

Jungle Jottings

THE NEWSLETTER OF BRIGHTON LIONS CLUB
TWINNED WITH FREEDOM DISTRICT LIONS CLUB
ORDINARY PEOPLE - AMAZING THINGS
MAY 2007

CAMPAIGN SIGHTFIRSTII REACHES HALFWAY POINT

Oak Brook, IL March 19, 2007. Lions surpassed a major campaign benchmark by reaching more than US\$75 million raised, half of their Campaign SightFirst II (CSFII) minimum goal of US\$150 million to fight preventable blindness around the world.

"We have many millions of dollars still to raise, but reaching this half-way point is very encouraging and exciting for the thousands of Lions raising funds," said Dr. Tae-Sup Lee, Past International President and CSFII Chairperson. "Lions have always risen to the challenge and are prepared to continue their global leadership in the fight against blindness."

Dr. Lee said he and many Lions are

looking ahead to their next benchmark, US\$90 million raised by Lions Clubs International's 90th anniversary this July. "With each week, more and more Lions clubs are rallying around Campaign SightFirst II, and we anticipate meeting our next campaign target that is now just a few months away."

DID YOU KNOW ...

- ▶ Each minute 12 people go blind, one of them a child.
- ▶ Today, there are 37 million blind people in the world.
- ▶ 80% of all blindness is preventable or reversible.
- ▶ 90% of visually impaired children in low-income countries are deprived of schooling.
- ▶ If a child in a developing country becomes blind there is a 60% chance the child will die within one year of becoming blind.
- ▶ Even in the United States, 37% of children in inner cities need eyeglasses and 67% do not have them.
- ▶ ***Lions are world leaders in the fight against blindness. Campaign SightFirst has funded 841 projects that have restored or saved the vision of more than 27 million people.***

THE YEAR AHEAD

Brighton is, in my opinion, a very successful Lions Club. Our Housing Society provides affordable accommodation for elderly people of limited means in over 100 flats and bungalows. Through Leo House we employ a team of community nurses - soon to be expanded to six - who provide respite and palliative care to life-limited children and their families. We run regular bingo sessions for elderly people and provide transport for stroke patients and blind people to their social clubs and we have a large-print library which is circulated among retirement homes and flats. We regularly organise outings for disadvantaged children to Drusilla's zoo and the pantomime. In addition, over the last few years we have made donations and grants of well in excess of £100,000.

So what of the year ahead? Do we just carry on as before, or do we look for new challenges and opportunities?

There is, of course, a lot to be said in favour of 'consolidating our position'. But our position hardly needs consolidating so isn't that just a way of saying we can't be bothered to think of anything new? That way lies terminal decline, and I would hate to think that my year as president saw the start of that. So I propose to make a few small changes.

It has been almost traditional that Lions organising service activities are also members of the service committee and that those organising fund raising events are members of the fund raising committee. The remaining Lions without specific jobs have been allocated to one or other of those two committees, each of which then has the task of overseeing service or fund raising activities. However, we have fallen into the habit of having the business meeting oversee all activities and what should be two very important committees have, as a result, almost fallen into disuse.

My proposal involves reinvigorating those committees by (a) reducing their size and (b) giving each of them a more specific role description. My plan is that these committees should consist of no more than five members who will, in all probability, have no responsibility for organising a specific event or service activity.

I will ask the service committee to undertake three roles:

1. To consider applications for grants and/or financial assistance and to make recommendations to the club.
2. To be pro-active in seeking ways to distribute the Manison legacy funds which are building up rapidly.
3. To organise one new service activity during the Lions' year.

The fund raising committee will be asked to plan one new fund raising event during the year.

Although both the service and the fund raising committees will be reduced in size, at least nominally, I hope that the chairmen will be happy to welcome other Lions at their meetings and will, where they consider it appropriate, co-opt other members.

By reducing the size of the service and fund raising committees there will be Lions who are available for other tasks and I propose to set up two new committees, one for youth activities and one for Campaign SightFirst II. As with the other committees, these will be small and will be given particular aims. The youth activities committee will be asked to consider how the club can best offer service to the young people of Brighton. This might be through involvement in the Peace Poster contest, or the Young Ambassador Award, or something completely new and different. The CSFII committee will be asked to lead the club as true 'knights of the blind' by finding ways to publicise the role of Lions

Club International in the fight against avoidable blindness and to organise a fund raising event specifically for CSFII.

I have discussed these proposals with a number of our members and have, so far, received unqualified support. However,

there are almost certainly some Lions who will disagree and I will be very happy to receive their opinions. Nonetheless, I am confident that we can rise to the challenge and reinvigorate Brighton Lions Club to build on our past and go forward to an even more successful future.

Brian Slater

APRIL BUSINESS MEETING

This was, for some reason, a rather sparsely attended meeting. If the coughing and spluttering we heard was an indication of the health of the attendees, it should have been even more sparsely attended!

Despite being low in numbers, those there managed some interesting discussions about youth activities, in particular about finding a possible entrant for the District music competition and about the possibility of funding a bursary for a potential Olympic athlete from the city.

Teams were selected for various social events being organised for the zone: the Lewes Lions' toad in the hole competition, for a quiz being organised by Hove Lions and for the pitch and putt competition being organised by us.

BINGO ROTA

The Lion responsible for collecting the bingo equipment from Tony Crapnell and returning it to him after the session is indicated by an asterisk.

LIONS DENE Contact: Brian Siver (caretaker)		EVELYN GLENNIE Somerset Street Contact: Mrs Johnson (manager)	
		4 May 2007	Alan Pratt*, Clare Elliott
9 May 2007	Tom Novis *, Richard Linott, Joe Matthews	18 May 2007	Pete Dilloway *, Brian Slater
23 May 2007	George Wood *, David Bryant, Joe Matthews	1 June 2007	Ron Fowler *, Doug Taylor
13 June 2007	Tony Crapnell *, Clare Elliott, Joe Matthews	15 June 2007	Bruce Nunn *, David Sawyer

CLUB DIARY

- 2 May Dinner meeting, White Horse Hotel, Rottingdean, 8.00pm.
 4 May Book fair preparation, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
 4 May Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
 5 May Book fair, Lions Dene, 10.00am till 12 noon.
 8 May Blind club transport - Jason Bristow.
 9 May Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
 11 May Hove Lions' quiz night, Lions Dene.
 12 May Burgess Hill Lions' Charter Night.
 15 May Stroke club transport - Tony Crapnell.
 15 May Zone meeting, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
 16 May Board & business meeting, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
 18 May Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
 20 May Spring Forum, Felbridge, 9.15am onwards.
 23 May Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
 28 May Adur East Lions Vintage Transport Fayre, Buckingham Park, Shoreham.
 28 May Hove Lions Carnival, Hove Park.
 1 June Book fair preparation, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
 1 June Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
 2 June Book fair, Lions Dene, 10.00am till 12 noon.
 3 June Charter celebrations, County Cricket Ground, Hove, 10.00am onwards.
 6 June Potential Lions evening, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
 12 June Stroke club transport.
 12 June Blind club transport - Richard Lintott.
 13 June Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
 15 June Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
 16 June Rottingdean Lions' fair.
 20 June Board & business meeting, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
 27 June Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
 29 June Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
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MAY DINNER MEETING

As usual, 'other halves' will be very welcome to attend the dinner meeting which is to be held on 2 May at the White Horse, Rottingdean. Please confirm whether or not you will be attending to **Pete Dilloway** (not Ron Fowler) by the evening of Sunday, 29 April, or to **Richard Lintott** by the morning of Monday, 30 April. The cost will be £12 a head.

Remember: No apology = 2 meals ordered = a bill for you!

The menu:

- Mushroom soup
- Roast chicken
- Trifle
- Coffee or tea

WHY DID YOU JOIN BRIGHTON LIONS CLUB?

1. I had heard what Brighton Lions had achieved and I wanted to be a part of it.
2. To gain new contacts for my business.
3. I was invited to a meeting and I liked the fellowship.
4. Because I wanted to help my local community.
5. Other reasons.

WHAT HAVE YOU GAINED FROM BEING A LION?

1. A feeling that I am part of a winning team.
2. Fellowship and friends.
3. New contacts for my business.
4. A sense of achievement.
5. An improvement in my leadership and/or organisational skills.
6. Other benefits.

Can you think of a friend, acquaintance, neighbour or family member who might have the same reasons as you for joining Brighton Lions Club or who might like to receive the benefits that you have?

And if you should think your contribution has made no change, just remember this story.

As a man walked on the beach at dawn, he noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and throwing them into the sea. Finally catching up with the youth, he asked why he was doing this. The answer was that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun.

"But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish," countered the other. "How can your effort make any difference?"

The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it safely into the waves. "It makes a difference to this one," he said.

ON THE THEME OF A WINNING TEAM . . .

Fellow Lions,

London Olympics 2012

Five years and three months to the London Olympics! To me, it is a very exciting prospect. Not since 1848 has there been a better chance for contenders from Brighton to bring Olympic glory to our city. Never before have we had a British Olympic Games during the life of Brighton Lions Club.

Brighton Lions do a great deal for the less fortunate in our city and abroad. It is, however, well within the scope of our objects and ethics to assist youth in the areas of leadership, training, music and excellence.

A wonderful opportunity presents itself for us to encourage a young person or a group of young people from our area to go to the London Olympics. As of August 2007, this year, there will be just five years to go. I would like to see a commitment from the Club to provide a Brighton Lions Club Bursary for an entrant or entrants from Brighton to the London Olympics. A one-off donation of £5,000 or £2,500 would be onerous and could be lost as soon as it was given, but if we offered a bursary of £500 or £1,000 per year over the next five years, we could make a real difference to Brighton's Olympic effort in 2012.

An informal discussion was held at the last board and business meeting, when fellow Lions very kindly encouraged me to investigate the idea further. I would be honoured to do so and invite all reading this to let me have your thoughts on the possible Brighton Lions Club Olympic Bursary, including the following:

- ▶ Is it a proposal we wish to investigate further?
- ▶ How much should we plan to set aside?
- ▶ Which sporting organisations in Brighton or elsewhere should we contact to find a possible beneficiary?
- ▶ Do we know of any potential Olympian in Brighton NOW who could do with the support?

I would be delighted to hear from you if you have any thoughts at all on this idea. It is not yet a proposal, but I would dearly like to make a detailed proposal to the board and business meeting in May, June or July.

Yours in Lionism,

Sheridan Lynch

We will be happy to receive comment either by post or e-mail and to publish them in future issues of Jungle Jottings. Editor

JUST A THOUGHT

Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.

Soren Kierkegaard

MONTHLY DRAW

It has been suggested that club members (and others?) May wish to participate in a monthly draw to raise money (if possible) for the club admin fund. Outlined below are three possible formats and it would be very helpful if members would indicate their preference on the slip below. Please return it to Lion Jason Bristow on or before Wednesday, 16 May.

The following rules would need to apply:

1. The draw would be held each month at the regular board and business meeting.
2. Subscriptions to be paid in advance by cash or cheque.
3. Participants may pay on the night of the draw if they wish to participate.
4. Winners will be paid immediately. If not present at the meeting they will be notified and the prize sent.

Please select the format you prefer.

Format A: £36 per year, £3 per month.
 4 prizes each month of £20, £15, £10 & £5.
 A minimum of 20 participants would be needed.

Format B: £48 per year, £4 per month.
 4 prizes each month of £30, £20, £15 & £10.
 A minimum of 22 participants would be needed.

Format C: I do not wish to take part.

 Please return this part to Lion Jason Bristow on or before Wednesday, 16 May.

PROPOSED MONTHLY DRAW

I would like to support Format

Name

AND FINALLY ...

Following a session of Prime Minister's Question Time, Tony left the chamber and crossed the hallway heading for Number 10. Close on his heels came John Prescott.

"Tony, I must have a word," he said. "I really am getting depressed with all this talk of me being stupid, just because I sometimes get mixed up."

Tony placed his hand on the shoulder of his deputy and said, "Don't worry, John, there are a lot of stupid people about. Let me give you an example."

He headed for the rear lobby taxi rank and hailed a taxi.

"Take me to Number 10 Downing Street just to see if I am there," the Prime Minister said.

The taxi driver, without hesitation, took the two and dropped them outside Number 10.

"There you are, John," said Tony. "How stupid was that?"

"You're absolutely right," said Prezza. "You could have called from the phone box in the lobby to see if you were here."

Three agricultural engineering apprentices and three young farmers travelled by train to a conference in London. At the station, the three apprentices each buy a ticket and watch as the three young farmers buy

only one between them.

"How are three people going to travel on one ticket?" asked the apprentices.

"Watch and you'll see," answered the young farmers.

They board the train and the apprentices take their seats - but the young farmers all cram into the toilet.

Shortly after the train departs, the ticket collector comes round, knocks on the toilet door, and says, "Ticket, please". The door opens enough for one arm to hold out a ticket, which the conductor takes and moves on.

On the way home the apprentices buy one ticket between them but are amazed that the young farmers do not buy a ticket at all.

"How are you going to travel without a ticket," ask the apprentices.

"Wait and see," the young farmers replied.

When they board the train the three apprentices cram into one toilet while the three young farmers cram into another one nearby.

The train moves off and, shortly after, one of the young farmers leaves his toilet and knocks on the apprentices' toilet door. "Ticket, please...".

Reprinted from Farmers Guide. Thanks to Robin Windus for providing the cuttings.

That's all, folks!