

Lions Clubs International District 105EA Convention

Minutes of the 37th Annual Convention of District 105EA held at the Stoke by Nayland Country Hotel, on Saturday 12th March 2016.

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) Chris Crick (Beccles), Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, James Buckle, Past International Director Lion Scott Rennels (Jonesboro, Arkansas), Past International Director Lion Phil Nathan (South Woodham Ferrers), 1st Vice District Governor Elect (VDG1) Nigel Folkard (Southend on Sea), District Secretary (DS) Lion David Pope (Peterborough) and Convention Host Lion Peter Smith (Stowmarket) 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 the Royal British Legion and RAFA carried the flags for the Flag Ceremony, with National anthems and flags from UK, USA, Australia, Lionesses and Lions Clubs international. Permission was given by DG Chris to dismiss the Flag party.

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

Lion Gaby Sharman (Peterborough) read the **Lions International Purposes**

Lioness President Sandie Briault (Witham Lionesses) 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. Required to bring greetings from great and not so good. You sent a message of greeting to our International President and PID Scott will bring greetings from him. Also you sent greeting to Her Majesty the Queen in her momentous year and she has replied that it is good that the DG is doing something useful on a Saturday morning instead of spending time fishing! Her Private Secretary sent an official letter of thanks for the good wishes and early birthday wishes sent on behalf of the Lions of District 105EA and wished them good luck in their charity work. Greetings also from PDG David and Lion Margaret Woodruff, PDG Jim and Jennifer Cawte, DGs Lions Keith and Sue 105W, Bob and Jackie SE, Ann and Paul 105E and Lesley 105W who was at their own convention

DG Chris handed over to Lion Peter Smith, Convention Host, who thanked everyone who had attended, very interesting times were ahead, coffee was available in bar, flag party collection will be at the doors during the morning, please give generously,

DG Chris introduced the Deputy Lieutenant James Buckle to open the Convention. The Lord Lieutenant apologized but she had another engagement but he is delighted to attend. Philanthropy is a very important thing to him and this has fallen down in Suffolk so what the lions are doing in here in Suffolk and the other counties in East Anglia is so important. What he knows about Lions has been learned in the last hour. It is your Centenary next year which is fantastic long may you continue, it is such a milestone. Welcome to Suffolk, it is good for us to be hosting, in our very beautiful county but there are many serious issues in the county which are not seen on the surface, post codes in bottom 10% in Europe for deprivation and also others in top 5%. He declared the 37th annual convention officially open.

DG said ladies who wish to leave have a good day and we will see you all later; DG Chris escorted Deputy Lord Lieutenant James Buckle from the proceedings.

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

Opening remarks by District Governor – Welcome to everyone this weekend, it is about the three Fs and a D, Fun, Friendship, Fellowship and Debate. He recognized PID Phil Nathan, PCC Tony Ron Wade and Geoff Leader, all PDGs, 1VDG Nigel Folkard, 2VDG Derek Prior, Cabinet Officers, Zone Chairmen, Club Presidents, Lioness chair, Lion and Lionesses, and our newest club this year Eastwood.

Apologies had been received from Tony Briault, Huntingdon and Graffam Water, PDG Tony Talbot

Convention procedures

PDG Tony Prior (Leigh on Sea) announced there were 3 elections, 4 Resolutions – Deputy CNRO PDG Jim Cawte (Wymondham) will introduce these.

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

Governor elections will be a straight majority of yes vote

Deputy CNRO PDG Jim Cawte will read resolutions
Ordinary and amendment require straight majority
Constitution 2/3 majority
Ballot Box will be sealed at the beginning of coffee break
PDGs Jim Cawte and Bryn Roberts helping with the count with PCCs Tony Logue and Geoff Leader
When speaking state name and club and if speaking on before of cabinet say so.
The green light procedure will be used for nomination speeches and resolutions

Minutes of 36th Convention : Acceptance of these was proposed by Lion Derek Rutter (March) and seconded by PDG Paul Martin. Accepted unanimously.

District Governor's Report

Report in convention pack for you to see but left some bits out. Has been a very interesting year for both himself and Evelyn, very rewarding but some contentious moments, very proud to be DG. As our ethics say partisan politics should be left out of it completely, he has seen lots of fellowship and fun. Last night was good but tonight will be even better, the work you do in communities makes him proud to be a Lion.

District Treasurer's Report

Lion Roger Fuller (Leigh on Sea), District Treasurer speaking on behalf of Cabinet. Report before you in book but an update. All clubs within district paid dues for this Lionistic year. Expenditure at present is within £1000 of the budget however he expects a deficit at the end of the year as at the last cabinet £5000 was pledged to help membership and £2500 for the Essex campaign.

Membership joining fees are being paid by District and this has been extended for the coming year. Cannot stress enough to club treasurers they must invoice the District Treasurer for reimbursement of joining fees.

Balance sheets – there are still 10 outstanding but thanks to everyone else

Donations total £52,652.73 now, a substantial increase on the figure in convention booklet.

Thanks to ESW for reviewing our accounts and would propose the accounts be formally entered into the records, full accounts are with District Treasurer if anyone wants to see them. Seconded by PDG Jim Cawte. Approved unanimously.

Resolution 1 – Submitted by Cabinet

This convention resolves that the District dues for the fiscal year 2016/2017 should be set at £9.00

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 Fuller reserved right to reply and also PDG Derek Maguire. This was approved unanimously

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.

Adoption of District Officers reports –

PDG Paul Martin gave an update – we have heard Lion Roger say about money for membership. Last Wednesday Oakbrook received paperwork for a new club to be known as Lioness Lion club of EA, charter members present indicate the club will charter with 89 members.

All the reports for District Officers are in the Convention booklet. DG Chris asked all District Officers to stand and be recognized; he asked conventions approval to accept reports on group – this was agreed. Proposed Lion Keith Radley, seconded Lion John Cheetham, unanimously approved.

Introduction of candidates for District Governor roles by Jim Cawte

District Governor - 1VDG Lion Nigel Folkard who is proposed by PDG Barry Miller (Castlepoint). He said he as pleased today to introduce Nigel Folkard as DG on behalf of his club. He has previously been President, he is honest, hard working and a good listener; also he is an enthusiastic Lion and works tirelessly for his community with the Lions and on the local council. He serves the club and the council, he is their PR officer and gets lots of publicity for the club; he has taken up training in lions, he is Chair of Communities committee, Health and Safety Officer and chairman of twinning with their German club, and club director. PDG Brian said he had no hesitation in proposing 1VDG Nigel who will be a good leader in the future

1VDG Lion Nigel Folkard – He told convention he stood before them asking for their support to stand as DG. The district who leads the way in many ways. Born in Norfolk he grew up in Suffolk and lives in Essex and will support saving EA and working to keep EA together. He collects specs, has run the marathon to raise money for children with sight problems. He has been Zone Chair, Region chair, Health and Safety officer and other roles, and is undertaking on going training for the role of DG; he has also attended the Advanced Lions

Leadership Institute. He has travelled around district and been inspired by the work in the district, met many lions and have many friends in Lions.. He has commitment, enthusiasm and time to be your DG.

1VDG – 2VDG Lion Derek Prior (Billericay) proposed by Lion Dave Parker on behalf of Billericay Lions club. He is a Scot, wears yellow socks at cabinet and is vegetarian. He has been Club president, Zone chairman, Sight Officer, PR, Membership, he has attended 8 district conventions, Lionesses convention. He joined Lions in 2007 and will celebrate 10 years in 2017, he is hard working and great under pressure.

2VDG – Derek Prior told Convention he attends most events alone, his wife Sheila has very demanding job and next year will be the same – you are warned. He will work very hard to save EA so please vote for me, asking for you to vote and a bit more. To save EA we need more members and it is up to us in this room to get more members, PDG Paul has had great success, PID Phil has another club, but we need you all to help, we need this to grow EA. He quoted “build up and not destroy” – SAVE EA.

2VDG – Lion Mandy Hawksley (Bungay) was proposed by Lion Michael Gardner (Bungay) who said the club is delighted to nominate Lion Mandy for this position. Although she has only been a member of Bungay club for a short time they had worked together with her at her previous club, she has been involved in the blood bikes project, sewing machine project. 2014 she was awarded the International President’s leadership award, she has also attended the Advanced Lions Leadership Institute. She is very family orientated and has the full support of daughter, and PDG Paul.

Lion Mandy thanked Lion Michael and her club for the nomination. She had been asked if she was mad wanting to stand for this position, the answer is no, she relished the challenge to lead our district forward. She had been given some advice from the late PDG George Gardner who told her as a candidate you need to look who will be your 1st vice, she would have like to stand with PDG Kevin Rodgers as the 1VDG, but as he was 1vdg to Lion Paul’s term of office as DG thought that was not the best option. She was just sad that PDG George was not here to see her stand, as the first woman to stand for this office, he had been a great support. She had held many roles on Cabinet, Region and Zone Chair, Health and Safety, Gift for Living, and at club level President, Secretary, Welfare and many other jobs. She is a committed and enthusiastic Lion who supported PDG Paul throughout his year as DG and does therefore have an insight into the job. Supports Lion Derek Prior’s wprd, we must improve membership and SAVE EA. Thank you for your support.

PDG Jim thanked the candidates and their sponsors for keeping good time and reminded convention the ballot box will be open shortly.

PDG Tony Prior – Charity Trustees: No nominations for Hearing or Charity trust so the Board will co-opt as necessary during the year.

Endorsement of PID Lion Phil Nathan MBE

PDG JIM announced that we are now at the point when convention is asked that EA endorse PID Lion Phil Nathan as our candidate and introduced Lion Brian Cornell of South Woodham Ferrers.

Lion Brian told convention that he doesn’t think there is anything he can tell convention anything they do not already know about Phil. He works tirelessly for the organization and it is with great pleasure and pride that I ask convention to endorse my friend, colleague and fellow Lion PID Phil Nathan for advancement to candidate for 2nd Vice International President.

Lion David Pope (Peterborough) seconded the endorsement of PID Phil and wished him a speedy acceleration. PID Phil thanked everyone for their support, especially to Heidi. He is endorsed up to Japan and had hoped this would be sorted at Japan. He cannot be endorsed if we are not 1250 strong. DG said we are not a district under 1250. He has been asked many times why he stays in EA he can move to another district which is comfortable with membership numbers, he always says he joined Lions in 1982 in EA works as lion in EA, has been DG in EA and that is where he will stay.

He attended a meeting in Prague which should have taken half an hour but took one and a half. There were 12 PIPs pledging support, the support was brilliant, he was told his CV excellent, 20 European countries were giving him their endorsement, including Germany, for 2 years, he had over half of the endorsements needed. On holiday last year he had phone call advising him the board were endorsing the lady from Iceland and someone from Korea as 3VDG. He cancelled America/Canada forum, he had lost heart. He asked when does the votes of Europe count, the IP told Scandinavia that the board know they did not listen to the members. He said he will support the Icelandic candidate, the organisation wanted a lady president before Rotary. She is very embarrassed. The one good thing is that it will not be 8 years before next European opportunity so will continue the fight. PID Phil asked for the support of EA.

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 78 delegates in the Hall, and 2 alternates, 43 Lions clubs and 3 Lioness Clubs were represented.

PDG Tony Prior announced that an emergency resolution had been passed to him, which he has accepted. It has been submitted by West Norwich and Lion Martin Langdon will propose the emergency resolution This convention resolves that the district dues for the fiscal year be set at £10 per annum In order for this to be debated we need convention's permission for it to be heard. Convention decided not to accept the emergency resolution.

Youth Awards

Young Ambassador – Lion Gaby Sharman told convention that she had held the final this year with three very worthy candidates – works within a night shelter, one involved with gardening and another a guide involved in events abroad. She said she wishes all lions could hear of the selfless work they do in their communities. Maddie is a marvelous young lady, a true leader, in half term worked on her project and encouraged friends to go last weekend to a fashion show she had organized, and persuaded some young men to pose a bit on the cat walk. She handed over to our 2016 winner, Maddie Boon, sponsored by Wisbech Lions.

Maddie introduced herself and told convention she was 17, and felt very privileged to have had the opportunity to take the journey to her title. At the moment she is studying Geography, Art, English Literature, Government and Politics. Charity begins at home and to her it means it is not just enough to give to charities, they need help. She says she is no show off but believes you have to get out and get things done. All Duke of Edinburgh awards over need 100 hours of charity work, she has achieved this, also national citizenship award for which she raised for a charity who help youngster who have lost family in the Armed Forces. She will be attending the Global young leaders course in Washington DC in July. She has 109 hours logged for Young Leader in Service.

Her £500 bursary will be used for young people with no shelter. Wisbech night shelter usage has increased to 30 per night and she volunteers one night every week. She has organised redecoration of shelter and got together a team to redecorate and clear outside. The shelter receives no government funding. The final at Dudley was wonderful and such a great experience opportunity to meet inspirational people and made many lifelong friends. She was presented with Young Leaders gold award and extra an additional £500 from Stock Broker veterans charity.

Peace Poster - Lion Kay Large (Leigh on Sea)

3rd place Ipswich -

2nd place - Thurricock - collected by Lion Martin King

1st place - March Lions Club

Special needs award - Leigh on Sea Club

Peace, love and understanding is the theme for 2016 / 17

Operation Friendship – Lion Len Russell (Haverhill) introduced Operation Friendship visitors Lion CJ Ellis and Sue. Lion Len thanked PDG Derek and Lion Pam Maguire for helping to get this organized. He then handed over to CJ and Sue. Lion CJ told convention that he was a member of Haddon and District Lions and had been Charter President in 1982. Australia day is an important event for the club, activities include sake of white elephant, fire wood for pensioners with all money to club funds. They also collect and sell scrap steel for funds, they have the traditional Lions sausage sizzles lots of different other events. ANZAC day is very important for them in Australia, 1915 – 1917 war. There are big parades all over Australia but his area is too small for parade. The Avenue 17 is miles long and full of trees, the names of dead soldiers are on the trees and this year they placed a poppy on every tree. Both CJ and Sue are volunteers at the Broken Hill Gold Museum which is the biggest life museum in the country and where demonstrations take place of the old crafts, Sue's specialty is the hat making. He thanked the District for inviting Sue and himself to East Anglia, and also to the Lions of Haverhill for making them so welcome, they have enjoyed themselves so much already, and move on at the end of the convention to Mersea Island. Would love to see some of you in Oz where the hospitality can be reciprocated.

PID Phil introduced PID Lion Scott Rennels (Albany Lions club GA district 18-0)

Phil said thing which will worry Scott is he did not know that he was going to introduce him, the second shock is he didn't know either. They served two years together on board and came back with Scott as American and European members to serve with Fukushima. He is here because he wants to be here at his expense, a man of integrity he received highest award Of Ambassador of Goodwill but integrity so sincere, and even when he was not listened to and sent back the award they said he could not do that he said yes he could. Studied two years in Theology college and was a translator in Vietnamese war whilst also flying . EA welcome your International Guest PID Scott Rennels.

PID Scott brought greetings to East Anglia from the International President and Board and Lions of the United States. He thanked PID Phil and Heidi and DG Chris and Evelyn for inviting him to the convention. His wife had

a trip arranged with their daughter and granddaughter in Tennessee. He said he was so glad about the endorsement of Phil and he said a while ago if he could have picked a brother he would have picked Phil. LCI - through them we deal with tragedies and they are always there with money and fulfil their pledge, I am very proud of this. Any time tragedy encourages you to smile because invariably out of tragedies comes something good and it gives him faith. His vision statement is wherever there is a need in the world in the middle of it should be a Lions emblem or Lion individual, our association should be a voice of those people in the world who have no voice, there are many out there who are suffering.

One of his favourite people was Einstein, he said imagination is more important than knowledge. Never suppress an idea. Melvin Jones had this idea we would not be here today if he hadn't. Many years ago Scott and his wife started dream factory for children who were terminally or seriously ill, he found children became his teachers. They do not fear death as we do, Michael was from Illinois and his parents called he was terminally ill and in remission but didn't know for how long. His dream was to see Bay Packer Scott was a fan and got hold of coach and asked if the boy could go along, the coach said yes if he went too. Scot flew up and picked the family up and took them to the game, Michael had to be carried, he was very pale but had a wonderful smile. They were met at airport and spent the day there, they were shown everything and ended up in Bart Starr's office, couldn't see game as everyone was on strike, but they had got all team to sign everything and presented a full kit to Michael. Michael opened packet of photos flicked through and picked out a picture of a player called Nitchky, not a hair on his head and Starr said it would have been his choice too because he had had so much trouble himself and Michael said I know, he was a hero of Starr. Scott said he believes example is greatest teacher, everyone needs a hero.

A young college student taking courses at Cornell University, saw hitch hiker on the road, the woman was in 70s, had two bags and big coat, stockings pulled up and rolled down, he stopped and asked where she was going, just down the road was the reply, they talked she had a European accent, she had been in a concentration camp, her father was a watchmaker and she told what happened in camps, soldiers trying to rape them. The woman let out that they had lice and the soldiers wouldn't go anywhere near them and her sister Betsy died just before the end of the war and she promised she would search down every man who did this to them, Betsy said no if we should do this it will only promote more blood and hatred, I want you to search these people out and be kind to them. The lady did this. Later he picked up a book in his father's house and there she was, Florrie Kendall, and he read many of her books. She hitch hiked all the continents spreading goodwill. LIONS 1917 - young lawyer from Nebraska said we need a slogan and came up with Lions (Loyalty, Integrity, Our Nations Security) which was a war slogan. Scott said it was an honour to be here and everyone he meets he tries to pick something from them. Dream makers themselves. In Memphis someone passed him and he knew something was wrong he said hello have a nice day, she chased after him tapped on back and said thank you for giving me a smile I really needed that today. He ended his address with the three greatest words in English language I love you.

PDG Paul Martin gave the vote of thanks. Many dialects in East Anglia, and PDG Paul had followed Scott on Facebook and said they call ancestors forefathers many of whom had come from here, they had taken with them lots of names of English town Plymouth, Boston, Norfolk, Birmingham, and a very mixed bunch of people, including horse thieves etc. However America has produced a lot of famous people, our founder Melvin Jones, and Arkansas Bill Clinton, Johnny Cash, and people like Scott Rennels. On behalf of the EA family of Lions thanks for giving up time this weekend to spend with us this.

DG Chris called upon CNRO PDG Tony Prior to give election results
Convention 2017 – Zone 1B

Elected 2nd **VDG** – Lion Mandy Hawksley (Bungay)

1st VDG – 2VDG Lion Derek Prior (Billericay)

DGE – 1VDG Nigel Folkard (Southend on Sea)

DG Chris gave permission to destroy ballot papers.

Convention welcomed the newly elected DG team and their partners

DG Chris welcomed DGE Nigel 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 with Marian and he will all he can to support our district. He is looking forward to the International convention in Japan, with the further training and meeting new Lions which he hopes will help him in the year to come serving the district. Once again thank you for having confidence in him.

Resolution 2 submitted by Clacton on Sea lions Club

“This convention confirms its full and lasting support for Lioness Clubs and their activities in our communities and hereby instructs the District Governor to formally oppose any move to close Lioness Clubs in the British Isle and Ireland.”

Lionesses were formed in 1920 and since then have been proud to support the work of the Lions. Some of the clubs could not exist without their support. The members of Clacton feel they have been done a great wrong here and we would ask you support. Proposed by Lion Trevor Grimsey, Seconded by Lion Wilf Barnes, no debate vote unanimous.

Resolution 3 submitted by Clacton on Sea Lions Club

"The Convention resolves that the District Governor should oppose any consolidation of districts in MD105 until after full and proper consultation with the members throughout the British Isles has taken place"

Proposed by Lion Trevor Grimsey, seconded by Liz Cox seconded this resolution

Lion Phil Cheesmur (Haverhill) said the November cabinet unanimously agreed that the consultation should take place and new resolution put to MD that this should not happen before Lions Centennial Year.

1VDG said it was a private unofficial vote at council which could not be taken outside the meeting until the draft minutes had been confirmed and circulated to the DGs.

DG voted for redistricting reason is he has been in on all the meetings.

In the light of what he had just heard and the meeting at Ipswich the one thing that horrified Lion Mike Ruston (Hunstanton) was that we seem to forget our own words "careful with criticism and libel with our praise." Non-one likes personal criticism

PDG Brian Stanbridge (Eastwood) – DG Brian said it was true that there was secrecy about minutes of Council meetings until minutes passed, once they are passed they are no longer secret.

Lion Derek Prior as a member of Billericay Lions Club – it is right, we do have to balance books and redistricting will have cost implications, savings about £12500, new districts will have set up costs, new banners badges, PR material, as will MDHQ. The saving for 6 years will be £96k. this does not balance when you take into account new district costs. If we end up in a different district so it may be. Some districts are not allowing consultation with members, fair play to Chris he is, but we should not waste money on this.

Main criteria set out was to improve membership and second to cut costs. In all papers out there is no mention of how we are going to increase membership, no one has asked the membership team for ideas or opinions on this. Please bear this in mind.

Vote carried 67 to 5

Resolution 4 submitted by the Lions Club of Leigh on Sea

"This convention resolves that the clubs in District 105EA are redistricted by the formation of a Single District separate from Multiple District 105 comprising the counties of Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Proposed by Lion David Large, seconded by PDG Kevin Rodgers

Lion David said he was one of many ordinary lions who have and still do amazing things and why would anyone in our District want to leave our organization, but this could happen if our district is split.

PDG Barry Miller (Castle Point) said that having spoken to many lions in the Essex area most of whom are long standing members, they have indicated that they will walk rather than join another District. The Council Chairman, MD and DGs have treated our district with contempt; he had written to Simon Moss (Chairman of Council) and in his last reply he told Barry he should go out and find new friends.

Lion Derek Penney from BN not had the opportunity to discuss this matter, they were told its happening and that's that. He is worried that if we go out alone can we stand as a district, he would hate to lose EA as a district Lion Martin Wood (Chelmsford Lions) this is an immense topic and there had been much discussion in his club and not sure there is sufficient information about it. Would like to know more.

It was asked if all this would affect Phil, we would never do anything other than support him. If we were on our own our views would be listened to and this is what we want, we would report direct to Oakbrook

Lion Keith Radley said 105E seem to be a driving force how many in their district – about 1050 say no more. How do they get their views accepted?

Lion Ian Constable (New Century) thinks we are looking to the past we, should be looking to the future, if we go alone what will be is that we could lose young people like Maddie, the disaster funds, would we be bailed out by MD if the necessity ever arose. Basic Lion is not bothered which district he sits in we should have a referendum for all lions to see how they vote.

PDG Kevin said regarding the disaster fund this is controlled by LCIF and we would not be affected.

Lion Julie Chandler (Chelmsford Lions Club) said she had EA blood running through her veins. Can team confirm that if we break away we can sustain it financially? Lion Roger Fuller said there are two disaster funds - LCI and also MD the one which they control. Can we survive if we go alone – we brought out a new budget and with that on the basis of the information we have yes we can, will not pay LCI and MD funds so saving of each member £7 – 10. Roger said there are many large costs we would not be involved in big saving on Lions Distribution.

Kevin Rodgers formally second resolution and asked everyone to carefully to what David Large has said

PDG Tony Prior re-read the resolution.

Vote 44 for 26 against - carried

2017 Convention

Martin said this is a very special year for us as it is our centenary and convention last year voted to go to Peterborough. John has team already working on this convention
John thanked everyone for the opportunity to run this convention. All clubs in 1B have committed to working on this convention. Members from all clubs have specific rolls. Hotel booked, prices discussed and decision made. Programme arranged -

Friday Irish theme as its St Patricks day.

Ladies chance for shopping, tour of cathedral.

Booking forms available some new and different things photos have been stream lined.

Wow factor murder mystery for the weekend details in convention pack and awards on Sunday, clues everywhere, local dramatic groups acting out scenarios.

Costs as low as possible and quality as good as possible.

Couple on full package 3 nights £449

2 nights £229

1 night £165

We promise we will create the wow, we are ready to start receiving bookings. Please whatever has gone on before please come to 2017 convention and make it the best .

2018

Lion Martin Langdon said he is only looking at 2018 cant look at 19 or even 20 because we do not know what is in the future at the moment.

Norwich will be the venue for 2018 as they lost out on 2017 convention. Pretty sure we will need a convention in 2018, we could be looking back thinking what was all the fuss about, it could be a real wing ding of a party as it will be the final one, or it could be the first convention of the new district –mwatch this space.

PID Phil said that he and Scott had not taken part in the debate of resolutions for obvious reasons. Do you want to keep EA, yes, then go to Eastbourne it is the only way we can get our voices heard. We want to get this all out of the way and get back to service which is what we do best. We were told this morning some lions will leave if EA is beheaded, spoke privately and the reply was they will just use it as an excuse.

Competitions

DG Chris, ably assisted by PID Scott 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 – Clacton on Sea (Lions) Witham (Lionesses)

The Phillip Daubeney Environmental Photographic competition - Animal Life David King (New Century)

Landscape – Ron Porter (Romford), Plant life – David king, Weather – Ron Porter,

Winner to MD - Berry Birdie. Overall winner David King

Fancy Dress

Individual – Wilma and Sheena from Bury St Edmunds

Pair – CJ Ellis and Susan Morse, Operation Friendship guests from Australia

District quiz – Leigh on Sea

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

Vote of thanks

IPDG Kevin Rodgers said how do I sum up the day, had fantastic discussion, passionate discussion and reached some, decisions you have led us well. You have three months left they will fly. Many thanks for all you have done this year and he gave a gift to DG Chris and evelyn with love and thanks from the whole district.

In his closing remarks DG Chris thanked IPDG Kevin for his kind words. It has 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. It has been great this year to get out and see all the clubs and all they do it has made him very proud to be our District Governor. He warned Nigel that the time will fly by. Everyone please go to Eastbourne have your say, let's have some good debate.

DG Chris called forward the convention team and presented them with the DGS Appreciation Award for all the work they have put in to the convention. Also to Lion Adrian for his work getting everything sorted etc for meetings.

The ceremony of the Handover of convention flag for next year took place, Zone 4A 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 Chris' words he called upon everyone present to meet again at the Peterborough club in 2017.

SaA Adrian thanked the Technical team.

He also reminded everyone about the first timers forms!

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

Convention closed