

Minutes of Last Cabinet Meeting

Lions Clubs International District 105EA – 2016 / 2017

Minutes of the third Cabinet meeting of the Lionistic year 2016/17 held on Sunday 5th February 2017 at the Holiday Inn, Norwich Airport. The reports referred to in these minutes have been placed on the web site prior to the meeting.

Present : District Governor (DG) Lion Nigel Folkard (Southend on Sea), PID Phil Nathan (Centennial 100 Club), 1st Vice District Governor Lion Derek Prior (Billericay), 2nd VDG Mandy Hawksley (Bungay), Past District Governors (PDG) Lions Tony Prior (Leigh on Sea), Derek Maguire (Haverhill), District Secretary (DS) Lion David Pope (Peterborough), District Treasurer (DT) Lion Roger Fuller (Leigh on Sea), Lions Len Russell (Haverhill), Jane and Michael Gardiner (Bungay), Sandie Briault (Lion/Lioness Club of EA and Witham Lionesses), John Potter and Derek Rutter (March), Martin Langdon (West Norwich), Douglas Whyte and Peter Smith (Stowmarket and District), Simon Smith (Braintree), Don Drew (Littleport), Mark Lanham (Lowestoft), Adrian Robinson (Clacton on Sea), Pam Maguire (Haverhill), Gaby Sharman (Peterborough), Lioness Chair Angela Howard (Lion/Lioness Club of EA and Saffron Walden Lionesses), Ujjal Kullar (Taverham), Tracey Field (Chelmsford), David King (New Century), Paul Southerton (Kings Lynn), Sue Cowee (Attleborough 2013), Stuart Mackaness (Romford), Keith Radley (Witham), Chris Hibbert (New Century), Wendy Cook (Ipswich), John Fox (Downham Market), Sue Cowee (Attleborough 2013)

Sergeant at Arms (SaA) Lion Adrian Robinson called the meeting to order for this, DG Nigel's third 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. OPAC shirts available take what you want and tell Adrian. Finish 12.30 district meeting 1.30

DG Nigel welcomed everyone and thanked them for giving up their time and wished them all good luck for the coming year. We are going to have a fantastic day today.

Lions Clubs Purposes were read by Lion Kay Large and Lions Club **Code of Ethics** was read by Lion David Large.

1VDG gave 1 minutes silence for those who passed to higher office since our last meeting.
Lion Tracy Field then "volunteered" to run with the mike.

Apologies for absence had been received from Di Parkin (Peterborough), Matty Bungard (Thetford) John Cheetham (Peterborough), Trevor Hall (Billericay), Barry Miller (Castle Point), Jim Cawte (Wymondham) Dave Parker (Billericay), Trevor Roberts (Southend on Sea).

1.0 Minutes of the previous meeting –

PDG Paul Martin proposed minutes, seconded by Lion Ujal Kullar, passed unanimously.
No matters arising which will not come up during the meeting.

2.0 District Officers reports

2a DG's report – attended last council meeting very detailed,
COC January

Resolution proposed for redistricting EA response rate to this document was 69.8% highest of all districts average 41.8% - thank you. EA response for 8 districts 35 for 9 against. Total 105 responses, 75,8% for 24.2% against. Another resolution is going forward for C and E to merge. DGs worked on 8 districts for almost a year, there was much discussion over two days and end result is that these resolutions will be taken to MD at Blackpool; first resolution is for 8 districts, if passed by majority then C fails and will not be voted on. Please try and get to Blackpool and vote for the first resolution. Also the International President is attending.

Discussion on Ireland leaving - many items discussed, the main one being whether they should have a share of finances of MD, and it was decided that this will be left to legal department to sort out. New logo will be needed and there will be a competition to design this without Ireland.

Peace poster CEO submitting request to America to request we use our own size paper, A3, as there are continual problems with entries being rejected as they are on the wrong size paper. The American size paper is non standard in the UK.

Marie Curie partnership - many of their shops will have our boxes for spectacle collections and will give out message in a bottle. Mandy Broadbent is still sorting out final details.

PR request for good quality photos and information from clubs, what they are doing etc

Special Olympics – many thanks for donations all ready received, money still needed to reach target. Still need funds and also volunteers. Community magazine came out and another coming out for convention.

ALLI (Advanced Lions Leadership Institute) – there was concern about the lack of applicants for this, some districts have succession list, others not.

Membership in Scotland – to be discussed, new role for GMT/GLT, a 2 year post

Convention – the flag which has gone round our district and been signed by members will go to the international convention 3rd July. There will be the final BNI reception including Ireland.

LCIF – everything goes through peaks and troughs, so they want us to set targets.

New technology – likely to have more on line meetings, fuse meetings and go to fewer meetings at MDHQ.

Some MD Officers are needed and advertisements are going out for this. MD Secretary Andy Pemberton not retiring there could possibly be a job share, a panel is to be set up to look into this.

Treasurer's report – MD has copy

Charity Trustee training session two places available to attend this at Woking. Our Treasurer cannot attend. There is a delinquent list of 10 clubs who have not responded and powers that be will be in touch.

Still talking about Lion magazine going on line

London marathon has 10 runners running on behalf of Lions, now looking for runners for great north run

Ireland has stamp being issued to celebrate our 100 years.

The Arboretum has an exhibition of Lions

Concert at Leeds in November to celebrate Centennial – more details will follow.

Please record everything on MLCI for the Centennial...

MIAB will be handed out at Special Olympics.

Please go to Blackpool and have your vote...

PDG Tony Prior (Leigh on Sea) – Ipswich meeting where discussed redistricting overwhelming support for our district to be left alone with C and E going alone do we vote for this

Clubs in our district if they knew about the C and E merger, would they have made the same comments

Should we make an emergency resolution to support C and E.

DG Nigel did not know about this officially and it took him by surprise, Tony said Nigel had told him that he felt let down by Governors in C and E doing this. David Pope said the forum is the place for discussion, he posted a question about this and his reply from COC was that these things were all in the pot and being looked at. He thinks that our clubs voted on keeping EA intact, it would have been different if they knew about this.

PDG Paul Martin - regarding C and E, he knew of moves taking place between these 2 districts in October, agreed with DS Council are burying head in sand. Surely if first resolution gets through second should still be heard. PDG Tony said no it can be kicked out then. There are mergers between W and M and BS and BN on the horizon. David said as far as reducing districts is concerned the proposals for W and M were not formal and have not been put in front of Governors, it's just Govs talking. Re BS and BN they happy to take in NE which will then bring us down to 8 voluntarily. There are discussion as to whether C and E is constitutional; but it is. Chairmen of Council decides order of resolutions, if we go to Blackpool C and E will vote against resolution for 8 and will vote for theirs if it gets voted, if they succeed EA would remain exactly as it is today, if 8 does not go through with current wastage in a few years be in same situation again. If go down to 8 the same situation could in three years time.

David Large – in his head it is simple, a volunteer better than a press ganged man. We should support C and E because we need to build not destroy, there are many unhappy lions who if they leave, will they ever come back again? We are all getting older, let us do what we do best.

At moment we are in transition with 1184 members, if C and E comes to fruition it will leave NE on its own with very low membership, and us in transition.

John Fox – in his club they have lost members because arguments are going on with each other, now have new members to replace them but he is banned about talking of redistricting as they will go, we are killing ourselves with this.

PDG Paul agrees we should be voting for C and E but also we should be voting for 8 districts resolution and keeping this district intact. If we increase our membership through E next few governors will have a comfortable ride which will not help membership. If we stay as we are we will be in trouble in a couple of years time

PDG Tony formally proposed that we put forward a resolution at our convention that we support proposal for C and E as being a voluntarily merger seconded David Large. Spend so much time fighting over this in our centennial year and feels our convention should have the opportunity to discuss this matter as they have not been able to before. Voted unanimously with one abstention.

Simon Smith – regarding sharing of assets to Ireland do we have any indication how much they are expecting costing us, so far this has cost £2900 on legal fees. MDHG is worth around £400,000, Ireland has 15% of total membership, pro rata is £60,000 they have said they are prepared to ask for that when MDHQ sell the building, MD reserves are at £90,000, pro rata approx £12,000,

Self insurance fund £140,000, equal £21,000, again informally they would be prepared to accept a settlement of £30,000, not sure whether we owe this hence legal advice is being taken, opinion is that we owe Irish nothing, if no legal need individuals responsible for money paid. If not liable to pay what steps would be made to make a payment in spirit of Lionism.

Lion Mandy said that due to partnership with Marie Curie lions are allowed to use their conference rooms free of charge for any meeting, awaiting details from MD of where these are but there is one in EA.

Peace poster suggestion is we use A2 for this as this is in line with American sizes. Adrian because of size problem they have stocked up with supplies from the Works and give schools a pack each.

Derek Rutter said that in a previous life this was proposed to American and rejected totally.

2b 1VDG – none

2d 2VDG – none

2c District Secretary's report – 1180 lost 4 members and he is trying to find where they are. Convention reports must be in by 26th February. PID Phil sends his apologies

2d District Treasurer's report – membership dues - since report dues received from Thurrock, Littleport Newmarket and Saffron Walden. Account also received from Hunstanton, Basildon, Haverhill, Attleborough and Lowestoft. Next year's budget done based on 1250 members but we are now down to 1180 which is 70 x £11 giving a shortfall of over £700 if we don't get membership up. Also deficit this year due to money spent on redistricting. Looking at the Lionesses, took over DT in year 2000, then they were paying us £4 per annum and now they are still paying £4 per annum know a lot of them are now lions and they will be paying £11 district dues and not lioness dues.

Angela Howard (Saffron Walden Lioness) – saw the e mails showing how many members we have lost and very disappointed in the numbers lost and apologised to VDG Derek and PID Phil for the flack they probably had to put up with. They had the plea last year to help our district. All lioness had this explained to them very carefully they knew they had to pay the lions dues, VDG Derek went to last district meeting and spoke to the lionesses, Chelmsford very anti all politics and have to be handled carefully. Very grateful for the support received from district and clubs and also other clubs in the MD. Of the 60 members coming out they are not all lionesses, they are family and friends of lions/lionesses. Age is also a concern many lionesses are getting older some do not have the knowledge of technology and many do not even have computers. Money is some of the reason, support David and what Tony said and we will overcome, we are a great district and very proud of it. Very proud of new club, adopted a school in Africa, first anniversary in August, and

many other functions arranged. If not there where would be last year without it. Issue for payments £4 voluntary contribution offered by lionesses £2 towards admin and £2 for chairman's expenses, if we suggest this to lionesses that will rip the organisation apart. This will be devastating for lionesses. This will not only split lionesses but also those in lions club. Thetford will have no part of the new club, and we respect their views, Chelmsford will be against this. She has to think of the whole MD not just EA, other districts still very hurt about the October decision. She is trying to encourage her members to find a new member each.

Simon asked the Treasurer how much is insurance, £44.25 comes out in July, goes on legal side and equipment. So the lion club will be paying this he feels they should at least pay their contribution towards this. Treasurer not asking them to pay additional £11 this will include lioness fees. We have shortfall which we need to bring back over a few years.

Angela said the next district meeting is coming up later in February, she can put it to members about increase, insurance has come up and thinks this will be ok. . Douglas Whyte spoke re insurance, lionesses are a project of the lions club and should not be required to pay but if agree that is great. Insurance issue, PDG Paul said council 13/14 established that lionesses are a project and paid every year. Sandie said at last meeting Treasurer brought up subject of £4 he said he had money not sure what to do with it. Only one set of dues of £11 will cover both. John Fox said can't do this to clubs, PDG Tony said yes as lionesses is a voluntary contribution. Roger happy for lionesses to take this to their meeting.

Richard Willis (Peterborough) from 11 member of another organisation, stayed for 33 years and left because bureaucracy and politics got in the way of doing what we want to do and this is happening again. He is brought in 3 new members who have asked what all this fuss is about.

Lion Adrian expressed concern about the club who have not sent balance sheets for three years this is a very worrying situation

2e - Immediate Past District Governor –

None

3.0 Zone reports

1A – No update

1B – none

2A – none

2B – No update

3A – No update

3B – Has there been any more information on the repayment of excess money collected for the Bert Mason memorial.

PDG Paul said he understands this is all in hand.

4A - Peter reported that Paul Bradley is making good progress well on way to recovering. Zone met and agreed on fund fellowship event.

4B – No updates

5A – no update

5B – No activity

6A – no update

6B – No updates

4a Almoner – Have lost a further two members, one from Hunstanton and one from Felixstowe.

4a Global Membership – report submitted

4b Leadership – no update

4d PR – no update not here

4e Centennial Celebrations – no update

4f Competitions – no updates.

4.g Lionesses – no updates

4.h Lioness Liaison – no update

6.0 Events

6.a - No updates but asked by Tendring show to provide wristbands, need to find someone to do it. Dutch flag being brought by International guest, but if delayed bought one on e bay for £2.99

6.b – Convention Co-ordinator – no update

6.c – Convention Host Chair John Potter reported: Bookings host night 97 rooms and 142 guests, banquet and ball 99 rooms and nearly 200 for meal. Committee meeting on Tuesday and after that will be having meeting with hotel to hand back rooms. Anyone not booked please do so quickly.

7.0 Welfare

7a – Chairman – No update

7.b – Diabetes – no update

7c – Environment – no update

7.d – Gift for Living – no update – DG Nigel heard some of the fantastic work being done by PID Phil Nathan

7.e – Lions Clubs International Foundation – **no update, but** LCI badges available £20 each

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

7.g – Medical alert - no update

7.h – Message in a Bottle (MIAB) – No update.

7.i - Speech and hearing – Just observations centennial projects, one is hearing dogs and Lion John has plenty of brochures and please include in your projects. Can everyone keep looking for training opportunities and Peterborough quiz please see Lion David for sheets he has 500.

7.j – Vulnerable Persons – no update

7.k – SOGB – Simon very happy with forms from volunteers EA most in districts,

Youth Projects –

8.a – Chairman – no updates

8.b - Young leaders – Certificates for this are being changed and will not be signed they look like something from Marvel comics. We currently we using silver embossed certificates and they will last for some time, we are looking to get a certificate to use here with a signature on this certificate which is applicable to UK, possibly Chairman of Council or Countess of Wessex.

8.c - **Leo Liaison** – received e mail from old Ely club and wants to know what to do with regalia and also accounts. Tracy happy to hold regalia for the time being no further updates

8.d– **Life Skills** – no updates

8.e – **Peace Poster** - no update

8.f- **Young Ambassador** - no updates

8g– **Youth entertainment** – no update

9.0 Administration

9.a Health and Safety – no update

9.b International Relations – No update

9.c – **Insurance** - no update

9.d - **IT/Webmaster 2** – no update

9e Lions Roar – no update

AOB

Proposed by 105E make beer mats to commemorate the centennial based on the projects, new one coming aboard diabetes. Suggestion is five districts each take on one theme and then share the selection of all five. Suggestion is clubs pay £5 for 100, Simon said their beer festival take on 10,000 people and pubs lining up to take them, VDG Derek said beer mats are advertising and businesses pay for advertising, got to be good. Lion Chris Hibbert proposed we take part and it was agreed.

Raffle made £110

Vote of thanks

1VDG gave the Vote of thanks, well done very different day today, the meeting this morning very interesting and shortest meeting ever. This afternoon covered a very important subject and we are still friends. Good to see faces not seen before. Thank you.

Tail twister This was carried out in the usual professional manner and raised approximately £40.10

Closing remarks by DG

DG Nigel thanked everyone for giving up their time today, we got through a lot of business, some difficult.

The next Cabinet meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn on Sunday 14th May at Ipswich.

ZC to parade in with list of clubs at convention, if you can't do it please nominate someone.