



District 105SE
49th Annual District Convention
 22nd February 2020 - Maidstone

1.	<p>Convention call to order Sgt at Arms called to order the 49th Annual District 105SE Convention at 09.18AM and gave the usual safety announcements.</p>	
2.	<p>Reception of Principal Guests In place of the usual Flag Ceremony, the meeting rose to receive the principal guests, who were led in to Convention by the Deputy Lieutenant of Kent Paul Auston, DG David Butler and his wife Judith and Past International President Frank Moore.</p>	
3.	<p>Recognition of Flags In recognising the flags, the National Anthems were then played for the British Isles, and The United States of America.</p>	
3.1	<p>Acknowledgement of Guests Convention welcomed the Principal guests from Germany and France:</p> <p>From District 111MN DG Gerlinde Brandstetter</p> <p>From District 103IE sud DG Jean-Mary Gueraud and Louissette</p> <p>The National Anthems were then played for Germany and France.</p>	
3.2	<p>Welcome to other Guests Convention then welcomed other guests as follows:</p> <p>From District 111MN IRO Stefan and Gabi Wagner Lion Roswitha Hahn Lion Christine Zipps</p> <p>From District 103IE Past Council Chairman IRO Sylvie Dinneweth IPDG Christian Leroy</p> <p>From District A DGE Alastair Joel</p> <p>From District SW Lion John Banks Lion David Careswell</p>	

	<p>From District CW MD Officer Stuart Young MD Officer Fran Stary</p> <p>GAT Area Leader Max Mongia and Aruna</p> <p>Convention also welcomed all Past Council Chairmen and Past District Governors and in particular all first timers. Sgt at Arms then handed the meeting over to the District Governor.</p>	
4	<p>Welcome by DG David Butler</p> <p>DG David welcomed all guests to the 49th Convention and in particular all Lions who were attending for the first time. It is an opportunity to remind ourselves why we do what we do and to hear more about the amazing projects that go on within the District and beyond. DG David wished to thank most warmly the many people who had contributed to the planning and organising of this event.</p>	
5	<p>Lions Club International Purposes</p> <p>Lion Stefan Kinzel read out the Lions Club International Purposes.</p>	
6	<p>Lions Code of Ethics</p> <p>ZC Deric Quaile read out the Lions Code of Ethics.</p>	
7	<p>Lighting of Memoriam Candle, Invocation and in Memoriam</p> <p>District Welfare Officer Cathy Griggs lit the Memoriam Candle and presented the invocation and in Memoriam. The names of all Lions who had passed to Higher Service in the past year were then presented and a minutes silence was observed.</p>	
8	<p>Introduction of the Deputy Lieutenant of Kent</p> <p>DG David introduced Paul Auston, the Deputy Lieutenant of Kent and invited him to formally open the Convention.</p>	
8.1	<p>Opening of the 49th Convention and Loyal Greetings</p> <p>DL Paul Auston thanked DG David for the introduction and stated that he represented the Lord Lieutenant and by inference her Majesty the Queen. In line with Convention the District Secretary had sent a letter of loyal greeting to her Majesty, informing her of our forthcoming Convention. A reply was received from Buckingham Palace on behalf of her Majesty, wishing us all a successful and enjoyable event. DL Paul looked after the Queen's awards for volunteering in Kent and was pleased to have been asked to officiate at our Convention on behalf of her Majesty, as his experience of Lions throughout the County of Kent had been a very positive one. Lions were synonymous with volunteering and he considered the work that Lions do was not only important, it was invaluable. He expressed surprise that so few Lions individuals and clubs had been awarded the Queen's award for volunteering, which was regarded as the MBE of Service. He explained that the National Panel looked for a unique selling point that set groups and individuals apart from others whilst engaging in the community. 96% of all charities in this Country were run by volunteers. DL Paul wished to pass on to the Convention a massive vote of thanks from the Lieutenancy for all that the Lions do in the community. It was an honour and a privilege for him to open the 49th District</p>	

	105SE Convention.	
8.2	Vote of thanks to the Deputy Lieutenant of Kent DG David thanked DL Paul very much for his address and enlightening the Convention about the Queen’s award for volunteering. It was something that we could possibly take on board as a new Lions challenge.	
9	Introduction of PIP Frank Moore by PID Howard Lee PID Howard gave a warm welcome to our International Principal Lion guest, Past International President Frank Moore 111. He was an educator by profession and a former Superintendent of Education in Daleview Alabama. His wife, two daughters and son were also Lions members. He was a lay preacher for the United Methodist Church and also a former Chief Executive Officer of the Association of the United States Army. He was International Vice Chair of LCIF Campaign 100, about which more later. He was also our Executive Administrator and Secretary for our International Association.	
9.1	Address by International Guest PIP Frank Moore PIP Frank Moore opened his remarks by paying tribute to the Deputy Lieutenant’s excellent summary of the Lions organisation and the importance of recognition. Our organisation was the greatest story untold because so few people knew who we were. This Convention was an opportunity to reconnect with one another, to recognise the achievements of the past year and to plan for the future. It was also an opportunity to reflect. There was a step increase in Lions membership arising from the decision to invite women to join the organisation and become part of leadership. We had now had our first woman President who represented us well throughout the world. The last few years had seen a lot of changes, particularly in the area of advancing technology. Sometimes however it was not always an assistance, particularly in the case of My Lion! One of our goals was to serve 200 million a year around the world. Another initiative was Campaign 100, involving an ambitious target to raise \$300 million by the end of next year to enable our International Foundation to serve the community globally. DGE Ian Forbes had just returned from training for his role next year as District Governor and one of the themes to be promoted was “kindness matters.” The International Board decided to have five major global causes for our Association: vision, hunger, environment, childhood cancer and diabetes. These represented challenges to all of us. An example of a community project was the subject of a short video that PIP Frank then shared with the Convention. It involved a project in Italy called Anna’s House and demonstrated the generosity of spirit of a single local Lions club, which then expanded to the district and now involved the International Foundation. This was a good example of the impact that our service made in making a difference and providing a bright future for the disabled people involved in Anna’s House. PIP Frank conceded that it was difficult to raise funds for a variety of sources, such as the five global causes. There were also natural disasters which were continuing, such as the problems in Australia. There were currently sixteen natural disasters around the world where International Foundation funds had been allocated. This	

	was only possible by acting collectively.	
	The Foundation had a close working relationship with the United Nations and it was one of the signatories of the original document that was signed in San Francisco when the UN was being formed. We had accepted the UN sustainable development goals, six of which dealt with the environment.	
	The essential requirement to enable the work to continue was manpower and the need to increase membership. PIP Frank appreciated the opportunity to address the Convention and learn more about the various ongoing projects within the District, which he was looking forward hearing about during the course of the day. He would then be able to share some of the examples with his Lion colleagues back home.	
9.2	Vote of thanks to PIP Frank Moore	
	DG David thanked PIP Frank very much for his address. It was a great pleasure to hear of the work of the Association and to get some insight of the work that went on beyond our own shores. DG David then handed proceedings over to Sgt at Arms.	
10	Departure of the Deputy Lieutenant of Kent	
	DL Paul was presented with a gift from DG David and thanked once again for his address. He was escorted out of the Convention by Judith Butler.	
10.1	Departure of our partners and guests	
	All partners and guests who wished to leave the Convention then did so.	
11	Call to Order – 1st Plenary Session	
12	Announcements	
	There were no further announcements and Sgt at Arms handed the meeting over to DG David.	
12.1	Report of Attendance	
	There were 91 delegates, 36 alternates and 42 others in attendance, thereby making the Convention quorate.	
12.2	Messages and Apologies for Absence	
	DS Alan Cattermole had received a message from Brigitte and her staff at MDHQ, wishing DG David a successful and enjoyable Convention. A message had also been received from Council Chairman Stewart Sherman-Kahn, apologising for being unable to attend. He wished DG David the best of luck for a super weekend. Apologies for absence had been received from PID Colin Vincent.	
12.3	Declaration of Convention Procedures and Standing Orders	
	PCC Chris Iles invoked standing orders and confirmed that the Convention was quorate. In all matters of dispute, DG David's decision was final.	

13	Receive and Confirm the Minutes of the 48 th Convention Arundel, February 2019 The minutes were received and the delegates voted to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting.	
14	Matters Arising from the Minutes None.	
15	Report of District Governor DG David reported that although he was two thirds of the way through his year, there were still some outstanding goals, one of which was to increase membership. Another of his targets was to increase contributions from the district to LCIF. To date the response from clubs amounted to 90% of the target with five months to go. As a result, the district had recently sent a cheque for £12,000 to LCIF, to be shared equally between Campaign 100 and LCIF. PIP Frank then made presentations to IPDG Pete Dilloway and the District Coordinator for Campaign 100 Jackie Robinson in recognition of their achievements in supporting LCIF in the previous Lions year.	
16	Report of District Secretary DS Alan Cattermole reported that two thirds of clubs had not yet responded to the calling notice for the MD Convention in Birmingham and requested that clubs be encouraged to do so as soon as possible and before the deadline date of 1 st March.	
17	Report of District Treasurer DT Tony Skilbeck reported that only £1,400 had been allowed for membership in the budget provision for next year and this was clearly not enough. Cabinet had earlier agreed that additional funds could be allocated from reserves which currently stood at over £34,000, rather than putting up membership dues. The recommendation from the MD Treasurer was that one and a half years' worth of income should be held as reserve, which would equate to about £25,000. DT Tony thanked Tony Gordon for examining the accounts and signing them off. Finally, it was reported that 66% of clubs had still not submitted their own accounts. They were encouraged to send them to him well before the Charity Commission deadline of the end of April.	
18	Introduction of Resolution 1 Resolution 1 was that district dues remain at the same level for the next fiscal year. This resolution was proposed by Tony Skilbeck and seconded by Tom Berry. The dues had not been increased during the eight years that DT Tony had been District Treasurer, and he stated that he would continue in the role for a further year. Delegates voted unanimously to approve the Resolution.	
19	Report of District Charity Treasurer DCT Tom Berry apologised that he had been unable to distribute the District Foundation accounts at Convention. They had already been examined and there were no arisings. However the auditor had fallen ill before he could sign them off. Once signed off they will be distributed through the normal channels.	

20	Acceptance of Administration Reports Delegates voted to approve the Administration Reports.													
21	Club Presidents Excellence Awards 2018 – 2019 IPDG Pete Dilloway was requested to present Club President’s awards to the following clubs for excellence in the areas of membership, service, communication and organisation: <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Adur East</td> <td>received by Rose Carter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cranleigh and District</td> <td>received by Derek Trawber</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dartford</td> <td>received by Graham Illsley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Guildford</td> <td>received by Jackie Blake</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northfleet & Ebbsfleet</td> <td>received by Mike Parker</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southbourne</td> <td>retained by IPDG Pete on behalf of Lynne Smith</td> </tr> </table>	Adur East	received by Rose Carter	Cranleigh and District	received by Derek Trawber	Dartford	received by Graham Illsley	Guildford	received by Jackie Blake	Northfleet & Ebbsfleet	received by Mike Parker	Southbourne	retained by IPDG Pete on behalf of Lynne Smith	
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22.1	Address by DG 111MN DG Gerlinde Brandstetter gave a brief address and emphasised the continuing friendship between our respective Districts and the sharing of common ideals through our twinning in the best traditions of Lionism.													
22.2	Address by DG 103IE DG Jean-Mary Gueraud, with assistance from Sylvie Dinneweth thanked DG David and Judith for their warm welcome and welcomed the opportunity to catch up on the various ongoing projects in our respective parts of the Lions movement. One of these was an enormous “Nature Clean-up” operation planed for the weekend of 7 th March. There was also continuing involvement in the French “Telethon” to raise funds for research into rare genetic diseases. One of the most important initiatives however was to reach and maintain an appropriate level of membership, which had halved over the last thirty years.													
23	Introduction of Professors Mufti and Farzaneh by DO Andrew Lodge DO Andrew said it was a great honour to introduce and welcome both Professors from Kings College Hospital to the Convention and to announce that PIP Frank was due to visit The LIBRA laboratories on Monday. Professor Mufti OBE was the head of the Haematology Department and the founding member of the Myelodysplastic Syndrome Foundation, for which he was internationally recognised. He had a team of thirteen Professors, six senior lecturers and over one hundred research staff. Professor Farzaneh was Professor of molecular medicine at Kings and had published over two hundred and fifty research articles plus two books, while running a licenced GMP facility at Kings since 2001. He was awarded the Distinguished Scientist Award of the US Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine and he had many other international awards to his name. Many of the grateful patients who had received successful treatments now supported LIBRA in fund raising activities. The latest “Going for Gold” campaign was also being supported by Olympic Champion Dame Kelly Holmes as an Ambassador, which was very much appreciated.													
23.1	Presentation on LIBRA by Professors Mufti & Farzaneh & Dame Kelly Holmes Professor Mufti wished to thank the Lions Organisation personally for everything that they had done to date to support the Haematology Department at Kings													

	<p>CollegeHospital, which was the leading Department for blood diseases in the world. He was attracted to join the Department in 1985 from Hammersmith Hospital, since it was at this time that there was going to be a LIBRA corridor to hold laboratories where research would be conducted. The lasting friendship between the Lions Organisation and Kings College Hospital therefore started from this moment.</p> <p>The next step for Professor Mufti was to develop a science based clinical strategy, bringing together Kings College London Medical School, Kings College Hospital, Guys and St Thomas's Hospital and the Maudesley Hospital. This Academic Health Science Centre was called Kings Health Partners and it came into being in 2009. Several notable contributions in the field had been made possible in part because of the support received from LIBRA since 1985. Moving forward, the plan was to bring all the components of haematology together and develop a global Institute of Haematology, which would cost about £200 Million.</p>	
	<p>Professor Farzaneh said it was a true honour to participate in the Lions Convention. He wished to thank the Lions Organisation most sincerely for all the support over many years, which had helped the Haematology Department to successfully treat so many patients. The monies provided by Lion's enabled research to commence in areas which would not otherwise receive funding from elsewhere. It had also enabled the Department to work across Europe and the United States.</p>	
23.2	<p>Vote of thanks to Professors Mufti and Farzaneh</p> <p>DG David wished to thank Professors Mufti and Farzaneh for joining the District Convention and for their amazing work in the field of haematology, which was quite literally life-saving. Another of their supporters was Dame Kelly Holmes and she sent a short video to the Convention where she explained that she was helping to raise awareness for the Going for Gold Campaign, which had a target of £300,000. Dame Kelly had also very kindly agreed to become an honorary member of Tonbridge Lions Club.</p>	
	<p>Three clubs then presented cheques to Professors Mufti and Farzaneh, as follows: Guildford Lions for £2,000 Bexley and Sidcup Lions for £1,200 Woking Lions for £500.</p>	
24	<p>Announcement of the Winners of the Photographic Competitions</p> <p>Competitions Officer Maureen Warn wished to point out that they had all been judged independently by IPDG, DG and VDG. The winner of the other aspects of Nature category was Eddy Warn from Whitstable & Herne Bay Lions. The winner of the animal and bird category was also Eddy Warn. The winner of the plant life category was Brian Slater from Brighton Lions. The winner of the weather category was Lee Milner from Worthing Lions.</p>	
	<p>The winners of the Travelling Lion competition were as follows: First place Whitstable and Herne Bay Lions (117 points) Second place Caterham, Oxted & Godstone Lions (90 points) Third place Thanet Lions (69 points)</p>	

	The winner of the Travelling Lion Zone competition was Steve Walden (Zone 3B)	
25	Introduction and Reminder of Election Procedures	
	PCC Chris Iles reminded the voting delegates of the election procedures and confirmed that voting papers should be put in the ballot boxes on leaving the hall for lunch.	
25.1	Nomination and Acceptance of the office of District Governor 2020 - 2021	
	The nomination of Ian Forbes was proposed by Richard Maynard and Ian accepted the nomination.	
25.2	Nomination and Acceptance of the office of 1st Vice District Governor 2020 - 2021	
	The nomination of Steve Coe was proposed by Kathy Anderson and Steve accepted the nomination. He spoke about the value of volunteering.	
26	Nomination and Acceptance of the office of 2nd Vice District Governor 2020 - 2021	
	The nomination of Rizvi Rawoof was proposed by Elaine Higham and Rizvi accepted the nomination. He spoke of the four projects that the Lions could implement. These were Helen Keller's Sight First, the health of the homeless, the environment and climate change.	
27	Introduction of AAKSS by PDG Paul Withers	
	An emergency resolution at the Chichester Convention in 2012 confirmed a Memorandum of Intent to support Air Ambulance night flying, thereby making the Lions a catalyst for this activity. Since then the Lions had supported AAKSS by funding the purchase of rapid response support vehicles and a number of specialist items of medical equipment. PDG Paul introduced the current CEO David Welch, who had a proven track record in leading a number of international health related charities.	
27.1	Update on Air Ambulance Project by AAKSS Chief Executive David Welch	
	David began his talk by offering massive thanks to the Lions Organisation for their support received over the years. His organisation was patient centred, the patient being at the heart of everything they did and every decision made. AAKSS was this year celebrating thirty years of caring for patients across the South East. They operated two helicopters around the clock and in the past year had carried out over 700 night flying missions using the equipment provided by the Lions. Overall they responded to over 2,500 incidents across the South East. Their operating bases were at Rochester and Redhill and the type of incidents they responded to was changing. Cars were becoming safer and sadly an increasing proportion of incidents arose from assaults and the spread of drug gangs along county lines. They also transferred critically ill patients between hospitals. The four major trauma centres involved were St Georges Hospital Tooting, Kings College Hospital Denmark Hill, Royal Sussex County Hospital Brighton and Southampton General Hospital. The whole operation started with the despatchers, who were based with the Regional Emergency Operation Centre at Coxheath in Kent. They screened	

	every 999 call that came in to identify those incidents which would be appropriate for AAKSS to respond to and to despatch a response team either by aircraft or by car. The aircraft in question were one of the most advanced helicopters in the world. One of its major advantages was adequate space all around the patient, which enabled the medical team to continue treating the patient whilst in transit. The other major advantage was that it was able to fly in almost all weathers.	
	The aim was to have 98% aircraft availability by day and 85% by night. The major obstacle was the weather, and therefore the rapid response vehicles had become increasingly important.	
	A typical crew consisted of a pilot and first officer, plus a doctor and a paramedic.	
	The medical team joining AAKSS were already the best in the business and vastly experienced. They then underwent three months of rigorous training before being allowed out on their own. It was not widely known that they delivered anaesthetic to patients at the scene of an incident which enabled them to prevent brain injury. The laryngoscopes that were provided by the Lions helped enormously in this process. Currently about 250 patients a year were anaesthetised. The CEO considered that AAKSS was one of the world's leading air ambulance services and it was the first to transport blood and the only service in the UK to operate 24 hours a day seven days a week. They were also involved in unique partnerships with companies like Phillips Medical who had chosen AAKSS to trial ground breaking technology that enabled patients' vital statistics to be beamed to the receiving hospital and back to consultants on call. This often made the difference between life and death.	
	The head scanner project, also funded by the Lions was a collaboration with Kings College Hospital and was currently undergoing patient trials. It was a long term project involving the Ethics Committee and should be up and running towards the end of the year. Once it was approved for use it would enable the team to perform neurosurgery at the scene of an incident or in the helicopter, thereby saving a significant number of lives.	
	The annual cost of running the service was about £14 Million a year and the Lions were considered an integral part of the overall team and very much appreciated.	
27.2	Introduction of Emergency Resolution	
	AAKSS had stated that one of their most pressing requirements was to provide a further emergency response vehicle which was the subject of the emergency resolution. The vehicles in current use were a vital part of the service and were of themselves saving many lives a year. However they had a limited life and were becoming increasingly expensive to maintain. The total cost would be about £42,500. The emergency resolution was proposed by PID Howard Lee and seconded by DCT Tom Berry. Delegates voted unanimously to approve the Resolution.	
28	Introduction of Cabinet and Updates to District Officers Reports	
	All Cabinet officers were requested to stand and be recognised.	
	The District Officers reports had been distributed in advance. The Youth Exchange officer provided an update to his report relating to last year's event. One of the two service projects raised £620 and the money was sent to Rotterdam Lions to assist with cleaning plastic from the ocean. With this update, Convention voted to accept	

	the District Officers reports.	
29	Announcements to close morning Plenary Session Sgt at Arms reminded delegates to place voting slips in the box on their way to lunch, for which tickets would be required. Delegates were also reminded to look at the various stalls outside and to purchase international draw tickets. 1st Plenary Session closed at 12.40PM.	
31	Call to Order – 2nd Plenary Session	
31.1	Report of Attendance Sgt at Arms reported that there were 91 delegates, 37 alternates and 49 others.	
32	Recognition of the Winners of SE ROAR 2019 Competition A short video was then shown, describing the two days of ROAR finals that were held at Wakehurst Place near Ardingly, Haywards Heath. The children were aged between seven and eleven and they were encouraged to come up with some creative and innovative ideas to help solve some of the World’s problems. It was also an opportunity for the children to develop their presentation skills outside of the school environment. The Lions partnered with Seven Billion Ideas for this competition and they were the driving force behind this initiative. Youth Projects Coordinator David Skinner then presented the two winning teams as follows: Thursday’s winner was Stonecross School from Eastbourne, with their idea of the Dome Home. They were sponsored by Eastbourne Lions. Friday’s winner was Surrey Hill School from Dorking, with their idea of Deaf Talk. They were sponsored by Cranleigh Lions. DG David presented awards to the winning teams. DG David reminded Convention of the existence of the Global Action Teams for membership, leadership and service. The GAT Area Leader then presented awards to the three Action Team Chairmen as follows: Membership Team Chairman PID Howard Lee Leadership Team Chairman PDG Frank Lees Service Team Chairman 2 nd VDG Steve Coe	
33.1	Presentation on Vision Cameras Lion Stuart Young stated that 13% of school children had an undiagnosed eyesight problem and nearly half of local authorities did not offer screening and there was no longer a legal requirement for them to do so. Fewer than 40% of schoolchildren regularly had their eyes tested. It was hoped that Public Health England would approve the project to roll out vision cameras nationwide by the first week in May, starting district by district. The cameras	

	checked eyes for 27 different abnormalities within 30 seconds. After screening, parents would be given either a green letter or a red letter, depending upon the results. The red letter recommended seeing an optician within two weeks.	
	Colleagues from Child Sight USA came over to assist with developing the training plan. Several districts were starting to raise money to buy the cameras, which cost £6,000 each. Three trial screenings had been conducted, resulting in about 10% of children being referred to opticians as a result of undiagnosed eyesight problems. When the project was approved, there would be a district lead in each district and the website would then go live. A webinar would also be made available to refresh the training. Once started, this initiative would have a big Impact on childrens' lives and those of their parents and for the sake of consistency it was important that all Lion participants in the project followed the same procedure.	
33.2	Presentation on Brain Tumour Project	
	Lion Fran Stary stated that brain tumours killed more people under 40 than any other cancer. There were about 120 types of brain tumour and they each needed a different medical response. About 16,000 people had been diagnosed with brain tumours in the UK and the survival rate after five years was only 20%. Even so, only 1% of government cancer funding went to brain tumour research. At MD level, a partnership had been created with brain tumour research to raise money. The target was £1M over the next four years, 20% of which would go on equipment purchase and the remainder on research itself. About £35,000 had been raised to date, of which £1,500 had been raised by our own district. At district level the annual target was about £40,000, which equated to about £400 per club per year. Delegates were encouraged to hold an event in aid of brain tumour research and to be hold a "wear a hat" day between 22 nd and 28 th June. Fund raising information packs were available on the website. The silent auction for tickets to an Aston Martin tour last year raised over £1,000 and a series of monthly pub quizzes raised about £340. Lion Fran was available to support anyone wishing to raise funds for this worthy cause. Email franstary@liosclubs.co.uk	
33.3	Thanks to Lions Stuart Young and Fran Stary DG David thanked both speakers most warmly for their presentations.	
34	Presentation on Lions International Eye Centre Korle Bu	
	PID Howard Lee stated that about 2.6 million people in West Africa were blind and 75% of this blindness could be prevented if only they had adequate medical services. In addition there was only one ophthalmic surgeon to half a million people. The process of developing a teaching facility for Ghana was dreamed up years ago and made possible from a collaboration between the West African College of Surgeons, Lions Club International, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital and Moorfields Eye Hospital in London. Most West Africans could not afford to travel abroad for treatment and West African medical students qualifying abroad often did not return to West Africa. So medical students were now being trained in Ghana in order to retain the necessary skills in country. This was what the "train the trainer" part of the programme was all about. The Korle Bu Centre opened in 2015 and included operating theatres and a programme of sub-speciality courses had now started. The unit was state of the art and the throughput of patients had increased from 75 per day to about 300 per day. Training ophthalmologists in country was the brainchild of Ian Murdoch from Moorfields Hospital and the Institute of	

	<p>Ophthalmology. He was the clinical lead on course development and on the courses themselves. The intention over the next three years was to build up to six training courses for ophthalmology surgeons per year, together with training of the necessary support teams. A basic ophthalmology course had also been set up, which would hopefully encourage these students to go on to study ophthalmology as a specialisation. About 280 students had enrolled in this course so far, which was extremely encouraging. The cost to date had been about \$7M and over the next three years a further £530K was required. Negotiations were ongoing with LCIF and once that was completed, the residual funds required would become clear.</p> <p>As well as building the unit, an accommodation block had also been built, principally to house the students and their facilitators. Some of this block had also been rented out, which was proving useful financially.</p>	
35	<p>Presentation of Prizes to Peace Poster and Allan Tidy Trophy Winners</p> <p>Peace Poster Liaison Officer Maureen Warn presented the winners as follows:</p> <p>1st Place: Natalie Martin from Bexhill Academy, sponsored by Bexhill Lions. 2nd Place: James Irwin from Dover College, sponsored by Dover Lions. 3rd Place: Chloe Rubit from St. Richards College, sponsored by Bexhill Lions.</p> <p>The Allan Tidy Trophy was won by Bexhill Lions.</p>	
36	<p>Declaration of Election Results for District Governor 2020 - 2021</p> <p>PCC Chris Iles declared the District Governor 2020 - 2021 to be Ian Forbes.</p>	
36.1	<p>Declaration of Election Results for 1st Vice District Governor 2020 - 2021</p> <p>PCC Chris declared the 1st Vice District Governor 2020 - 2021 to be Steve Coe.</p>	
36.2	<p>Declaration of Election Results for 2nd Vice District Governor 2020 - 2021</p> <p>PCC Chris declared the 2nd Vice District Governor 2020 - 2021 to be Rizvi Rawoof.</p>	
36.3	<p>Thanks to Adjudicators and Destruction of Voting Papers</p> <p>Delegates voted to destroy all voting papers in the usual way.</p> <p>DG David thanked PCC Chris for all the work involved in ensuring that the whole voting process ran smoothly.</p>	
37	<p>Address to Convention by District Governor Elect</p> <p>DGE Ian Forbes thanked Convention for the honour bestowed upon him.</p> <p>His goals for next year included increasing membership by shouting about our achievements and social media were powerful tools to be deployed. The abundance of retirement properties being built could also be considered a golden opportunity to increase membership. He wished to thank DG David for all the support and encouragement he had received during his journey to become next year's District Governor and was then invited to join the top table.</p>	
38	<p>Q&A Session with PIP Frank Moore</p> <p>Question from Mike Barty:</p> <p>What tips could you give to encourage more Lions members to attend Convention?</p> <p>Answer from PIP Frank:</p>	

	Some essential ingredients were fun with fellowship; inviting guests from twinning districts; providing a variety of substantial agenda items in the programme and promoting the relevance of attendance to Lions club members. It would also be useful to ask club members about what they wanted at Convention and to organise accordingly.	
	Question from Malcolm Luxton: Do other countries receive a similar large number of emails from LCIF as we do?	
	Answer from PIP Frank: It was a common suggestion that the number of emails be reduced. As a result, a new protocol will be introduced on July 1 st limiting the quantity of emails being sent.	
	Question from John Quincey: What was the origin of white jackets as traditionally worn by District Governors and was it still considered appropriate today, when the UN was seeking to impose barriers to social exclusion?	
	Answer from PIP Frank: The wearing of white jackets was not universal and depended on local custom and tradition. There was no dress code recommendation whatsoever from Lions International, and it varied widely around the world.	
	Question from Ted Inns Why as a matter of course were regular reports not sent to clubs, detailing where LCIF donations were sent to and what they were being used for?	
	Answer from PIP Frank: This was a question of LCIF transparency. The LCIF website had complete reporting information of the Foundation, including audited accounts for the last three years and lists of grants awarded around the world.	
	Question from Mike Howes: It was learned a week ago that their small but very active Lioness club would be closed down next year. Why were they not notified earlier?	
	Answer from PIP Frank: The information about Lioness clubs being transferred into Lions clubs had been distributed in 2017 and had been published every year since. This had been the decision of the International Board and a conversion programme was instituted at the same time. It also featured in the Lion magazine. All Lionesses's transferring to Lionbs would have their service record recognised and recorded.	
	Question from Mike Howes: Why did LCI wish to close Lioness clubs anyway?	
	Answer from PIP Frank: It was a business decision to ensure inclusivity of both genders within a Lions club	
	Question from Derek Ransley: Why did all countries' citizens pay the same international dues, irrespective of the standard of living in each country?	
	Answer from PIP Frank: The international dues structure was universal but there were examples of district	

	or multiple district dues where they were waived. However, this could not apply to the international component of the dues structure.	
	Question from Peter Moxley:	
	In view of the seemingly unstoppable reducing numbers of Lions in the UK, what urgent steps were being taken at International and MD level to ensure that remaining members were not penalised by increases in dues? Answer from PIP Frank:	
	There was a proposal at the Singapore convention to raise international dues by \$3 and the Board was planning to meet on 1 st April to consider this. There had not been an increase in international dues for ten years but the cost of operations had nevertheless risen substantially and it was no longer possible to absorb these cost increases without passing them on.	
	Question from Malcolm Luxton:	
	Club secretaries had a new method of recording service, but it was very time consuming. What percentage of clubs recorded their service through this new system? Answer from PIP Frank:	
	40% of clubs world-wide reported their service activity. It was acknowledged that the existing reporting system was “ridiculous” and action had been taken to resolve the issue. A completely revised form had very recently been put on the web which was just a single page. It was considered to be a vast improvement, reducing the input time from over an hour to just five minutes. To assist secretaries further, a webinar was also available. Since this new system had been rolled out, reporting statistics world-wide had doubled.	
	Question from Margaret Luxton:	
	There was very little publicity in the press on the large donations made by LCIF to disaster relief. Was anything being done to rectify this, since it is through publicity that people might be motivated to join the Lions? Answer from PIP Frank:	
	It was very expensive to buy publicity. The media were typically not interested in good news stories. This was where the internet was an advantage, with Facebook blogs and the like. One area of support was in the local news media, although this varied widely around the world.	
	DG David thanked PIP Frank for his support in participating fully in the Q & A session, which was a part of the District Convention agenda for the first time.	
39	Presentation of John Holdham and Robin Blake Trophies IRO Phil Robinson introduced Lion Jackie Blake to present the Robin Blake Trophy, which was presented every year to a Lion or club involved in international projects. The winner was Chichester Lions club for their incredible work in helping to cure sight problems around the world by recycling spectacles.	
	The John Holdham Trophy was won by Sgt at Arms for fostering an enduring relationship with District 111N over the past ten years.	
40	Membership Update and Confirmation of 3 year plan	

	<p>PID Howard Lee stated that the membership issues facing us were not very different from the rest of the UK or the United States or any of the longer standing Countries in Lions. With this in mind, the Next Decade Report with its recommendations was presented and agreed at last year's Convention. Arising from this, a large membership team of 22 members had been assembled that met every quarter to consider the issues. A three year membership plan had also been drawn up and a summary was included in the Convention briefing papers. Each of the 14 goals was backed up by an action plan. One of the goals was to appoint a Club Liaison Officer for each of the four regions. Training sessions had been carried out for 10 team members viz. David Butler, Ian Forbes, Steve Coe, Wendy Cattaway, Paul Dedman, Terry Parr, Mike Parker, Howard Lee, Steve Walden, Eddy Warn and they all received certificates from PIP Frank.</p>	
	<p>The district now owned a gazebo for the specific purpose of conducting membership drives and it had been deployed 15 times in the past year. The district once had 89 clubs but the numbers had fallen to 60, so there were several gaps in the district where new clubs could be formed. The new club development officer Mike Parker was congratulated for his work in starting a campus club branch at Canterbury and there were other opportunities being pursued, including a speciality club in the South London area. The Lions Lifeblood quarterly newsletter was being published, and clubs were requested to forward any membership successes they might have had. PID Howard urged club members to make use of the expertise within district to further increase membership numbers.</p>	
41	<p>Update on Belarus Trust</p> <p>PCC Chris Iles wished to thank all clubs in districts 111MN and 103IE for their continuing support to the Belarus Trust and in particular to IRO Stefan and IRO Sylvie, without whose support the Trust would not be the massive and continuing success story that it was. Help was still needed however and would be for many years to come. Recovery from the Chernobyl disaster and the breakup of the Soviet Union was still ongoing. Gomel Lions club was at the forefront but our support was vital to their success because they were unable to undertake fundraising as easily as we could. The club was formed in 2007 and they had gained an enviable reputation in the region. They had been instrumental in all of our projects, some of which included the following in 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of parties in homes for the elderly including the Shubino home Regular visits to homes of family type where about 10 orphans lived together Students in Gomel also distributed gifts to deaf children 	
	<p>Since the demise of the shoebox appeal, the district provided 1,000 euros annually, which was used last year to provide dozens of pairs of shoes for the children in the orphanages and care homes. In the previous year, a condemned children's playground was replaced with our funding and it was commissioned in September 2019. The first of two projects that the trustees had pledged in 2020 involved replacement of specialist outdated equipment for blind children in a secondary school in Vasilevichi, costing 10,725 euros. The second project involved repairs to the roof of Ulukovje boarding school for 160 children with learning difficulties, half of whom were orphans. The total cost of the roof repair was 17,900 euros but it could be done in stages and PCC Chris encouraged everyone to be generous!</p> <p>DG David thanked all of the Trustees and the work done by the Trust and their</p>	

	International partners in Germany and France.	
42	<p>Presentation of Awards by PIP Frank, PID Howard and DG David</p> <p>These awards were made by the International President and were the most prestigious in the Lions organisation. PID Howard presented the first award to Lion Roger Chamberlain who was instrumental in the rebuilding of Woking Lions club.</p> <p>The second award was presented to Lion David Colville for services to IT. The third award went to Lion Chris Iles for leading the very successful Belarus Trust.</p> <p>The International Leadership medal was awarded to Lion Tony Skilbeck. He was a dedicated advocate of LCIF and in his current district job he ensured that all was done to ensure club quality and member experience. He had also taken the lead in helping clubs to convert to Charitable Incorporated Organisations.</p>	
	An International President's award was given to Lion Deric Quaile in recognition of his considerable achievement in creating and supporting an Omega Leo club in Guildford, the first such club in the District for many years.	
	An International President's award was also given to Lion Mike Parker who was New Club Development Officer and the driving force behind the creation of a campus club at Canterbury University. He was also interim Club Liaison Officer for Region 4.	
43	<p>District Convention 2020 Report and Location of Convention 2021</p> <p>The Oakland Park Hotel in Weybridge had been chosen for the 50th District Convention next year and it was an excellent venue. The Convention dates were 5th to 7th February 2021.</p>	
44	<p>Thanks to Convention Team</p> <p>Convention Chairman David Burstow wished to thank the various members of his team, with a special mention to his Vice Chairman Lynne for her support and for coordinating all hotel bookings and menu choices.</p> <p>The other team members were as follows:</p> <p>Derek Ransley for organising the reception area, display stands and stewards;</p> <p>Richard Winrow and his team from Bexhill Lions for organising the Gatsby evening;</p> <p>Mike Howes for organising the banquet and ball;</p> <p>Margaret Luxton for arranging the partners outing;</p> <p>Barry Auty for acting as greeter;</p> <p>Pete Dilloway for organising the regalia;</p> <p>Chris Iles for registration;</p> <p>John Cattaway for his support in handing over to David;</p> <p>Kelly of the hotel for acting as hotel events organiser.</p> <p>All committee members were asked to stand and be recognised.</p>	
45	<p>Presentation on MD Convention and International Convention</p> <p>MD Convention Chairman Rod Weale stated that Council had made the decision to change the venue from Grantham to Birmingham. The dates were 1st to 3rd May, which deliberately did not coincide with the Bank Holiday. The hotel chosen was the Holiday Inn in Birmingham Central and was very close to the railway station. Car parking was also available on site at a cost. The Convention itself would be held next door at NEC, which was very used to holding Conventions of this nature.</p>	

	The International Convention in Singapore was to be held on 26 th to 30 th June and would be held at the Furama Riverfront Hotel. It had lovely facilities and had recently undergone a two year refurbishment. There was an MD approved travel Agent called JTA who would organise flights and hotel reservations. There was a lot of concern about the Corona virus, but to date the Convention had not yet been cancelled. Registration for both events was now open.	
46	International Convention draw and Results	
	Competitions Officer Maureen declared the winner of the website competition to be Guildford club. The winner of the scrapbook competition was Whitstable and Herne Bay club. The winner of the International draw was Thanet club, with Crowborough club as standby.	
47	Vote of thanks to DG David	
	IPDG Pete offered his congratulations to DG David on a good Convention particularly the agenda which had encouraged many delegates to attend the afternoon session.	
48	Closing remarks from DG David	
	DG David thanked all participants for attending, especially those who had come a long way. He also wished to thank all presenters, especially PID Howard, PIP Frank and all International guests. He also thanked members of Cabinet for all the hard work that they did and the Convention Chairman and all of his team for their excellent organisation.	
49	Announcements	
	Sgt at Arms requested that the Convention hall be vacated as soon as possible to allow staff to set up for the evening banquet and ball. DG David presented PIP Frank with a personal gift to thank him for participating in our Convention.	
50	Close of Business	
	Sgt at Arms closed the Convention in good order at 4.21PM.	