



105A News

Incorporating the District Governor's Newsletter



Mission: To inform, update and entertain

Issue 4, December 2004/January 2005

SIR MAGDI YACOUB IS A LION

Thursday 25th November was a night to remember for many, as Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub was inducted as an honorary member of the Lions Club of South Herts – Moor Park, at a ceremony at Batchworth Golf Club, Rickmansworth writes *Lion Maria Azcona, District PRO.*

Sir Magdi, who has over the last few years worked very closely with the Club, has come to understand and respect the work that Lions do, and vice versa: last year, the club raised and donated £37,500 to the Harefield Hospital, a specialist centre for the control of heart disease, which is headed by Sir Magdi. He is a prominent man, who not only pioneered the field of lung and heart transplant surgery, but also tirelessly works to eradicate heart disease in a world where it is one of the biggest killers

Sir Magdi was inducted by International Director Howard Lee and District Governor Max Mongolia. Sir Magdi is a very rare human being, who has, since first qualifying as a doctor in 1957 in Cairo, where he was born, worked tirelessly in the name of humanity. He has made a remarkable contribution to heart and heart-lung transplantations, not only as a surgeon, performing more transplants than anybody else in the world, but as a scientist interested in the fundamental aspects of organ donation.

Everyone who has had dealings with Sir Magdi, says the same thing. At the presentation, there was a gentleman who I had the pleasure to meet called Arvind Jobanputra,. On 2nd November 1996 he received a heart and lung from a 23 year old lady,

who in turn was transplanted with a mechanical heart and lung by Sir Magdi and his team. The one thing that he kept on saying was that without Sir Magdi, he would not be here. "Sir Magdi", he said, "inspires confidence to each patient in his care and always used to tell us to live our lives. He would give us extra care with his kind words and his actions which medicine could not provide". Also at the presentation was President Gloria Lesley-Walters of Harrow and Pinner Lions Club, who was asked by Sir Magdi to join his team at the Harefield Hospital in 1972. Her memories were very clear ones, of a man who was prepared to go to great lengths with patients and staff alike. "He was not just a great teacher, but treated everyone with

respect. He was always very calm when talking to us and we always felt part of a team".

After the induction Sir Magdi was invited to say a few words and here I have recorded exactly what he said, "I am deeply aware of the honour and privilege of being admitted into the Club and Lions Club International. I have always been impressed by all that Lions do. I assure you that I will do my best to abide by the rules and servitude's of Lions Clubs International. I have seen lots of suffering and ignorance throughout the world. Through the activities of Lions Clubs we can counteract this kind of suffering in the world and work closely in our endeavour together."

The picture shows the DG pinning the Lions pin on Sir Magdi's lapel. "Wear it with pride like a true Lion", the DG appears to be saying.



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NOT AGAIN!

It looks like I have to keep apologising for ever and ever this Lionistic year!

I was hoping that all the delays we have experienced so far this year would be a thing of the past and that we would catch up with our publishing schedule once Christmas was out of the way but unfortunately that was not to be! As we are already into February as I finish off this message I have no choice but to call this the December/January combined issue

and start work immediately on the next (February) issue so that we can let you have sight of that at the Convention in the first week of March.

I hope you will all try and attend the Convention which is an excellent opportunity to network with other Lions and hear of what is going on in the district and elsewhere in Lionism.

Convention is also the time and place when we elect our VDG and in this issue you will be able to reach the views of each of the two candidates

and why they want to be the next VDG.

And just in case you have been living on another planet we have details of the convention and where you can go for the booking forms. Remember, whilst convention is free to all Lions, you must book in advance so that the organisers can cater for the right numbers. I am told that the tickets for the lunch are limited so you must hurry if you do not want to miss out on what appears like a truly excellent lunch!

- THE EDITOR

IT'S CONVENTION TIME!



The 40th Annual Convention of District 105A will take place at the Heathrow Marriott hotel on 4/5 March 2005.

The International Guest is none other than the 1st International Vice President Lion Ashok Mehta from India.

Booking forms have been available on the district web site (www.lions105a.org) and through club secretaries since last December and were flowing in at a steady rate when we went to press with this issue.

The convention is free to all Lions – even coffee will be available free once again – but Lions attending the convention are advised to book early for lunch as places are limited and available strictly on a first come first served basis. One added bonus for those buying lunch (at £15) is that the car parking which costs £5 per day will be free. Registration will commence at 8am on Saturday, 5 March.

Other highlights of the convention:

- An informal dinner to meet fellow Lions and overseas visitors over a Mexican meal in the hotel on Friday (4 March) night at 7.00 pm will cost only £25
- The DG's banquet and Ball will take place on Saturday, 5 March, at 7.30 pm. Cost: £35 to include a champagne reception, three course meal and entertainment.

The Convention papers (reports, accounts etc) are available on the district web site (details as above).

THE CANDIDATES FOR VDG

We invited the two candidates to give their reasons, in a limited number of words, for wanting to become the next VDG. Here are their views:



LOUVAIN ALLEN

I think my watchwords would be **Members** and **Communication**. As I believe, the most important asset of this organisation and this District in particular are the **members**. We do need to increase our membership but not at the expense of our present members, **all** must have a real say in the running of our District, I believe **communication** is a two way street not just from the District Governor to the members, but from the members to the District Governor Without the members we will not be able to carry on with our service efforts both home and abroad. I will give my support to all Clubs whether large or small. Encourage the formation of new Clubs into those communities as yet untouched by the humanitarian efforts of Lions. I would encourage all Lions to extend their understanding of Lionism by attending District run training days, the Emerging Lions and Senior Lions Leadership courses. I am planning to take early retirement In 2006 this will give me all the time to support the Lions of District 105A As Vice District Governor I will also give my unstinting support to the District Governor.



KISHORE PATTNI

My vision: I strongly believe that in order to serve effectively all members of any volunteer group should be working harmoniously as a team with the same objectives and consensus amongst them is fundamental. It is therefore most important that we discuss and agree our common goals and visions to move forward in unison. Hence as a VDG I will entertain and encourage a debate with all my fellow Lions to establish our common programme for a brighter future having had a glorious past. In particular I am keen to discuss ideas on youth, training, membership from all ages and sexes and re-energising our programmes to suit different groups and the manner in which we carry out our activities. My guiding principles: To work with and fully utilise the great potential of members by listening to views from every part of our District. It is equally important to work out a proper balance between too much administration and directives from the centre with wishes and focus of the Clubs at the heart of our communities. I seek your endorsement to forge partnerships with the sole purpose of serving the less fortunate. Lets work with each other in peace and selflessly for the betterment of the needy.

The Lions Club of Edgware has donated a special Tricycle to a 9 year old boy who suffers from Cerebral Palsy. The need was identified by Lion Lady Jabeen and the presentation event was co-ordinated by Lion Sheriff and his committee. Lion President Ashok Thakrar says that he is proud to have a proactive membership which identifies worthy causes and cases where we could 'make a difference'. Photo left to right: IPP Kishore Dattani, Lion President Ashok Thakrar, Lion Lady Jabeen, James, Ms Style and Lion Secretary Ramesh Parmar did the presentation.



INTRODUCE A FRIEND

During February 2005 all 19,500 Lions of MD105, British Isles & Ireland, are being asked to introduce someone to Lionism by inviting them to a Club meeting or activity. The objective is to ensure that more members of the community become aware of the wonderful work of Lions Clubs with a view to gaining more support for our service projects and attract new members at the same time.

Who will you introduce? It could be a relative, neighbour, colleague, friend, someone you admire, someone who has already shown service to your community or someone who holds a prominent position within your community. Few people today read leaflets and they don't believe advertisements. We need to make more people aware of the wonderful work we do and YOU can help us do that.

Lions Clubs International Induction Day is Saturday, April 16, 2005. By preparing early, your Lions Worldwide Induction Day can be a memorable event for your members, prospective members, and your community. Do invite a local TV/radio station to broadcast information about your club and your activities. Do not forget the local press also.

WALK FOR LCI AND QUALIFY FOR MJF

Zone E has organised a walk in Osterley Park on 3 April 2005, with registration commencing at 12noon. The theme for the event is "Walk For The World" and the aim is to raise money for Lions Club International.

Says Lion Bharat Mistry, Zone E Chairman: "Our founder Melvin Jones' aim was getting intelligent, talented and ambitious people working towards improving their community. This walk is organised to do just that."

Walkers who raise over £580 will be recognised with the Melvin Jones Award which is the highest recognition achievement award in Lionism.

Further information available from Lion Bharat Mistry on 020 8758 2945.



DG's Newsletter

Fellow Lions, Lionesses and Leos

We are at the half way to the completion of this Lionistic year. It is therefore an appropriate time to address our progress to date and monitor our achievements. I would also like to take the opportunity to steer our plans where necessary in order to keep on target to achieve our objectives.

Membership / Healthy Tool Box

District Governor's Breakfast Meetings with Club Presidents earlier in the year resulted in a request from numerous Clubs for the Healthy Club Tool Kits. 44 Tool Kits were ordered and the delivery from the International headquarters was received on 16 December.

A special meeting was called for 5 January 2005 where a power-point presentation on 'Healthy Club Tool Box' was made and tool kits handed over to the recipients.

Further experience of membership issues were discussed at the same time. The exact number of members in our District are somewhat in a confused state due to the non allocation of members in the Club Branches. New Club's programme is in the hands of the MERCL Committee, ground work has been done to aim for two new clubs in this lionistic year. This would keep us on target for the growth programme.

During the meeting 5 January a further 16 Clubs requested Tool Kits. We will have now have 60 clubs fully equipped with updated literature available from LCI. A further Breakfast Meeting is planned for February 6 2005 to give the opportunity to the remaining Clubs to participate in presentations and personally collect their Kits.

We have regrettably lost the Lions Club of Buckingham who decided to have their Charter withdrawn as at the end of December. I take this opportunity to thank each and every member of LC of Buckingham for their exemplary services to their local community.

■ I'd like to remind fellow membership again of our slogan **'Members Recruit Members'** so please take

one friend with you to your next meeting. Should you already have exhausted your friends, please look around you with an open mind and broaden the horizon. Don't just limit introducing only your close friends to Lions but think of people you come across daily in your normal life for example;

- The local Police Officer,
- General Practitioner,
- Dentist,
- Accountant,
- Pharmacist,
- Butcher

Indeed any person who is service minded and would enjoy fellowship is eligible for membership. We were all introduced by someone in the Lions. Our District target set by our MERCL committee is to have a net increase of one new member per Club or a 5% net increase. This is a realistic target, we should not only endeavor to reach it but exceed it.



Gala Night

Raising funds for LCIF by clubs and individuals forms a substantial activity in our District. Our target in the current year 2004/5 was to raise funds for 50 Melvin Jones Fellow awards. We hosted a LCIF Gala evening on 7 January 2005 where we presented 52 MJFs and we hope that there will be further "fellowship" achieved by the end of the fiscal year. I'd like to congratulate Lion Kishore Pattni, LCIF Officer and Lion Vijay Arora for the success of this

programme and a special thanks to the Function Committee.

We were fortunate to have the Chairman of LCIF Immediate Past International President Dr TS Lee as our honoured guest for the evening. We also had the privilege to host our International Director Howard Lee and his wife Clare and Council Chairman John Goodchild and his wife Judith.

District Convention 4/ 5 March 2005

Our District Convention is scheduled for the 4/5 March 2005. The International First Vice President Ashok Mehta is our International guest of honour. The preparations are proceeding to plan. The host committee chaired by Lion Ashok Bhardwaj has already forwarded the Convention programme and booking forms to the clubs. All members are requested to come and join in for what will be a memorable Convention full of fun and fellowship - it is your convention an opportunity **to share success** and

fellowship. The Convention program and report details are available on the web. A further booking form will accompany this newsletter for your personal convenience please book yourselves now!

Peace Poster

We have completed the Peace Poster competition. Some 60 Peace Poster Kits were distributed to clubs by Lion Kusum Bedi which resulted in numerous competitions at club level. The District finalist was Holly Francis, Age 11 from Banbury Lions Club, whose poster was submitted to the Multiple Dis-

trict. This was a very satisfying programme where children, parents and teachers were involved in the activity under the Lions banner. Our Patron Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex judged Emily Pearson aged 13 years of Ponteland Lions Club of 105 NE as the MD winner. The winning poster has been sent to Oak Brook to compete on the World stage.



Lions Eye Health Programme (LEHP)

To celebrate the success of LEHP, I attended the launch of a new phase of the programme, hosted by LEHP MD committee, in the presence of the Countess of Wessex, Patron of Lions MD105, at a reception in London on 12th January 2005.

LEHP is a Sight First funded initiative focused on helping to eradicate preventable blindness, in the UK and Ireland, caused by diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma. The key message promoted by Lions behind LEHP Programme is to encourage people who are most at risk to "go and get their eyes tested".

Youth Ambassador

Michael Austin a 16 year old student at Harrow College was chosen to represent District 105A at the Multiple District finals to be held on 25 - 27 February 2005 in Walsall. We are very fortunate to have talented young people who are keenly involved in the welfare of the community. Our aim is to encourage the youth to develop their full potential. I thank Lion Doreen Carr for her efforts in organising this event.

Music Competition

The District has been actively involved in the Lions Cultural and Community activities programme for the youth, including the European Musical Interpretation. This event was held on 30 January 2005 at the Royal Academy of Music, London where Anna Victoria Hughes sponsored by Hitchin Lions Club was chosen as the winner. The Judges included James Watson, Head of Artistic Director and Head of Brass and Paul Archibald who had received honorary award in 2003 for Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music.

Lion Vijay Arora has been instrumental in taking us to the finals at Europa Forum last year and we wish her success this year again.

See you all at the Convention on 4 and 5 March.

STOP PRESS: TSUNAMI DISASTER

We all woke up to the shocking news of the Tsunami disaster on Boxing Day morning and have been watching the news of the ever rising numbers of deaths in the worst ever disaster in the recent history of our times. As you are now no doubt aware, LCIF responded with immediate emergency funding and nearly \$200,000 was distributed to the affected areas within 72 hours.

A special LCIF fund "South Asia Tsunami Disaster 2004 Fund" has been set up. Lions Clubs wishing to support the appeal should send donations to District Treasurer 105A with appropriate endorsement on the back of the cheque to indicate that the donation is for the fund referred above. These monies will be used for immediate and long-term requirements without deduction of any costs of overheads.

Emergency Grants have been dispatched to Lions districts in India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia to help the Lions provide food, blankets, water and other relief items.

LCIF is initially committing US\$5 million to assist in the recovery. The funds will enable Lions in South Asia to provide for long-term reconstruction by building homes, school and child welfare centres for orphans. We are fully

committed to support this LCIF Fund. ***I urge you to participate generously in this reconstruction phase to meet the challenges of the worst disaster in our living memory.***

Designated donations to LCIF for tsunami relief received between 26th December 2004 to 31st March 2005 qualify for MJF award. Full details can be obtained from Lion Kishore Pattni.



I take this opportunity to commend all the Lions in the District who reacted to tsunami disaster and participated in raising funds for immediate relief (or collected clothing and blankets as in the picture above) by supporting the initiatives of their local committees, religious groups etc. A number of Clubs also supported the appeals for Red Cross and UNICEF.

A BIG THANK YOU FOR SHOWING YOUR COMPASSION AND GENEROSITY.

Send copy, pictures etc to The Editor, Lion Viresh Paul, 108a High Street, Wealdstone, Harrow Midd, or by e-mail

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