

105SC SENTINEL



2026 CONVENTION SPECIAL!

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Lydiard Fields,
Great Western Way, Swindon SN5 8UZ





OUT OF AFRICA!

What, you are probably thinking to yourself, particularly if you attended the 2026 District 105SC Convention, can a Lion who didn't attend, tell us about it.

The reality is, of course, that he can't, particularly since, at the time of writing, according to the 105SC website, the District Secretary has yet to produce the Minutes, so he can't even pretend that he knew what went on.

However he did know that the theme of "Out of Africa" was likely to produce at least one enthusiastic follower from at one visiting Lion whose own Club Guernsey is closer to Africa (except for Jersey) than any other Club in the District. See the front page of this month's magazine. Notwithstanding the photograph at the bottom of this page indicates that many delegates interpreted "Out of Africa" as being "Out of Swindon".

I also knew that the official guest was International Director Lion Drazen Milcic of the Zagreb Agram Lions Club in Croatia (closer even than Guernsey to Africa) and pictured above with DG Lion Dianne. I am sure that Lion Drazen's address to the gathered delegates was as inspirational as all official guests' addresses tend to be and it is always helpful to be reminded that however insular we may feel, we are part of a very significant global organisation.



Your editor doesn't like dressing up for the host parties, enjoyable as the events will be, although on one occasion both he and his visiting President did dress up in scarlet robes and funny hats because he had such robes from another organisation of which he was a member.

OUT OF AFRICA!



So before we look at the business, what about the peripheries? And, no, your editor was not looking for lots of brassieres! Rather he had in mind food-banks and spectacular spectacles. Both of which were well in evidence with boxes of the



latter being unloaded (or is that being loaded?) at the Convention venue, presumably for onward delivery to MD105's HQ.



While collecting spectacles has been a Lions activity for many years, collecting either food or funds for foodbanks is a relatively recent phenomenon and very much a reflection of today's life for many in our communities.

It has been two years since I attended a Convention, both this year and last clashing with my Club activities - you'll see a report of what I was involved with on page 11 of this month's edition. However at that last Convention of 2023, also at the same venue in Swindon, an enduring memory is of PDG Lion Dave Ebsworth (Ebbo to one and all). Ebbo has been involved in some shape or



form with the Convention for a decade and has finally decided to lay down his truncheon. My congratulations to him on tasks so well undertaken, the recognition handed to him by ID Lion Drazen and, like him, I wish incoming chairman Lion Laura Roberts and her team best wishes for 2027 since I intend to be there.

Not being at the Convention, I hope the numbers that did attend justified all the work that Ebbo and his team expended to provide and event that was a worthy a.g.m. for our Lions year.



OUT OF AFRICA!

And so to the business of the event.

Having downloaded the Convention agenda I discovered that I



could have saved a tree by reading the Agenda on my smartphone. I have news. According to recent published data, Saskatchewan, source of much of the timber used to create paper, will run out of trees in approximately 250,000 years. I no longer feel guilty at printing out my five pages on recycled paper.

Two features in particular attracted my attention. Firstly the election for next year's District Governor and my congratulations and best wishes to 1st VDG Lion Tim Hanton on his inevitable elevation and similarly to 2nd VDG Lion Mark Cooper on his. My only concern is that it seems we don't yet have a potential 2nd VDG.



DG-Elect
Lion Tim Hanton

The second feature was the presentation by PDG Lion Stewart Sherman-Kahn on Mission 1.5 (see above). I am a member of a Club which, along with many others, has found it difficult at times to attract new members to help us all achieve that figure of 1.5 million. As regular readers of the *Sentinel* will recognise, I am not averse to including messages from Lions from the International President downwards to District level and beyond that "Membership Matters" if we are to continue to fulfil Melvin Jones dictum that 'we serve'.



1st VDG-elect
Lion Mark Cooper

Membership does matter provided we are recruiting for the right reasons and only to increase our income shouldn't be one of them.

