



Candidate for 1st Vice District Governor 2021/2022

**Lion Ravinder Sandhu**

Following my tenure as President of Coventry Mercia Lions Club for two consecutive years (2016/17 and 2017/18), Zone F Chairman (2017/18) and Region 2 Chair (2018/19), and GMT Membership Growth & New Clubs Lead (2019/20), I was honored to have been elected as 2nd Vice District Governor.

I moved to Coventry in 1968 at the age of 11 from India. After my GCE O levels, I completed the 4-year technical apprenticeship with a Ministry of Defense Company who also sponsored my higher education at Coventry University.

In 1978, I became a Freeman of the City of Coventry and, after graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, I married my wife Jas, Nurse Practitioner, and together we have raised three wonderful children. Two of them are professionally qualified and the third is studying at an Independent School.

I am also the Director of a highly successful property business which I founded in 1988 and I have strong connections within the local community and further afield. Regarding my personal interests, I have trained in body building and competed at a national level.

Prior to joining Lions, I helped finance and build a village hospital in India. To this day I remain an avid supporter of several charitable organisations including, Youth Football Club Rurka Kalan Sports Academy (India), funding sport and education for 5,000 disadvantaged children.

During my two years in office as Club President, I was invited to 10 Downing Street and Buckingham Palace. I also attended International Conventions in Chicago and Milan. I regularly travel to India to set up eye camps in remote villages; to date, over several thousand under-privileged people have been screened for eyesight problems and numerous cataract operations have been carried out in line with our Lions Clubs International global causes.

The Coventry Mercia Lions Club also grew from strength to strength during my period in office, undertaking service projects and fund-raising tens of thousands of pounds to help local, National and International charities which included donations to a special school for partially sighted and blind children in Zambia, Coundon Care at Allesley Park in Coventry, the Lady Godiva Trust, Coventry and the Lord Mayors' local charities.

I was awarded a Melvin Jones Fellowship in 2017. I then revived the Nuneaton Lions Club in 2018 which despite a fifty-year history was facing imminent closure having no members. I was also presented with a District Governors' Certificate of Appreciation at the District 105M handover ceremony in July 2018. In March 2019 I was awarded the International Presidents Medal for Exceptional Service to Lionism.

My primary goal is to promote Lionism, increase membership throughout the District and form new Clubs. As Region Chair in 2018/19 I increased net membership by twenty-seven in my Region which was the first increase seen in fifteen years. I have personally sponsored thirty-four new members since June 2018 with more in the pipeline and I am currently serving as part of the District Governors Team to achieve the District goals.