

Lions Clubs International
District 105EA – 2015 / 2016

Minutes of the fourth Cabinet meeting of the Lionistic year 2015/16 held on Sunday 15th May 2016 at the Holiday Inn, Ipswich. The reports referred to in these minutes have been placed on the web site prior to the meeting.

Present : District Governor (DG) Lion Chris Crick (Beccles), PDG Kevin Rodgers (Peterborough), District Governor Elect Lion Nigel Folkard (Southend on Sea), 1st Vice District Governor Elect Lion Derek Prior (Billericay), Past District Governors (PDG) Lions Tony Prior (Leigh on Sea), Derek Maguire (Haverhill), Barry Miller (Castle Point), Jim Cawte (Wymondham), Paul Martin (UAE Campus Club), District Secretary (DS) Lion David Pope (Peterborough), District Treasurer (DT) Lion Roger Fuller (Leigh on Sea), Lions David Goodwin, Len Russell (Haverhill), Jane Gardiner (Bungay), Chris Moreton (Hunstanton), Sandie Briault (Helen Keller), John Potter (March), Martin Langdon (West Norwich), Matt Bungard (Thetford Breckland), Douglas Whyte (Stowmarket and District), Simon Smith (Braintree), Don Drew (Littleport), Trevor Hull and David Smart (Billericay), Mark Lanham (Lowestoft), John Fox (Downham Market), Adrian Robinson (Clacton on Sea), Pam Maguire (Haverhill), Gaby Sharman (Peterborough), Keith Radley (Witham), and Lioness Chair Angela Howard (Saffron Walden).

Sergeant at Arms (SaA) Lion Adrian Robinson called the meeting to order for this, DG Chris' third and final cabinet meeting, and wished him good luck; he gave the usual housekeeping rules, fire exits, etc and asked members to give their name and club before speaking to assist with the minutes. He asked members to get a drink at lunchtime and then go straight to the tables where lunch will be served. Coffee is available all morning just help yourself.

DG Chris welcomed everyone and thanked them for giving up their time and we have a lot to get through today, he declared the meeting open and asked everyone to be upstanding for the Purposes and Ethics

Lions Clubs Purposes were read by Derek Rutter from March Lions Club and **Code of Ethics** was read by Lion John Potter also of March Lions Club

PDG Barry Miller (Almoner) advised Cabinet that three members have been lost to Higher Service since last meeting, Lions Frank Baker from Dereham, Roz Clipson from Wroxham and Hoveton and Bob Gasgoyne from Peterborough and Michael Ballard from Maldon whose passing has just been reported.

Apologies for absence had been received from Lions Chris Hibbert (New Century), Tracey Field (Chelmsford), Sue Cowee (Attleborough), Peter Smith (Stowmarket and District). Phil Nathan; also please accept apologies for Lion Mandy Hawkesley who has been called to her mother who is seriously ill.

1.0 Minutes of the previous meeting –

Proposed PDG Barry Miller, seconded PDG Jim Cawte, agreed unanimously.

No matters arising which will not come up during the meeting.

2.0 District Officers reports

2a DG's report –

DG Chris thanked everyone involved in convention at Stoke by Nayland, it was a great convention, lots of debate and he took on board the views of the district and took them to MD, he thanked everyone for their support. Congratulations to PDG Jim and Jennifer on their 1000 mile drive and New Century on their 100m mile work. Also to PID Phil on his endorsement Council – he asked PDG Tony to give a report on resolutions to get everyone up to scratch, he said DGE Nigel would tell what new council will do, Lioness Chair Angela will report on her presentation to District Governors. Incoming officers 1VDE Derek to update Lion David Pope told Cabinet that he felt the "In memoriam" was disgraceful, especially as it was used as a plug. Lion Pam raised the question of Accounts, or should I say Review. Under convention for the previous year there was just one figure of £30,000+, one can only assume that this was a loss for that year, there is no income / expenditure just one figure under expenditure. PDG Barry Miller and Lion Simon said it was disgraceful, but had the accounts not been previously approved by the District Governors - it was confirmed that this had happened. 1VDE Derek thanked Lion Matty for all the organising he did which made the weekend great. Lion John Fox asked about the "demand" which was made prior to convention and has this happened before, DT Roger said this has not happened before. 1VDE Derek Prior said MD had found 57 out of 65 of their clubs were not in good standing. Lion Roger said 48 hours before convention he received an e mail from MD Treasurer Philip Goodier who said he had just received e mail from LCI saying members taken on in March would not be affected and they rescinded any bills for March so clubs in good standing. You have a month to pay up the bills.

PDG Tony – CoC Simon Moss said the Council of Governors were completely cleared by the adjudicator, he then opened a 90 min debate in front of the resolutions which means none of the resolutions had been read out. Many questions were asked but not one question answered. He stood for 35 mins waiting to speak but the bar came down and he did not get the opportunity to speak in the 90 minute debate; however he did get to talk eventually. A similar situation was experienced by Lion David Pope.

2b DGE – Report before you. With Council of Governors and the incoming council took over in their own right late Saturday when they had had a short meeting regarding MD posts and are waiting for next meeting for clarification. **Redistricting** - agreed way forward to have survey of all members and will come out to COG Elect, his copy has arrived and they will work on this and make any changes or amendments they feel necessary – have to be back by 20th May very tight schedule. Some have made amendments already, the council will have telephone meeting every month. Survey will be sent out to secretaries by 27th May return by 30th June. PDG Kevin said this is a month this time which is quite short, there are still some members of COG and other people trying to scupper this. Lion David Pope says should get districts like BS and BN and E and C to talk together to resolve their problems. We are over 1250 so we do not have to discuss this. Barry said could it not go to zone chairmen to get it around to everyone so that it is discussed. PDG Tony asked the current DGE and VDGE what are we going to put in place to make sure the job is done properly.

DG Chris asked if a regional team was being put into place, DGE Nigel said that it was felt that after what they heard everyone should have a say, DG Chris said they will not read every survey returned, we must have some representation. Lion Martin suggested that it went out through David Large's e mail system everyone will get a copy, not necessarily the secretary who looks after IT communications. Lion Adrian said in December we sent out to all members via e mail from a list through MLCI we could do it again. Lion Simon said he belongs to Camra, they are doing a survey like this and are taking a year, Nigel needs to go to council and tell them the period is not long enough, let's do it properly and not have arguments during Centennial year. PDG Paul agreed with PDG Tony we need to set up a group to take this to all Zones and educate everyone. Lion David Pope said there is £18K surplus this year, and all this redistricting is to save £12+K, redistricting is not necessary. PDG Tony and 2VDE Derek Prior says that it will cost £40K per district to rebrand x 8 = £320K to save £12K, PCC Philip Goodier did not questions any figures Derek put forward at convention. There are other things involved as well as finance. Asked whether any other consultation with Districts and DGE Nigel said he understands that there will be further consultations with districts. DGE Nigel said the survey is going to everyone and we should encourage everyone to complete and then let council see all the surveys and comments. Lion Keith said it is not what you put but how you word it, and how it is interpreted, Lion Jayne Gardiner said some presidents don't look at e mails but some don't have facility to run them off. PDG Tony asked again what plans are being put in place to carry this forward. Lion Derek Rutter said that we have a mandate from our convention to go it alone, PDG Tony said we need to put a team in place to start work on this. DG Chris suggested a meeting on 12th June but this is too late, VDGE Derek said we have "save EA" but need a different name, he is prepared to take this on, who is with him, loads put up hand. PDG Tony said there were too many, let's get region teams together and meetings arranged quickly if we wait to June is too late if we wait to end June too late and we will have lost everything that we have gained. Lion Simon should we should loose "save EA" as this is alienating other districts, let's get together with support and remove Save EA from media. Lion John Cheetham says someone said to him at convention you have only put it off until next year, lets include other districts. PDG Paul Martin agrees with PDG Tony we need to get going. When do surveys need to be back – 27th May for Governors and 30th June from Districts - then perhaps we should arrange a meeting before then.

d VDG – no updates

2c District Secretary's report – Lion David Pope said membership sits at 1262 but we are seeing new members coming on the Centennial Club another 3 but one off. Improving gradually but need to keep this up every month it will stop other districts moaning its happening again Southend on Sea have another 3 new members too.

2d District Treasurer's report – Report before you. Membership position re subs for Lioness Lion club passed over to PDG Paul for update. He reported that at last meeting a budget of £5000 was agreed for new and continued membership, formed this club with special offer from Oakbrook of £216 per person, encouraged Lionesses to join and pay dues to December, that's position at moment. Roger says saved £1800 with the offer.

94 people asking for pins which they should have had at Stoke by Nayland – Lion Martin Langdon responded and apologised for the mix up if you want to blame anyone blame him. Can get them out in next 4 weeks and will send them out, or do we just give everyone money back. What should we do. VDGE Derek asked if administrative costs on either option, Roger suggested refunds go to each club if refund money and convention will show a small shortfall. It was agreed to order 100 pins and circulate. Lion Matty asked if Martin had heard from PDG Deryck Chambers and passed him an e mail – Lion Martin said that's all right. (6 for pins for the Pin Traders)

Resolutions regarding subs because this year - it was passed before any other resolutions and he feels it should be put in last after all discussions at future conventions

He confirmed he had now received Newmarket and Southend accounts – Zone Chairs please chase others outstanding.

Charity Trust Review return, every club now returned them one of only two districts in MD with full replies.

Lion Derek Rutter asked if the increase in subs could not have been raised as an amendment to the original resolution, PDG Tony said it was agreed that one of two clubs would put in the amendment taking into account the additional expenditure but it was overlooked. An amendment to this would have to be made by a club not cabinet as it is their resolution.

PDG Paul confirmed he now has campus clubs spreadsheets.

2e - Immediate Past District Governor – PDG Kevin did attend Witham lionesses last night he is now very tired,

2f - Constitution, Nominations and Resolutions – update on resolutions

Endorsement for PID Phil – passed MD, their policy is to read out numbers of votes cast, should we carry on with our way – just giving the result – this was agreed unanimously

Ireland – passed on secret ballot

Subs – fixed on £28.50

Tidying up resolutions

Cost cutting resolution got rid of CAC and Long range planning

Emergency resolution passed so resolutions 7 and 8 withdrawn.

One withdrawn as wording incorrect.

Lion David Pope said he was against combining CAC and Long range planning as this will mean decisions being made by a small group of people. PDG Barry asked if he had misheard that the Office Manager was part of Long Range committee, yes that it correct although seems odd.

Our LCI appeal said consultation with all districts.

Assistant CNRO PDG Jim nothing further to add

3.0 Zone reports

1A – No update

1B – No update on Zone but quick up date for next year's convention, good bookings for both host night and banquet and ball.

Capacity is 240 banquet and ball.

2A – Lion Adrian on behalf of his club asked if Colchester funds been dealt with correctly and regalia collected. MIAB now being supplied by Clacton so they would like the supplies from Colchester. DG Chris asked what usually happens to the money – club decide about donations and IPDG Kevin said when he went there four members donated £2500 to their charities so possibly no much left. Someone will contact John English to see if he has an update.

2B – No update

3A – No update -

4A - No update

4B – no updates but attended Wisbech charter

5A –No update

5B – No activity

6A – Lion Mark Langham asked about survey, he does not always get info from his secretary. Should Zone Chairmen be collecting them, should they recommend that they are completed or not, PDG Barry says individuals should fill them in as they feel. Lion Mark says not sure how ZC should react should they collect, DG Chris says it is for ZC to contact clubs to make sure they have received them, when they are going as a group to discuss them and when they are going to return them. Lion Simon said make sure clubs know this is around and needs discussing etc. Lion David Pope says he does not always get things but anything he gets from MD he will forward on.

6B – No updates

Lion Chris Hibbert joined the meeting via a telephone link from somewhere in the South Downs towards the end of his 100 mile walk. Everyone sent their best wishes.

4a Almoner – No update

4a Global Membership – No update but piece of info charter for Lioness lion club 20th August at Waldringfield Golf club. 10th September for charter 25th June certification for Centennial club.

4b - Leadership – no update

4d PR – no update

4e Centennial Celebrations – Slight typing error final paragraph Special Olympics says coming up in August 2016 should be 2017.

4f Competitions – Lion David Parker no update

4.g Lionesses – Lioness Chair Angela gave an update. We have come a long way since October with tremendous support from our lions. I was invited to COG meeting at Eastbourne, two hours later CoC Simon apologised for delay and invited me to lunch. Angela had gone to the meeting but PDG John Kyte refused. The remit was to report on the new guide lines discussed at the last lioness cabinet, it was agreed in principle apart from couple of words changing, CoC Simon wants to pass it to legal department as they do not want to agree to something and then be told no it is wrong and have to change things but they do not think there is any problem. She was asked if she would answer questions on our new club. Several sceptics on the council and some questions were very direct at EA. Explained about the club, was asked about dues and finances and she told them this was not in her remit so they need to speak to GMT or DG and DG Chris dealt with it. She told them if they keep concentrating on all the negatives not positives they are then setting up to fail and you are questioning people's integrity. Some governors still believe the club was set up to help PID Phil, they are expecting mass walk out at the end of the year and they will be watching us very closely. Comments received were that it was good for Lionesses and Lions of EA. On Sunday new CoC approached Angela, she said the present co-ordinator is very unwell and she appreciated him coming to Eastbourne to be with her, and offered Angela the post of MD Lioness Club co-ordinator, thought about it and Heather phoned her on Tuesday and Angela accepted the position after discussion with her Lioness team. Well done.

DG Chris was asked how much the Lionesses cost us, he told council about the join together scheme and the £300 saving, they asked why they couldn't do it and he told them it has been available and they have until September to use this scheme. He even suggested that any of their lionesses could join EA! PDG Paul pointed out how much grief Angela had received over the new club.

4.h Lioness Liaison – no update

6.0 Events

6.a - Lion Adrian Clacton on Sea asked about wrist bands, there is no equipment officer at moment to monitor marquees and we are missing two. One white and one blue are at Billericay – Lion Trevor said they are now stored at Rayleigh and the blue one by PDG Paul. DG Chris said still don't know what is held by John Haynes. PDG Jim visited John's house but could find no gazebos or wrist bands, we need to buy wristbands, 40,000. for events this summer. There are two blue marquees with PDG Tony Prior, 3 with Bungay plus PDG Paul has centennial gazebo, Wisbech will store one blue in north district. Suggested speak to Maldon who have had things in past, Lion Sandie Briault will speak to them. Lion David Pope agreed to take over the job co-ordinating equipment. Proposed PDG Jim Cawte seconded VDGE Derek Prior that we buy 40,000 wristbands, agreed unanimously.

6.b – Convention Co-ordinator –

Lion Martin talked about lessons learned from this year's convention, he has written a new manual on how to host a convention and waiting for some of them to come back, financial framework, time line in section 2.5 years, weekends plan. Need more guidelines for the host committee. We know that if a hotel says no we are not going to host the convention we can take them to court, but within 6 weeks you cannot go anywhere else. You cannot have more than one major discussion / argument with the hotel as this will ruin the weekend. He is looking at taking advice (free) as to how we can amend our contract. He said he is sure Peterborough was ok for next year. One of the problems this year was he could not get to meet the Operations manager early enough this year. As far as Peterborough goes we are not running golf on Friday morning last three times have been cancelled or had too few participants. The Don Peech trophy will be played at another time of the year, if anyone does not agree with this please come back and offer to play and find players for the Friday. Lion Trevor Hull said as a player he feels that moving to May/June would be much better conditions for all playing. Pins usually order 250 cost about £200 if order 100 would it be more and have all the costs been factored in to the accounts.

Lion Peter Smith's report would not get same deals if hotel had to do reservations. Standing orders are difficult to set up these days but credit card payments involve a cost. Lion Roger said cannot do direct debit but on line bankers can set up standing order on line. Lion Keith Radley said as treasurer of another club they pay Standing Orders to bank. Lion David Pope said as a lion delegate he just wants the committee to deal with it all. Lion Roger says he agrees with everything David said.

Lion Martin says do we go ahead and plan 2019 convention. This was agreed unanimously.

Lion Peter Smith's recommendations were rejected.

7.0 Welfare

7a – Chairman – No update

7.b – Diabetes – been let down on screening for 21st May another in the near future watch this space.

7.c – Environment –

7.d – Gift for Living – Lin Jayne asked where can she get rid of foreign coins - speak to PDG Brian Stanbridge

7.e – Lions Clubs International Foundation – at convention we gave donation towards progressive MJF to International Guest, has anything been done, Lion David Pope said that it was agreed at charity trust meeting he will contact Arthur Clenton but feel there is sufficient money in our funds for this.

7.f – Lions Eye Health Programme / Sight – no update

7.g – Medicalert –

7.h – Message in a Bottle (MIAB) – Lion Matty is the MD officer again this year, well done.

7.i - Speech and hearing – next year looking to give 10 dogs out for children since start now 35 dogs out. In England and Wales there are 934 working dogs, and John has puppy sponsor forms.

7.j – Vulnerable Persons – No updates – people helping with disabled sports make sure covered by DBS.

SOGB – Lion Simon Smith said he has got a few lions on board at Sheffield still looking for volunteers. Attending disabled sports day next month.

Youth Projects –

8.a – Chairman – no updates

8.b - Young leaders – no update but please ask me to come along

8.c - Leo Liaison –

8.d – Life Skills – they are very short of money to get this project printed, nothing mentioned at MD

8.e – Peace Poster -

8.f- Young Ambassador - no updates

8g– Youth entertainment – researching brass and silver bands but have heard md pulling out

9.0 Administration

9.a Health and Safety –

9.b International Relations – No update but nice to be back

9.c – Insurance -

9.d - IT/Webmaster 2 – clubs still owe Lion Simon money personally. Colchester and Isle of Ely folded without paying the money. He personally pays money as he cannot register clubs individually. VDGE Derek Prior proposed and Lion John Fox seconded that district should pay for the two clubs who have gone this this was agreed unanimously.

9e Lions Roar – no update

AOB

VDGE Derek Prior draft please look at it and pass on any comments for lions who think about things and don't always follow through.

DGE Nigel spoke of a long journey forward and really looking forward to the challenge. Thought he had finished his assignments but another has arrived this week to take with him as a discussion point of the training, it's on social media, Raffle ; made £118 thanks to everyone.

Vote of thanks

IPDG Kevin said DG Chris had said this morning where has the year gone, but had four cabinet meetings had laughter, fun and done a lot of work, thanked DG Chris for what he has done in the year but one job left to go remind DGE Nigel how quickly the year will go – he won't believe you either.

Tail twister

Duties carried out very well by PDG Derek Maguire and Lion David Parker. Raised £37.

Closing remarks by DG

DG Chris thanked everyone for coming along to the Cabinet meetings and giving up their time over the last year. During these meetings there has been a lot of discussion and debate and he hopes we are moving forward to a good future.

The next Cabinet meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn on Sunday 21st August 2016