



105A News



Incorporating the District Governor's Newsletter

Mission: To inform, update and entertain

Issue 7, April/May 2005

They walked to raise over £15,000 for Tsunami victims

The LCIF Walk for the World took place on 3rd April, a bright Sunday afternoon, at the National Trust's Osterley Park in the heart of Osterley.

Organised by Zone E, it attracted walkers not only from Zone E but a number of other zones who joined hands along with their family and friends to raise money for LCIF. Over 80 individuals (some of who are pictured on the right) took part in the walk but large numbers of family and friends came along to support them. Food and refreshments were provided by the organisers and everyone enjoyed the wonderful picnic atmosphere and the beautiful, colourful surroundings of the Park.

In excess of £15,000.00 has now been raised for LCIF qualifying for over 26 Melvin Jones awards! A success and achievement that has



made all the hours put into organising the event worth every penny, says Zone Chair person Bharat Mistry. He adds: I would like to thank Lion Nimmi Suri and her event co-ordinators Lion Meenakshi Gupta from Kenton and Lion Parag Bhargava from London Hendon and all

the committee members who worked very hard and showed unity and a great team spirit to make this project a great success. My sincere thanks also go to all the volunteers, the sponsors and the members, families and friends who participated in this walk.

BRING IN THE VISIONARIES

As an organisation we are still set in some really old ways. Our Objects and Ethics, for instance, have changed little - if at all - since they were written many years ago, Our district and multiple district hierarchy which is defined constitutionally has also seen very little change over the years. The way we run our cabinet and club meetings too follow what appears like an age old tradition.

Clearly where things work, there is no reason to change - *if it ain't broke, why fix it?*

However, the world is changing. The pace of change in the last decade has been so tremendous that if we look at the way we organise ourselves or the way we work is dramatically different from the way we did things only a few years ago.

So why have we not changed our outlook within Lionism? Isn't it time we

took a serious look at our organisation and genuinely move into the 21st Century.

To do that we need Leaders with vision. Visionaries in clubs, districts, multiple district and above. My biggest regret is that whenever anyone shows some vision we are very quick to shoot them down. We need to get out of our comfort zone and think about the future. Now.

THE EDITOR

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25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Amphill District Lions have just celebrated 25 Years of service to the Community. Formed in 1980 the Club has raised many thousands of pounds for local, national, and international charities and appeals.

Amphill Lions are well known for their annual firework display in Amphill Park and the Christmas Float collection. The fund raising enables the Lions to distribute Christmas parcels to the needy, run a Fun-Day for the disabled, and a Senior Citizens' Concert. Some of the work is unseen in helping the needy and underprivileged with basic essentials and holidays and trips.

The Amphill Lions are also committed to youth by donations to local schools, supporting anti drug campaigns and Citizenship amongst youth groups.

Our work, writes Lion Roy Tebbutt, extends through the generosity of the people of the area, to making significant donations to Keech Cottage and the Pasque Hospice, The Primrose Appeal, Macmillan Cancer Care and Marie Curie Nurses. We were also able to make a direct contribution to the Tsunami Appeal by supporting the work of fellow Lions Clubs on the ground in the disaster area.

As members of Lions Clubs International we share the commitment to working with the blind

through the "Sight First Programme" by providing the "white sticks", collecting and distributing recycled spectacles, and funding cataract operations in developing countries. There is a similar programme for Diabetic screening and support, and Water Wells projects. providing safe drinking water

At the local level Amphill Lions distribute "The Message in a Bottle" containers for emergency information system for the vulnerable, and the "Medic Alert Bracelet Scheme" for people with allergies. This year we have also donated new Audiology Screening equipment to the Amphill and Flitwick Surgeries.

The Club continues to thrive with new challenge and last year launched its "Moonraker Challenge" and raised over £4,000 for Leukaemia Care. The night walk event will take place this year on Saturday 1st of October, with monies raised being shared with Leukaemia Care and local organisations

We also have an active social programme, and also run charity Fashion Shows and Race Nights .Our recent Charter Dinner Dance at Eversholt Village Hall was attended by over 80, including the new Mayor of Amphill, Mark Smith.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir

I would like to bring to your attention a printing error in February's newsletter regarding the District Quiz final. Our club "Stony Stratford Lions club" and not "Amphill Lions club" as mentioned won the final.

Lion Mohan Singh Purewal, Club Secretary

Editor Replies: *Oops. Sorry! You are of course right*

Dear Editor,

When the resolution to increase the District dues by 50p was discussed at Convention, we were only one of two clubs who voted against the resolution. However, immediately afterwards, several Lions in our vicinity started to complain bitterly to us regarding our decision to vote against. One Lion even left his seat from towards the front of the Convention to confront us about this. During this exchange of views, not one person asked us "why" we had voted against and instead, made up their own mind that it was down to the amount involved.

As you can imagine, I feel very disappointed in that some of my fellow Lions could not recognise the democratic right of our club (and it was a club decision) to vote against the majority in the room. Also, how can I encourage my club members to attend events such as Convention and feel free to air their views when there is a chance that if they say the wrong thing or, in some peoples eyes, make the wrong decision, that they will be criticised at the earliest opportunity.

We are a very new Club and to be treated this way was, in my opinion, wholly inappropriate. This was only our second convention that we have been able to attend but following the actions of others, it may well be our last.

Chris Willson

London Phoenix New Century Lions Club President
2004 - 2005

Give a Child the opportunity to depict Peace without borders

Peace Without Borders" is the theme of the 2005-06 Peace Poster Contest.

Lions clubs are requested to approach local schools or organized, sponsored youth groups

to encourage children aged 11 to 13 15 November 2005 to participate.

Through the contest, children are encouraged to visually depict their interpretation of the contest's theme. Each poster is judged on originality, artistic merit and expression of the theme. Posters advance through several judging levels: local, district, multiple district and international. At the international level, judges from the art, peace, youth, education and media communities select one grand prize winner and 23 merit award winners

Next year's District Peace Poster Officer Lion Satyan Kabra would like club secretaries to contact him for the competition kits. These are now ready for despatch. Each kit costs £8 only.



Dear Lions, Lionesses and Leos

Aruna and I were scheduled to visit 111NB our Twinning District Club in Germany for their District Convention on the weekend of 9th April. This visit had to be cancelled at the eleventh hour as I was affected by a severe allergic reaction to shellfish and later hospitalised. We sent our apologies to the convention for my inability to attend and will perhaps make up for it next year.

Regrettably I had to cancel a few Club and Committee meetings during the following fortnights and recoup from the episode.

COMBINED ZONE CHARTER

Clubs in Zone E, Kenton, London Hendon, London Kingsbury, Wembley (Brent) hosted a combined Charter on the 23rd April. This was a very interesting and enjoyable evening. Charter nights, in particular in the London area, are becoming expensive to host. Clubs have to contract for a minimum of number of guests to get to a decent venue. Organising a joint zone charter certainly allowed them to host at the Hendon Hall in Finchley a very desirable venue. It not only brought together the **success** and **fellowship** but also in this event guests and speakers.

The highlight of the evening was a presentation of 7 Melvin Jones Awards from Lions Club of Kenton and 2 from Wembley (Brent). My thanks to the Chairman and the Club presidents for showing the way forward.



MULTIPLE DISTRICT CONVENTION

Members of the district attended the Multiple Convention at Eastbourne in some large numbers, where they participated in debates, discussions and enjoyed the fellowship of Lions from the rest of the Clubs in the MD.

Lion Ram Jaggi received an International Presidents Awards for his services to international affairs in general and in particular the Water Aid program

We had the privilege of having our International President Clement F Kusiak and his good lady Jeanne as the guests of honour. IP Clem gave an overview of what the Lions had achieved in the year and emphasised again that the growth of membership of our organisation was based on the sharing of success and fellowship.

NOT THERE YET ...!

The month of May signifies to the current team of officers at the Cabinet, a signal to step up their efforts in achieving their goals and targets for the fiscal year. District Officers and Club Presidents have extended their effort in recruitment campaigns and local service activities.



I am pleased to report that our District responded exemplary to the Tsunami Relief Appeal. The District raised around £60,000 towards a massive total of some £600,000 by the MD105.

It became apparent that some of the regular programs, ie Street Children, Malawi Education, Dentaaid, Water Aid, Diabetes, etc some what suffered in their usual collections. I encouraged the Clubs to pay special care to their needs and do what they can to support these on-going programs from the Club's closing budgets for the year. I hope the Clubs will respond to this request.

DIDN'T WE MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Kids visit to Chessington was once again an outstanding success, and the Credit goes to our Street Children Officer Lion Brindar Singh. I believe some 1,200 kids and adults participated on the day. The organisers were complemented for the military type precision in the movement and check in of the teams as they arrived. The Gods were also looking after the kids – it was a beautiful, warm and sunny day.



GOLFERS DO IT AGAIN

District Golf Day was scheduled for 25th May at the Batchworth Golf Club, the program was organised under the leadership of Lion Peter Gent, (Members Community Services Chairman/Golf.) He was supported by our District Secretary Lion Ashok Bhardwaj in promoting the event and attracting numerous lions and non-lions for the day.

The Golf Day was virtually a sell out – some 60 golfers teed off on the day. I took the opportunity to invite non-golfer Jeet Bedi (MJF) and Vijay Thapar (MJF) to launch an appeal for the benefit of senior citizens program for the District.

I am pleased to say that virtually all 18 holes were sold out by individual and club sponsorships and raised nearly enough money to meet this years commitment for the senior citizen program.

I take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors and organisers of the golf day for accommodating us to raise much-needed funds. Mr Bedi and Mr Thapar and associates have been hosting special golf days for over five years and consistently raise between £5,000 - £7,000 per year. *Two true friends of Lions.*

ZONE "E" DO IT FOR LCIF

Zone E walked for 'Walk for Life' a resounding success. Lion Nimi Suri managed to drum up some 100 walkers. The sponsorship raised



over £14,000 donated to undesignated LCIF Funds. A big thank you to all members.

THE LADIES DID IT FOR THE HOSPITAL

Aruna and I decided not to have a District Governor's Lady's Charity, and instead encouraged Clubs to support their own local needs.

Funds were raised at the Bring and Buy sale where the ladies/partners raised £107 at the Cabinet Meeting on 9th January 2005. Aruna added a personal donation to this amount and presented a cheque for £251 to the Edmonds Ward at the Elderly Day Hospital at Mount Vernon, Northwood. The presentation was made on 26th May 2005.

WHEELCHAIR SPORTS

I would like to record our appreciation of all the Lions who along with Lion Steve Foott, the



District Physical & Learning Disabilities Officer joined the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation at the Bowls Night at Stoke Mandeville Stadium recently.



The picture shows Stony Stratford's President donating the "Lions Challenge Cup" to the winning team at the end of the Bowls Night. He also presented a cheque for £500 (consisting substantially of the night's proceeds) to the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation.

Well done, Lions!

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