



**East Grinstead & District Lions Club**  
**(International Association of Lions Clubs)**  
District 105 SE England

**WE SERVE**

# *News Release*

**Contact PRO**

**19 January 2004**

## **Lions 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Swim Night Pays Off!**

East Grinstead & District Lions Club recently held their Sponsored Swim Night presentation at the Felbridge Hotel and the event was attended by representatives of the 131 swimmers who swam a combined total of 2,632 lengths of the pool and raised approximately £4,500. The proceeds were split 50/50 between participating organisations and the Lions Club.

The Lions promoted and organised the event and invited local organisations to participate and raise money for themselves or for good causes they support. All they had to do was enter a team of up to six swimmers who swam in relays to see how many laps they could do as a team, within 30 minutes. "They didn't have to be experts and it wasn't a race" said Lions organiser Roger Mead "And didn't they do well!"

During the evening, there were two guest speakers from organisations that the Lions club has helped in the past.

Mrs Eileen McLaren, Chairman of the local branch, of Riding for the Disabled, spoke about the benefits to over 300 disabled children who regularly attend their centre at Burstow. They were the main beneficiaries of the funds raised by the Lions May Fair last year.

Dr Liz James from the Research Unit at the Blond McIndoe Tissue Bank Appeal described the current research work and progress that is being made on skin grafts, corneal grafts, the rapid growth of new skin from patients' own skin cells and a revolutionary new technique in cartilage grafting. She was presented with a cheque for £2,500 raised largely from the Lions' share of the Swim Night sponsorship income.

### **Register Now for November 2004!**

Lion Roger Meads, who organised November's event has thrown out a challenge to any local charity, club or company wishing to raise funds for a good cause at next year's Swim Night. Any organisation wishing to apply should call him on East Grinstead 322617 with their details.