

# Young Lion Gavin



"Going for the third and final time ... sold to Lion Gavin for \$6,000!" I proclaimed in exhilaration as I struck my gavel against the lectern.

Gavin Liu joined Sydney Chinese Lions as a member in March, 2006 when he was still a university student. He was an active member for three years until 2009 when he decided to further his career in China. In the six year period between now and 2009, Gavin has attended club functions on only two occasions. The first was in 2013 and the second was at the 20th Anniversary Charity Ball of the Sydney Chinese Lions Club on 14 March 2015.

In many Lions clubs, Gavin would have been dropped as a member, due to poor attendance at club meetings and functions. With Sydney Chinese Lions, this hasn't been the case. Before Gavin left for China in 2009, he spoke to the club's executives and indicated his strong desire to stay as a member of the club. He also promised to pay his annual dues on time and come back to assist in club matters whenever he could.

In their collective wisdom, the club's Board agreed to let Gavin keep his membership on these terms. So six years elapsed and the pattern continued as Gavin stayed as a member with minimal attendance at club functions. When some of our club's members, however, visited China, they would always try to look up Gavin for a get together meal or drink. I too, visited Gavin in China twice over the past several years and we shared some great moments together.

On 7 March, 2015, Club Treasurer, Tim got wind that Gavin was coming to Sydney for a

short business trip. Gavin was to arrive in the late evening on 14 March. Tim immediately got on to Gavin and asked him to reschedule his trip to get to Sydney earlier so that he could make it to the club's Ball. Gavin happily complied. He rescheduled his flight and he attended the Ball at Doltone House along with some 300 members and guests.

Every year, Sydney Chinese Lions selects a major beneficiary for its annual charity ball. This year, in support of Lion Barry Palmer, AM, they have selected the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) as the Major Beneficiary. Lion Barry is currently Chairperson of LCIF. Funds raised at the Ball will be donated to LCIF to help with their Measles Eradication Campaign. Every dollar raised and donated will be matched with the same amount by the Bill Gates Foundation. Anti measles shots cost US\$1 each and can save one life.

At this year's ball, I was asked to act as Auctioneer. There were six open auction items. The item that Gavin successfully bought was a Cartier watch generously donated by Shum's Watches and Jewellery. An open bid for the watch started at a modest \$1,500 and the bid-dings went up steadily in \$200 to \$300 incre-



The Cartier watch generously donated by Shum's Watches and Jewellery

# Young Lion Gavin (contd)



Lion Gavin Liu won a Cartier watch with a bid of \$6,000

ments. When it reached \$5,100, things appeared to be quietening down. Normally, I would have called out going once, twice and three times and sold it. Instead of doing so, however, I made an appeal to Gavin on the microphone. I said, "Gavin, if you raise your bid to \$6,000, there's a good chance for you to win the bidding. As you go about China doing business wearing this watch in the future, you will constantly be reminded of us and your good deed tonight." To my amazement, within seconds, Gavin put up his hand and raised his bid to \$6,000! And the rest was history.

That same evening, as a result of the generous support given by Gavin and others, Sydney Chinese Lions were able to present a cheque for \$40,000 to PID Dr Bob Coulthard AM, Lion



Sydney Chinese Lions Presenting a \$40,000 cheque to Representatives of LCIF

Christopher Plunkett and MDC PDG Nigel Jeny OAM of LCIF. The exchange rate for March 2015 is 1.28. So \$40,000 buys us US\$31,250. When this figure is matched by the Bill Gates Foundation, it amounts to US\$62,500. This means 62,500 anti measles shots can be administered and 62,500 lives will be saved!

In the old days, I'm pretty sure that Gavin would have been dropped as a Lions member due to poor attendance at club meetings. In this day and age, do you think whether or not Gavin ought to be kept as a Lion member? Further, would you regard him as a valuable Lion? Well, I'll leave it to you to draw your own conclusions.

By Lion DG Anthony Cheung



Sydney Chinese Lions with VIPs at 20th Anniversary Charity Ball