**Motion** : From 2016, Autumn District 91 Conferences will be one day events.

**Rationale**

*How this would work :*

The Autumn conference would fulfil the minimum requirement of having a district council meeting.  It would also have contest finals and one or two workshops, at a significantly lower cost and time/effort commitment from members.  Divisions would have the opportunity to run educational workshops for their members, and can make use of the trainers bureau to get experienced trainers to deliver excellent workshops.  The Spring conference would continue to have district council, contest finals, keynotes, workshops and socialising.    This would take affect for future conferences from 2016, so that as yet unplanned future conferences can adopt this approach.

*Why do this:*

When we were part of the whole UK and Ireland District 71, in order to encourage people to travel the long distances to get to district council it was important to create an conference with lots of content.  The problem with that was that it was expensive for members to get to two big conferences a year, and a huge effort for the district leadership team and conference teams.  Only a small proportion of the district’s members benefitted from that work - less than 5% of our members came to the Autumn 2014 conference.

The basic requirement from Toastmasters International is that twice a year the district council must meet, we must run the international speech contest, and there should be an educational element.  All of the rest of the conference activities are optional.

So if we keep things really simple for the Autumn conference while encouraging divisions to do more educational workshops, and have a Spring conference with all the content we are used to, then we get the following benefits;

-          Lower cost, so more people are encouraged to participate at both conferences

-          More incentive for division leaders to create educational opportunities for their members and to create great events for members near where they live

-          More opportunity for people to get involved in sharing knowledge and helping their fellow members develop by encouraging more division led training

-          District leaders can put more focus on the district’s mission of helping clubs be more successful and building more clubs, impacting on a higher proportion of our members

-          One big event once a year to focus people’s energies and their enthusiasm

Proposer : Alan Pope, Division J Governor

Seconder : Graeme Philipps, Division L Governor