



We Serve

JUNGLE JOTTINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF BRIGHTON LIONS CLUB
TWINNED WITH FREEDOM DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

ORDINARY PEOPLE - AMAZING THINGS

MARCH 2008

NOMINATIONS WANTED

And we are not referring to the American Presidential election!

We are approaching the time when Lions clubs around the world elect their officers for the next Lions' year, which runs from 1 July.

Very often it seems that just two or three Lions take the trouble to canvas volunteers to fill the positions. But this should be the responsibility of every member of the club. After all, this is your club, so it is both your right and your responsibility to take part in its running.

And taking part means more than just finding other Lions to assume responsibility for jobs such as secretary and treasurer. Whilst not every member of the club can be expected to act as treasurer, for example, we should all be prepared to undertake some role.

See the back pages of this issue for the official notification and nomination form.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DISTRICT CONVENTION

- ⇒ District Governor 2008-09 - Jacquie Prebble
- ⇒ Vice District Governor 2008-09 - Eddie Warn
- ⇒ District dues increased to £10 per member
- ⇒ Cakes for Charity to be a District project
- ⇒ Student membership definition amended
- ⇒ International board asked to consider problem of dues in developing countries

MARCH DINNER

The March dinner meeting will be at the Brighton & Hove Golf Club. The date is 5 March, time 7.15 for 7.45.

The menu will be:
Seafood platter;
Somerset pork;
Eton mess;
Coffee or tea.

The cost will be £15 a head.

Names to Ron Fowler by 29 February please, and advise if alternative to seafood platter is required..

FIREWORKS

➔ Gate receipts up £9,000 to £48,000 (22%).

➔ Our profit up £3,600 to £17,000 (27%).

Full story inside.

CLUB DIARY

28 February Official cheque presentation, Sussex MS Centre, Croft Rd, Southwick.
 29 February . Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
 29 February . Book fair preparation, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
 1 March Book fair, Lions Dene, 10.00am till 12 noon.
 4 March Visit Eastbourne Lions.
 5 March Dinner meeting, Brighton & Hove Golf Club, 7.15 for 7.45pm.
 6 March Adur East Lions charity greyhound night.
 10 March Visit Royal Tunbridge Wells Lions.
 11 March Blind club transport - Ron Fowler.
 12 March Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
 14 March Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
 15 March Horsham Lions charter night.
 16 March It's A Knockout (zone project), Longhill School, 10.00am onwards.
 18 March Stroke club transport - Brian Slater.
 19 March Business meeting, Lions Dene, 8.00pm. Nominations close.
 26 March Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
 28 March Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
 2 April Skittles meeting, Royal Oak, Barcombe. Elections.
 4 April Book fair preparation, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
 5 April Book fair, Lions Dene, 10.00am till 12 noon.
 8 April Blind club transport - Richard Lintott.
 9 April Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
 11 April Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
 15 April Stroke club transport.
 16 April Business meeting, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
 23 April Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
 25 April Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.

FEBRUARY BUSINESS MEETING

- ▶ David Sawyer was presented with his 25 year chevron.
- ▶ Immediate Past President Richard Lintott was presented with a President's Diamond Award.
- ▶ Agreed to buy a new set of international flags for the top table at a cost of approximately £140.
- ▶ Agreed to have leaflets printed along the lines of those used by Hailsham Lions.
- ▶ Set aside £2400 to cover the cost of taking children to Drusilla's and the pantomime.
- ▶ Approved a donation of £100 to Brighton & Hove Schools Rugby Association.
- ▶ Approved a donation of £540 to Downsview School for the purchase of rucksacks.

BINGO ROTA

An asterisk (*) indicates the Lion responsible for collecting the equipment from Jason Bristow and returning it to him after the session.

If you are unable to undertake your allocated place on the rota, please find a replacement before contacting Jason. Perhaps a straight swap with another Lion?

LIONS DENE Contact: Brian Sivier (caretaker)		EVELYN GLENNIE Somerset Street Contact: Mrs Johnson (manager)	
27/2	George Wood *, David Bryant, Joe Matthews	29/2	Brian Slater *, Guy Butterworth
12/3	Pete Dilloway *, Lisa Dilloway, Joe Matthews	14/3	Ron Fowler *, Pete Dilloway
26/3	Brian Slater *, Richard Lintott, Joe Matthews	28/3	Tony Crapnell *, David Sawyer
9/4	George Wood *, David Bryant, Joe Matthews	11/4	Tom Novis *, Bruce Nunn
23/4	Hugh Barron *, Allen Bryant, Joe Matthews	25/4	Guy Butterworth *, A N Other

CRB CHECKS

Disclosure application forms for the Criminal Records Bureau have now been obtained and any Lion who needs to complete one should contact the President. Any Lions who drive blind people to their social events should complete a form and it is recommended that stroke patient drivers do so as well.

Although it is not considered necessary for Lions who accompany children to Drusilla's or the pantomime, it would be prudent for checks to be carried out on those Lions also.

Please remember that even if you have been checked by another organisation, this will not cover any Lions activities and a further check is required.

JUST A THOUGHT

Any fool can criticise, condemn and complain – and most fools do.

Dale Carnegie

ATTENTION ALL DRIVERS

While looking into the treatment of reimbursed mileage costs received from East Sussex Blind Association, I came across advice from MD105 concerning the use of private cars by Lions where passengers are carried in connection with service activities.

It reads as follows:

The Lions insurance programme does not cover the use of motor vehicles. It is therefore important that where Club members provide their own vehicles for Club activities or where a vehicle is loaned by a local company, that the owner of the vehicle notifies his/her insurers. Vehicles must not be used until the motor insurers have agreed that the use is acceptable.

For your protection you are recommended to obtain written

confirmation.

I have spoken to District about this and it seems without such confirmation, users could be considered to be driving uninsured with potentially onerous consequences.

It may well be that members are already aware, and have already confirmed their own position. However, I did not know and I felt the matter was sufficiently important that it be brought to the attention of club members so that they are better informed.

My understanding is that most, but not all, private motor policies allow such use.

On a personal note, my own insurers have confirmed that my policy covers me and the premium is unaltered.

Tony Crapnell

IT'S A KNOCKOUT

Once again an IKO day for adults with learning difficulties is being organised as a zone project.

Each club in the zone is encouraged to attend to act as supporters of one of the teams taking part as well as to set up the various games.

It is a very enjoyable occasion – and certainly cannot be described as hard work.

16 March, Longhill School, from 10.00am. Bring a packed lunch – and wear a funny hat!

DIRECTORY AMENDMENTS

Details omitted from the on-line version.

SPRING FORUM

This year's event will be held on Sunday, 18 May at the Ramada Hotel, Pembury.

FIREWORKS ACCOUNTS

				<u>2006</u>
INCOME				
Gate money	Advance sales Lions	1892		3960
	Advance sales SCCC	16897		12160
	Sponsorship (Becks Peugeot)	250		0
	On the day (incl donations)	<u>29579</u>		23535
TOTAL INCOME			48618	<u>39655</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Display	Fireworks	7210		7071
	Materials	1975		312
	H & S course, etc	<u>1363</u>	10548	0
Advertising	Radio	0		1793
	Argus	0		497
	Lamp posts	0		600
	General	336		0
	Postage	0		59
	Posters & leaflets	<u>1050</u>	1386	250
Security		<u>0</u>	0	505
CRICKET GROUND EXPENSES				
	Pitch cover	0		600
	Generator fuel	0		135
	Signage	478		300
	Barriers	471		84
	Fire extinguishers	128		80
	Post event cleaning	170		0
	PA system	600		0
	First Aid	489		248
	Tickets	0		167
	Sundries	104		22
			<u>2440</u>	{1636}
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			<u>14374</u>	<u>12723</u>
SURPLUS			34244	26932
Less half share Sussex County Cricket Club			17122	13466
NET PROFIT TO Brighton Lions			<u><u>17122</u></u>	<u><u>13466</u></u>

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

I wonder how many of you, like me, sometimes ponder the future of Brighton Lions Club. What will it be like in, say, 10 or 15 years time? Will the same faces be sitting at the table, albeit somewhat older?

And what about in 20 or 25 years time? By then many if not most of us will have transferred to the celestial Lions Club. Will Brighton Lions Club still exist? If not, what will have happened to everything present members and their predecessors worked so hard to build up, like the housing society?

The survey we undertook at the end of last year showed that members agreed unanimously that we need to recruit new Lions. I would suggest our chief need is to recruit Lions who are **younger** than us. That, I think, is where the problem lies.

Just look at the members we have now. Sterling men and women, all of them. But if I am correct, only four are under 50 years old with the average age probably nearer 70 than 60. Put

yourself in the shoes of a 35 year old man or woman. Would you want to join an old men's club?

To return for a moment to the survey, just three respondents considered that we should form a new Lions club nearby. But could that not be a possible solution to our conundrum? Suppose for a moment we were able to find eight or nine people interested in joining Lions but not interested - for whatever reason - in joining the existing Brighton Lions Club. If we formed a branch club, be it in Westdene, Patcham or Kemp Town, consisting only or mainly of younger members, they could grow and develop new ideas for service and fund raising. In time, the branch could become the parent - and Brighton Lions Club would live on.

I do not suggest for one moment that this is the only possible solution to our problem. No, let me reword that: it's not a problem, it's a challenge. But whether it be a problem or a challenge, we need to face up to it. And before too much longer.

Brian Slater

TECHNOPHILE CORNER

With the incidence of on-line shopping growing quickly, it is worth reminding folks that they can support Leo House by going through the Leo House shopping link - <http://buy.at/leohouse> - where there are well over a hundred retailers with big High Street

names among them. And their prices are no higher than going direct to their sites - they just pay commission to Leo House.

Searching on the internet can also be good for Leo House. Most people are aware of the Google search

engine (and very good it is too) but at www.everyclick.com you can search the search engines and raise money for Leo House without spending anything.

So why not help Leo House yourself - and spread the word.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

February 2008

Dear Fellow Lion

In accordance with the club constitution, I formally request that you make nominations on the form attached to this issue of *Jungle Jottings* for the officers of the Brighton Lions Club for the year 2008/2009, either before or on the evening of the nominations meeting on Wednesday 19 March 2008. Further nominations cannot be accepted after the close of business at this meeting.

All nominations must be properly proposed and seconded and the Lion nominated must have agreed to be nominated. A space is available to initial the form accordingly.

All nominations must be submitted to the Nominations and Elections Officer, Lion Bruce Nunn, who will conduct the meeting and subsequent election, which will follow at the dinner meeting on Wednesday 2 April 2008.

Unless any members are aware of any changes to the contrary, the usual escalation of the Presidential ladder & membership committee ladder will take place. However, in the absence of Clare Elliott, a further member of the membership committee will be needed. Lions Jason Bristow and Tom Novis will automatically be serving their second year as directors.

I am sure members will exercise their zeal to nominate as many candidates as possible. Please do not leave Bruce to do all the work!

Yours in Lionism

HUGH BARRON
Secretary
BRIGHTON LIONS CLUB

SUSSEX MS CENTRE PRESENTATION

Brian Slater will be presenting a cheque for £10,000 to the Sussex Multiple Sclerosis Centre on behalf of the club at 3.00pm on Thursday, 28 February. Fellow Lions are encouraged to attend the centre for the presentation and for a chance to see how our money will be spent.

The centre is in Croft Road, Southwick.

AND FINALLY . . .

Possibly the best letter ever to come out of the Inland Revenue. Taken from the Guardian, an actual letter sent by the Inland Revenue. (Allegedly.)

Dear Mr Addison,

I am writing to you to express our thanks for your more than prompt reply to our latest communication, and also to answer some of the points you raise. I will address them, as ever, in order.

Firstly, I must take issue with your description of our last as a "begging letter". It might perhaps more properly be referred to as a "tax demand". This is how we, at the Inland Revenue have always, for reasons of accuracy, traditionally referred to such documents.

Secondly, your frustration at our adding to the "endless stream of crapulent whining and panhandling vomited daily through the letterbox on to the doormat" has been noted. However, whilst I have naturally not seen the other letters to which you refer I would cautiously suggest that their being from pauper councils, Lombardy pirate banking houses and ****ant gas-mongers might indicate that your decision to "file them next to the toilet in case of emergencies" is at best a little ill-advised. In common with my own organisation, it is unlikely that the senders of these letters do see you as a "lackwit bumpkin" or, come to that, a "sodding charity". More likely they see you as a citizen of Great Britain, with a responsibility to contribute to the upkeep of the nation as a whole.

Which brings me to my next point. Whilst there may be some spirit of truth in your assertion that the taxes you pay "go to shore up the canker-blighted toppling folly that is the Public Services", a moment's rudimentary calculation ought to disabuse

you of the notion that the government in any way expects you to "stump up for the whole damned party" yourself. The estimates you provide for the Chancellor's disbursement of the funds levied by taxation, whilst colourful, are, in fairness, a little off the mark. Less than you seem to imagine is spent on "junkets for Bunterish lickspittles" and "dancing whores" whilst far more than you have accounted for is allocated to, for example, "that box-ticking fa?ade of a university system."

A couple of technical points arising from direct queries:

1. The reason we don't simply write "Muggins" on the envelope has to do with the vagaries of the postal system;
2. You can rest assured that "sucking the very marrows of those with nothing else to give" has never been considered as a practice because even if the Personal Allowance didn't render it irrelevant; the sheer medical logistics involved would make it financially unviable.

I trust this has helped. In the meantime, whilst I would not in any way wish to influence your decision one way or the other, I ought to point out that even if you did choose to "give the whole foul jamboree up and go and live in India" you would still owe us the money.

Please forward it by Friday.

Yours sincerely,

H J Lee

Customer Relations

That's all, folks!

BRIGHTON LIONS CLUB

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2008/2009

Office	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder	Candidate's initials
President	Pete Dilloway	Automatic	Automatic	
1st Vice President	Guy Butterworth	Automatic	Automatic	
2nd Vice President	David Bryant	Automatic	Automatic	
3rd Vice President				
Secretary				
Treasurer				
Director for 1 year	Jason Bristow Tom Novis	Automatic	Automatic	
Director for 2 years				
Director for 2 years				
Lion Tamer				
Tail Twister				
Membership committee	Pete Dilloway	Automatic	Automatic	
Membership committee - 2nd member				
Membership committee - 3rd member				

Please return the completed form to Lion Bruce Nunn before or at the business meeting on Wednesday 19 March 2008.