

Lions Clubs International - District 105W 2012 Young Ambassador Competition Winner Carys Norris

Ysgol Gyfun Gwmraeg Bryn Tawe pupil, Carys Norris, who resides at Trebanos, Swansea, won the Lions 105W, 2012 Young Ambassadors competition for Glantawe Lions Club, on Sunday 8th January 2012, at the Holiday Inn, Newport, bringing music to the ears of Cwmtawe Youth Band. Cwmtawe Youth band, which comes under the umbrella of West Glamorgan Music Services, was the charity chosen by Carys, to receive the £500 winning bursary.

District Young Ambassador Officer Lion Chris Sheldon, was pleased to see entries to this years competition, from the Lions Clubs of Fishguard and Goodwick, Forest of Dean, Glantawe, Porthcawl & Ross-On-Wye. All of these young people are active volunteers within their community, but unfortunately the winning prize can only be presented to the one person.

Glantawe Lions winner, Carys, spoke about her work as a volunteer of over these past 4 years, to the judging panel of 3, about her work teaching the beginners of Cwmtawe Youth band, a feeder band for the Senior Cwmtawe Youth band. Carys has been a member of the band, for these past 10 years, where she is now the Senior Cwmtawe Youth bands, lead Euphonium player.

Additionally Carys spoke of her other voluntary work within the community over the years & has since explained how the winning bursary presented to her by Glantawe Lions, for having represented them in the Young Ambassador competition, will go towards the costs of her future trip to Africa, where she'll assist again as a volunteer.

This years event, also seen the Young Ambassadors able to present the story of their work, to all the spectators, that included Lion members from the 5 clubs, together with parents & Lions District officers.

Lion Chris Sheldon, the 105W Young Ambassador Officer, later had the job of announcing the winner, after what obviously seemed a long morning for the young people whose interview places were drawn by them each pulling out a ticket number; which meant they were either interviewed early & then had the longer wait wandering 'did I express myself well enough,' or, they had the agonising wait for their turn, whilst their speech undoubtedly continued to turn over in their heads.

After congratulating Carys Norris, Lion Chris Sheldon explained that none of the other 4 entries should consider themselves as losers. They are all very good young people, for assisting as volunteers within their own communities.

Lions 105W District Governor, Lion Larry Pearce, then presented Carys with the both the winners cup, which will remain with her sponsoring Lions club, Glantawe Lions Club, for the next year. The club also received the annual shield which will now be engraved with the winning clubs details. The other 4 entries received certificates & shields in recognition of their efforts.

The young people who were not fortunate enough to reach the winners position this year, are welcome to try again next year, if they will still then remain within the required age brackets & are still active in their communities.

District Governor Lion Larry Pearce, thanked Lion Chris Sheldon for all her efforts towards this years competition & expressed his delight at seeing 5 clubs put forward entries this year.

Following the competition, Lion President Phil Taylor, of Glantawe Lions club told his Glantawe Lion members, 'this is a fantastic result for Glantawe Lions club'.

Carys will now go on to represent District 105W, at the Multiple District competition 18 February, where the winner receives a further £1,000 for their chosen voluntary organisation.

The Young Ambassador competition is one of the most worthwhile and rewarding ways of being involved with the Youths within your Districts. It's easy to do and there are plenty of young people within the community, doing good work, which deserve the recognition the Young Ambassador competition gives them.

Lions clubs that have not yet participated in the competition, why not join this years clubs, which will hopefully find a Young Ambassador entry again next year & put forward an entry from your club.



District Governor Lion Larry Pearce and the five entrants in the 2012 Young Ambassador Competition. Left to right: Ben (Ross-on-Wye) Luke (Forest of Dean) DG Lion Larry, Mathew (Porthcawl) Laura (Fishguard and Goodwick) and Winner Carys (Glantawe)

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