



Lions Clubs International District 105SE

Minutes of 50th District Convention - 6th February 2021

Virtual Meeting @ 9.30 am.

1 Call to Order.

S@A Jackie welcomed everyone to this our first virtual Convention and advised all participants that the Convention was being recorded with the intention of placing a copy on the web site. She also advised that Convention should be prepared for things to go wrong as this was a first for all concerned.

A quick tutorial followed to allow Delegates to have a test vote to ensure that all was in order.

S@A Jackie thanked Phil Robinson and John Cattaway for their work on the voting system.

S@A Jackie then welcomed the Family of Lions to this the 50th District Convention of District 105SE

2 Welcome to Guests.

S@A Jackie called on fellow Lions, Leos, Lionesses, and Guests in their own homes to greet the Principle Guests who were attending on-line.

The District Governor Ian Forbes and his wife Susie.

She then gave a special welcome to 3rd IVP Dr Patti Hill, since in Canada it was 2.30 in the morning. From the Twinned Districts she introduced: DG Juergen Waterstradt from 111MN and DG Phillippe Meignan from 103 IEF est.

Also welcomed were: CCE Richard Williams Dist.CW, Lion Satnam Loyal Dist A, MDO Fran Starey Dist CW, Lion John Banks Dist SW, PCC Stewart Sherman-Kahn Dist CW, DG Alister Joel Dist A, Lion Dave Allen Dist CN, Lion Rob Pullinger Dist CE, Lion Tom Sayers Dist SC, VDG David Pope Dist CE, DG Ujjal Kular Dist CE, VDG Jaap de Jonge Dist CW, DG David Fitzpatrick Dist SW, DG Barry Prior Dist CN, Max Mongia GAT Area Team Leader, MDO Robyn Banks & Lion Dev Kavalijit Dist A.

From 111MN she greeted District 105SE, good friend IRO Stefan Wagner and DGE Roswitha Hahn, PDG Dr Peter Rothkegal, PDG Eberhard Kramer, PDG Reinhold Hocke, Lion Dr Silke Lindenberg, Lion Gabriele Lux Wellenhof, PID Regina Risken and PDG Hans-Peter Fischer.

From 103 IDF est PCC/IRO Sylvie Dinneweth.

Finally she greeted all Lions that were attending Convention for the first time and apologised if any Guests had been missed but they were also most welcome.

The National anthems of UK, Canada, Germany and France were then played.

3 Messages & Apologies for Absence.

A message of loyal greetings had been sent to Her Majesty the Queen informing her of our 50th Anniversary Convention and a reply had been received thanking us for our greetings and wishing us a successful and enjoyable virtual 50th Convention.

Apologies had been received from Alan Marsh, Robert Hills, Allen Greenwood, Hilary Lyon, Val Parris, Steve Carley and PDG Peter Drysdale.

4 Welcome by District Governor Ian.

DG Ian extended his personal welcome to everyone to this our 50th Convention and in particular welcomed Dr Patti Hill to this morning's Convention as he had done to yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

Dr Patti Hill thanked Convention for inviting her and said that she would like to extend her congratulations to all members of the Team who organized the event. She was very pleased to be at Convention today and wished everyone a successful Convention.

DG Ian said that this was of course his first Convention as District Governor and this was also our first virtual Convention. He felt confident of its success and on that note declared Convention open.

At the invitation of DG Ian Zone Chair Malcolm Luxton read the Lions Clubs International Purposes and Zone Chair Mike Ryan the Lions Clubs Code of Ethics.

DG Ian then introduced PCC Jacquie Prebble for the Invocation and In Memorium. The names of those that have passed to higher service were then displayed on the screen.

5 Report of Attendance, Procedures & Standing Orders.

John Cattaway said that he was pleased to report that there were 93 delegates, 33 alternates and 68 attendees and other guests thereby making Convention quorate.

John also invoked Standing Orders and confirmed that Convention was indeed quorate.

He said that in all matters the DG's decision was final. If attendee's wished to speak they should raise the hand on their Zoom device. Only one Lion to speak and no new points to be raised. In the procedures for resolutions there were three resolutions which required a simple majority to pass. He asked Convention to enjoy the experience but asked members to bear with the Convention team on this. If attendees needed help then they should use the "Chat" box which was being monitored.

6 Minutes of 49th Convention, Maidstone, February 2020.

The minutes were received and the delegates voted to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

6.1 Matters Arising from the minutes:- There were no matters arising.

7 Administration Updates

*7.1. District Governor – **Ian Forbes**:- DG Ian reported that the "Roar" event had been successful and that it had been adopted by two other Districts. The event would be put to MD Convention in May with a view to adoption throughout the MD. David Skinner was congratulated for all of his work on this project.*

DG Ian reported that over 7,000 hours had been served by Lions during the roll out of the vaccine and that over £120,000 of donations have been made.

A new virtual Club has been formed with DG Ian's wife being signed up as one of its founder members.

*7.2. District Secretary – **Alan Cattermole**:- Members were reminded to sign up for MD and International Conventions electronically in much the same way as for this Convention.*

*7.3. District Treasurer – **David Butler**:- No updates.*

*7.4. District Charities Treasurer – **Tom Berry**:- No updates.*

7.5. No questions had been received on the reports and the delegates were invited to vote for their acceptance. The reports were accepted by the voting delegates.

8 Young Ambassador Presentation.

Val Roberts gave an overview of the Young Ambassador programme and hoped that next year, post pandemic, that more candidates would be forthcoming. She then introduced Leo Harris, a 16 year old, sponsored by Adur East Lions Club.

Leo gave a confident presentation detailing how he started a soda gas cannister business with his brother Oscar. The business helps to decrease the use of plastic bottles which in turn reduces CO₂ emissions from the production of bottles and their transportation. They currently have over 250 customers and deliver over a wide area of Sussex. Leo has an electric bike and estimates that they have saved well over 350 kg of CO₂. The business is expanding and he now needs an electric vehicle to increase his range. He is also looking to franchising the system in order to extend throughout the country.

DG Ian thanked Leo for his presentation and wished him well for the finals which are on 15th/20th February. He considered Leo a shining example of youth today.

9 Resolutions.

9.1. Resolution No 1 :- District Dues. The resolution was proposed by District Treasurer David Butler and seconded by District Charity Treasurer Tom Berry.

DG Ian invited attendees to raise hands if they wished to make a point. No hands were raised.

9.2. Resolution No 2 :- A full presentation was given by Jacqui J of Southborough and District Lions and seconded by Alan Gaukroger of Paddock Wood Lions. A question from the floor asked what level of cap the proposer was prepared to accept and in reply Jacqui stated that no figure had been put forward and that each Club should discuss and agree its own level of dues. There were no further questions.

9.3. Resolution No 3 :- A full presentation was given by Peter Hooper of Maidstone Lions and seconded by Matt Skipp of Swale Lions Club. Paul Reynolds asked that as the motion dealt with average wages how this would affect people on pensions. Peter responded that the resolution did not deal with every type of income it was mainly concerned with who became Lions and what they could afford. A second question cited the differences between average incomes in Switzerland and the Camerouns and on that basis the UK would be paying \$1,400.00 annually. The response was that in any revision there would be winners and losers. LCI have a budget of \$10M and this should be looked at very carefully to see where savings could be made to reduce the burden on Clubs and to ensure that poorer countries can join and serve their communities. Dr Patti Hill intervened and said that she would be dealing with LCI finances later on in this Convention.

9.4. The resolutions were put to the vote and all were passed by the delegates.

10 Brain Tumor Research Presentation.

Fran Stary video presentation on this important topic was screened and at the end she said that the target to raise £1M over the next 4 years was very challenging. The Lions have raised over £67,000 to date and £40,000 has been passed over to enable the work to continue during the pandemic. A programme of events was presented to enable Lions to get involved and to raise money for this cause. There were visual aids available such as pop up banners, distinctive hats, labelled tins etc. all of which can raise awareness locally.

11 Introduction & Reminder of Election Procedures.

CNRO John Cattaway reminded all delegates that the voting procedure for all candidates was secret and secure. The Candidate for 2nd Vice District Governor had withdrawn due to personal reasons and therefore nominations would be taken from the floor of any Lion in good standing and suitably qualified.

11.1. Office of District Governor 2021-2022:- Lion Hazel Thorpe had much pleasure in proposing Lion Steve Coe for the position. Lion Steve Coe was pleased to accept the nomination.

11.2. Office of 1st District Vice Governor 2021-2022:- PCC Lion Chris Iles had much pleasure in proposing Lion Rizvi Rawoof for the position. Lion Rizvi Rawoof was pleased to accept the nomination.

11.3. Office of 2nd District Vice Governor 2021-2022:- There was one nomination from the floor. PID Howard Lee had much pleasure in proposing Lion Paul Dedman, who he has known for 35 years and is an outstanding Lion, for the position. Lion Paul Dedman was pleased to accept the nomination and gave a brief résumé of his family, professional and social life.

The electronic vote then took place and CNRO John reported that all three nominations had been approved by the delegates.

12 LIBRA Presentation.

Andrew Lodge was unable to join Convention and the presentation was given by his daughter Claire Allaker. In introducing herself she said that the presentation was about "Going for Gold" by raising £300,000 in three years and LIBRA were halfway to raising that amount. Over the years since 1976 LIBRA trustees had been raising funds for the Haematology Department of Kings College Hospital. Professor Mufti had managed to keep the Trustees informed as to how they could continue in lockdown and that LIBRA had benefitted from on-line platforms. Trustees had agreed on this "Gold" initiative to fund research into Idiopathic Aplastic Anemia (AA) bone marrow fusion. Age was a consideration in the investigation of treatments and those that responded well would ensure a better patient outcome. A video of Dame Kelly Holmes was played commending the work and was pleased to support the raising of awareness behind this Gold initiative. It was also announced that East Grinstead Lions were organising a fun run in September and that Lion Susie Forbes had raised £500, on E-bay, by decluttering her wardrobe.

13 **Address by DG Elect Steve Coe**

Steve said what a year it has been. We have learnt new words during the year:- Lockdown, Zoom, Variant/Mutant Covid. It has also been a very difficult year for Lions Clubs. He paid tribute to those Clubs that have kept in touch with their communities helping with food banks, manning vaccination centres, Santa sleigh rides etc. Clubs have planned membership initiatives including taking on female members and encouraging Clubs to form new branch clubs. He was very pleased to see more lady members and they would be greatly valued. He looked forward to the 4th/5th February 2022 when the 50+1 Convention would take place at the East Sussex National Hotel near Uckfield. The theme for the Friday would be the 1960's followed on Saturday with a banquet and ball with the same band as in 2020. He would be pleased to welcome all Lions. It was time for Lions to get together again. So after we have all been vaccinated it will be time to reflect on the past and see how we can improve our service in the future. Steve also announced that he would be sharing the podium with Ian Forbes.

14 **Competitions.**

14.1. *Peace Poster* Amelia Magni age 12 sponsored by Bexhill Lions Club

The theme for 2020-2021 was Peace Through Service and the theme for 2021-2022 will be We Are All Connected. The Allan Tidy Trophy was won last year as well as this by Bexhill Lions Club so they will retain the trophy until 2022 Convention.

14.2. *Environmental Photographic Competition*

Weather Category

1 st place	Sunset	Roy Sharrad	Sevenoaks Lions
2 nd Place	Sunrise	Mike Shaw	Whitstable & Herne Bay Lions
3 rd Place	Rainbow	Phil Robinson	Thanet Lions

Plants Category

1 st Place	Passion Flower	Roy Sharrad	Sevenoaks Lions
2 nd Place	Sea Grass	Keith Bunyon	Tonbridge Lions
3 rd Place	Peony	Alwyn Lindley	Whitstable & Herne Bay Lions

Landscape & Other Aspects of Nature Category:

1 st Place	Fishermen's Huts	Keith Bunyon	Tonbridge Lions
2 nd Place	Sea Colours	Phil Robinson	Thanet Lions
3 rd Place	Beach Huts	Keith Bunyon	Tonbridge Lions

Animals & Birds Category

1 st Place	Spider	Roy Sharrad	Sevenoaks Lions
2 nd Place	Cat & Mouse	Roy Sharrad	Sevenoaks Lions
3 rd Place	Seagull	Roy Sharrad	Sevenoaks Lions

DG Ian thanked Maureen for her presentation and for all her work over many years as Maureen is giving up the post of Competitions Officer.

IRO Phil Robinson stated that there had been no entries for the Robin Blake Trophy.

15 **Twinning Guests.**

DG Ian then introduced the twinning guests: DG Juergen Waterstradt of 111MN and DG Phillippe Meignan of 103 IEF est and invited them to address Convention.

15.1. *In his video address DG Juergen stated that he was pleased to send his best wishes to Convention. He stated that these twinning meetings provide much enjoyment for the wider family of Lions. He reported that there were changes to farming methods in Germany to support ecological development and to help address climate change. There were tree and irrigation projects which have just started and which are supported by the German Government. He was looking forward to the rest of Convention.*

15.2. In his video address DG Phillippe (as translated by PCC/IRO Sylvie Dinneweth) said he was pleased to be able to address the Convention as everyone was prevented from meeting in person. He said that Lions must remain optimistic and that they would have contact again in the future. Lions belong to a great International organisation and that they respect each other. Obviously Lions have been losing members for too long and Lions need to create more opportunities to increase membership. It is up to all Lions to share the joy of membership of this great organisation and he looked forward to the future reunion. Lion's personal life was based on the life of hope, great friendship and regular contact was so important for that. Lions must continue to help themselves and that by doing that would be able to help others. More Lions today would mean more Lions tomorrow. Finally he thanked Convention for the opportunity to make this address.

DG Ian thanked the guests from Germany and France and especially Sylvie for her assistance during this particularly difficult time. He looked forward to seeing them all in person as soon as we are able to meet again.

16 Introduction of International Guest.

PID Howard Lee said that he was very pleased to introduce 3rd International Vice President Dr Patti Hill. She is an educational psychologist married to Gregg Holmes who is also a Lion and they have two children. Patti has been a Lion since 1990 and in 2007 to 2009 she was on the International Leadership Committee and later its Chairman. In 2019 she was elected 3rd International Vice President. For two years she has not been able to progress but she did manage to visit Chichester. Lions here now know her as a great inspiration to all. He asked Convention to give Dr Patti Hill a very warm welcome.

17 Address by 3rd International Vice President Dr Patti Hill.

Dr Patti said that it was great to be with the 105SE Convention and it was good to be meeting on line. She offered congratulations to DG Ian for hosting the first online convention and brought greetings from International President Choi. She offered congratulations to the District Leadership team and also to the Peace Poster and the Photographic Competition winners which were great to see.

Dr Patti then produced a slide presentation.

Commitment:- During the pandemic this meant an ongoing commitment from clubs: Santa rides, food banks, helping at vaccines centres. There was a need to innovate and create. There were new needs and there were new words: lockdown, furlough, mutant variants, etc. She said she knew from the Service reports that clubs were feeling the effect of working in this environment. She saw Lions striving to update each other, networking and socialising. All these things highlighted the benefits of Lions membership and were not overlooked.

Accountability:- There was a great need for transparency. She highlighted the dues question on the slides. The International Convention which did not take place in Singapore but there were still upfront costs and there was no revenue to pay for them. There was also the Cost of Living which indicated an increase of 1.5% per year. The aim, of course, was to reduce costs. Dr Patti said that \$3 million had been saved by not having District Governors Elect meet together. Oakbrook had asked for ways to economise.

Collaborative Communication:- She reported that the International Team were sending out communications to Lions but not too much information was getting back. Lions could of course communicate by joining virtual International Conventions.

Foundation (LCIF) Grants:- It was vitally important that Lions were looking out for what grants were available. Lions and Lionism were changing the world, but the world particularly during the pandemic were changing Lions!

Adopt and adapt:- This was the Lions story: to adopt new methods of doing things. In this way Lions stay in touch.

SE 105 Goals:- These were ambitious. There was a membership drop because of Covid . But she was pleased to see membership growth since January

SE Service:- SE had 193 different certified activities, such as vision, hunger, environment, diabetes, pediatric courses, etc. But there was only 31% of clubs reporting. She asked Convention to imagine how large that service number would be if all clubs reported!

Ethical decision-making:- Clubs should invest in kindness and diversity. She asked whether this would help Lions clubs?

Personal Commitment:- This always came down to Service to the Community. Personally checking next door the vulnerable neighbours and other at risk people in the community. Communities connect where members commit.

Patti concluded by saying stay connected and committed to members in the local Lions club.

DG Ian thanked Patti for her presentation and kind words and for having joined SE on three occasions very recently. He said District Clubs needed to report more than they do at the moment. Clubs should consider the effect if 50% reported what they were doing.

18 Presentation of International Awards.

DG Ian announced with much pleasure that Lion Viv Diggins has been awarded the International President's Award for Membership; Lion Val Roberts with being awarded the International President's Award for Leadership; Lion Frank Lees, Lion Howard Lee and Lion Rizvi Rawoof had been awarded the Global Action Team Honours. Many congratulations also go to our Sergeant at Arms, Jackie Robinson who has been awarded the International President's Leadership Medal from the LCI Foundation for her work with it. DG Ian then announced that his list for other awards was so long that he decided to leave those announcements until the Handover.

19 KSS Air Ambulance Presentation.

Howard Lee said that SE had supported Air Ambulance as it is the most important and successful project. He said that on the basis that one picture was worth a thousand words he was going to show videos on Zoom which amply illustrated the work of Air Ambulance. Ben Macaulay from KSS took convention through the video of the new Rapid Response Vehicle. It had the same equipment as the helicopter but could deliver assistance when the helicopter was unable to fly. It already saved thousands of lives this year. Also illustrated was the head scanner which saved numerous lives. The new defibrillator was also featured which could be monitored at the end of a phone anywhere in the world. The doctor could see what was happening to his patients even where the AA responders could not see it themselves.

Howard came back for a last few words that he was sure Convention would agree that this project and all its features needed SE Lions continued support.

20 Convention Report & Location & Dates of Convention 2022.

David Burstow said that the Convention took two years in the planning. After Covid 19 hit the UK, the alternative would become the first ever online Convention. There were 'website publications' - a wonderful term. Lions would find a way and the team did. There were too many to mention on the Team, but he must thank David Colville, Phil Robinson and Lynne Ireland. Next year it would be the East Sussex National near Uckfield for the weekend of the 4, 5 and 6th February 2022. MD Convention would also be on a virtual basis and to register for that members would need to apply direct to MD and not via Alan Cattermole.

21 Vote of thanks to DG Ian.

IPDG David said DG Ian had accepted challenges that lay ahead. He had accepted that new ideas would need compromises and effective leadership. He said he would like to express his thanks for a great 50th Anniversary Convention. But nobody was expecting the pandemic. No International Convention; instead taking the Oath of Office at his dining room table on Zoom. But SE was not daunted by adversity and set a good example. He thought he could look back with pride on this ground-breaking virtual Convention and look forward to holding personal meetings in future. He ended by saying that DG Ian had done SE proud.

22 Closing remarks 3rd IVP Dr Patti Hill.

Dr Patti Hill said that SE 105 had set the bar high for a virtual Convention and for voting. She offered congratulations on showing what a virtual Convention could look like. It was wonderful to receive

comments from attendees who might not have visited an actual Convention. She thanked Convention again for inviting her.

23 Closing remarks from DG Ian.

DG Ian said he hoped everyone enjoyed the proceedings and thanked every Lion who contributed to the Convention. He thanked particularly David Burstow and Lynne Ireland, David Colville, John Cattaway, David Butler, Jackie and Phil. He also thanked Alan Cattermole and members of the Cabinet support Team during this *annus horribilis*. He thanked Convention for their support and hoped that next year here would be a great face-to-face meeting of Lions.

24 Final Announcements.

S@A Jackie thanked DG Ian and addressed Convention. My Family of Lions we have nearly come to the end of Convention but before Convention departs she asked attendees to raise a glass to toast 50 years of Lions Clubs International District 105SE. The Best District in the World.

She looked forward to celebrating 50+1 next year in Uckfield. Hopefully this would be in person so that there could be lots of FUN and plenty of FELLOWSHIP. To all those travelling to their lounge she hoped they would have a safe journey and thanked everyone for attending.

25 Convention closed at 13.10