

# Lions Clubs International District 105EA Convention

Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of District 105EA held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Peterborough on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

Sergeant at Arms (SaA) Lions Adrian Robinson (Clacton on Sea) called the meeting to order and went through the various housekeeping rules and fire regulations. He asked convention to greet their top table and guests:-

District Governor (DG) Lion Kevin Rodgers (Wisbech), The Right Worshipful, the Mayor of the City of Peterborough, Cllr Lion David Over, Past International President (PIP) Lion Jim Erwin (Albany Lions Clubs District 18-0), Vice District Governor Elect (VDGE) Chris Crick (Beccles), District Secretary (DS) Lion David Pope (Peterborough) and Convention Host Lion Gaby Sharman (Peterborough) and their partners.

Zone Chairmen entered the convention carrying boards displaying the clubs of each individual Zone – 1A 1B 2A 2B 3A 3B 4A, 4B 5A 5B, 6A and 6B.

Flag party from local scout groups carried the flags and the Flag Ceremony took place with National anthems and flags from USA, Australia Ireland and the Lions Club international. Permission given to dismiss party

Invocation and In Memoriam was given by PDG Lion Barry Miller (Castle Point). DG Lion Kevin lit the candle of remembrance and the Roll of Honour was called for Lions family members who had passed to Higher Office.

Lion John Potter (March) read the Lions International Purposes

Lion Liz Godden (Clacton on Sea) read the Lions International Code of Ethics

**Messages of Greeting** – SaA Lion Adrian requested permission for the short form of address to be used from now on, this was granted. Messages of greeting were sent by DG (unbeknown to himself) to International President and Her Majesty and sent best wishes for her 90<sup>th</sup> year. DG Kevin thanks for doing something useful not playing with little conkers all the time. The Private Secretary for Her Majesty had replied and thanked DG for letter and passed on Her Majesty's best wishes; SaA Adrian said he was sure our International Guests will bring the greeting from our International President. The DG had also received cards and greetings from PID Howard and Claire Lee, IPDG Paul and Mandy, Council chair Michael and Patricia Phillips, Jackie and Phil Robinson105SE, and then handed over to DG.

DG welcomed everyone to convention, especially PIP Jim, and City Mayor Councilor David; let's have lots of fun and laughter and thanks for everyone who came today.

Lion Gaby Sharman welcomed everyone to Peterborough. There are lots of people around with rosettes on today, they did not win anything at Crufts, they are members of the convention committee from Peterborough, Littleport and March clubs and they are here to help you. There are some lunch tickets available, the partners will be leaving 10.00am sharp. Come back and see us soon.

DG Kevin introduced the City Mayor Cllr David Over. The Mayor said he was delighted to come here this morning and his speech has changed completely; on Wednesday he went to a youth club for young people with physical and mental difficulties and met Jimmy aged 17, he is at college but can't walk, can't talk and is deaf. He is cared for 70% of his time by volunteers, who are like everyone here "Serving". This is your 36<sup>th</sup> convention and last time convention was held was 4 years ago, but he feels it should be held here every other year. The Lions are crucial to the city of Peterborough; it doesn't matter where he goes

the important thing is the people like Lions who are the mortar for the bricks. He officially declared the 36<sup>th</sup> annual convention open.

SaA Lion Adrian called the convention to Order and handed over to DG Kevin.

**Opening remarks by District Governor** – This is the business session of convention and there is a lot of work to do, this is your AGM, we have to get through very promptly. There is a small technical problem he is so short he cannot see screen in front of him over the table. The DG recognized all PDGs present (there are many), and Past Chair of Council.

**Apologies** had been received from PCC Tony Logue and Lion Wendy, (Stowmarket and Helen Keller clubs) and Lion Peter Farrington (Bungay Lions club) but all sent their best wishes to you for a good convention, we send back best wishes for speedy recovery

### **Convention procedures**

PDG Tony Prior (Leigh on Sea) announced there were 3 elections, two trustees, 2 Resolutions - 1 Ordinary and 1 Constitutional

Introduction of the candidates – proposer has 3 minutes, the candidate up to 5 minutes

Trustees will stand and be introduced but not speak

Governor elections will be a straight majority of yes vote

Deputy Noms and Coms officer PDG Jim Cawte (Wymondham) will read resolutions

Ordinary and amendment require straight majority

Constitution 2/3 majority

Nominations to host convention Lion Martin Langdon advised that regarding the proposal for 2017, The New Century club requires DG's permission to withdraw their proposal for 2017, this had been given and a secret ballot will decide who will host convention; in event of tie DG will make the casting vote.

**Administration:** Zone Chairmen will act as tellers for card vote, supervised by 1VDG Nigel Folkard, slips can be posted at break for coffee and the box will be collected at 1. PDGs Jim, Bryn and Geoff will be counting the other votes. Everyone must give name and club when they speak. Speakers can speak only once in any debate for no more than 2 minutes. Light system will be used, green warning 30 seconds, red means stop. If DG stands all debate must end.

**Minutes of 35<sup>th</sup> Convention** : Acceptance of these was proposed by PDG Barry Miller (Castle Point), and seconded by PDG John Jones (City of Norwich).

### **District Governors Report.**

DG Kevin said his report was in front of everyone. It has been a busy year, but fantastic; he said he hoped convention will accept his report as written.

### **District Treasurer's Report**

Lion Roger Fuller (Leigh on Sea), District Treasurer speaking on behalf of Cabinet. All clubs except two, Ely and University of Essex have paid their dues. We look at this moment in time as if we will come in within budget. New members joining fees are repaid by district but club treasurers must send an invoice to him for payment. There are nine clubs outstanding for their accounts, thanks to all treasurers who have submitted their accounts.

Donations have increased to £36998.52 since the report, an increase of £2520 from the report Very pleased to see that the donations for the Youth programmes see amendments was £3824.

Lion Roger thanked ESW Accountants for their work on auditing books

Acceptance of these accounts was proposed by Lion Roger, and seconded by Lion Bill White (Leigh on Sea) and all agreed.

Lion Bonnie Wade (Long Stratton) questioned the eight month delay in receiving outstanding accounts, this is getting close to Charity Commission deadline. Lion Roger confirmed that this was in hand, and the clubs in question are continually chased for these.

## **Resolution 2 – Submitted by Cabinet**

**This convention resolves that the District dues for the fiscal year 2016/2017 should be set at £9.50**

This is an Ordinary resolution which requires straight majority, to be proposed by Lion Roger Fuller and seconded by PDG Derek Maguire (Haverhill) on behalf of Cabinet.

Lion Roger advised Convention they have the budget format in the convention booklet which show the dues need to be set at £9.00 . All agreed.

**District Officers reports** – all the reports are in the Convention booklet. DG asked all District Officers to stand and be recognized; he asked conventions approval to accept reports on group – this was agreed.

### **Introduction of candidates for District Governor roles**

**District Governor** - 1VDG Lion Chris Crick who is proposed by Lion President Chris Eglington of Beccles and District. He told convention he was here to nominate Lion Chris for the position of District Governor. He has been involved in many things this year, training, club activities and visiting many clubs throughout the district. He is developing into a better lion, if that is possible, but has never lost the commitment to his club and the district. We all have dreams and over the last year he has feels Lion Chris has found his dream. He has had personal challenges this year losing his mum and a fellow Lion from the club Ivan, but Chris has lived up to the challenges and has the calibre to serve as our next District Governor.

1VDG Lion Chris Crick – said it was great to be here today and last night was fantastic. He thanked Lion Chris and Beccles club for their support through his time. He has been in lions 12 years and this past year been opportunity to learn about lions and their clubs – where there is a need there is a lion. Over the year his sat nav has been invaluable but thanked everyone for their concise directions etc. to help him find venues, and their hospitality.

**1VDG – 2VDG** Lion Nigel Folkard (Southend on Sea) proposed by PDG Barry Miller on behalf of Southend on Sea Lions club. He said it was a pleasure today, on behalf of Lion Mike Gasper and Southend on Sea Lions Club to introduce Nigel Folkard as candidate for 1<sup>st</sup> VDG for 2015/16. He has the resources and full support of wife and family. He held a senior position in further education and is a councilor. He is a good listener, will ask advice if needed and does not suffer fools gladly. He doesn't mind travelling and getting himself known around district and beyond, support of and a dedicated member of DG team. PDG Barry said he had no hesitation in recommending Lion Nigel as he knows the district will be in good hands

2VDG Nigel Folkard said he was standing before convention to ask for support to stand as 1<sup>st</sup> VDG. He lives in Southend on sea with his wife Marian and they have a grown up family. His career was in further education and he has now retired. He joined Lions in 2002, has been director and president, at present he is PR officer. He has attended Senior Lions Institute in 2012, many charters and events and been inspired by the dedication of clubs and lions. He has the time and energy to fulfill this role and asks for your support.

**2VDG** - Lion Derek Prior (Billericay) was proposed by Lion Ian Armstrong on behalf of Billericay Lions club. He said of Lion Derek he is a passionate lion, attended 7 conventions, the Emerging lions Institute, is a Certified Guiding Lion, attended the Faculty Development Institute and Advanced Lions Leadership. He is also part of EA membership hit squad and has run various training courses and been involved in many events throughout the district. He is the holder of the International President's Leadership medal. He is delighted to nominate Lion Derek for the 2VDG position.

Lion Derek Prior told convention he retired in the last three years and has been married to Sheila for 36 years. They have lived in Essex for 39 years. Sheila was senior sister in outpatient's burns unit at St Andrews hospital in Billericay which has now moved to Broomfield hospital in Chelmsford, one of the

largest burns units. He has a Degree in Geography from St Andrews University in Scotland and worked for Fords Motor Company; he took his Master of Business Administration in 1988 and got MA. He has spent 25 years in various IT companies in a variety of roles. Last year he became a Fellow of BCI and work on charities for them. Why do I want this job, EA leads the way and he wants to make sure EA leads the way we serve and wants to continue and expand this. Almost all clubs do an excellent job on fundraising and it is not his job to tell people what to do but he wants them to have the balance between fundraising and service. Helen Keller once said “alone we can do so little together we can do so much.”

**PDG Tony Prior – Charity Trustees:** there are two nominations, Lion Dot Harris (Halesworth) and Lion Mandy Hawksley (Bungay), he asked them both to stand and be recognized

**Hearing Trust:** there are two nominations, Lion Di Parkin (Peterborough) and Lion Mandy Hawksley, please stand and be recognized. (Lion Di was looking after the scouts)

### **Resolution 1 – submitted by East Anglia New Century Club, and amendment by West Norwich Club**

It is resolved that the first sentence of Article VIII, Section 1 of the District Constitution be and is hereby amended by deleting the words “within the geographical boundaries of the District”. The amended sentence to read "A District Convention of the District shall be held, at which the District Governor’s report and financial and other reports shall be presented.

This is a constitutional resolution requiring 2/3 majority, followed by an amendment by West Norwich.

Lion Martin Langdon (West Norwich). Proposing the amendment because we need to access venue just outside the district. We have tried over last 5 years to find venues other than our existing two, we very restricted and have tried new places and are trying other, a new place next year. Do not have any other venues in EA but there are a few a tennis ball away from the district. We will always bring convention destination to you. The amendment will allow cabinet to make a decision. Seconded by Lion Barry Sheldrake (West Norwich Lions). Lion Derek Rutter (March) with 20 20 hindsight it is a pity we did not do this previously when we tried to go outside before, he whole heartedly supports this amendment. PDG David Woodruff totally against this, been a Lion for 37 years, there are plenty of locations within the district, holiday camps a possibility we have used them before, there are not just hotels; he can’t support this resolution or amendment.

Vote 35 in favour 22 against.

Lion Chris Hibbert (New Century) - wording “within geographical boundary” only added a few years ago. Like PDG David he is proud to be in EA. New Century decided to put a bid in for 2017 as they thought they would try and find somewhere like Potters Holiday Camp or Wyboston Lakes, both want to give delegate rates. Is it fair to keep coming back to the same two venues with the same clubs organizing it. PIP Phil Nathan said we need to be flexible District C have had a convention on boat over to Netherlands. Lion Martin said just one sentence “Felixstowe where are you???” PDG Paul Martin (UAE Campus Club) said he would support this, we are always being told there is no boundaries with lions  
Vote in favour – 2/3 majority achieved.

SaA Adrian apologised for gloom over the stage due to lack of bulbs it is not EA saving money.

He has been advised there are 64 delegates in the Hall, 192 other Lions and Lioness representing 45 Lions clubs and 4 Lioness Clubs

### **2017 Convention - Lion Martin Langdon**

This is Centenary year and two groups want to host this convention on the forms there are three clubs but New Century have withdrawn their plan and this has left two proposals, Peterborough and Norwich. Just like to thank New Century for the hard work they have put in trying to get the price they want by today. First presentation is from Norwich followed by Zone 1B

PDG Jim Cawte speaking for the consortium of clubs around Norwich who would be pleased to host convention. The Airport Hotel has been used many times always being good but last year there were several problems due to change of franchisee and large amount of money are being invested in the hotel. Last year due to fog and a helicopter crash caused disruption to our convention. There are 91 rooms at the Airport Hotel and over spill with free transport from Carrow Road. Two offers rejected but third looks favourable. Three day event possibility of civic reception. Looking at changing host night as not so successful over the last few years but no reflection on last night; looking at possibly black and perhaps casino, with chicken and chips supper.

2 nights at £88 per double room including breakfast

Host night £18

Banquet and Ball £33

Totaling £278 per couple

Convention lunch £10

He is asking for support for the consortium who have considerable experience arranging these conventions. Lion Mike Clipston (Wroxham and Hoveton) seconded the proposal

Lion John Potter speaking for Zone 1B Consortium

Zone 1B believe that they have plans for the best Centennial Convention, they have an enthusiastic team to deliver the best. They are committed to provide best possible convention for celebration of 100 years, it is a team of 5 clubs working in harmony, united to bring together this special convention. This hotel has hosted 5 successful conventions and we have experienced lions roaring to go. The hotel proposed is the Holiday Inn at Peterborough

2 nights and usual Thursday meal

Friday Civic Reception

Saturday business as usual

Evening gala

Sunday mystery will be resolved!

2 nights cost will be £75 bed and breakfast per night (£65 for single occupancy)

Reception £20

£12.50 convention lunch

£35 Gala dinner

Convention pins £3.00

Less than £280 for a couple

Seconded by Lion David Pope (Peterborough)

Now fellow lions please vote for your choice.

DG Kevin introduced PIP Lion Jim Irvin (Albany Lions club GA district 18-0)

PIP Jim said it was a pleasure to be here, he thanked Lions Martin and Gaby and the committee for all the hard work they have done to make this a brilliant convention. We started with fun and laughter the best way to start any event.

Special thanks to PIP Phil and Lion Heidi for all their hosting and friendship on many occasions. Endorsed him as candidate for IP, it is a long process and patience working through the process to achieve IP and he wished them every success for this. He has made many good visits to this country and made lots of friends, renewing this Colin Vincent, Bryn and Shirley and others. He had watched the television memorial service for those lost in Afghanistan with the Archbishop talking about the faithfulness, service and duty, of the people we remembered this morning, this applies to them. Think of Lions coming to this country after the war and since 1917 all of this comes together under the banner of We serve. Look at projects around

the room, the Hearing Trust yesterday with John and Sheila, all service to the community. Learnt so much yesterday about hearing thanks them. Wisbech given pride of Fenland award and IP Jim presented the award to the club.

Helen Keller also said "the most beautiful things cannot be seen or touched they are in the heart", we must remember this and carry on with the humanitarian works we do as Lions, blindness, LCIF. Helping people in need is work worth doing. Ask one, keep one, extend one good advice for membership. Must use our imagination to make our Lions clubs better. Must not forget enthusiasm we need leaders who are enthusiastic, we know attitude is the most important thing, attitude can be the road to our failure or our success. Lionism is shared opportunities and shared responsibilities not what you know about lions and humanity but what you do about it, prayer today is that god will give us the strength to carry on and serve our fellow beings.

PDG George Harris (Leigh on Sea) gave the vote of thanks to PIP Jim. When he was District Governor he had read if you want everyone to be alert in the afternoon send them to sleep just before lunch and then they asked PDG George to do the vote of thanks! He had made enquiries to the Fire Chief, Chief of Police, Head of the Campus for information on Jim, all came back with the same question "Jim who?". Thank you for the exhilarating speech and coming to us here in Peterborough. America and the UK are joined by a common language.

Lion Mandy Hawksley thanked everyone for supporting the charity Gift for Living which was her charity during IPDG Paul's year as District Governor. This has reached £5479.80 which is for mannequins for medical training purposes as part of the Gift for Living. This charity donation was over and above the donations made direct to District for the project and was raised by Lions, Lionesses and Leos specifically for her charity during the year 2015/2016.

PDG John Leggett presented a cheque on behalf of "Rupert Bear" of £1000 for the charity.

PDG John Sutherland, District 105NE, MD Medic Alert officer gave a short presentation updating convention on the changes at this organization.

### **Competitions**

DG Kevin, ably assisted by PIP Jim presented the following awards

**Lions Scrap Book** – Leigh on Sea

**Lioness Scrap Book** – Thetford (Breckland) Lionesses

**The Scribe** – John Fox, Editor of Lions Roar, thanked everyone who has sent copy for Lions Roar and appealed to other clubs to send in entries, the top 3 are - **Southend 28** points, **Thetford Lionesses 33** points, **Swaffham Lions 73** points; the trophy was collected on their behalf by Swaffham Lionesses.

**Travelling Lion** - Leigh on Sea

**Travelling Lioness** – Witham and district

**Environmental award** – Sheringham and Cromer (Lions) Witham (Lionesses)

**The Phillip Daubeney Environmental Photographic competition** - Animal Life Ron Porter (Romford), Landscape – Ron Porter, Plant life - Gaby Sharman (Peterborough), Weather – Rebecca Brown (New Century), winner to MD Albino Peacock. Overall winner Rob Porter

**Fancy dress group** - Wisbech

**Individual** – Clacton on Sea President Lion Colin Hawkins

**Pair** – Sir Edmund Hilary and Sherpa Tensing (aka IPDG Paul Martin and Lion Mandy)

**District quiz** – Billericay

DG Kevin called upon Noms and Coms officer PDG Tony Prior to give election results

**Convention 2017** – Zone 1B

**Hearing Trust** - Lion Di Parkin (Peterborough)

**Charity Trust** – Lion Mandy Hawksley (Bungay)

Elected 2<sup>nd</sup> **VDG** - Lion Derek Prior (Billericay)  
1<sup>st</sup> **VDG** – 2VDG Lion Nigel Folkard (Southend on Sea)  
**DGE** – 1VDG Chris Crick (Southend on Sea)  
DG Kevin gave permission to destroy ballot papers.  
Convention welcomed the newly elected DG team and their partners

DG Kevin welcomed DGE Chris to say a few words. He thanked everyone for voting for him and their support and said he was honoured to stand as District Governor, this speech was despite the fact he was unaccustomed to public speaking, Evelyn always speaks for him. He is looking forward to serving the district and the year ahead. Thank you

**Operation Friendship** – Lion Len Russell (Haverhill) introduced Operation Friendship visitors PDG Charlie and Lion Jan Leaney from Albany New South Wales. PDG Charlie told convention he had been a member for 45 years at Lavington and Jan had served as a Lions Lady then 5 years ago joined the club. They have taken part in Operation Friendship with UK, New Zealand, Europe and been involved in youth exchange. He went on to outline the many projects undertaken by his club, especially the Vital Call programme to help the elderly and those on their own.

### **Competitions**

**Convention 2017** Peter Smith (Stowmarket) who is Host Chairman is at present in Azerbaijan, so Martin Langdon will be speaking on his behalf.

Stoke by Nayland is owned by the Peeke family but have sold large amounts of shares to either Walkers, Britvic or Coca Cola (he can't remember which). Fruit for their fruit drink is grown here. Deep in heart of Suffolk with two golf courses, already 15 people have indicated they want to play golf. Stunning scenery, we can't guarantee we will get them as a partner, this could be a one off because of costs. Beautiful spa, dining room and views, they have a long experience of all kinds of events. He showed pictures of rooms, banqueting suite, golf course etc.

Cost £90 one night £84 for two or three

Host night £29.50 this is not confirmed still trying to get price down anyone who pays will be refunded or standing order reduced

£35.50 banquet and ball.

Enthusiasm in zone 4B to run this convention, Lion Marie Compagn from Bury St Edmunds is the booking secretary.

There are Lodges on site serviced by a 24 hour bus service, these are self catering for 2 to 5 couples, there are 5 in total and already have two major enquiries for lodges, please talk to Martin if interested. One of the most beautiful golf courses in UK best in EA. There is no Friday lunch on booking form but this will be £18.

### **Youth Awards**

**Young Ambassador** – Lion Bill White (Leigh on Sea) introduced Jazzmay Thompson and Lion Richard Barr Great Yarmouth the sponsoring club. In Dudley we were very well represented, Club president, club youth officer, first vice and lady; Jazzmay is 16 years of age and very attractive, she presented us very well. Lion Richard Barr took the opportunity to tell convention that anyone who has not been to Dudley go and see what these youngsters are doing, should make the effort to go along and be stunned. The youth today constantly get bad press, but prospective candidate are all around in scouts, guides, etc. Introduced Jazzmay to convention.

Jazzmay said a big thank you to Great Yarmouth club for taking me so far and MD for the opportunity to meet so many other teenagers and the inspirational things they do. Also big thanks for £500 bursary for her personal charity. She is a Sports coach – working with children teaching them sporting activities, she is involved in fund raising activities at school, School sports council member where she is working to help change sports facilities to improve health and fitness. She is also a member of the Air Training Corp, with the rank of sergeant helping them prepare their uniform, sporting events and teaching respect. The £500

bursary will be spent £250 to NCCA which is a Neuro Counselling Service for a lady who lost her baby with this condition just before Christmas. Balance to her Air Squadron which is very small but try very hard to help and encourage the cadets in life. She is looking to visit Great wall of China, Mount Kilimanjaro in future, she is very passionate about charity work wants to be a nursing officer with the RAF specializing in mental health. Thank you once again for the wonderful opportunity you have given me.

PIP Phil Nathan told convention that we forget where this project has come from. In early 80s he started Youth award and in 2000 he was involved when it was decided to take this to Europe and involved at Europa forum. They now have their own internet club and hope when Jazzmay is 18 she will join. The Stock Exchange Veterans are giving a donation of £300 to her cadet unit.

**Peace Poster** - Lion Kay Large (Leigh on Sea)

3<sup>rd</sup> place March Lions Club - Maxims Grigorjeus, collected by Lion John Potter

2<sup>nd</sup> place Ipswich Lions Club - Wilfred Yares

1<sup>st</sup> place South Woodham Ferrers Club - Annabel Bird

Special needs award Lowestoft Lions Club - Daniel Anstey

Peace, love and understanding is the theme for 2015 / 16

SaE Adrian presented review of the year, which as normal was extremely amusing.

**Vote of thanks** - IPDG Paul Martin

It is traditional for IPDG to give the vote of thanks to DG and this has been a cracking year. The DG has got though today just as he runs cabinet, get the business done but enjoy ourselves. He asked DG Kevin to join himself and Mandy and presented him with a special wine glass and thanks from the District for all he has done.

In his closing remarks DG Kevin thanked IPDG Paul for his kind words. Is been a great day and special thanks to the whole team who have put this together without their hard work it would not have been this successful.

The ceremony of the Handover of convention flag for next year took place, Peterborough folded the flag with precision, and handed it over to Lion Martin Langdon for safe-keeping until next year. Lion Martin also thanked the team and echoed DG Kevin's words he called upon everyone present to meet again at the Stoke by Nayland Country club in 2016.

SaA Adrian thanked the Technical team and the Saturday team. Thanks also to Zone Chairmen who have had several jobs to do today.

He also reminded everyone about the first timers forms!

DG Kevin picked the ticket of the winner of teddy bear.

Lion Adrian asked convention to stand as the top table left convention.

Convention closed