amazing feats, such as the toughest foot-race in the world, the Marathon Des Sables, a 150 mile Ultra-Marathon race through the 120 degree heat of the Sahara Desert, climbing to a height of 17,500 feet in the Himalayas, successfully conquering Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa at 19,340 feet, setting a world record as the first blind person to man-haul a sledge over 400 kilometres across Antarctica, participating in an 11 day ultra-marathon event across China, including sections of the Gobi Desert, 12,000 feet high Tibetan mountain tracks and the Great Wall of China, participating in the Commonwealth Games Queen's Jubilee Baton Relay Race, to name a few. Miles was voted as BBC Radio 5 Live's 'Alternative Sports personality of the Year'.

Miles is seeking financial assistance from Lions for his next adventure, which begins in July 2004 when he flies a microlight from London to Sydney (12,500 miles) in 35 days. Miles says, "I am currently seeking to source speech-output for my essential flight instruments, enabling me to do most of the flying, unaided by my sighted co-pilot, and any contributions from Lions Clubs would be hugely appreciated. I am hoping to raise sponsorship via my flight for the Royal National Institute for the Blind, and all contributions to the project reduce our overheads and help us support the RNIB more fully".

For more information, contact DG Elliot [dq@lions105a.org](mailto:dq@lions105a.org)

## Lions Day with the United Nations at Houses of Parliament

**On Tuesday, 23 March 2004, Lions throughout MD105 assembled in the Houses of Parliament to recognise Lions Clubs International UN Day.**

The day began with a reception and lunch on the Terrace hosted by Richard Page MP. It was an enjoyable occasion and an opportunity to socialise with Lions and dignitaries and to consume some food? and drink. *Yours truly* hosted The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Jan Prendergast and Dr Evan Harris MP. The afternoon session began at 2.00 PM. The programme was Chaired by PDG Len Aldridge (MD UN Affairs Officer) and we heard from a succession of speakers, including Council Chairman, Philip Goodier; Bill Rammell MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Foreign & Commonwealth Office); International Director, Howard Lee; Martin Bell (UNICEF, Special Representative for Humanitarian Emergencies); Martin Buczkiewicz (Chief Executive of TACADE); and Stephen Twigg MP.

The highlight of the afternoon was the recognition of the MD105 Peace Poster Winner, Brady White (sponsored by Redbridge). Brady finished 28<sup>th</sup> in the international competition, which is remarkable.

There was a very strong representation of Lions and spouses from 105A. It was a good Lionistic event, with fellowship, interesting speeches and a reaffirmation of our partnership with the United Nations based on a history of shared values.

## Flash, Bang, Wallop—What a Picture!

**A book of proofs is available for you to purchase photographs taken by the official photographer at our District Convention. Tel: Maria on 01727 752919**

## In Memorium

It is with much regret that the DG has learned of the passing to higher service of **Jack Sweetland (Banbury)**. *I know he will be sadly missed and I extend my deepest sympathy to his family and friends.*

## Adopt-A-Minefield

Heather Mills and Paul McCartney are the Founding Patrons of Adopt-A-Minefield (UK). AAM raises awareness and funds to clear landmines and help landmine survivors. And 100% of donations AAM receives goes to mine action. Adopt-A-Minefield offers the chance for every individual and organisation to take positive action to rid the world of landmines. Our information sheet has examples of fundraising actions you can take throughout the year such as putting on a meal as part of the Night of 1000 Dinners campaign. It also lets you know how to book a speaker. Landmines are the only weapons actually designed to be indiscriminate. This is why 130 countries have promised not to use or make them anymore by signing the Mine Ban Treaty. However, millions of these terrible little bombs, which are often no bigger than a half size tin of beans, are still in the ground. They kill or maim another human being every 27 minutes. Adopt-A-Minefield is a positive response to the treaty. Now that much of the mine laying has stopped – we need to get them out of the ground. Communities in mine-affected countries often don't have the resources to clear their own land or to provide adequate care to their landmine survivors. Millions more live in urban slums because their villages are mine affected. Economic and social development depends upon people having safe access to their land. To receive a copy and see what landmine action you can take, call 020 7925 1500 and leave your name and address, E-mail us at [lions@landmines.org.uk](mailto:lions@landmines.org.uk) or click on our website [www.landmines.org.uk](http://www.landmines.org.uk)

## Incoming Zone Chairpersons and Officers Training

The incoming Zone Chairpersons training seminar will take place at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Hatfield on Sunday 25 April 2004, 9.00 AM – 1.00 PM. The cost for coffee is £2.25. A carvery lunch will be served for £6.95 per person. Please contact SAA, Luke Adams [sergeant@lions105a.org](mailto:sergeant@lions105a.org), *no later than* 19 April with your coffee and meal preferences and copy PCC Geoff Leeder, District Leadership Development Officer, [geoff@leeder.me.uk](mailto:geoff@leeder.me.uk) Please make cheque payable to: "District 105A" and send the cheque to Luke (p. 14 of the Directory). **Please Note:** The Incoming Presidents training seminar has been moved to 6 June 2004 to coincide with the incoming Secretaries and Treasurers training seminar.

The incoming Club officers (President, Secretary and Treasurer) training seminar will be held at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Hatfield on Sunday, 6 June 2004, 9.00 AM – 1.00 PM. The cost for coffee is £2.25. A carvery lunch will be served for £6.95 per person. Please contact SAA, Luke Adams [sergeant@lions105a.org](mailto:sergeant@lions105a.org), *no later than* 31 May with your coffee and meal preferences and copy PCC Geoff Leeder, District Leadership Development Officer, [geoff@leeder.me.uk](mailto:geoff@leeder.me.uk) . Please make cheque payable to: "District 105A" and send the cheque to Luke (p. 14 of the Directory). The seminar is for all new and returning club officers.

## Welcome New Members!

105A is proud to welcome **28** new members since January 2004. You have joined the largest voluntary organisation in the world, whose primary aim is to help those less fortunate. Thank you sponsors for your vigilant efforts and interest in membership growth. More members = more service = more fun!. The full list will be published in the next edition. The Feb. cumulative stats showed 105A had the highest net inc. (+ 50) in MD105.

## 105A District Convention 2004—The Highlights

**“Interesting, enjoyable, entertaining, stimulating, inspiring, motivating, challenging.....” These are some of the words that delegates used to describe the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual District 105A Convention, our own “Celebration of Lionism”.**

### Let Us Set the Scene

This was the *first ever* District 105A Convention to be held in the historic centre of London, a stone's throw from Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament in the beautiful setting of Church House, with its regal, yet somehow humble surroundings. A staggering 80% of the Clubs in the District were represented with delegates and alternates. In addition, Lions members and spouses/partners attended from Italy, Germany, and as far away as the Republic of Georgia and the United States. In total over 380 persons attended the Convention.

The Day Convention was divided into two distinct parts. The morning session was more traditional and Lionistic, and consisted of an opening ceremony followed by business. The afternoon session was full of inspiring and motivating speeches by non-Lions, as well as a few surprises and definite “firsts”, not just for 105A, but for the Multiple District.

### The Start of the Beginning

The Leos from Robert Clack School conducted the flag ceremony with heart rendering pride. After the reading of the Code of Ethics and Objects, Invocation and In Memoriam, The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Jan Prendergast, (who, by the way is an honorary member of the Lions Club of Westminster, one of the newest Clubs in 105A), welcomed everyone to London and encouraged the delegates and visitors to explore the arts and entertainment venues and other attractions available in Westminster.

### Elliot and His Surfing

Elliot upon giving his address, likened his year to “surfing a high wave”, because of the support that he has received from the Lions, as well as the exhilaration he feels when plans come to fruition. In his speech, he reminded the Lions that “You, the members, underpin everything we do in Lionism. *You* have the questions, and *you* have the answers. *You* have the eyes to see what is needed. *You* have the ears to hear what is needed. *You* have the hands to help people in need. As DG, I am using my vision to lead you “in service” and I am using my vision to *realise the dream*. However, I cannot *realise the dream* without you!”

### So, Down to Some Serious Business

The business session took up the remainder of the morning consisting of resolutions, election of Vice District Governor (Erach Amaria, London Finchley was elected), District Governor Elect (DGE Max Mongia, London Central), approval of the 2004-2005 budget, and all reports were accepted as one motion. Questions and answers then followed. To keep us on time and to make sure we minded our p's and q's, Lord Sebastian (aka Martin Jenner) was appointed Tail Twister. Not only did he possess a very large clock, not unlike the one owned by the rabbit in Alice's Wonderland, but with his silly games and funny hats, he was there to embarrass Lions who made the most obvious mistakes, (talking over time, talking what he considered “nonsense”, or just repeating something – and if anyone had forgotten to switch their mobile off.. oh dear!). Luckily, everyone in 105A is very used to such a “larger than life” character appearing in our Annual Conventions, so it was all taken in good spirit.

### Meeting Your New and Old Twin

An official twinning ceremony with District 108I a/1 Italy (DG Roberto Favero) took place, as well with the Leos of 105A and 108I a/1. DG Dr Elliot Shubert presented DG Roberto Favero with an inscribed Lions gavel as a memento of the occasion.

This was followed by a commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning of District 105A and 111NB Germany (DG Reinhard Meyer). DG Dr Elliot Shubert presented DG Reinhard Meyer with an inscribed Lions bell as a memento of the occasion. In return DG Elliot received a chunk of rare Chinese granite with an artistic design on it which signified unity.

### The End of the Beginning

To round off the morning session, two rousing and motivating speeches were given by our international guests. PDG Dana Biggs gave an inspiring and thought provoking talk on women in Lionism. She cited research documenting the similarities and differences between men and women and concluded that both men and women have unique characteristics and talents that they can offer to Lionism. Men and women are complimentary and create a balance of ideas and opinions in a mixed club. Past International President William L (Bill) Biggs, Nebraska USA, gave a robust and inspiring speech. He told a story about his grandfather who was a Lion. He said, in part, “I am very rich in all of the things that matter on this earth. The answers to wealth do not lie in material things. Richness lies in helping our fellow man. There are so many people out there in the world who need my help. What would more money buy me? Nothing! I would just have more money”. PIP Bill ended with his version of the 10 Commandments.

### May We Introduce Your Special Guest...

After lunch once everyone had reassembled into the convention hall, there was an audible gasp and thunderous applause from the delegates when Heather Mills McCartney and Sir Paul McCartney entered, being escorted by DG Dr Elliot Shubert and Dr Eileen Cox. Heather was recognised with a Melvin Jones Fellow for her work with landmine victims. In introducing Heather, DG Elliot said, in part, “Heather is best known for her work with war victims, who have lost limbs and the Adopt-a-Minefield charity, the latter campaigns to raise funds and awareness to rid the world of landmines. In 2001 when India was devastated by a terrible earthquake Heather flew out to Gujarat and launched an appeal for the Lions Club in the area, raising enough money to buy more than 5,000 limbs for people who had lost legs in the disaster. My fellow Lions, Heather's words emulate what Lionism is all about. In recognition of the significant contribution Heather has made to campaigning against land mines and her unselfish and caring work with persons who have lost limbs, I would like to show District 105A's appreciation of Heather Mills McCartney with the Lions Clubs International highest recognition, The Melvin Jones Fellow.” Once the award was given to her, Heather replied, (in part), “I worked tirelessly until just two days before my daughter's birth and I was back counselling amputees just a month later, but recent criticism about my relationship with husband Paul has upset me so much that I actually contemplated giving up charity work for good. The award, she said, was a timely reminder as to why I continued”. She explained: “I've always respected the Lions Club for all the charity work they do around the world and the award was a lovely surprise. It's nice to get that recognition, particularly when I get criticised for trying to save people's lives”. Heather and Sir Paul graciously received the District Governor's friendship banners, leaving to loud applause.

### **We are All Winners...**

As the afternoon session unfolded, it was time to recognise clubs that were the winners of the various District competition trophies. A full list of the winners can be found in *Pride of Lions*, but District Governor chose, as well, various people to be recognised with International President's Certificates of Appreciation (Manish Chotai, B. K. Patel, Kishore Pattni and Les Westley).

International Leadership Award Medal (Maria Azcona, and PDG John Hunt), District Governor's Appreciation Medal (Ken Rouse and Ashok Bhardwaj), Melvin Jones Fellow (Anil Rawal, Wembley Brent), Rana Dhanwan, Hayes & Harlington), Bert Mason Award (Sarbjit Assi, London Acton), and 100% Governor's Award (IPDG Mike Baldwin) were also recognised. In addition the newest club, London New Phoenix New Century Lions Club, was presented with their charter.

### **Our Future Youth In Our Past Endeavours**

The day was also about Our Youth and the future generation who will step into our shoes. James Juggapah, District Young Ambassador of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Winner, and Miss Brady White, District and Multiple District Peace Poster Winner (placed 28<sup>th</sup> in International competition) were both on stage to give brief talks.

Silver (50 hours) and Gold (100 hours) Young Leaders in Service awards (for community service) were presented to Leos Louise Hill and Alex Howarth.

### **People Who Motivated and Inspired**

Mr Martin Buczkiewicz, Chief Executive of Tacade, described the life skills programmes for pre-school, primary and secondary students and the partnership with Lions Clubs.

Mr Ian Walkden, National Director of Habitat for Humanity-Great Britain, gave a talk about the charity's house building programme conducted world-wide for impoverished persons.

Ms Carole Stone, author of "Networking-The Art of Making Friends", and the "queen of networking" gave a stimulating talk about networking and applied it to our outreach programme to recruit new members. "Never", she says, "leave a gathering of people without making at least one new contact." This is something that I know Lions in 105A have taken on board, so it is nice to see some "return" on what Carole Stone said.

### **And then, Those Who Entertained...**

Again, even more celebs were used: Bridget Jones (aka Maria Azcona), Martin Bashir (aka PDG Parveen Verma) and Jeremy Paxman (aka PCC Geoff Leeder) performed a tongue-in-cheek skit about Lions, based on the "Upper Class, Middle Class, Lower Class" sketch, made famous by Ronnie Corbett, Ronnie Barker and John Cleese in "That Was the Week That Was", which anyone over the age of 35 will remember.

This brought some light entertainment to the proceedings, as well as highlighting the different ways we can get the Lionistic word out on the streets, and to those in the media spotlight and those in power.

### **A Moral to be Learnt From an Amazing Man**

Mr Miles Hilton-Barber, who is blind and a world adventurer, capped the afternoon programme with a rousing and motivating speech.

Miles said, "What determines our quality of life? It is not so much our circumstances as our response to our circumstance." He gave an example, "Two men in a jail, looking through the bars, one saw mud and the other saw stars. Same circumstances, but totally different responses." Miles asked, "What circumstances can't you change? Death. Age. But, you can change your attitude towards age!" Miles posed this question, "What are our limits in life? If it is the realm of the possible. It is the realm of the achievable. The only limits in life are those that you accept in yourself and your head." Miles explained, "Power of choice. Get on with what you've got."

"To achieve potential, you have to 'step outside of the circle' and dream *big* to achieve and realise it." Miles concluded, "Have fun and enjoy life."

### **Now The End of the Day Convention**

The afternoon was concluded with an original song, "Lions' Hopes and Dreams"©, written by Maria Azcona and Elliot Shubert, music by Chris Cox, and sung by Leos and future Lions (children of Lions members).

Altogether it was the perfect finish to the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual 105A District Convention: we started off with the young Leos and future Lions bringing in the flags and concluded with the future Lions singing their hearts out about what we all want to achieve in "Our Hopes and Dreams". A more fitting start and finish could not have been possible, even in the movies.

### **The Party Began**

The District Governor's gala Banquet and Ball was held at the Thistle Tower Hotel and over 160 guests attended. A harpist, Nicola Broke, played lovely classical music during the three-course meal. There were no speeches, only toasts.

The rest of the evening the guests were entertained by the amazing look-alike, sound-alike, "The Cavern Beatles" (a Beatles Tribute Band). Never has 105A seen so much "twisting and shouting". Someone had a lovely idea and sent round book for everyone present to fill in with a little note about the Convention. For the first time ever, Lions children were present, with the DGs blessing of course!. It was such a joy for parents and grandparents to be able to enjoy such a momentous occasion with their children, dancing and laughing. It gave them an insight into where us grown ups disappear to sometimes when we get the babysitter round.

### **Thank You, Thank You, Thank You...**

We must never forget, that the Convention would not have been a success without the dedication and commitment of numerous Lions members of Zones A and B; Ken Rouse (Convention Officer); Ashok Bhardwaj (Co-Chairman); Doreen Carr and Jean Hughes (Registration); Sergeant at Arms, Luke Adams; District Secretary, PDG Parveen Verma; District Treasurer, Dilip Shah; Tail Twister, Martin Jenner; PRO, Maria Azcona; Leadership Development Officer, PCC Geoff Leeder (IT/AV); Robin Hurley (IT/AV); George Matthew; Jagdish Patel; PDG John Hunt (Credentials) and DGE Max Mongia. Financial sponsorship was an integral part of the Convention and it allowed for extras that would not have been possible otherwise. District 105A is grateful for the financial support from Sun Microsystems, Shah and Burke Solicitors, Safedale Ltd, Vein Clinic Ltd, Cyprus Airways, Initial Style Conferences, Cavendish Media Ltd, Bounds Green Press, Chapmans Chartered Accountants, Group Buying Ltd, Hosts of the 38<sup>th</sup> annual District 105A Convention, London Lions Clubs and an anonymous donor.