



## District 91 District Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

6<sup>th</sup> November 2015

19:30 – 21:00

Pipers Way, Swindon SN3 1SH

Ref	Item
1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>District Director, Jean Gamester opened the meeting, explained the purpose of the District Executive Committee (DEC), and welcomed our guests – Ted Corcoran, Past International President, Teresa Dukes, International Director and Khaled Matlagaitu, Past International Director.</p> <p>District Director explained the general protocol that would be used to run the meeting and make decisions.</p> <p>The District Mission was recited by Florian Bay.</p> <p>The District Director explained to the DEC members that Adnan Lateef would be stepping down from the District Leadership Team (DLT), and that Meg Heyworth had been appointed as replacement District Finance Manager.</p>
2.	<p><b>Confirm Roll Call and Quorum</b></p> <p>District Parliamentarian, David Sutcliffe, confirmed that with 30 DEC members present, the meeting was quorate, that a majority would be 16 and a 2/3 majority would be 21.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Administration Manager, Helena Brewer, had received apologies from the following DEC members:- Jenny Betts, Russell Searle, David Salamons, Julia Kettlewell, Penny Williams, Doug New, Dawn Rowlatt, Steve Brewer and Dudley Flynn</p>
3.	<p><b>Update from previous DEC Meeting</b></p> <p>Immediate Past District Director, Hilary Briggs reported that a committee had been formed following the previous DEC in September as a result of the motion related to PR supplier selection being agreed. Hilary had been appointed as chair and the committee had held its first meeting.</p>
4.	<p><b>Finance Manager's Report</b></p> <p>Outgoing Finance Manager, Adnan Lateef, presented his report which was unanimously accepted by the committee. The District Director thanked Adnan for his service to the district for the year to date.</p>

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5.	<p><b>Recommendations to fill District Officer vacancies</b></p> <p>The District Director explained that at the last committee meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September, she informed committee of the appointment of roles to the District Leadership Team, rather than asking the DEC to approve these. She had used a particular part of the Toastmasters International Bylaws as her guide on the process. Subsequently, she had realised that a more detailed part of the Bylaws makes it clear that she should have asked for DEC approval. Therefore, she requested that the committee approve the appointment of the following officer roles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration Manager – Helena Brewer</li> <li>• Finance Manager – Adnan Lateef</li> <li>• Finance Manager – Meg Heyworth, DTM</li> <li>• Public Relations Manager – Sue Fish</li> <li>• Parliamentarian – David Sutcliffe, DTM</li> </ul> <p>The committee approved these appointments by unanimous consent.</p>
6.	<p>The following committee members provided reports on the District Success Plan and Distinguished Program progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Division B – Neil Coleman</li> <li>• Area 9 – Daniel Broadhead</li> <li>• Area 8 – Laurent Nicourt</li> <li>• Division H</li> <li>• Area 21 – Nick Bailey</li> <li>• Area 55 – Sue Pellow</li> <li>• Division J – Richard Blackman</li> <li>• Area 4 – Craig Moss</li> <li>• Area 22 – Roger Granville</li> <li>• Area 42 – Laura McHarrie</li> <li>• Area 46 – Eric Stakes</li> <li>• Area 62 – Rick Cooper</li> <li>• Division K – Annushia Goede</li> <li>• Area 31 – Fahad Alturkait</li> <li>• Area 35 – Samir Malak</li> <li>• Area 58 – Peter Varholak</li> <li>• Area 59 – Robert Wyatt</li> <li>• Division L – Barry Greenan</li> <li>• Area 33 – Florian Bay</li> <li>• Area 34 – Jay Surti</li> <li>• Area 47 – Dudley Flynn</li> <li>• Area 56 – George Chiesa</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hilary Briggs, IPDG</li> <li>• Helena Brewer, Administration Manager</li> <li>• Sue Fish, PR Manager</li> <li>• Adnan Lateef, Finance Manager</li> <li>• Dorothea Stuart, Club Growth Director</li> <li>• Vanessa King, Program Quality Director</li> </ul> <p>District Director Jean Gamester yielded control of the meeting to Program Quality Director Vanessa King, in order to provide her District Director’s report. Control of the meeting was then returned to Jean Gamester.</p> <p>International Director Region 11 Teresa Dukes provided an update to the committee on her new role.</p>
7.	<p><b>Review of motions for Council Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p>The District Director stated that, without objection, she would limit discussion for each motion to no more than three minutes, in which time the proposer may state the motion and speak for it, and will allow one person to speak against, if there is anyone who wishes to do so. This committee will not vote, rather review and pass forward to council. There were no objections.</p> <p><b>Motion 1 - Proposer George Chiesa stated the motion as follows;</b>  <b>“District PR position” (formerly known as PRO, PRM now I believe)</b>  Whereas D91 has relatively recently changed the district PR position from elected to appointed.  Whereas D91 has spent substantial amounts in PR contractors working for said appointed volunteer positions  Whereas there is no proof of any significant benefit in getting too many positions appointed by the DD  Whereas regardless, the district has created numerous other appoint-able positions, thus the DLT has still a large discretionally in the people chosen for management of the district  Whereas it is a healthy approach, to have the grass-roots (DC) people elect who they want to have for critical “so called credit positions”  Whereas making the position elective, would bring transparency and possible REDUCTION and better management of the PR expenses, in particular if we elect people in an open election, where we can elect volunteers to actually DO the job, not to primarily supervise expensive external contractors.  <i>I MOVE</i> that the PR position becomes ELECTIVE</p> <p>George Chiesa spoke in favour of the motion  Dorothea Stuart spoke against the motion</p> <p><b>Motion 2 - Proposer George Chiesa stated the motion as follows;</b>  <b>“Publish new roles with job descriptions before appointments”</b>  Whereas numerous roles were created recently, and whereas the people appointed are fine toastmasters,  I MOVE THAT new roles are filled only AFTER publishing the role and job description in a published open invitation for nominations.</p> <p>George Chiesa spoke in favour of the motion</p>

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	<p>Vanessa King spoke against the motion</p> <p><b>Motion 3 Proposer George Chiesa stated the motion as follows</b></p> <p><b>“Review the NEED for PR expenses, and then put them to TENDER</b></p> <p>a) D91 currently spends AT DISTRICT level, circa 2.800 GBP (4.200+ USD) by direct negotiation with a single PR agency</p> <p>b) this is a legacy joint operation with D71, that has been going on for at least 4 years</p> <p>c) while "soft" results are positive “nice to haves” yet very difficult to measure and</p> <p>d) while the direct or indirect relation on the money spent and any measurable district (or below) goal is very uncertain at least</p> <p>e) and while NOT questioning the value-for-money of the service (the district should not rent a bargain Ferrari either)</p> <p>f) while the district expenses Protocol 8.4 is very clear about the order in which to allocate expenses...</p> <p>g) where as devolution and servant leadership starts by empowering the base</p> <p><i>I MOVE THAT the current PR contract is NOT automatically renewed, and...</i></p> <p>a) the vendor is invited to produce a report on the ACTUAL contribution of the services rendered to DIRECT district goals</p> <p>b) said report is discussed at DEC/DC prior to any decision on any investment in district PR (we use volunteers to do PR themselves, not to pay PROs)</p> <p>c) the DEC/DC determines IF this is an appropriate and effective allocation of district funds as per priorities in Protocol 8.4 in the context of what alternate usages this expense could have at grassroots level (an area budget is circa 30€ x month)</p> <p>d) if the DEC determines that this or a similar service is needed, THEN <b>put to tender/bidding</b> by multiple suppliers, on necessary transparency, good governance and proper procurement best practices applicable elsewhere.</p> <p>George Chiesa spoke in favour of the motion</p> <p>Hilary Briggs spoke against the motion</p> <p><b>Motion 4 - Proposer George Chiesa stated the motion as follows;</b></p> <p>WHEREAS the operation and management of the District (DLT+DEC leadership) requires and uses relatively large amounts of volunteers TIME, with attention to relatively low expenses, in other words, whereas running Toastmasters is a TIME INTENSIVE / VOLUNTEERS WORK driven organisation, and where as significant conflicts, inefficiencies, and other wastes of time have happened and will continue to happen, due to the lack of a single calendar, and where as we have less volunteers time available than money, and whereas it's essential to respect the time of the volunteers, which is free to Toastmasters but valuable to each of us volunteers, which also improves morale and makes event management easier. Also, whereas the district is growing, and new toastmasters are waived the requirement of cc6 to compete, BUT NOT TO JUDGE, where it’s still a requisite...</p> <p>I MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT</p> <p>a) adopts ONE (or FEW KNOWN) calendar/s, ONE X TYPE OF EVENT, where all proposed activities and events should be posted, with "collision avoidance" criteria (prevention, when possible, as opposed to collision detection")</p> <p>b) said calendar is EASY SPEAK when feasible, for contests, meetings, etc AND/OR</p> <p>c) said calendar is a shared PUBLIC calendar with multiple authorship (ala apple's</p>

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	<p><a href="https://www.icloud.com">icloud.com</a>)</p> <p>d) SEPARATELY/Regardless, that the district chief judge is asked to keep a secret calendar of judges' deployment (who's judging what where when) and who's available when, in such a way to make easier a fair a balanced deployment of judges and ancillary roles for contests.</p> <p>George Chiesa spoke in favour of the motion Jean Gamester spoke against the motion</p> <p><b>Motion 5</b> - Proposer George Chiesa stated his intention of withdrawing the motion.</p>
8.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Daniel Broadhead raised a query about the PR contract which was responded to by Hilary Briggs and commented on by George Chiesa.</p> <p>Daniel Broadhead raised a motion that PR provider contract is reviewed annually. Samir Malak raised a point of order that the question is already under consideration by a district committee, and the District Director ruled the motion out of order.</p> <p>The District Director announced that Division Directors may not be able to give their reports to the Council Meeting due to the additional time that needed to be allowed to handle the motions that had been raised, however members would be referred to the Council Packs which contains their written reports.</p>
9.	<p>The meeting adjourned at 20:53. The next DEC meeting is on the 20 March 2016, at the Copthorne Hotel in Slough.</p>