

Minutes of Last Convention

Lions Clubs International District 105EA Convention

Minutes of the 39th Annual Convention of District 105EA held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Norwich Airport on Saturday 17th March 2018.

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) Derek Prior (Billericay), Past International Director Lion Cliff Heywood (Devonport New Zealand) Lord Mayor of the City of Norwich Cllr David Fullman, Past International Director Lion Phil Nathan MBE (Centennial Internet club), District Governor Elect (VDG1) Mandy Hawksley (Bungay), 1st VDGE Lion Ujjal Kular (Taverham), District Secretary (DS) Lion David Pope (Peterborough) and Convention Host PDG Lion Jim Cawte (Wymondham) 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 made up from the Region Chairmen carried the flags of United Kingdom, United States of America, New Zealand, Australia, Lioness Clubs, Lions Clubs International, which were presented with the anthems for each country. DG Derek gave permission for the party to be dismissed.

Invocation and In Memoriam was given by PDG Lion Barry Miller (Castle Point). DG Lion Derek 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. A short silence was held in their memory.

Mission statement read by Lion/Lioness Nicola Claxton (East Anglia Lioness Lions)

Lion Wendy Cook (Ipswich) read the **Lions International Purposes**

Lion Tim Watts (Leigh on Sea) read the **Lions International Code of Ethics**

Messages of Greeting –

SaA greetings from great and not so good, unknown to you. A message of greeting sent by you to the International President, not had a reply but sure PID Lion Cliff brings greetings in return. Also sent message to Her Majesty – reply Hello Del one hears you are from the ferrous north, one hopes you come in peace and keep your kilt tucked between your knees. If you are in Scotland pop in, we won't be there, weddings to attend (but no invites to hen nights!).

The Private Secretary for Her Majesty wrote that Her Majesty sent her best wishes for the convention and thanked the organization for all the work they do for their communities and internationally. She wished the District good luck for the future and thanked everyone for their good wishes.

Opening remarks by DG

Derek thanked everyone for coming, there have been difficulties over last couple of days Lions Martin, Jim and others, the Tech Team, Sergeant at Arms all worked really hard to get everything ready and grateful thanks to them.

Welcome from Convention Host Chairman

PDG Jim Cawte welcomed everyone to this the 39th 105EA convention at Norwich. There have been problems over the last few days but thanks to the hard work of Lion Martin and the Host Committee, the Tech Team and Sergeant at Arms and many others, they have managed to sort them out and be ready for today.

He went on to introduce The Lord Mayor of the City of Norwich, Cllr David Fullman who had agreed to officially open convention, and handed over to Cllr Fullman.

Cllr Fullman welcomed everyone to this convention in Norwich, where the Lions had been many times before, and said how happy everyone is that the Lions have returned. He has been studying the vast range of activities undertaken and supported by the Lions in and around Norwich and thanked everyone for all they do, not just in Norwich by all over East Anglia, the United Kingdom and worldwide. He officially declared the 39th Annual Convention of District 105EA open.

At this point PDG Jim advised the first change of the day - due to inclement weather they had to cancel the partners day on the broads and have arranged taxis/mini bus into Norwich to the Cathedral and they will pick up from City Hall to return. Hope everyone enjoys their day.

The Guests left the platform, and those partners not attending the business session also retired.

Business Session

Opening remarks of the DG

DG Derek thanked everyone for coming, as has already been mentioned there have been difficulties over last couple of days and he added his thanks to all who had worked hard to get everything ready and we made it. He said there must be something in the name and apologized for the problems with his microphone, déjà vu to another convention for a DG called Derek!

DG introduced dignitaries present, all PDGs (not naming individually in case he forgets someone), Past Chairmen of Council, two Australian couples, one couple our Operation Friendship visitors from Tasmania and the other visitors to the UK on holiday, Lion President Helen Heywood from New Zealand; and everyone else who he may have forgotten.

Apologies: These had been received from Lions Di Parkin (Peterborough), Stuart Mackaness (Romford), and Lion Sheila Cheetham who had sent a text with heartfelt thanks for everyone making the journey to Peterborough yesterday.

Declaration of Convention Procedure including notification of Tellers and Scrutineers

There are 3 elections for Higher Office

1 candidate for endorsement for International office

PDG Tony Prior (Leigh on Sea) gave the details of the procedures

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 votes, ballot box will be open after shown to delegates and will close at the end of lunch

PDG Tony Prior will read resolutions

Ordinary and amendments require straight majority

Constitution 2/3 majority

No voting will take place until delegate registration has closed and number of delegates announced

Ballot Box will be sealed at the beginning of coffee break

PDGs Jim Cawte and Bryn Roberts (Ipswich) helping with the count with PCCs Tony Logue (Stowmarket) and Geoff Leader (Luton) acting as scrutineers

When speaking state name and club and if speaking on before of cabinet please say so.

The green light procedure will be used for nomination speeches and resolutions

Zone Chairmen to count card votes

Following lions standing for district officers

DGE Lion Mandy Hawksley (Halesworth), 1st VDGE Lion Ujjal Kular (Taverham), 2VDGE Lion David Pope (Peterborough)

Introduction of candidates for District Governor Team roles by PDG Jim Cawte

PDG Jim introduced Zone Chairman Lion Michael Gardner who was proposing 1st VDG Lion Mandy Hawksley for the position of District Governor – 2018/19

Lion Michael Gardner said that Bungay club were pleased to continue their support for Mandy for the final hurdle towards District Governor. She is a member of MD Strategic Committee and chairing with Bridget Green and is Chair of Forward Planning, she has had a busy time during her VDG year, with training, club visits, charters and lots of club events. She has continued to be club secretary and has been supporting many of their events. This year she will not be at the car rally as she will be busy elsewhere in Basingstoke, and we wish her good luck. She is also busy working and supporting daughter and grand daughter. She will be our first and last lady District Governor.

1st VDG Lion Mandy told convention this is the last chance they had to get rid of or her and thanked ZC Lion Michael for his proposal. She said that she knew many of the Lions here and throughout the District, and had experience of what is expected and required for the post of District Governor. We are all working for our organization – Lions Clubs International, but the next year is going to be very busy with lots of decisions to be finalized, and a new way forward agreed. Once the EGM has taken place the new DG Team will start to prepare for 1st July 2019, and we all need to work together to achieve a harmonious merger, we are all Lions and should work together for the good of our communities. I will do everything in my power to lead the district forward in very busy year ahead. Thank you

PDG Jim introduced **Lion President Sue Howes (Taverham)** who was proposing 2nd Lion VDG Ujjal Kular for the position of 1st VDG – 2018/2019. She said the club were pleased and proud to propose Lion Ujjal for 1st VDG. He joined Lions in 1995 and has held a variety of posts in Taverham and on District Cabinet. He enjoys working on the barbeque during the summer at the various events, and is expert chef cooking the onions. He has been Club President on several occasions, and served on district cabinet in the role of Region Chair, Zone Chair, 2nd VDG, the environment and Physical Disabilities as it was previous called. He thrives on all the training and everything offered by Lions at all levels. He is supported by his wife Manjit and all his family. During this year he has supported the club with their activities as much as he could. We ask you to vote for 2nd VDG Ujjal for this position.

2nd VDG Lion Ujjal thanked Lion President Sue for the presentation of his service to the Lions. Twelve months ago he reported on his life now; he is married to Manjit and has one son and two grandchildren all of whom as Lion President Sue said are supporting him fully in his quest. What has happened since then - he has attended Vice DG courses at Birmingham, it was good to meet other Lions embarking on the same journey, and lions involved in other things. He has visited clubs, as allocated by the DG, a useful job as he was able to explain to them more of what is going ie GMT, GLT, GST (known as GAT – Global Action Team). He said he felt that when visiting clubs he took away more than he felt he had given. He has also represented the DG in activities, ie charters, club events etc. During this year he said he had tried to take part in his own club activities as much as possible. If elected he will be working as part of the DG team and will support the DG to the best of his ability. Thank you

PDG Jim then introduced **PDG Kevin Rodgers (Peterborough)** who was proposing District Secretary Lion David Pope for the position of 2nd VDG.

PDG Kevin said he was here to propose Lion David, on behalf of Peterborough Club. He needs very little introduction, having joined Leos 1981 he went through the ranks up to MD Leo President - a great achievement. In July 1991 joined Peterborough and held many posts, including carrying the Olympic flame in 2012. He is a doer, he is great at building relationships, he has completed the Advanced Lions Leadership Institute, held the position of LCIF officer since 2016 and has been District Secretary for several years after serving a one year

trial under PDG Rex Palmer. He was awarded an MJF which was presented by Lion John Cheetham (MJF). I am proud to have him as a friend and propose him for the position of 2nd VDG for 2018/19.

District Secretary Lion David Pope thanked PDG Kevin for proposing him for this position. He told Convention he had joined our great organization in 1981 at the age of 20. The late Lion David Chandler persuaded him to take on the role of District President and then he took up the role of MD CPresident for the Leos. He joined Peterborough Club and met Claire at a youth club and they married in 1994. He became president in 1996 and Imogen, their first daughter was born few days after his Charter, and Isabelle, their second daughter in 2000. He told convention he puts his heart and soul into Lions and was delighted to be presented with the MJF award by President John Cheetham, and the last thing Lion John did was to sign his nomination papers. He said the time is right now to stand for this position, now wants to do this before becomes grey, fat, and too old to give his all and enjoy the experience. He said he stands up for what is right and asks for your support today and again in September.

Sergeant at Arms Adrian advised convention not to put papers into the box until everyone has been shown the box is empty.

PDG Tony Prior – Candidates for Trustees: LCI District 105EA Charitable Trust and Trustee for the LCI District 105EA Hearing Trust.
No candidates had been put forward, if anyone is interested please speak to Lion David Pope.

Endorsement of candidate for higher office

Lion Derek Penney (100 Centennial Club 105) will nominate, and PDG Tony Prior (Leigh on Sea) will second PID Phil Nathan (100 Centennial Club) for endorsement

Lion Derek told convention he had been asked to propose someone who everyone knows. Done a time line for the time he has known him - 29 years, in that time he has been DG then Council Chairman and moved on to International Director, we are all very proud of him. He is involved in Medicalert, The Shoe Box appeal, Gift for Living, Special Olympics, Brain Tumour Trust and many other things, he has now been elected as Club President. Please vote for Phil.

PDG Tony Prior said he has known Phil for 45 years and 35 years as a Lion, it is a great privilege to endorse this nomination.

PID Phil Nathan – why am I back here again – the political position world-wide. He said he had been appointed to New Merging Countries Committee for whole of Europe, country coordinator for Serbia, Centennial chair, Stock Exchange Veterans, instigator of the Palace of Westminster Club. He said he needs this endorsement to move forward. He has attended every International Convention since 1994, and has service key to membership. There was a Symposium in November for young people and new people to lions, this was to help them learn about what they have joined, they have now joined a group together and contact each other regularly, this is a big move forward. Phil said he would like to see change and seeks endorsement from you all today. Thank you

SaA Adrian said at this point there would a change in agenda, now going to PID Phil for resolution 2.

Resolution 2

Proposed PID Phil Nathan, seconded Lion David Large (Leigh on Sea)

This convention resolves that urgent action is needed to protect our environment from the devastating effects of marine plastic pollution which, if it continues to rise at current rates, will outweigh fish by 2050 and asks the International Board to make “plastic pollution” a key element of our Environment focus, and to develop strategies and programmes for clubs worldwide to implement within the Lions Green Teams projects.

PID Phil says got together and saw how bad things are getting with plastics spoke to our Nom Coms and Regs officer that we should put forward resolution to MD that lions should be proactive on this problem or we will have more plastic than fish. we are the paramount and the biggest Service organization working and should use this to show we care. A pick up day has been arranged for 22nd April 2018. Resolution proposed by PID Phil, please support this resolution.

Lion David said he sits on the Thames and he uses the river frequently with his rowing, he sees the enormous amount of waste and he has no hesitation in seconding this resolution.

PDG Paul Martin said convention have heard from PID Phil about the plastic pick which is being organized by his club UEA, they have no money so do everything themselves. Please go back to clubs and ask them to do something to help our planet.

Lion Chris Hibbert wants to go out on beach and do a pick, this has already been organized by PDG Nigel Folkard and Southend on Sea. Lion Ian Constable – (Littleport) said his day job was working for Environment Agency but when rivers flood they take up all rubbish and takes it out to sea. If you can't get to coast find your river and help.

PID Phil was at Buckingham Palace and message came from Palace that all plastic bottles banned from the royal estate.

PID Phil asked PID Cliff to take back to New Zealand and work together on this problem. Seas around shore are plundered daily, tons of fish and birds all find their way into boats and travel north, pictures of dolphins dying through ingestion of plastics - salute us here today.

DG Derek had an update from MD where this had been discussed, and though a great resolution, the next item on their Agenda Message in a Bottle is made of plastic and Council have asked them to look urgently to find a different solution for the bottles. Resolution carried

PDG Tony said there is a problem with number of delegates, and the problem is being sorted, Lion David Pope said he is accountable for number of delegates and alternates and there appears to be some differences, Beccles, Bungay, Mersea Island, Rayleigh, Wisbech and Wymondham please meet David outside the hall.

SaA Adrian confirmed there were present 71 delegates, 0 alternates, 45 clubs were represented, 0 Leos/Clubs

Approval of Minutes of Convention 2016/17

Approval of minutes was proposed by PDG Tony Prior and seconded by PDG Derek Maguire, carried unanimously.

District Governors Report

Report in the Convention booklet

DG Derek presented International Presidents award to Lions Mel Godefroy (New Century), Lyn Palmer (Whittlesey)

International Leadership Award – and International Presidents Bronze Chairman's award to Lion David Pope (Peterborough)

The LCIF presented certificates for the top 5 clubs in the Constitutional District which include us and western Europe, one was presented to Norwich North Alpha

Treasurer's report

Report in the booklet but there are some updates. All clubs paid dues for half year including 30th June.

Expenditure is shown within budget and unless there are any unforeseen circumstance will show slight saving which will go into reserves. Oakbrook have increased the joining fees, only one fee paid for family membership but club must ask treasurer for re-imburements. Still 8 clubs accounts outstanding, but this is better than last year. Donations risen to £40,238.61. Youth contributions are voluntary and down this year by about £200.

DG Lady's appeal last year £9,000 ish This year £2,000 ish and rising.

Membership dues remained £9 since 2011, the budget was set last year at 1250 members at £9 which should have raised sufficient for our expenditure, but this needs to be raised to £10 to balance the budget.

Lion Roger thanked our Accountant for all his help and time.

PDG Tony Prior

Resolution 1 : District Subscription

This Convention resolves that the District Dues for the fiscal year 2018/2019 should be set at £10.00 per capita.

Proposer : Lion Roger Fuller Seconder PDG Derek Maguire (Haverhill)

This resolution is an ordinary resolution and requires a straight majority of the delegates present and voting at Convention

Lion Roger speaking on behalf of cabinet confirmed proposal information given in his report and update. Seconded by PDG Lion Derek Maguire – the decision is yours.

For : 44

Against : 21

Adoption of Officers reports

It was proposed that the District Officers Reports would be accepted en bloc, and seconded – 2 members abstained, the reports were adopted by majority.

SaA Lion Adrian announced a coffee break of 20 minutes but first showed Convention the empty ballot box which was then sealed and left at the front of the hall for delegate vote forms for the election.

2nd half morning business session

Presentation of Prizes for the District Peace Poster Competition

The winner of the Peace Poster prize, Mia Reed, was introduced to convention, her poster had gone on to the MD competition she was then judged at the International competition. Mia was sponsored by Clacton on Sea. Her poster was one of 600,000 entries at Oakbrook and she won a Certificate of Merit, one of only 26 throughout the world of Lions. Well done Mia

Third place –Georgia Grist age 11 March club,

Second place Luke Birch – Wisbech club

Special Needs Award - Chelsea O'Keefe, Leigh on Sea

Young Ambassador Competition winner 2017/2018 –

Lion Gaby Sharman (Peterborough) introduced Charlie Latimer Carmillen (sponsored by the club of Clacton on Seas), Lion Gaby said Charlie has enthusiasm, determination and guts, and finds it difficult talking to so many, but especially as she is autistic. There was much competition at Dudley, she did not win but gained confidence and she stuck at it, she did us proud. speaking to judges she did well, asked questions of the judges and even tried to recruit the Education judge as a Lion, she is full of potential.

Charlie introduced herself to Convention, telling them she is a leader at Rainbows and Brownies. She realized at 11 she was different, and went to a Special Needs School where she won the Baden Powell award. She has been part of Multi schools council for past 2 years and she suggested Special Schools games, this has been running for 3 years, and she is now an Ambassador. She visited the House of Lords as part of the special Olympics, and hosted a night of autistic awareness. All this has helped her as a person and awareness of autism. She is going to join the Leos, Sue Hibbert is arranging this. To finish up – she saved man's life during sleigh run – quite a young lady. Do speak to her any time if you have questions.

The SaA announced another change from the Agenda, our guest speaker Tim Jenkins from The East Anglian Children's Hospices was unable to speak this afternoon as planned and has been brought forward.

Tim Jenkins thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak. They are looking at support for 16 years plus, giving guidance and help to a lot of young people who previously had not been expected to reach adult hood. The Hospice will give help and guidance into adulthood. Support is given at home and in the hospices, at Ipswich, Norwich and Milton. What do they do, they help children with conditions which

have no cure. When a child has one of these conditions it affects the whole family, healthy siblings can feel left out as all time goes to the poorly child, no holidays, days out as a whole family are difficult or non-existent and the grieving process. We can offer short breaks not only for the children but also for the family to relieve pressure for everyone. Most of the fundraising is done by fantastic members of the public. It was great for him to discover that the hospices were bright, cheerful and noisy, children choose their bedcover, bring in posters, the Hospice aim is to make it home from home. Approximately 21% is central funded everything else is corporate funding and voluntary fundraising. The Nook has been there for several years, an old coach house which is a listed building but not very conducive to the needs of a hospice. EACH raised campaign to build a new Nook which will be custom built with more services available. It was launched at the Royal Norfolk show by our Patron the Duchess of Cambridge. This will give so much more space and facilities for the children. We are now up to steel frame and concrete for the floor, close to 8 million raised which is three quarters of the costs. R J Carter are building the hospice and March 2019 is the completion date and should be in use by June 2019. Old building will be going back to the monastery as it has always only been leased.

We have many events lined up for fund raising, Ride for Life, a cycle ride between the three current sites a total of 200 miles and a 3 day event. Bungy jumping, open air cinemas and many other things, which can all be found on our web site. If anyone is interested in joining in please contact us, and thank you for listening.

Operation Friendship – introduced by Lion Len Russell

Lion Len said this is the first year we have had an inward and outward speaker for Operation Friendship, one from Tasmania – Lion Robert Mantach and Lion Stephen Brown from Ipswich who went to Australia last year.

Lion Robert told convention Tasmania was slightly smaller than Scotland, they had 45 clubs but as they are surrounded by water they are not likely to be redistricted with anyone on the mainland. Their district has a total of 1190 members. He is a member of Riverside Club which is the second largest club and all male, the largest club in his district is also all male. Major fundraising for his club is like so many others in Australia, and involves catering, they have their own mobile catering unit and they go to lots of local farming and sheep events, cricket tournament and many other large crowd events and work all day providing food for competitors and visitors – very lucrative. They also have many other regular fundraising events, too many to mention. They are also involved in a three-year project for child cancer. If anyone would like to speak to Robert or has questions please come and find him, he will be only too pleased to talk to you. Lion Stephen Brown from Ipswich Club arrived in Victoria Australia on 27th October 2017, they stayed in the Lion's bungalow in Leopold, which was a legacy from two sisters. They saw many service and fun activities carried out by local Lions, anti-theft screws on number plates, lawnmower racing, barbeques morning, noon and night, many clubs own their own barbies. They are involved with the Australia Mints and Christmas cakes since 1965, and have raised more than \$65m, Op shops (charity shop), Lions assist – lions doing jobs instead of tradesmen. At convention the In Memoriam was held on the Friday night, each person was named and short piece about them was read out, a member of the family carries in red flower which was put in vase on stage. LEHP – they are screening children and able to pick up early problems. Exchanged banners with the DG. Wonderful trip.

Announcements by District Sergeant at Arms

Lion Adrian said they have just heard that the funeral for the late PDG David Woodruff will be held on 27th March, further details to follow later.

SaA gave details of lunch to everyone, and showed the ballot box was empty, PDG Tony Prior sealed it. He advised the box will be open for 20 minutes. Reconvene 1.30 please.

Call to order afternoon session 13.45

Announcements

DG Derek called upon CNRO PDG Tony Prior to give election results

District Governor 2018/19, 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors for 2018/2019,

The election committee was observed by PDG Brian Yeoman and Lion Bill White

Elected **2nd VDGE** – District Secretary David Pope (Peterborough)

1st VDGE – 2nd VDG Lion Ujjal Kular (Taverham)

DG Elect – 1st VDG Mandy Hawksley (Bungay)

PID Phil Nathan has been endorsed as a candidate for International Office

DG Derek gave permission to destroy ballot papers.

Convention welcomed the newly elected DG team and their partners

District Governor Elect, Lion Mandy Hawksley thanked everyone for their support and their votes today. She said she looked forward to working with the team. The next 15 months will be a difficult time with lots of challenges and we all need to work together to overcome these challenges. We have achieved so much in our forty years, we have fought to save our beloved district, but we must now go forward and work to achieve as much and more, in the next forty and work together with our friends in E

District Convention 2018

Lion Martin Langdon (West Norwich) hoped everyone enjoyed coming to Norwich not sure whether or when we can return when we join with C there will be 102 clubs, not easy to find somewhere to accommodate that number. Probably after the EGM on 30th September details will follow, but please do not miss the opportunity to have your say in the decision being made. Watch out for information.

District Convention 2019

This will be our Ruby celebration as well as the final convention for 105EA. The cost will be £60 per night, New Century are planning a party not a wake at Ipswich Hotel (formerly Copdock), they are being helped by Ipswich and Chelmsford. Usual format that depends on what people want, Friday planned steel band food and everything associated with the Caribbean, please let us know what you want. Again regarding partners trips, please let us know. Banquet and ball will be as usual.

Costs will be £20 Friday night, £10 if you want entertainment but get your own food. Saturday lunch £5 and £35 banquet and ball with entertainment. We want to celebrate

2nd DGE David Pope asked it is not the same weekend as District E convention, DGE Mandy said ours has to stay as we have an International Guest booked, she will talk to E.

Competitions – Lion Dave Parker (Billericay)

DG Derek ably assisted by ID Cliff presented the following awards

Lions Scrap Book – Clacton on Sea

Lioness Scrap Book – Witham and District

The Scribe – John Fox editor selected the winner - he said there are 30 clubs in district who have not submitted anything to roar. Please don't leave all your submission until 20th March because you forget the details of what you did on 22nd month before

3rd Stowmarket, 2nd Clacton on Sea, 1st Swaffham

Travelling Lion - 4th av 54 - Wymondham, 3rd av 88 Clacton on Sea, 2nd av 94 Leigh on Sea, 1st place Billericay with a155 average. Just go on web site and fill in the form or send form to David.

Travelling Lioness – Only one club participated Witham and District

Environmental award – Several projects this year Billericay, Barrow farm riding for disabled, also New Century with a sensory garden, litter picks, also collected trees on behalf of the local hospices - Chelmsford

Lioness environment – had discussion at convention as only two clubs who took part not giving the trophy this year; one club was Witham and district supporting the bees, including getting a husband knitting bees. Now moved on to helping hedgehogs. The second was Chelmsford helping Barrow Farm project and various others winner.

The Phillip Daubney Environmental Photographic competition –

Plant life – Spring by PDG Barry Miller

Animal – Crab for lunch by PDG Barry Miller

Weather – December Snow by Lion David Large

Landscape – Gaby Sharman

Overall Winner to MD – Crab for Lunch by Barry Miller

Photos only went to MD as International are reviewing their competitions, it may come back in future

Fancy Dress – Leigh on Sea

Don Peech golf trophy – this was held in May, bleak day but by lunch time sun out like Mediterranean day. Three groups took part, two got home and third group got lost but eventually all got home and Hethersett was the overall winner collected by Lion Bonnie Wade as club was working at football car parks – Norwich were at home that day. This year competition being held 25th May 2nd VDGE David has packs available.

District quiz – 10 teams took part from 8 clubs, this will be last quiz due to dwindling numbers. This year did no heats just one region quiz.

Centennial Presentation by PID Phil Nathan

PID Phil said he had been looking after this for the best part of 4 years. Started off with Ireland but they have gone and are doing their own thing. He said he had announced results of some projects at Buck House. Grant from International has funded a plaque and certificate which can be presented by clubs to organisations who have helped us, must apply by end of April for someone in our community.

Projects include

Recycle 100,000 batteries, blood donations and do blood related projects 100,000 blood bikes, defibrulators, diabetes interesting things coming over, feed 5,000 more info to follow. 100,000 bulbs or seeds, hearing aids 56,000, hearing dogs 12 from the 12 districts plus money to help train. Measles 100,000 jabs as of last week achieved 30m to be matched by Gates Foundation we achieved 165,00 jabs, MIAB nearing target, prostate issues - done 22,000 screenings, Sound of Century, 1,137,000 spectacles, 100,000 hours of young leaders, up to 200,00 so far. At Buckingham Palace HRH Sophie, our Patron, received MJF and was delighted. Partners also attended - Service – youth, environment, vision, hunger. Diabetes, Pediatric cancer, Libra - head and neck cancer Brain tumour cancer. Brain tumour research.

Feed 5000 Lion Chris Hibbert successful in setting date for event 22 September in Leicester and will be our district very shortly. Still time to help or even just come up, not just feeding hungry this is about wasting food and what we can do to help to stop this and use the waste

Bags of taste – Diabetes and ways to educate people to help people buy the correct things and produce healthy meals economically.

There is a web site for Bags of Taste and it was started as a non-profit organization, and the founder targets the unemployed, does cookery demonstration and then six people have chance to cook and sit together and eat. At the end she sells them a bag of food for £3.00 which includes recipes and food to cook meals everything is included. Chris would like to use this in some ways, young people, the elderly, low income.

Feeding the hungry - at cabinet it was suggested we could help and people have brought in their own donations which will go to the local food bank.

PID Phil said he is asking DG Derek to get this done at MD convention.

Please can we see photos of clubs and their centennial projects, perhaps clubs could make a booklet.

Lion Ian Constable (Littleport) asked will recording of spectacles still be available on MLCI – PID Phil will check

DG Derek replied to Lion Ian that MYLCI is changing and it needs bringing it in line with GDPR.

At this point PID Phil introduced PID Lion Cliff Heywood from New Zealand. He met him first at International convention in 2001 at Indianapolis. Cliff has been a Lion since 1986 Devonport club, and joined Royal New Zealand Navy then worked for 6 weeks in museum and retired 24 years later. He has been awarded the MBE, was an International Director in 2004, and International GLT Co-ordinator from 2014 – 2017. He has been married to Helen for 34 years they have one son and two granddaughters, he has too many awards to start to mention. They have come all the way to UK at their own expense.

PID Cliff asked convention to please endorse PID Phil, the District should be proud of him and he and Heidi have Cliff and Helen's full support. Land of hope and glory is a favourite bath time song, a song of the country of his birth in Addleston where he lived until he was 9 and today is the first time he is speaking in these shores. Started 3 years ago when Phil asked him to come and speak, also in Ireland, thought it was a great idea and they arrived on March 1st and England was closed and Aer Lingus stopped flying so we missed the Irish convention and stayed in London. Apologies for messing up the agenda but I found an ear problem which your local medics have cleared for me. Asked Phil what to talk about he said talk about the real things, young people out there and how we must encourage them and their ideas.

He joined Lions 34 years ago, he was asked to come along and do service and he liked that, when he got there he was welcomed and included. Counted all the people he knew outside the navy total 5, though if he joined lions he could increase friendship by 600%. Wants to share the word opportunity. The weekend after he joined he was invited to another project to build new fence for lady, finished before lunch and then all went to pub, great went with 6 new friends, he was 32, he had a brand new wife, brand new life and he was a brand new lion. He was asked what committee he wanted to serve on, said he liked building things but no one listened put on social and events and he was in catering, lasted 6 months and then went and told people not happy spoke to sponsor about committee, next meeting put me on building committee – young lions if not happy tell someone we don't want to lose people. Sent away to sea asked how I could keep in touch – sent weekly bulletin every week, they invited Helen to all events kept communication going. Next shore posting, he took on role of club president he accepted the challenge, sometimes must stretch yourself and take on the challenge. Didn't like public speaking, hated talking to large groups but the answer is passion, if you have passion you can overcome everything. Coming to end of my presidential year spoken to by incoming DG who said he had heard good things about what his club had done and wanted to offer him an opportunity as zone chairman. If he had known what it involved he might have said no. We must tell everyone what is involved and be honest. He said he loved being a Lion it has given him so much and he wants to give back, he knows nothing about EA except Phil and what he has done, Going back - suddenly he is DG, needs zone chairs, nobody jumped at it, and he thought how many people asked before me. He had to overcome the public speaking went off to International and was asked if he wanted to be International director and stood up on stage with 12,000 people in front of him. Two years flew by but he learnt three things, speak up for what you believe in, there is always someone with a bigger one than you, pay attention at all times.

Vote of thanks – Moxon from Wroxham

PDG Denis opened the thanks properly then changed to Moxon from Wroxham. Both Cliff and Dennis were born in England sometime ago, he did runner to New Zealand, Moxon just did a runner, he travelled round north island PDG Dennis just travelled round Norfolk. Then the difference Cliff joined the navy he joined sheep, Cliff became officer he stayed with sheep. Moxon tried to use some New Zealand language but his accent was too strong for Cliff to understand. PDG Dennis said that on behalf of all lions in EA (who lead the way) thanks for coming.

Something different

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

Vote of thanks

PDG Nigel Folkard proposed the vote of thanks. Thanked Derek for guiding us through the day, very important day in the calendar, you have made it interesting, fun and he presented a gift to Derek and Sheila as a thank you for their work this year.

Closing Remarks

Thanks for patience today and putting up with the few hiccups business coming to an end forum tomorrow when Cliff will get all the awkward questions, if going home please take care if staying enjoy yourselves.

39th Convention closed and the convention flag, charged to the possession of Lion Martin Langdon for safe keeping until the 40th Convention on 16th March 2019.

Thanks to tech department, region and zone for their help and the flag party.