

## **GUIDELINES FOR LIONS CLUB AMALGAMATION**

*The joining together of our smaller clubs can be an asset. Small ineffective clubs potentially combine to form a vibrant new club with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. However, there are several issues that we must take into consideration.*

*The guidelines below are exactly that (Guidelines)*

**REMEMBER, we are dealing with people and their emotions with this issue.**

1. When either you or the members of a particular club suggest that an amalgamation be considered it must always be understood that an amalgamation cannot take place unless the members of the clubs proposed to be amalgamated are in agreement. Amalgamation need cannot be considered unless the affected clubs are in agreement.
2. I suggest you meet with each club individually and discuss the following issues or points
  - a. Have the club members discussed this possible amalgamation?
  - b. Do they realise they will have to change some of the ways they now run their club?
  - c. Do they know they would surrender their original Charter and a new combined club would be formed with a new name to reflect the origins of the clubs.
  - d. Administration and activities accounts in each club would need to be finalised and closed and new bank accounts opened in the name of the new club.
  - e. Consideration should be given to the compatibility of the comparative cultures of each club.
  - f. Is there a general agreement to change and work with the other club members ?
  - g. Suitable meeting venue and time for meetings
  - h. Are there any possible personality clashes that could put the amalgamation at risk ?
3. These are but a few points to discuss with the clubs concerned. These points will promote discussion on further issues and questions. (If you don't have the answers advise them you will get the answer and report back.)
4. Having had this meeting on a one-to-one basis with the clubs concerned, call a joint meeting of the clubs concerned to discuss all of the points in 2. above.
5. I am suggesting that each club hands in its charter and we form a New Combined Club. Why? All members get to build a vibrant new culture with new ideas and enthusiasm.
6. Costs of amalgamation need to be considered. Perhaps the combined administration funds of the clubs could cover some costs of forming the new club. The activities funds of each club would need to be dispersed before the new club if formed. It is most likely that the incorporation structure of one of the clubs could be retained with a 'name change'.
7. Try to find a name for the new club that satisfies the needs and feelings of each club.
8. Encourage the older members to invite new people to join this vibrant new club as Charter Members. Make good use of 'Charter Member' as a selling point.

We must also explain to the clubs that, in time, our new club team may work in the areas they once understood to be theirs. We often find that we attract people in these areas to join a new club rather than joining the previous older established clubs.

**REMEMBER, these are only some suggestions and guidelines to consider. Before doing any work or suggesting any amalgamation speak to your District Governor and your MERLOT chairman of the day.**

**Bede Long  
For the MERLOT team**