



Candidate for 2nd Vice District Governor 2021/2022

Lion David McKirdy

I joined Hereford Lions Club in 2000, transferring to Leominster in 2003 on my wife Jenny joining that club. Unfortunately, Leominster had to close in 2013 and we were both invited to join Black Mountains Lions Club.

I was born in Chesterfield and on leaving school with 4 GCE O'levels started working in a bank. Finding that banking was not how I saw my life progressing I joined the Army in 1971 serving 22 years with the Royal Army Pay Corps. It was whilst serving in the Army that I qualified as a Chartered Management Accountant. On leaving Army service I continued working in the Ministry of Defence as an accountant until my retirement in 2017.

In 2002 I attended my first District Convention; this was to kick start my Lionistic career in that I was introduced to PID Lion Phil Nathan by members who found out that I was to be going to Bosnia for 6 months shortly after Convention. I was given contacts in Sarajevo for the Lions Gift for Living project. Whilst stationed in Banja Luka I was able to arrange visits to Sarajevo to see firsthand much of the wonderful work that had been, and continues to be, delivered. This culminated in me being asked to represent MD105 in the opening of the neo-natal ward in Bihać alongside the UK Ambassador who was representing the Department for International Development.

After a tour of duty in Jordan, Iraq and Kuwait during Gulf War 2 Jenny and I went on holiday in the United States. It was here that I really learnt how powerful our Lions Badge can be. Whilst touring Yosemite National Park I met Lion Gordon Zeigler from Richmound, Saskatchewan, we would never have met if was not for the badge. We built up a friendship with Gordon and his wife Beverly over the years during which time I told him about my experiences in Bosnia. This led to me being invited to give a talk on Gift for Living at the USA/Canada Forum in Saskatoon, Canada. Like all of us we try to prepare thoroughly for our presentations, like the best laid plans however this did not work. Lion Phil Nathan presented me with a new DVD 10 minutes before my presentation in front of, as I found out later, the current and a few past International Presidents. One of them commented that I looked as though I had not seen the DVD and he was surprised when I admitted that was true.

At District level I was Cabinet Treasurer for 3 years and Football Officer which finished on the Lions Football Competition losing its support. My last year however did see a club from W as the winner so I suppose Llantwit Major & Goodwick are still the MD105 champions.

I served 4 years as President in Leominster and sadly had to preside over its closure, the club saw fit however to present me with a Melvin Jones Fellowship. At Black Mountains I have been Club Treasurer since 2016 and LCIF Co-Ordinator since 2017. I am also the District CIO mentor.

Outside Club and District responsibilities I am Deputy Council Treasurer with the mandate to be Chief Accountant for Lions Message in a Bottle Ltd. This is a challenging but extremely rewarding role in a project that is fast developing. It has taken me to places that I would not ordinarily have wished to visit at 2 of Her Majesty's hotels. I have also added a role of a slightly international flavour as Secretary/Treasurer for the Lions International Stamp Club. This role has seen me attend International Conventions in Hamburg, Toronto, Chicago, Las Vegas and Milan to organize Stamp Club meetings and exhibition events at these conventions.