



Pride of LIONS

DG Abhnash Bains



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Our District's successful 53rd snowy Convention

A week before the Convention, our Committee was feeling quietly confident as the 'returns' from the frontline confirmed that all our events were almost fully booked! At times this feeling gave way to anxiety about whether all our plans will come together, on the day. Had we overlooked anything? Will the hotel deliver? Will the band perform well? and will the volunteers turn up in full force? We had planned, consulted, prepared, rehearsed and revised as thoroughly as we could and the rest must surely be left to destiny!

As we were in full flow of our final preparations, we heard the weather forecast of heavy snow in most of the District 105A, starting on the eve of Host Night. That gave us a shock, as rarely in the recent past Greater London has had a prolonged snowfall in March! It was Donald Rumsfeld (past US Defence Secretary) who in context of risk management spoke of, "known knowns", "known unknowns" and, "unknown unknowns". I am not sure which of the last two would cover our erratic British weather!

As we surveyed the Christmas-like scenes outside the hotel, we received calls asking us if we were going ahead with the Convention! Yes we were... We continued with our preparations in the belief that, "the show must go on!"

Our International Guests from US, IPD Lion Walter 'Bud' Wahl and his wife Lion Jama arrived on Thursday. They surprised and impressed us by joining us in our Preparation Room to fill the Convention Bags for Lions Convention attendees. IPD in his keynote address spoke of the benefit of having an extra pair of hands. He and Lion Jama demonstrated this by rolling up their sleeves and helping us with their 'two pairs of hands'.

As we all say District 105A is the, A-Team. This was proved by Lions and their guests. We had over 200 people present on Friday Host Night. The hall was decorated with lights and Lion shaped Balloons. The music band, Sky High, was in full glory with our International singer Janaka Palapathawala (Jim Reeves of Sri Lanka) singing melodies of 70-80s. Every one enjoyed themselves and were reluctant to leave until hotel staff had to repeatedly request them to vacate the dance floor as they had to prepare the hall for the Business Session early next morning.

On Saturday, the activities started from early morning. Lions started

coming from 7.30am and our Registration Team was ready to welcome them and give them Convention Bag with Booklet. On a freezing morning they very much appreciated the coffee, tea and biscuits on offer!

At 8.45am sharp, Sergeant at Arms PDG Ken Rouse in his magisterial voice summoned all to take seats in the Hall, for the opening Ceremony. The Mayor of Barnet Cllr. Brian Salinger made his entrance at 9am. to 'kick off' the Flag ceremony. The Union Jack was followed by flags of US, Poland, Lions, Lioness, Leo and finally Convention Banner which was handed over by Convention Officer Lion Vijay Jain to the Mayor who declared the Convention open. Each part of the ceremony was accompanied by the relevant national anthem and inspiring themed background music for other flags - all in perfect coordination with military precision - well done to Lions Steve and Satnam. This impressive ceremony was followed by the DG Lion Abhnash Bains starting the Business Session. The session proceeded smoothly with important Resolutions passed and trophies distributed. The pre-lunch session was dominated by election matters and speeches from prospective candidates. There was a distinct buzz and keen interest in the election for the 2nd VDG as the District was fortunate this year to have three very good and hardworking candidates. After lunch, results were announced. DG Elect Doreen Allen, VDG Elect Kamal Sharma and 2nd VDG Elect Alastair Joel were duly elected. Keynote address by IPD Bud Wahl was both inspiring and informative. He presented various awards from International President Naresh Aggarwal to deserving Lions.

Near to the end, in support of the DG Charity for this year, "Place2Be", a touching 3 minute YouTube video clip depicting

children facing mental health issues was shown. It evoked a generous response from the delegates who contributed over a £1,000! The Business Session ended on high note with vote of thanks from IPDG Brinder Nandra.

At 7.30pm Lions, ladies and guests started arriving in their best black suits and glamorous dresses for the DG's Banquet & Ball. The hall was suitably decorated in black and white Lion balloons, with a live Band in attendance. There were more than 130 people who attended the grand finale of a successful Convention.

Lion Vijay Jain, Convention Officer



..... NOTICE BOARD

DISTRICT HANDOVER

Sunday 15th July 2018

The Holiday Inn London Elstree Barnet by Pass, Borehamwood, WD6 5PU
12.30 for 1.00pm.

Lounge Suit / Smart Dress. **£25.00.**



LCI Purpose:

*To Unite the clubs in the bonds of
friendship, good fellowship and
mutual understanding.*

The Ruislip big cats (Lions) supporting the big cats of South Africa

It all began 5 years ago when a young woman Haley Kats who was passionate about wild animals, made a request to Ruislip Lions to support her trip to South Africa. At the time, sadly, her father had died from cancer and she wanted to raise the money to fulfil a promise she made to him to follow her dream. Ruislip Lions came up with a modest donation.

We heard nothing until in 2016 Hayley contacted us again with another request. She had made an excellent plans to forward into her career and was working as a fund raiser for the Cheetah Outreach project in South Africa. Their research was ground breaking. They identified the fact that subsistence farmers were loosing their livestock to big cats. As their environment changed, the cats were hungry and had to find new sources of food. The farmers stock were easy pickings and their livelihood was suffering...UNTIL...

The Cheetah outreach project found an amazing dog, an Anatolian shepherd dog – the dogs barking its totally bravery in confronting big cats brought such a positive impact on the farmers livestock . Fewer livestock were stolen or wild animals shot ...so a win win situation.

The next step was to breed enough of these wonderful dogs to improve the whole area. Then another twist... in stepped Peter, a Rotarian from Uxbridge Rotary. He painted an amazing picture of a Lion's head for us at Ruislip Lions to auction. As it was too late to auction it at our Ruislip Lions Charter we took the painting to the MD105a conference and presented the picture to our then DG Meena Gupta to give to her husbands charity "Compassion in World Farming". From this gift came a cheque for £201 from our DG's husband to start our fund to present a cheque to Haley and the Cheetah Outreach project to buy a puppy that we could name and follow its progress. All this has taken years and now thanks to a donation from Mailbox, a local Ruislip Company, an anonymous donor and a nominal top up from the club we have raise 12,000 to donate for a puppy.



HOPE... the brave dog



Lion Doris has chosen the name for our dog HOPE and we hope our partnership with The Cheetah Outreach project will show our Lions logo on their web site. At Ruislip Lions we feel this shows our often modest donations can grow into far reaching projects that link into the challenges given by our International Presidents e.g. food and farming for developing countries. The requests do not stop here – the project is in need of funds to pursue its vision. Hayley's persistence was a message to us all never gives up on a dream!

PS Since HOPE has been at work the loss of goats has dropped to zero- keep it up HOPE !!

Lynne Kauffman, PRO Ruislip Lions

Donation to GOSH by Chipping Barnet Lions

LC of Chipping Barnet held their Annual Golf Day last May, at Crews Hill Golf Club in Enfield in aid of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital (GOSH). The Golf Day was a huge success with golfers enjoying the competition on a great summer's day with the evening dinner and entertainment which was a hit.

We raised a princely sum £5,663 which has been presented to GOSH. This will go towards purchase of specialist life enhancing/saving equipment.

In 2018, the Golf Day, again in aid of GOSH is on 23rd May. For details please contact me, Lion Nilesh Vaghadia, or Lion Harish Vekaria.

Lion Dilip Mandalia



Lions Brian, Brian and Brian at Stony Stratford

DG Abhnash was invited by LP Lion Brian Gidley to LC of Stony Stratford's 42nd Charter on 10th March. It was her pleasure to recognise Lion Brian Siddons for 40+ years of service to Lionism and award him with a chevron. He has held various post within the Club and District including President and Zone Chair and is currently involved in providing service at the bookshop in Willen Hospice.

She was also delighted to award Lion Brian Kite with the Melvin Jones Fellowship in recognition of his contribution to meet humanitarian needs of communities around the world. He has performed a number of posts such as Britain & Ireland Lion Magazine Co-ordinator and Club President. His Lionism service includes the Remembrance Parade, organisation of the annual Stony Stratford Fayre, leading on "Walking for Health" (Milton Keynes) and improving road safety by training drivers through the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

Lion Rita Tanda

Sending the message

On 15 March Waltham Forest Lions Club setup a stall to promote Message in a Bottle. This was at a 50+ aged people monthly network event organised by Leyton Orient Trust and Borough of Waltham Forest. It was held at Leyton orient football stadium.

Waltham Forest Lions



Welcome new Lions

London Central Host
Lions Club inducted
new member Satyam
Bhatt, sponsored by
Lion Vijay Jain.



Lion Club of Hatch End
Centennial inducted
two new members:

Lion Sharon Patel –
sponsored by LP
Daksha Patel

Lion Hiten Arya – sponsored by Lion Dinesh Sonchhatra



LC of London Covent Garden fundraising

On Sunday 10 March, members from London Covent Garden collected money on Oxford Street, London in support of Marie Curie Charity despite very cold weather. Lucky it was not snowing like the previous week! Our Lions are dedicated to help the less fortunate.

Lion Flora Man, Secretary



LC of Hemel Hempstead helping a young child

We assisted in the purchase of a helmet to treat Plagiocephaly for young Tommy. LP Barbara was delighted to meet him and his mum Marie in our Hemel bookshop. It was wonderful to see the difference the helmet has already made after just a few weeks.

Lion Terry Allen, Secretary



At the Convention

*DG with our
International
guests*



*Flag
ceremony*

*Start of the
business
session*



Awards presentation

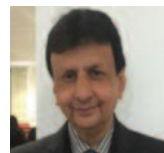


Another award winner

Incoming leaders of District 105A for 2018-19



DG Elect
Lion Doreen Carr



1st VDG Elect
Lion Kamal Sharma



2nd VDG Elect
Lion Alistair Joel



DG Abhnash's Article



"If opportunity doesn't knock build a door"- Milton Berle

This was probably the segment of meeting many influential people and promoting Lions to the most. On the days to follow, I met people from different geographical areas but the reason that brought us all together was the same. It was the will to do something for someone else, the desire to contribute towards humanity and make a change in someone's life for the better.

On 28th February, I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Arkady Rzegocki, the Polish ambassador. It was very kind of him for consolidating and confirming an audience in the UK. District 105A was to be represented by myself and PDG Max Mongia. However, PDG Max caught a flu and was unable to attend. DG Maria Sterczewska from District D121 and I met the Ambassador and we formed a good bond. He is open to the idea of Polish Lions clubs.

A much awaited District 105A Convention took place between 2-4 witnessing a total of nearly 800 Lions and guests. All the Lions of District 105A worked as a team and their combined effort was appreciated by International guests from the USA, Poland, Italy, India and other countries. In spite of the bad weather Lions from different parts of UK came down to show their support.

On Friday, it was the Host Night attended by over 190 guests who danced to the music provided by the live band from Sri Lanka. At the Host night business tycoons mingled with Lions to enjoy the music and to interact and learn more about what Lions do. The feedback from those who attended was that it was an enjoyable and fun filled event. It was a wonderful way of celebrating 100 Years of Lions Clubs.

On 3rd March, we started early with the cabinet meeting at 8.15am followed by the opening ceremony and then the business sessions. We had a full house for the business session with many Lions and non-lions attending. The response from the attendees was that it was an enjoyable and informative Convention. All the resolutions were passed. The speeches from the candidates standing for DG, VDG and 2nd VDG offices were inspiring and I believe we should all guide and support them in their endeavours. So congratulations to DGE Doreen, VDGE Kamal, 2nd VDGE Alastair and I hope Monita and Karanjeet will stand again. I believe they have skills and with all your support I am sure they will make good leaders. We finished the business part with the traditional song and cake cutting ceremony.

Then those attending the DG's dinner and dance went to get



At the DG Ball



Host night

ready and to meet up for the pre-dinner drinks. The guests were overtly pleased with the arrangements, especially the Lion balloons.

My wholehearted appreciation and thanks to the special people without whom it was not possible to have a successful Convention and that is none other than the Lions of District 105A. My sincere thanks to all the flag bearers and especially to Lion

Kumar Acharya who was our tail twister. He helped to raise the highest amount for DG Charity "Place2Be" at the Convention. Also, my thanks to Lion Surjit Bhalla for stepping in to read the Purpose.

On 7 March, I was invited to the Ealing Lions club meeting and it was well conducted and the planning for their charter was going according to plan. On the 10th of March, I attended Milton Keynes for their 42nd Charter. I would like to congratulate Lion President Brian Gidley and his members on their achievements and their work for their local community as well as their contribution towards International charities.

Lions Day with the United Nations at the House Commons took place on the 13 March. As always it was interesting with speakers. The highlight of the day

was the presentation to Mia Reed, winner of LCI MD 105 Peace Poster competition. At the Melvin Jones Fellowship dinner following Lions UN Day, the International 1st Vice President Lion Gudrun and her husband PID Lion Jón Bjarni presented the Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lions of MD105 to celebrate 50th Anniversary of LCIF. My congratulations to all the members who received their awards and it was wonderful to see so many Lions from our own District receiving this recognition for their hard work.

By now you all have heard Re- Zoning is going ahead as no objection has been raised. Everybody is aware of Data Protection Regulation is coming into effect so please keep yourself updated. Over the next months I will be asking DG Elect Doreen, GLT Elliott, GMT John and GST Viresh to write an article to keep you informed of the changes within the District.

DG Abhnash Bains

My Diary April 2018

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 LC of Bletchley | 21 LC of Wembley Bhojan and |
| 10 Harrow & Pinner Lions | Bhajan evening |
| Club OV | 21 LC of Bletchley Milton |
| 15 LC of Edgware 30th | Keynes - Rock Chorus the |
| Charter Celebration Lunch | Big Gig |
| 16 LC of Park Royal | 27-29 April Germany trip |