



**District 105SE**  
**Reports to Convention 2022**

**District Global Action Team**

**Forward Planning Chairman – Rizvi Rawoof**

Covid again Omicron / Florona! Well, prevention is better than cure, so let us all take care. Just out of the holiday season and we will be active in this 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year. We will be holding our FPC meeting in a couple of weeks hence nothing much to report since last. Lion Howard Lee is doing an excellent job on AAKSS, as well as PDG Mike Parker in Membership. Presume that some of the members of clubs being folded, would transfer to other Clubs. Sad to hear the demise of Lion Albert Fendall who has been an active Lion for approximately 53 years. PDG Phil Bowman seems to be gearing up for the Spring Forum. Look forward to seeing all members at the District Convention early next month.

**District Leadership Chairman – Phil Bowman**

District Training for the year will include:

Spring Forum including:

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Membership Chair

Zone Chairman

Guiding Lions

New Members Overview of Lions

District Cabinet Overview

Great Ideas Forum

The issue for the future is how we present our Training. Can it be Face to Face or will it be via Zoom and what format will we use?

Will advise as we come up with the best solutions.

Still deciding what the format of the Training will be, because LCI has a truckload of training available online at the Lions Learning Centre.

As soon as we can get together we will make a decision.

**District Membership Chairman – Howard Lee**

Membership movements by region for the year to date to 31 December 2021 are as follows:

	<b>30/6/21</b>	<b>Added</b>	<b>Dropped</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>31/12/21</b>
Region 1	269	6	(14)	(8)	261
Region 2	309	18	(28)	(10)	299
Region 3	210	6	(10)	(4)	206
Region 4	386	18	(22)	(4)	382
	<b>1,174</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>(74)</b>	<b>(26)</b>	<b>1,148</b>

There are currently 18 of our 55 active clubs (33%) with membership below 15. Unfortunately, we have lost two more clubs (involving 16 members) since our last Convention, and we are still expecting to lose another 5 clubs (involving 35 members) in the near future.

**Having said that, we should remember that all of our clubs, whatever their size, continue to do a huge amount to assist the less fortunate within our local communities and beyond. Even in these desperate times of the worst pandemic seen for 100 years, most Lions Clubs are keeping up their contribution to the welfare of their local communities. The ingenuity and dedication being shown really is mind-boggling. We can all be incredibly proud of our Lions Clubs.**

However, the amount of work we can do, and the level of enjoyment we ourselves can derive from our Club activities, does depend to a large extent on the number of members we have. Our District peaked in the 1990's with around 2,200 members in 89 clubs, but the figures above show our current position. Those clubs that are active and successful have continued to recruit new members, and they are to be congratulated. So, the losses we are suffering are mainly in those clubs where the average age has got too high for recruitment to be achieved, and indeed where, due to age and (sometimes) infirmity, the members have just had enough, and they have decided to cease.

Having said that, many of our Clubs continue to flourish, and seem to attract new members, despite the pandemic. Some have managed to become even better known by showing how much they care, even in these difficult times, and thus attracting other concerned members of the community.

On a closer look, the Clubs who continue to flourish are those that have a full and robust programme of activities, and a high profile within their communities. With this in mind, the efforts of the Membership Team, along with all the other teams within the district administration, are now concentrating more and more on assisting all our Clubs to achieve these elements of success. A list of equipment and materials designed for membership recruitment and available from District or Multiple District has been put together, and it has been circulated. If you would like to know more about how we can help you, please contact me.

We are also looking to move into those areas vacated over the years by the closure of clubs, and this is seen as perhaps the most likely way of reversing the overall trend, and in attracting younger members to our organisation. I am pleased to say that there are currently five or six possibilities for new Clubs or Club Branches being planned, and which can be worked on in earnest as soon the pandemic allows.

To help in this process, we have asked all our members under the age of 60 for their views on various aspects, and around a third of them have contributed. I thank all those who did so.

Clearly, we now need to move forward. We have been discussing these issues and the measures needed, for some years, and it is now high time we took some decisive action. We all need to pull together, and put more time, effort and resources into concrete plans to reverse the trend, so that we can build a successful future and increase in our capacity for service to the community. Your help in this process would be greatly appreciated.

### **Club Support – Paul Dedman**

The last few months have seen clubs start to operate more normally and have face to face club meetings.

Membership has grown a little and great efforts by club members and their membership officers has started to pay off with interest from volunteers in the community to come and help their local Lions clubs to serve and care for those in need. We can do so much more when we have the support of more helping hands.

There are many of our club members that for health reasons are not able to attend meetings face to face and are feeling that they cannot play a full part in our activities at this time, but if you all stay in contact on a regular basis by telephone or Zoom, they will continue to be included in the group that are making decisions and continue to be involved and not leave your club.

I get much pleasure from going to club meetings and enjoy the social side of our Lions Clubs. I look forward to meeting you all at Convention and getting up to date with the work and social side of your club activities.

### **Club Support – Pete Dilloway**

See separate Report of District Lion Tamer/Equipment storage Coordinator.

### **New Club Development – Mike Parker**

The need to establish New Clubs has never been greater. We have seen Clubs closing at a regular rate, mostly because of age and health reasons. The closures have meant that even more of our District is not served by Lions and whole communities are not being given the help they so desperately need.

In 1993 we had 89 Clubs and 2,200 members, but now we expect the number of Clubs to fall to 52 or perhaps further. Membership levels did reduce to 1,174 but a recent modest upsurge does give room for some optimism.

Of course, I can appreciate the view that increasing membership in existing Clubs should be given priority, but if that is to happen then each Club needs to have a clear and carefully planned recruitment campaign. Has each Club set that in motion?

For New Clubs to be formed, that also requires a plan of action. It need not necessarily fall on any particular Club to set up plans, for it may be better to form a Team within the Zone, with dedicated and determined Lions able to contribute. The plan would basically be to identify a location for the New Club, set up a Team and draw up a plan of action to promote the idea.

The type of Club that a team wishes to establish also has to be determined and could be any from the following – Traditional or Club Branch, Ethnic Minority, Young Adults, Special Interest, Young Farmers, Campus, Family & Weekend, Corporate, Virtual, etc.

There are of course other aspects to setting up a Club and over the last couple of years models of plans are available to help Teams take this task on. Remember too, that the District Membership Team is readily available to give advice and to join the Team as they set about their plans. In addition, there is a generous District budget available to ease the financial burden. And there is a myriad of guides and promotional material from LCI, not only for setting up New Clubs but also to assist with Club recruitment campaigns.

Please see what you can do to establish new Clubs and put your ideas to the Membership team.

### **Young Farmers Clubs – David Skinner**

This project consists of approaching Young Farmers and the Lions Club in their locality with a view to see whether a joint working approach could benefit both organizations. The

Young Farmers Organization has a charitable element to its activities, and it requires its members to leave at age 26 years. The rationale for this approach is to benefit the local community and to provide departing Young Farmers, through Lions, an opportunity to continue their community service.

However, the constraints that have been put on the farming community by health and social restrictions have meant that they have reduced their social activities this year and many of their Clubs have suspended activities until well into 2022. While this is a good activity for membership for the long term, it will be a while before we can expect any results. We will plan to support the Surrey Young Farmers 'Cow Pie' event on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022, and we hope to make progress from there.

#### In Conclusion

After far too many years of negative growth, we really need to halt the decline, and to start a new, upward trend. However, Rome was not built in a day, and our ambitions will take time to materialise. Having said that, there are definite signs of "green shoots" emerging in some of our existing clubs, and on the new club / club branch front. I believe we now have a viable plan going forward, and an effective and dedicated team to make it happen. I am quietly optimistic for our future, provided we all put the work in and pull together.