

## **LION MARK COOPER, MJF - NOMINATION FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

I was born in London in October, 1956. Upon leaving school I joined an American company as a field engineer working on banking accounting systems where I was fortunate to be trained on digital and analogue electronics. This early training was to assist me throughout my career in the IT industry, where I was mostly employed by USA companies.



I joined the Parachute Regiment for 3 years in the reserves and following that joined the Metropolitan Police as a Special Constable.

I was a volunteer at Guys Hospital Radio station where my training in electronics was put to good use. It was also where I met my lovely wife to be, Claire, who was doing her State Registered Nurse training.

We have been blessed with two wonderful daughters, the eldest living locally, the youngest in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Both are getting married over the next 2 or 3 years.

My career in the IT industry enabled me to travel throughout most of North America, India, Europe, Middle East, and Africa. I count myself very lucky to have had the opportunity to meet so many people and experience their cultures.

I finally retired after many years as a senior IT Consultant in August 2023 and have now become a full-time commercial beekeeper. I am a trustee for the Hampshire Beekeepers Association and from 2025 will be the Asian Hornet coordinator for Hampshire.

I joined Fleet Lions in 2016 but had been involved with Lions activities and committees from the autumn 2015. Within a year of joining, I was voted to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and became one of the club trustees, a role I currently still hold.

In 2020 when the pandemic struck, working with the Hart Voluntary Action and the district & parish councils I coordinated 1000 volunteers giving up their time to help the vulnerable in lockdown with their grocery shopping, prescriptions, dog walking, transport for medical appointments, and so much more. Eventually, we began the vaccination phase and provided volunteers at 2 vaccination centres. Throughout, I was distributing a regular newsletter to all volunteers explaining the ever-changing rules and other vital information. I was extremely privileged to receive an MJF from my club for the work during this very trying time.

I attended the final Advanced Lions Leadership Institute weekend in 2023. I have also attended several certification courses to support our service including: First Aid at Work, Citizens Advice First Aid, & Diabetes UK: Know Your Risk (KYR) assessor. I have organised several KYR assessment sessions in Fleet run by trained Lions volunteers. I was a volunteer with Diabetes UK before joining Lions working on their KYR roadshow.

My work experience as a consultant has taught me the important aspects of communications, training, and the soft skills needed for helping people. I truly look forward to bringing these skills to the role as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor.

### **Lions Career**

Joined Fleet Lions 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016  
Club President 2020, 2023  
Membership Chair 2021, 2024  
District Vision Officer 2023, 2024  
Zone Chair 2024

***Lion Mark Cooper***