

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER



Moving *forward* with a purpose

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Redistricting – The proposals approved at Multiple District Convention in Blackpool have now been submitted to the International Board and the Board has now I’m pleased to say endorsed these changes. So we can begin to plan in earnest for implementation in July 2019. Cabinet at its meeting in August approved the setting up of a Working Party consisting of PCC Simon Moss and PCC Heather Jeavons and 1st VDG Stewart Sherman-Kahn. The first two are clearly the most knowledgeable about the subject in our District and Stewart (if elected) will be the District Governor with responsibility for implementing the reorganisation.

2019 may seem a long way away; however, there is much to do in sorting out finances arranging extraordinary AGM’s etc. We also need to be working closely with those parts of District W and District E with whom we will merge. So the really hard work starts now.

I have never been to Europa Forum before and so took the opportunity this year to attend Montreux. A beautiful city on the shore of Lake Geneva in Switzerland. It was a great experience and really enjoyed the format where you could choose which sessions to attend. So I learnt more about GAT and GST and some of the work done with our international partners. I also had the very great pleasure of attending the finals of Young Ambassador where the MD candidate took a very creditable 3rd place.

It wasn’t all hard work though as we too some time out to see the beautiful lakeside and mountain scenery.



Having spent three days in a very nice albeit air-conditioned Convention Centre we treated ourselves to three days R & R in Brienz a small picture-perfect village on the lake shore and close by the Jungfrau. I had been there as a school boy; yes many, many years ago, but it hadn't changed much although more houses and of course much more traffic. The Lake was a clear turquoise which we understand is a result of the minerals being washed down from the mountains, but so picturesque and beautiful.

Any train enthusiasts amongst members will certainly enjoy the trip across the mountains from Montreux to Brienz. Absolutely spectacular.



Back down to earth we had our 2nd Council meeting in October and with falling numbers clearly there is considerable pressure on budgets to keep expenditure within bounds if we are to continue to live within our means. One of the most costly items for the MD is the Lion Magazine and although it is a constitutional right for every member to receive a copy; with a reducing international subsidy cost is now a serious issue. At the MD Convention in April the vote to go electronic was defeated and so printed copies are still the order of the day. Postage is a large proportion of the cost and so we will have to look at all options if we are to save money. Any ideas please let me know.

I hope you all liked Autumn Forum and if so go back to your clubs and tell them what a great event they missed. Certainly all the feedback received has been very positive and complementary. The Global Leadership Team with Lion PDG Ian Hafner and Lion Paul Murphy lined up a galaxy of excellent speakers including our own Liam Barrett from Marston green Lions Club who gave us a perspective of Lions from a younger member's viewpoint. Food for thought there and the GLT are now working on a new initiative aimed at attracting younger members. Blind Dave though stole



the show and one cannot help but be inspired by someone who has despite his disability done more in a few short years than most of us could even contemplate in a lifetime There was also an opportunity for Clubs to showcase what they do and those stands were well attended. So if you didn't manage to come along this time make a date to join us next year.



One of the nicer things I get to do as DG is to attend club charters and I have had in the past two months the very great pleasure of attending several, namely:

- Marston Green & District where in a very convivial atmosphere Club President Simon allowed me to hand out several long service and other awards.
- Wolverhampton where President Trevor Jones and assembled members and guests made us very welcome. We met the Mayor and as Josephine hails from Codsall we took the opportunity to visit where she lived in her early years.
- Worcester where President Joy Hafner likes to do things slightly differently and we had a most enjoyable evening; although I'm still not sure where my balloon landed but suffice it to say it's never been seen since. Sadly bigger is not always better as my Pumpkin carving didn't win a prize.
- Wellingborough a very enjoyable lunch with Lion President Roger and Jane and a good singer providing music whilst we ate.
- Harborough Twenty 12 gave us the opportunity to enjoy some good company at a thriving and energetic club and the gaming tables at the end kept my attention for a long while although the outcome (lighter pockets) was the same as the Shirley Casino Night.



Other functions attended include:

A delightful evening at the skittles competition hosted by Zone G. The DG Team did not quite make it to the finals and the less said about our prowess at skittles the better; however, we did enjoy a very convivial evening.

The Malvern Hills "It's a knockout" for young adults with physical and learning difficulties was a real highlight and all the participants including yours truly really enjoyed themselves. It's a must for the diary next year.

The Shirley Lions Casino Night was another great success, although my pockets were distinctly lighter by the end of the evening. Still all monies raised went to a really good cause.

I cannot but not mention the Remembrance parade and walking along Whitehall and past the Cenotaph was a very moving experience and one that will stay with me for a very long time. So proud to be a Lion and walking in such distinguished company.

The Young Ambassador District Finals meant that I got to meet two very special candidates. These two young people were such worthy candidates that the judges had a hard job to separate them. If these are examples of youth today, we need have not fear that our future is in safe hands. Oh and the winner was Hannah Carthew.

Mosely & Kings Heath Nativity was wonderfully different and slightly irreverent but in the best possible taste. I think the Actors (I use that term loosely) enjoyed it as much as the audience.

Like most club members during December I was heavily involved with our Santa Sleigh. Being Santa is an absolute pleasure and you'll note that I even drove the sleigh on two occasions and didn't hit anything. Mind you a few people decided to move their cars when I was reversing, which was probably as well.



I have the very great pleasure to welcome into Lions 105M the following new members and I hope I haven't missed anybody off this list; apologies if I have.

- Jaswant Gohil Bushby
- Chipo Mudakureva Bushby
- Ashok Pattani Bushby
- Nassirali Mulji Bushby
- Kiran Sokhi Coventry Godiva
- Anthony Charles Holt Harborough Twenty 12
- Rebecca Profit Kettering & District
- Janet Burke Knowle & Dorridge
- Christina Bourne Rugby Rokeby
- Norma Varney Rushden & District
- Gillian Keeley Shakespeare
- Heidi Berger Shirley
- Ivan Crowdell Solihull
- Kathy Barnikel Towcester & District
- Caroline Beresford-Ruck Warwick
- Emma Hadley Warwick
- Carol Elizabeth Evered Wellesbourne
- Janice Bunting-Gray Wellingborough
- Steve Butterworth Wellingborough

I would also like to welcome back:

- John Howard Gray Wellingborough & District
- Barbara Jean Gray Wellingborough & District

Club Visits – I plan over the coming months to hopefully visit all those clubs that I did not get to see as 1st VDG.

These in no particular order are:

- Kenilworth
- Kingswindford & Stourbridge
- Knowle & Dorridge
- Malvern Hills
- Wellesbourne
- Alcester & District
- Birmingham Handsworth
- Harborough 2012
- Northampton 80
- Solihull
- Worcester
- Birmingham Moseley & Kings Heath
- Bushby
- Coventry Leofric
- Coventry Godiva
- Coventry Mercia
- Marston Green & District
- Northampton
- Nuneaton
- Sandwell
- Southam
- Sutton Coldfield & Erdington
- Thurnby
- Towcester & District
- Warwick
- Birmingham Exhibition
- Droitwich
- Wolverhampton
- Lutterworth
- Castle Bromwich & District
- Rushden & District
- Stour Valley
- Bedworth
- Rowell & Desborough
- Balsall Common
- Shirley
- Redditch
- Corby & District
- Dudley
- Walsall

As many clubs meet on the same night I am more than happy to attend a social event rather than a business meeting.

PS: if you think your club should be on the list or would like a visit please let me know.