



District 105SE Reports to Convention 2022

District Governor Team.

District Governor – Ian Forbes

This time a year ago I was addressing you all on Zoom with welcoming you to our 50th Convention in the confines of my home in East Grinstead. At that time, we were all under lockdown with assuming, rightly or wrongly, that the pandemic would be short lived with our lives getting back to normality. How wrong we all were.

For me the start of the Lions year was somewhat different with being elected by former District Governors of SE to serve a second term, following Lion Steve Coe resigning due to ill health. I would like to place on record my thanks to Lion Steve for his valuable contribution to Cabinet and to me personally in his support. I wish Lion Steve a speedy recovery. It would be remiss of me not to thank our District Treasurer and Immediate Past District Governor, Lion David Butler, for his guidance and tenacity in the smooth transition which ensued in my appointment.

What a year it has been and continues to be with the effects of the Covid pandemic having taken its toll on all of us, both in our personal lives as well as our membership of Lions International. Looking back, it was on the 19th July 2021 that the Prime Minister advised that most legal limits on social contact would be removed with closed sectors of the economy re-opened. Despite our fears of a further total lockdown, we have been fortunate for it not to occur in England with us all knowing that it is vital that all Government guidelines are adhered to, to avoid a further lockdown.

You can all imagine how pleased we were to be able to meet face to face and once again for Lions to be visible in our communities and, yes, it has been a privilege to meet with so many of you, whether it be at one of your Club Business Meetings, Zone Meeting or Charters. On each occasion I have been made very welcome and have been impressed by the positive attitudes and enthusiasm which remain with you. The Charters Susie and I have attended have been first class and very well attended, with us feeling 'very at home'. We were fortunate to join our Twinning Partners in Maison Alford's in November, along with 1VDG Rizvi Rawoof and his wife, Habiba, which was a truly memorable occasion. Regrettably during the first half of the year we have seen the closure of a couple of Clubs with the possibility of losing a couple more. We are indebted to each and every one of them for their years of service to SE and to Lions International and for their invaluable contribution in serving their communities.

On a brighter note we are seeing a number of Clubs seeing an increase in their membership which I hope will continue. This is where the Covid vaccine rollout has played its part with volunteers coming forward who, in turn, have shown interest in becoming Lions. Members of Cabinet are also actively involved with the proposed setting up of branch clubs which again is very encouraging. For me this all bodes well for the future prosperity of SE. PID Howard Lee has taken the decision to retire from his role as District Membership Chairman at the end of the year. He has done a sterling job and what he has set in place bodes well for the future membership of SE. Thank you, Howard.

I would like to thank all members of Cabinet for their support and enthusiasm – they work tirelessly behind the scenes and are always the first to come forward in giving their time and energy in support of SE.

To 1VDG Rizvi and 2VDG Paul, thank you for your support fully knowing that you will be an asset with driving SE to new heights in the future.

My own Club, East Grinstead, have supported me tirelessly during my time as District Governor and for allowing me a second bite of the cherry. Lion President Brian Richens has continued for a further term with picking up the reigns (the role I should have taken) – I will forever be indebted to all my Club members.

Lastly, my thanks go to Susie who has given me 100% support, ensuring I arrive on time, suitably attired etc! Susie is fast approaching her target of £1,000 for LIBRA – Susie is never one for giving up and is determined to reach / exceed this figure by the end of June. It has been an honour and privilege to serve as your District Governor, a role which I have thoroughly enjoyed and sincerely hope you will all continue supporting your local communities under the 'WE SERVE' umbrella.

1st Vice District Governor – Rizvi Rawoof

Back to the saddle after the holidays. Most of the club visits being done and just marking time to visit a few more clubs very soon. I cherish F2F meetings as it is an opportunity to make new friends and build better understanding of each other. So many events on the cards during the 2nd half of the year which would keep me on my toes amidst my usual work. We are all looking forward to the Convention and numerous projects, seminars webinars and other meetings to follow.

2nd Vice District Governor – Paul Dedman

I consider it a great privilege to be able to be invited to your business meetings and hear about the many ways you are serving your local communities in service, fund raising and enjoying your time together socialising.

I get great pleasure in meeting with like minded people who wish to help their local community and want to help others and are happy to just do it without reward.

Over the last year it has been hard to meet and stay in touch with all our members in Lions but through hard work and caring for others we have tried many ways to stay in touch and involve all in the clubs decision making. That is the way to keep our members within our clubs, by caring for them and letting them know that they can play a full part, even if they are not able to attend some of our meetings.

I hope to talk to as many of you as possible at Convention this year because that is the enjoyment I get from such an event as our annual meeting face to face.

Please stay safe and I hope to see you soon.