



Lions Clubs International Five Nations Youth Football Competition

The British Isles Mainland Cup Final

After a long and extreme weather-affected season the Youth Football reached its climax with a hard fought final match held at the home of Kettering Town FC. The fact that it was held at Kettering came about after another of the Blue Square Premier league clubs, Rushden & Diamonds, changed their Chairman and subsequently changed their pitch renovation schedule. Having played at Rushden & Diamonds for the previous two seasons the MD Youth Football Committee was faced with hunting for a new ground at very short notice.

With all the final Premier League games being played on the same Sunday as our Cup Final, and with both Birmingham City and West Bromwich Albion playing away at Spurs and Newcastle respectively, we thought there was a good chance of getting a great venue right in the heart of the Midlands and within a stone throw from MDHQ, but alas it was not to be. Many other prestigious venues were tried before at the last minute, Kettering Town came to the rescue.

The final was competed by Woodford Youth Football Club in Essex, sponsored and supported by the Lions Club of Fairlop from District A, and Whetstone Juniors FC from Leicestershire in District E. Whetstone had entered as an "Independent Team" in accordance with our rules, and the District Officer from "E", Lion John Battersby, took every opportunity to talk to their supporters about all the other activities that we Lions do. The idea of allowing independent teams into our competition is to give Lions the opportunity to gain much needed publicity in areas where there are no Lions Clubs and indeed to try and attract new members and even form new Lions Clubs. However, there are already


several good active Lions Clubs close to Whetstone, and on this occasion there was no "luck" in forming a new Club, but there is still the opportunity for new members being attracted.

The Lions Club of Fairlop, and in particular their current President, Paul Chakravarti, are long standing supporters of the Youth Football Competition so it was great to see their team get to the final. Although the MD Committee is neutral when it comes to the Final it is fair to say that I personally was delighted to see the team from Essex emerge as the winners.

It was a hard fought game with Whetstone missing a series of chances mainly due to some excellent goal keeping. Woodford took the lead when a headed clearance fell in a perfect loop for an advancing mid-fielder to volley into the back of the net giving the Whetstone goal keeper no chance at all. Then we had the "tale of two goal posts" at both ends. Woodford doubled their lead when a good shot again gave the goal keeper no chance as it hit both posts before going into the net. Shortly after that Whetstone saw a similar shot from one of their forwards hit both posts but bounce out. Such are the fortunes of football and sometimes

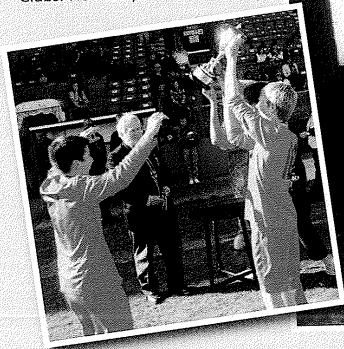
Continued on page 59 ▶▶▶

**Lions Clubs International
5 Nations Youth Football
Final**
Under 14s 2010-2011



Whetstone Juniors FC
vs
Woodford Youth FC
Played with thanks at the home of
Kettering Town FC,
Rockingham Road, Kettering,
Northants, NN16 9AW
Sunday 22nd May 2011
Kick Off 16.00

Official souvenir Programme £1.00 or any larger donation
(any profit will go to Lions Youth Clubs)



Executive Summary

Humanitarian Award winner.

Allocated US\$1.5 million from the Japan earthquake and tsunami designated fund for a special victims assistance program (US\$1 million) and Lions operational command centers (US\$500,000).

Approved a contract in the amount of US\$181,000 with Service Learning Life Skills Network for consulting services for a one-year period.

Revised the privacy policy to include information about how data collected over the internet is used.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Clarified prior teaching experience requirement for DGE Seminar group leader candidates to include those Lions who have served as teaching faculty in LCI-sponsored training events including Senior Lions Leadership Institute, Faculty Development Institute, previous MERL Chairpersons Seminar, District Governors-Elect Seminar or equivalent multiple district or higher level training events including GMT and GLT training.
- Clarified the prior experience requirement for DGE Seminar chairperson candidates to include those Lions who have served as District Governors-Elect Seminar group leader during the 10 years prior to the year in which the individual will serve as chairperson or similar experience in LCI-sponsored training programs or equivalent multiple district or higher level training events.
- Revised Regional Lions Leadership Institute program in an effort to allow more multiple and single districts to participate. Effective beginning in 2011-2012, an amount up to US\$143 per confirmed participant will be allowed per approved Regional Lions Leadership Institute, up to a maximum of US\$10,000, for funding applicants receiving Regional Lions Leadership Institute funding for the first and second time, with subsequent Regional Lions Leadership Institute funding limited to a maximum of US\$7,500. The submission deadline for 2011-2012 Regional Lions Leadership Institute applications is May 31, 2011.
- Revised Board Policy related to the delivery of training in LCI official languages.
- Revised Board Policy related to removal of the reference to the term, "good standing", in relation to the Senior Lions Leadership Institute participant selection process.
- Revised Board Policy to reflect the eligibility of second vice district governors to participate in Senior Lions Leadership Institutes.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Updated Board Policy to reflect the new Lion areas of China Shenyang, China Shaanxi.
- Updated Board Policy to indicate the naming of a club branch follows the same club naming guidelines as the chartering of a new club.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- Changed multiple/single district public relations grants restricting advertising usage.
- Suspended the Global Youth Music Contest for Lion year 2011-2012.
- Approved that beginning in calendar year 2013, the Lions Tournament of Roses parade float design will require approval from LCI.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

- Approved modifications to the annual Leo Leadership Grant Program beginning fiscal year 2011-2012 by lowering grant funds from US\$28,000 to US\$16,000 per fiscal year; and reallocating the US\$12,000 for future marketing and outreach initiatives to grow and retain Leo clubs, and develop leadership development resources for Leo officers, Leo club advisors and Leo chairpersons.
- Named the recipients of the 2009-2010 Top Ten Youth Camp and Exchange Chairperson Award.
- Approved modifications to the annual Lions Services for Children Symposium Grant Program beginning fiscal year 2011-2012 by lowering grant funds from US\$28,000 to US\$16,000 per fiscal year; and reallocating the US\$12,000 for marketing and promotional initiatives to further promote and support Lions efforts with Lions Children First projects to meet the basic needs of disadvantaged children.
- Approved the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between Lions Clubs International and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to further support Lions efforts in the area of disaster relief and response, particularly in meeting the needs of vulnerable populations.
- Approved co-branded initiative between Lions Clubs International and the National Eye Institute (NEI)/National Health Education Program (NEHEP) to develop resources to support Lions sight-related service projects.
- Established a Hearing Preservation, Awareness and Action Chairperson at the multiple district level, effective July 1, 2011.

For more information on any of the above resolutions, please refer to the LCI Web site at www.lionsclubs.org or contact the International Office at 630-571-5466.

Lions Youth Football *continued from page 40*



on the thickness of the woodwork, that games are won or lost. The game reached half time with Woodford leading by two goals to nil. Whetstone, having been denied by good saves from the Woodford keeper at last pulled a goal back, but not before the goalie made two saves in quick succession only to see the second headed back past him into the net. Both teams attacked in turn and the game was finally put out of reach of Whetstone when a corner was headed home by the tallest boy on the pitch, playing for Woodford. The score became 3-1 and remained that way until the end, despite claims for a penalty from Whetstone when the Woodford goalkeeper once again deprived Whetstone by diving at the feet of an advancing forward, just getting his hands to the ball before bringing the forward down.

Council Chairman Lion Jackie Prebble presented every boy and the match officials with a medal and the cup to Woodford.

The MD Youth Football Committee would like to thank every Lion who came and supported the players, local Lions from Kettering and Northampton, (especially "Simba the Lion" who enthusiastically celebrated all four goals) and all other MD Officers, and visiting District Governors, and Vice District Governors.

Council Chairman Jackie presented Lion John Battersby with

her Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding efforts throughout the season. When John attended his first committee meeting he said, almost an exact quote – "I am sorry but I know nothing about football. However the District Governor has asked me to do this job and I'll do my best". John, many thanks, I hope you know a bit about football now!

After four years as Chairman of the Competition it is time to step down. I thank successive Councils for allowing me to keep this marvellous competition going. It gives so much pleasure to so many youngsters and their families and supporters. It has not been at all easy competing against rain, snow and ice, and local league officials, and I wish my successor, Lion Les Fuller, all the best for the next few seasons, and I thank Les on behalf of the MD for generously printing the souvenir match day programmes free of charge.

I hope that every District will enter even more teams than they did this year. If every mainland District matches the Irish, who regularly get over 30 teams in their District, then just think what national publicity we could get from a competition with over 360 football teams competing!

• PDG Lion Paul Withers