

CONGRATULATIONS YOUNG AMBASSADOR 2011

RYAN GREEN

Supported by Ross on Wye Lions Club



WOW! it's all I can say after attending the Young Ambassador Finals in Dudley on the weekend of 25th February 2011.

The Candidates never cease to amaze me and this year was no exception. They meet as complete strangers on Friday afternoon and by Sunday morning they are all firm friends and will be I suspect for many years to come.

Friday evening each candidate is presented to the guests by their respective District Officers where they select a card at random which will indicate their interview time for the following day. After the formalities an informal get together is arranged where a buffet meal is served followed by a quiz night, is it a coincidence I ask or pure luck as every year guess who wins – yes it's our candidates.

Saturday morning is slightly subdued whilst the candidates await their interviews and go over their presentations. The afternoon interviewees have been taken bowling by Dudley Lions who I must say do a grand job over the weekend, despite being a small club. The candidates swap over in the afternoon. I know that the Judges had a very hard task again this year and deliberated of some hours after the interviews were over. Saturday evening is more formal and our Young Ambassadors between courses are tasked to sell the inevitable raffle tickets which I might add they were exceptionally good at – but does that surprise me – NO. Meal over its time for our Young people to entertain us, they are given a short time after the interviews are over to come up with something to amuse us – we were not disappointed they were superb, amongst them are musicians, singers and a couple who participate in amateur dramatics. Where do they get the time to do all these activities? Whilst most of us retired to bed about midnight the youngsters carried on into the early hours and still managed a swim before breakfast!

Sunday morning the room is buzzing with anticipation, tissues ready to hand whilst we listen to last years winner Shane O'Brien from District I who tells us what he has been up to absolutely amazing. Now it is the turn of each candidate to stand up and in three minutes tell us about their activities and projects, I suspect there are not many dry eyes in the audience by now. After the required speeches by the President of Dudley Lions and the Mayor of Dudley who is also a Lion (who incidentally gave up his chance to travel to London to see his football team play in the Carling Cup Final), and Chairman of Council of Governors Lion Jacque Prebble

it was time for prizes. Each District Candidate is presented with a Certificate a trophy and a bursary of £500 which their supporting club Treasurer will keep until such time they want to spend it on their chosen project. The Shipshape award is presented to Alex Doyle 15 years from District NE. The Judges give this award to the person they think would most benefit from the opportunity to develop their confidence and leadership skills. Finally the Young Ambassador of the 21st Century 2011 is announced RYAN GREEN District 105W. Lion Tony Buchan and I were absolutely delighted and so very proud. Ryan just could not believe it as he told me afterward he really believed his room mate deserved to win. Ryan will now go onto address not only our Convention in Fishguard but the MD Convention in Belfast and the Europa Forum he also has the opportunity to attend Youth Camp in Ireland. Let's not forget one thing as far as all of us in that room were concerned each and every one of the Candidates is a **WINNER**.

If only I could bottle the atmosphere and let everyone experience it, then you would understand why I feel so passionate about the Competition.

My challenge again this year is to encourage more clubs in District 105w to participate in the Young Ambassador Competition of the 21st Century. It was Ross-on-Wye's first time at the Young Ambassador Competition not only did their candidate win the District but the Multiple District Competition. **So what are you waiting for?** Contact Lion Chris Sheldon at youngambassador@lions105w.org.uk