



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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A WONDERFUL CONVENTION WEEKEND – THANK YOU

The District Convention should be one of the highlights of a District Governor's year and Convention at Solihull certainly tops my list. I must thank everybody involved in making it happen and all of you who turned up and took part.

My weekend started at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, when I picked up our international guests, the wonderful Kenneth and Eva Persson from Sweden, from the airport.

After leaving our bags at the hotel, we went for coffee, cupcakes and conversation at Fallen Angels, a café in Solihull centre. Then it was on for a light lunch at The Lazy Cow, before our first meeting of the weekend with Mayor of Solihull Joe Tildesley at his parlour. Kenneth's first question for the Mayor was why he wasn't a Lion and amongst the reasons given was that he hadn't been asked.



It was a very pleasant afternoon, but soon we had to return to the St John's hotel to get ready for host night. Fancy dress and fun was the order of the day with the theme being "The End of the Pier". There were some excellent costumes on display and the food and entertainment made it a night to remember.



I was particularly impressed by the sideshows for us to play at, which set a brilliant tone for the evening.

After the entertainment, provided by Acocks Green, Shirley and yours truly and compered by the excellent Chris Burrows, there was still time for Darren Blenkinson's high quality disco

Please circulate to all Club Members

CONVENTION CONTINUED

Saturday saw a well attended and relaxed business session, which included the election of next year's DG Team, Ian Haffner from Worcester as DG, Heather Jeavons from Malvern Hills as 1st VDG and, nominated from the floor, John Gray from Kettering as 2nd VDG. Congratulations to them all - the District is In good hands for next year.

All three resolutions were passed, meaning that the District dues remain unchanged, surplus funds from appeals can be applied to a general charity reserve and it will be possible to vote for 'none of the above' in a contested election for 2nd VDG in future.



The presentation of the cabinet's reports was achieved in a sensible twenty minutes, allowing time for presentations by the three service committees and for MD Convention officer Dave Seager to tell us about Manchester and Andy Pemberton to fill us in on Europa Forum 2014 in Birmingham.

International Director Kenneth inspired us on membership and social media and I took the opportunity to present International President's certificates of appreciation to Sandwell Lions Club, Lorraine Shipley and Danielle Benn.

After the business there was an afternoon tea reception for presidents and first timers before the Banquet and Ball.



Speeches were kept to a minimum in the evening but I was able to present two more awards, another IP Certificate of Appreciation to Carole Moseley and a District Governor's Appreciation Award to Phil White for her hard work over many years organising, running and delivering training for club and District Officers.

The highlight of the evening for me, despite the excellent entertainment from Dan Harris, was a surprise for Mayor Joe. Taking ID Kenneth's lead, a few enquiries and negotiations secured agreement for Solihull Lions to take the Mayor as an Honorary Lion and Kenneth and I were able to badge him up at the banquet and ball.



Joe had told me earlier in the evening that the Mayor of Solihull is made an honorary Rotarian in the week they are elected. We should perhaps all look to make our local civic leaders honorary lions for their term of office, as their support could mean a lot in terms of publicity and access to resources and even the possibility of joint service projects.

Sunday morning there was a lively question and answer session with Kenneth and Eva before a visit to Zone B's well attended Zone meeting and lunch at Ming Moon Restaurant.

This gave me the opportunity to present a final International President's Certificate of Appreciation to Birmingham Chinatown Lions to recognise their membership growth and the vibrant young club they have become since deciding become a mixed Club.

I also presented a DG Appreciation Medal to Zone A chairman Praful Modi for stepping in to help me when I had no chairman from within the zone.

To finish off Kenneth and Eva's visit Christine and I took them to the new Birmingham Library before getting them back to the airport at five o'clock.

Please circulate to all Club Members

THANK YOU

I said at the beginning of this article that I wanted to thank everybody involved, but I would like to single out some for particular mention.

Firstly, Convention Chairman Chris Burrows, for running a tight ship, and his team of volunteers who manned registration, marshalled the hall and ran the sideshows.

Next I must thank my District Secretary Pauline Hoogerwerf, for making sure I didn't stray too far from the script and also for representing my interests at Convention meetings.

I also thank Sergeant at Arms Ron Cross for his efforts to get people back to their seats and for acting as MC at the Banquet and Ball and John Barnes for all his hard work in securing the best deal, as usual.

Last but not least I would like to thank Ken Barker for his work as Delegate Registration Officer and Terry Smith for her work as Convention Bookings officer and for the knitted Lions that everybody got at the Banquet and Ball.



I had some really good feedback from those who attended the Convention, but I would welcome more both from attendees and from those who didn't come so we can try to improve your experience next year in Sandwell.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT CONVENTION

Don't forget - you can still book in for MD Convention in Manchester, which is being held at the Palace Hotel from 9th to 11th May.

To book your social events, telephone MDHQ at 0121 441 4544 and they will either take your booking over the 'phone or send you a booking form.

MAKING THEIR MARK

I would like to welcome the following new members who joined the Family of Lions since my last newsletter.

Congratulations to all the Clubs that are making membership sexy:

Nsamba Cyprien Ndumba	Coventry Godiva
Ian Robertson	Kenilworth
Ivor Caplan	Kingswinford and Stourbridge
Robert Parkinson	Nuneaton
Chipo Mapfumo	Northampton
Carol Black	Sandwell
Robert Black	Sandwell
Diana Smith	Sandwell
Michael Bretherton	Southam
Brian Branston	Southam

ON YOUR MARKS...GET SET...GOING

This month I will be running my longest race so far, in the Shakespeare half-marathon and there are then two races in May and one more in June.

While I have enjoyed the races so far and am grateful to those who have sponsored me, the response has been a little disappointing. You can sponsor me online at <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/medeerun/102104> or through the District Treasurer, by downloading the sponsor form at www.lions105m.org.uk/run/sponsor.pdf which you can use to collect sponsorship and enter your guess for total time taken.

Collect the money and send the form with a cheque payable to LCI District 105M to me or to the District Treasurer.

Unfortunately my planned entry into the Blakedown bolt has had to be withdrawn so I'm looking for another race in zone F before 20 June.

All the money raised will go to Christine's charity for the year, Me & Dee.

The story so far

- Zone A – **Balls to Cancer 5k – 22:30**
- Zone A – **Stourbridge Santa Run 5k – 26 minutes**
- Zone B – TBC
- Zone C – **Shirley Fun Run 10K – 53 minutes**
- Zone D – Great Midlands Fun Run 8.5 miles – 1 June
- Zone E – Shakespeare half marathon – 27 April
- Zone F – TBC
- Zone G – Rugby 6 Miler – 23 May
- Zone H – Wootton 5 Miler – 14 May
- Zone I – **Lutterworth 5K Santa Fun Run – 31 mins**

If you can find me a race in zones B or F email me the details to dg@lions105m.org.uk.

Please circulate to all Club Members

UN DAY AT THE HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT AND LIAM MAKES HIS MARK

On Tuesday 11 March I had the great pleasure of attending UN Day at the Houses of Parliament along with some 130 other Lions.

Chaired by MD International Relations Officer, Jacquie Prebble, this was an excellent afternoon hosted by The Palace of Westminster Lions Club. After introductions from Jacquie and Council Chairman Phil Robinson, our own Roger Handcock gave an interesting presentation on the history of Lions and the UN in this country.



There then followed two presentations by Radio Four's Sue MacGregor, a UNICEF Trustee and Martha Ware of Help2Read respectively.

Both presented with an obvious passion for their subjects and helped to highlight the difference Lions can make by partnering with them.

Sue MacGregor

As is now a tradition at UN Day, MDHQ Manager, Lion Brigitte Green, then introduced this year's MD Peace Poster winner, April Cavalier, before the International President, Barry Palmer gave his address.



The President was his usual down-to-earth self as he shared his dreams with us. The surprise of the day came when he asked Lion Liam Barrett to come forward.

Liam was our district Young Ambassador in 2011-12 and has since joined Marston Green & District Lions and started Medical School at Birmingham University.

In his first year there Liam took part in a Global Medical Brigade to Ghana, providing medicines and education to local villagers. This year he has been elected to lead the Brigade to Honduras.

LIAM RECOGNISED BY BARRY PALMER



A press release about Liam's activities was copied to Barry Palmer and he had asked if he could meet Liam, so calling him up wasn't the surprise as such.

However, having called him up in front of the audience in Westminster, he offered Liam the chance to address the room and tell us about his projects. This was well received and the way Liam now presents himself is a great advertisement for the Young Ambassador Competition.

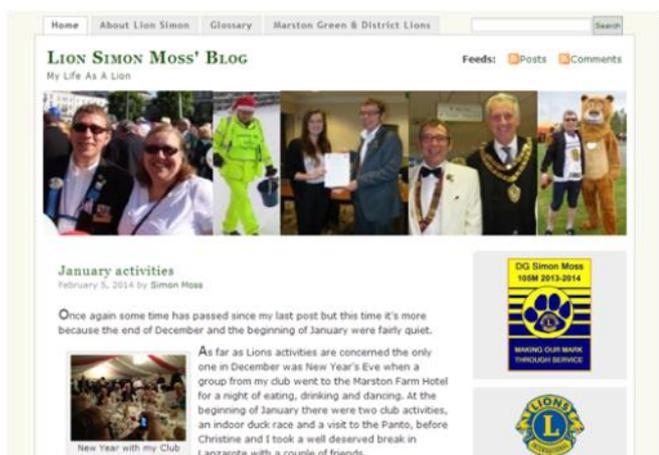
The biggest surprise came when, having allowed Liam to speak, Barry Palmer presented him with an International President's Recognition Medal, making him only the second recipient in this country after Past International Director Phil Nathan.

Liam makes us very proud in Marston Green & District Lions Club and me very proud to have him in the District.



Please circulate to all Club Members

MAKING MY MARK



There are a number of ways that you can keep up with my activities as District Governor as well as this Newsletter.

I try to post what I'm doing on Facebook (Simon Moss and Lions District One O'Fivem) and Twitter (@simonhmoss and @lions105m).

I have also been writing a blog entitled "My Life as a Lion" since I was elected as 2nd VDG. You can find it at lionsimonmoss.com

A BIG PUSH FOR MEMBERSHIP

At the time of writing this article, the District's membership is up by six on the year - a great achievement when set against a loss of around 100 across the Multiple District. This leaves us at 1,043 members - still way short of the magic 1,250 that would take us out of transition. Nevertheless, I would like to thank you all for your efforts in recruiting 98 new members throughout the District so far this year.

The bright ones amongst you will have noticed that we have lost 92 members throughout the District and this is one area we can certainly improve upon. Most of our losses occur during the first three years of membership so make sure that you find out what new members want, what skills they bring from outside Lions and remember to encourage their new ideas.

Now is the time when clubs are out with Easter Egg raffles and the fetes and carnivals season is nearly upon us. These are great opportunities to attract new members as is every event that you run.

Make sure you have membership materials available at these events and take every opportunity to talk about Lions to people that you meet.

Keep making membership sexy!

DG TEAM TRAVELS

The following is a list of Club visits, Charter Anniversaries and other events that members of the District Governor team will be undertaking in the next couple of months. If you are President or Secretary of your club this year, and have not yet confirmed your visit date please contact my club visits officer, Mick Taylor micky.t1@tesco.net

District Governor

April

- 2 – Club visit – Bushby
- 4 – Charter Anniversary – Towcester
- 6 – New club development kick-off
- 11-13 Charter Anniversary – Shirley (Cardiff)
- 26 – Charter Anniversary – Kingswinford & Stourbridge
- 27 – Run – Shakespeare Half Marathon
- 29 – DG Team

May

- 7-9 – Council of Governors
- 9-11 – MD Convention Manchester
- 11 – Charter Anniversary - Market Harborough
- 14 – Run – Rugby 6 miler
- 17 – Charter Anniversary – Coventry Godiva
- 18 – Cabinet
- 18 – Charter Anniversary – Coventry Phoenix
- 23 – Run – Wootton 5 miler
- 24 – Charter Anniversary – Aldridge
- 27 – DG Team
- 30 – Me & Dee Race Night

1st VDG

April

- 2 – Bilston & Willenhall
- 6 – New club development kick-off
- 8 – Club visit – Solihull
- 12 – Charter Anniversary - Kidderminster
- 14 – Club visit – Edgbaston
- 22 – F&A
- 26 – Zone and Region Chair training
- 28 – GMT
- 29 – DG Team

May

- 7-9 - Council of Governors
- 9-11 - MD Convention Manchester
- 18 – Cabinet
- 27 – DG Team

2nd VDG

April

- 6 – New club development kick-off
- 22 – F&A
- 28 – GMT
- 29 - DG Team

May

- 9-11 - MD Convention
- 18 – Cabinet
- 27 – DG Team

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