



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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WHAT A MONTH!

Wow, what a month March was - the International President's visit and the District Convention. I am therefore changing the order of this month's newsletter and will start with the International President's visit.



INTERNATIONAL



The International President Dr Wing – Kun Tam made his one and only visit to England on Monday 12th March. I had the privilege of having a talk with him when he visited Birmingham Chinatown Lions Club for lunch and give him another postcard and banner. I would

add that he seemed to have time for everybody who wanted to have their picture taken with him or just wanted to chat.



He planted a tree at the National Memorial Arboretum in the afternoon. That evening he was at Kegworth for the "President to meet the President" Meeting, attended by over 150 Lions from across the Multiple District. As well as making a speech, which was inspirational, he answered questions from the floor.

Beryl and I went down to the House of Commons on the Tuesday to UN Day and, along with the International President who spoke, our Royal Patron HRH The Countess of Wessex was present. She also has one of my postcards. This was followed by a banquet organised by London Chinatown.

DISTRICT CONVENTION

What a weekend!!! It all started on the Friday Night with Host Night - a mixture of local talent from the Clubs followed by a Disco. The daughter of the Vice President of Bushby gave a display of Indian Dancing. This was followed by Kettering Lions doing their own version of "Albert and the Lion" and then Market Harborough's famous "Stick Dance". There were a lot of smiling Lions.



Before the Host Night the District Governors Team and the International Director held a drinks reception for Presidents and the Host Committee.



On Saturday the Business session started on time and finished 20 minutes early, even with the Sergeant at Arms telling the audience the true stories from "Parish Magazines". The Cabinet reports were adopted in record time in 35 minutes.

ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2012-2013:

- District Governor-elect is Paul Anstice from Northampton Eighty.
- 1st Vice District Governor-elect is Simon Moss from Marston Green & District.
- 2nd Vice District Governor-elect is Ian Haffner from Worcester, following a contest with George Billingham from Evesham Vale.

Please circulate to all Club Members

District Convention continued



The morning session concluded with a very informative speech from Geoff Leeder on the Measles Initiative, Haiti and the Global Leadership team.

In the afternoon there was a presentation on Membership by the one and only Doug Cross.



Good news is that currently our numbers are up by 20 to 1,059 since last year, but we do need to keep building. Retention is still our biggest problem. To make a big difference to our numbers we need to form new clubs. Let us remember we are all recruitment officers.

There was an update on the Signature projects by Simon Moss.

Beryl also updated convention on her Charity for the year CAP, Christians Against Poverty on how Clubs had directly helped CAP clients. There will be more details next month.

YOUNG AMBASSADOR

Liam Barrett, District winner of the Young Ambassador



competition, addressed the Convention, explaining the Community service projects he is involved in. He works several times a week as a volunteer in a care home for the elderly, but his main interest is taking his Art Cart around hospital wards, providing

games and craft materials for patients. He is using his £500 bursary to buy suitable items for blind and visually impaired patients, to stop them getting bored. He is hoping that one day, his idea will be taken up by other Hospital Trusts, outside of Birmingham.

Following the Multiple District final, Liam, who was sponsored by Marston Green & District Lions Club, has obtained a place on an international Youth Camp in Poland. He does speak Russian and will be going to Medical School in Birmingham later this year. He received a standing ovation from Convention.

DISTRICT COMPETITION WINNERS

- PR Competition - Shirley Lions Club
- Website Competition - Knowle and Dorridge Lions Club
- Travelling Lion - Kingswinford & Stourbridge Lions Club
- Scrapbook Competition - Castle Bromwich & District Lions Club
- District Skittles - Bilston & Willenhall Lions Club

DISTRICT COMPETITION WINNERS continued.....

Youth Football - Team sponsored by Shirley Lions Club
Youth Exchange Individual - Darren Blenkiron



Winner of the First Timer Competition was Janet Long of Worcester Lions Club.

I presented **DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S APPRECIATION AWARDS** to the following Lions:

Terrie Knibb - Competitions Officer who was a first time conventioneer last year. Terrie took on the District role and has produced the first Competitions Newsletter.



Carl Kings - District Football Officer in recognition of his long service in the role.

David Shore - District Governor's Club visit Officer and transport manager. This is in recognition of the work that he has done for me this year.



INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION were presented to:



Pauline Hoogerwerf - for the Water Project in Niger. Without her efforts the project to refurbish the 10 wells, which were funded by Lions ten years ago, would not have taken place.

Ian Haffner who went the extra mile for Lions in cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats to raise funds.



Please circulate to all Club Members

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

The International Director, Per Christensen, had some very challenging words to say. However, the first question he normally asks at Conventions is "Where will you be in five years' time?". This District has already got the answer in our 5 Year Plan.

Per is now using our plan throughout Europe in showing others the way forward. We are the market leaders. However, this is a continuing process.

The challenge to all of us was "Why would I want to join your Club?" Is your Club ready for new members? Isn't it time we looked at our own Club as outsiders do? I think we do in part have an answer to this in working through the "My Ideal Club" programme.

We do need to modernise. A point on which the District Governor's Team have already started to work. I believe Per laid a number of challenges for us to overcome and certainly it made me think of what could be changed for the better.



Directly following the Convention, Presidents and first-time conventioners met the International Director and the District Governor's Team for coffee. Before the Banquet and Ball there was a Reception for all the Cabinet Officers.



We had a live band for the Banquet and Ball and, on Sunday morning there was a Question and Answer session with the International Director.

I would like to thank the Host Committee for putting on a great Convention. I hope all those who attended enjoyed it as much as I did, and found it interesting and Informative.



MULTIPLE DISTRICT CONVENTION

If you enjoyed the District Convention, how about going to the Multiple District Convention, which is taking place on our "patch". This is your last chance to get tickets.

It is being held at the Hilton Metropole Hotel at the NEC in Birmingham (or should I say Solihull) on 4th to 6th May 2012. Details are in the Lion Magazine and on the Lions 105MD website.

Host Night has an Olympic theme.

Banquet and Ball has the Joe Loss Orchestra. This band has been performing continuously since being founded in 1930. They perform songs from the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's and provide a total entertainment package. It is not just for those who want to dance!

OFFER OF THE MONTH

For the attention of all Club Presidents in 105M ONLY. Here is your chance to buy one ticket for Birmingham Chinatown 25th Charter Anniversary on Sunday 6th May at the cost of £18 and get another ticket free (1987 prices). This is the Sunday night after the end of MD Convention and tickets are selling fast. Contact President Jeff Yap: jeff@midlandlinen.co.uk

SERVICE

Again, you might ask why I have included pictures of Charter Nights and Club visits under the heading of "Service". It is all because I have been learning about the service activities that the Clubs are involved in. In Walsall I presented a Melvyn Jones Fellowship.



At the Barwell & Earl Shilton Charter Night they do things differently and have all the speeches before the meal. That ensures that they are short.

Coventry Leofric also like to be different. Their 25th Anniversary was "in the Pink" with money raised going to Breast Cancer. Look closely at the picture - £1 million raised in 25 years. What a result!!



Nuneaton and Bedworth Lions Clubs had a joint Charter Night.



Please circulate to all Club Members

MEMBERSHIP

I would like to welcome the following members to our organisation:

- Ian Hughes Bedworth
- Patricia Clenton Castle Bromwich & District
- Terry Higgs Castle Bromwich & District
- Sushil K Ahuja Rushden
- John Turner Shirley

I would remind Clubs that now is the best time to look at doing a card drop and a Drinks and Nibbles evening.

On a sad note, Beryl and I went down to Farnham this month to attend the funeral of Past International Director, Philip Daubeney.

The Past International Directors attend the Council of Governors meetings and Philip was regarded as the elder statesman, and was a much loved Lion.

INTERNATIONAL - TREE PLANTING

On tree planting worldwide, we planted over 7 million trees. In this District I set a goal of as many trees as members.

I found out at the District Convention that we have already planted 3,000 and there is more to come.

So, now I would like to get as many members as we planted trees. Is that possible?

Keep planting. It is a great Community project.

LEADERSHIP

I am enclosing the dates for the Officers' workshops this Spring:

Zone & Region Chairmen -
Sunday 29th April at MDHQ, 9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Club Presidents, Secretaries & Treasurers -
Sunday 13th May at MDHQ, 9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

District Officers -
Sunday 20th May at MDHQ, 9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

I would encourage all Officers to attend, even those who have done the job before, as things are always changing.

The District Governor-Elect, Paul Anstice, will be at all the Workshops.

CLUB VISITS IN APRIL:

- Tues. 10th: Alcester Branch
- Wed. 11th: Marston Green & District
- Tues. 17th: Birmingham Exhibition

OTHER EVENTS:

- Wed. 4th: Towcester Charter Anniversary
- Fri. 13th - Sun. 15th: Shirley Charter Anniversary & Weekend Away
- Sat. 21st: Balsall Common St. George's Day
- Sat. 28th: Kingswinford & Stourbridge Charter Anniversary
- Mon. 30th: District Governor's Team meeting.

If you have an event or a community project that you would like me to attend, please let me know.

AND FINALLY - ENJOY

This is a very small present that I gave the International Director, which made him smile. The coaster says "Keep Calm - it's Terribly British!"



And, of course, I will finish as I started, with yet another exchange of banners.

SMILE WE SERVE

Please circulate to all Club Members