

SECTION 10: REPORTS OF MERL COMMITTEE

Name: Douglas Cross
Office: MERL Chairman
Date: May 2010

The full programme for the **MERL** Committee is now based on 5 Regions, with the Cities of Birmingham & Coventry being set up a separate membership regions. We should aim to form Wolverhampton in this same category because all of these large population areas should have a multiple number of clubs

NEW CLUBS Only new clubs will solve our overall problem of getting back to 1250 members

Region 1 (Dave Roberts)

Meeting have taken place with carnival committee in Perton to see if help can be obtained towards forming a new club.

Region 2 (Heather Hill)

Atherstone A contact with a Lion Tamworth Club (105BS) is being planned to organise a Yellow Card drop in the Area Andy/Gregg/Heather

Oldbury / Langlely Sandwell Club (Richard Beadles) as a contact in this area can we form a new club here.

Region 2B (Birmingham) (David Cox)

Birmingham Phoenix, lunch meeting took place letters being used for follow up, Possible repeat in 12 months time Andy

Birmingham Sparkbrook The first preliminary meeting took place in Lord Mayors office awaiting Femi contact to organise a local meeting

Region 3C (Coventry) (Bill Ranautta)

Coventry Phoenix. Club continues to be proactive & are planning a membership drive to get to 10 before June.

Royal Leamington Spa Initial work cancelled completely because contact left the area. We will now start from scratch, if you know anyone in this town please let us know.
Neil

Region 3 (Chris Haynes)

Daventry Local hotel for meeting now located card drop to be set up with Zone support. Chris

Towcester no further report on reforming Brackley

In other new club areas-- do you have any contacts in those areas we mention continually and where a Lions Club is required for service?

Most clubs by now have elected a President for 2010/ 2011 lets get them involved early.

We must then form teams of Lions/ Clubs, preferably local who will help us.
Zone teams would help considerably

REBUILDING

We still have existing clubs with less than 10/11/12 members and probably always will have. A few with less than 5

Can Zone Chairman check if weak clubs in their Zones have filled in PU 101's

Birmingham Erdington & Sutton Coldfield have major membership problems

Wolverhampton Meeting planned to organise a new YC drop.

Evesham Help given at short notice to help with membership problems.

Bilston Now planning a further card drop

Hinckley & Burbage D/N meeting organised following YC drop

Wellingboro have loss 40% of their membership

Kettering good turn out at D/N can they find new members from this

Ruston Urgently require help after sharp loss of members

Club Branches

**All CB's will have a President, Secretary and Treasurer from July 2010 onward.
Great news.**

New Club Branch Alcester are working on increasing their membership this spring:
CB Market Harborough up to 12: CB Brixworth Y Card drop in May

YELLOW CARDS

Be persistent they do not always work on the first occasion use press PR at the same time.
BUT please remember on the Drinks & Nibbles night are the most important you must have a planned programme. Use the new ENGLISH DVD.

FINANCE

Financial help is still available & we will try to obtain further support from LCI but this gets more difficult as years go on. But I repeat please do not commit spending on Yellow Cards etc until it is agreed.

OBJECTIVES

The MERL Committee cannot achieve this alone, Cabinet officers fail to accept they are all membership officers.

I ask at every Cabinet for help in joining a team to either form a new club or rebuild an old one. I only ever hear from three or four Lions **THE SAME LIONS**

We will only achieve our 1250 target if all existing clubs increase membership including yours.
We are ahead in the numbers game but only by a dozen or so.
You lose too many members!!!!!!!

LEADERSHIP see Phil White see separate cabinet report

Update will be made following MERL meeting on 26th April

In my report to Convention I explained Andy Pemberton would take over as Chairman of MERL next year, the system will be similar and help will still be required.

But a new face (well not very new) so let's make it a new start.

Membership will always be a problem that requires hard work from all of us to try and solve.

But I will stay on the committee and still be a pain in the whatsit on the new Cabinet.

NAME: Dave Roberts

OFFICE: Membership Region 1

DATE: 22-04-10

DECISIONS REQUIRED: None

ACTIONS SINCE LAST REPORT:

Attended meeting with the organisers of the Perton Carnival committee and various support groups to promote Lions ideals within the area. Was well received and have arranged to promote Lions at the carnival, and will endeavour to operate a stall, distributing our leaflets and also raise money for a local activity, such as the local girl guides, to show our commitment to local activities.

I have also contacted the local community centre to arrange a lions display to be put on in the future, and will continue to work with the community associations to promote membership in this area.

Bilston and Willenhall are carrying out another leaflet drop on the 2nd May – with a drinks Night arranged on 12/05/10.

Wombourne area and Penkridge area are also being looked at and I am attempting to contact local groups who are involved with community activities to promote our ideals.

NAME: Heather Hill

OFFICE: Membership Officer Region 2

DATE: 27th April 2010

ACTIONS SINCE LAST REPORT

Since the last cabinet meeting I have been to visit Hinckley and Burbage at their drinks and nibbles night – they had in the region of twenty people there and are therefore hopeful that they will gain some new Lions from this.

I also went to Barwell and Earl Shilton to their drinks and nibbles night – there were six people there and certainly a lot of interest was shown. Some of the people who attended are proposing to go to their bowling and quiz nights, so again hopefully they will gain some further members.

If any other clubs or zones would like me to help in any way, then they only have to ask.

NAME: Christopher Haynes

OFFICE: Region 3 Membership

DATE: 25th April 2010

DECISIONS REQUIRED: None.

ACTIONS SINCE LAST REPORT:

- Attended two MERL meetings.
- Attended Kettering Drinks & Nibbles.

Kettering held a very successful drinks and nibbles on 24th February and they hope to gain approximately eight new members from it.

Brixworth Branch are having a drinks and nibbles on 28th April.

Daventry card drop is taking place on Sunday 9th May, followed by drinks and nibbles on 20th May at Casey's Club, Market Square, Daventry, 7.30 p.m.

Rushden are holding a fund-raising event, with an expected 25,000 people attending, over the weekend 1st – 3rd May. We will be having a Lions membership stand there and I will be the main contact, so will forward any prospective members to appropriate Lions Club.

Corby have said that they wish to do their own thing without any help from District!!

OBJECTIVES:

To continue my role into the next Lions year.

NAME: Lion Bill Ranautta

OFFICE: Membership Region 3C

DATE: 19th April 2010

DECISIONS REQUIRED: None

ACTIONS SINCE LAST REPORT:

I am still supporting Alcester and District Lions Club with their Club Meetings, Fundraising Events and Membership Drive in April and May 2010.

Coventry Phoenix Lions Club has now inducted seven Members and is up and running organising their Club Social and Fundraising Events, with a Membership Drive scheduled in May 2010.

To re-form Atherstone and Leamington Spa, work is slowly progressing.

OBJECTIVES:

My objective is to expand and consolidate in membership growth.

NAME: Phil White
OFFICE: Leadership Development Officer
DATE: 23 April 2010

DECISIONS REQUIRED:

Funding required to replace district laptop

JUSTIFICATION FOR DECISION:

The current laptop is no longer fit for purpose. It is very old and very slow, does not have a DVD drive or ethernet connection. At District Convention, I was informed that it did not have the capability to show the required presentations.

ACTIONS SINCE LAST REPORT:

Attended District Convention and promoted District Workshops
Region 1 New members Orientation Evening will take place on Monday 26 April. It does not appear that it will be well attended. I have been contacted by several clubs who were not aware that it was taking place until I sent the email out via the Webmaster on 20 April. I am disappointed that this information was not circulated around the region in good time. I am informed that there are many more new Lions in Region 1, who would have liked to attend but because of the short notice, are already committed elsewhere. I have also been contacted concerning new Lions from Region 2, who were not aware that an orientation session was on offer. I will arrange another in a central location in an attempt to accommodate all of these. Region 3 session is scheduled for 25 May in Market Harborough.

The Incoming Zone and Region Chairmen's Workshop normally takes place in April but has twice been postponed because so few were available to attend. It is being re-arranged for a date in May.

The Incoming District Officers Workshop has been arranged for Sunday 23 May and an invitation will go out shortly, when I have the list of officers.

The District projector was loaned out to Bromsgrove Lions Club for their Drinks & Nibbles Night.

I have not been able to offer the Presentation Skills Workshop as intended because of other Lions commitments. However it will still take place later in this calendar year.

OBJECTIVES:

To develop and refine my role

To promote the range of workshops/seminars available and encourage ideas for new ones.

To promote Lions Leadership Institutes

To provide information/training/support as required, particularly to new clubs and new Lions

To look for potential in all fellow Lions in the District and encourage and develop that potential where possible