



District 91 District Council Meeting Minutes

15:15 Southampton 6th May 2017

Grand Harbour Hotel, W Quay Rd,

Southampton SO15 1AG

1	Call to Order / Welcome District Mission, Introductions, Apologies, Moment of Reflection
<p>The meeting was called to order and District Director Vanessa King was introduced.</p> <p>Vanessa King, District 91 Director, welcomed all to the District Council Meeting and explained the purpose and membership of the District Council.</p> <p>Vanessa encouraged the Council members to recite the District Mission together: <i>We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence</i>; and the Club Mission: <i>We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills resulting in greater confidence and personal growth</i></p> <p>She recognised guests and past District Directors</p> <p>International President – Mike Storkey DTM</p> <p>Region 11 Advisor 2014/15 – Morag Mathieson DTM</p> <p>Immediate Past District Director – Jean Gamester DTM</p> <p>From District 74, Past District Governor – David Sutcliffe DTM</p>	
<p>Introduction of the District Leadership Team</p> <p>District Parliamentarian – David Sutcliffe DTM</p> <p>Immediate Past District Director – Jean Gamester DTM</p> <p>District Finance Manager – Meg Heyworth DTM</p> <p>District Administration Manager – Paul Rhys-Taylor</p> <p>Public Relations Manager – Helena Brewer</p> <p>Club Growth Director – Andy Hammond DTM</p> <p>Program Quality Director – Pedro Casillas DTM</p> <p>District Director – Vanessa King DTM</p>	

Apologies

District Administration Manager Paul Rhys-Taylor read out apologies from those unable to attend our meeting today. Gina Roque Drayton, President Croydon Communicators; Bankole Allen Aigbodion, VPE Clapham Connectors; Vidhya Nagendran, President of Purley speakers; Elaine McLoughlin, Area C2 Director; Filip Balota, President of Gatwick Speakers; Monica Horten, Area J21 Director.

Moment of Silence

The following Toastmaster members of our district passed away since the last Council Meeting and were remembered with a moment of silence.

Alastair James of Hallmark and Ferndown Speakers

Ross McFarlane of Southwest Speakers

Dryden Pennington of Casterbridge Speakers

Stefan Kadlubowski of Riverside Communicators

The District Director explained the protocol and rules governing the Council Meeting, including the use of Toastmasters International’s Governing Documents, Roberts Rules of Order as well as the expectation that we live up to our values of integrity, respect, service and excellence.

2	Adoption of Agenda
There being no objections, the agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.	

3	Credentials Committee Report and Appointment of Tellers
<p>District 91 Parliamentarian David Sutcliffe delivered the Credentials Committee Report and confirmed that the meeting was quorate and that the decisions taken in this meeting would be binding on the district.</p> <p>To achieve a quorum at District Council meetings a third of the district clubs must be represented, requiring 97 votes in total. Each of the district’s 145 clubs carries two votes. Out of a possible 290 club votes, 130 were registered from 65 clubs. The club president and VPE or their proxies would use these votes to ensure their club members had a voice at the meeting. 80 clubs (55%), however, had no representation at the meeting. Area directors are encouraged to promote maximum representation at Council meetings for the good of the members in their area clubs.</p> <p>Additionally, but not part of the quorum decision, there were 29 district officers present out of 47 (18 officers did not make it to the meeting). A total of 159 votes were able to be cast at this meeting; a simple majority would require 80 votes, while a 2/3 majority (if required) would be 106 votes.</p>	

The following were appointed as tellers/observers:

Chris Howell – Lewisham Speakers

Pat Young – Brighton & Hove Speakers

Without objection the Credentials Committee Report was accepted by the Council by unanimous consent.

4	Acceptance of Minutes of previous Council Meeting
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There being no objections, the Minutes were accepted by the Council by unanimous consent.

5	Confirmation of Appointed District Officers
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District Director Vanessa King advised the District Council that since the last Council Meeting the following vacancies have been filled as follows;

Division A Director – Steve Vear

Area 42 Director – Laura McHarrie

There being no objections, the appointments were accepted by the Council by unanimous consent.

6	Assignment of Clubs to Areas and Divisions for the following year
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District Director Vanessa King invited Division J Director Rick Cooper, to state and explain his rationale for the motion for assignment of clubs to areas and divisions.

As per the work and recommendation of the Realignment Committee, assisted by Immediate Past District Director Jean Gamester, Rick Cooper proposed the motion to assign Abingdon and Infineum Speakers Clubs (Area 7) to new Area 11, joining Thamesdown Speakers and (pre-charter) Swindon Speakers (Area 22).

Area J7 Director Mary Robson seconded the motion.

The motion was carried by unanimous consent of the Council and one vote was recorded for these Minutes.

District Director King, DTM, expressed her thanks for the hard work undertaken on this by Richard Murray, DTM, and by Immediate Past District Director Jean Gamester, DTM.

Leadership Committee Report

Leadership Committee Chair, Distinguished Toastmaster Jean Gamester presented her report. District Director Vanessa King accepted the report on behalf of the Council without objection.

Nomination and Election of the District Executive Officers

Candidate	Role
Pedro Casillas	District Director
Andy Hammond	Program Quality Director
Florian Bay	Club Growth Director
Steve Vear	Division A Director
Joanna Szoska	Division B Director
Robert Wyatt	Division C Director
Arnaud Sartre	Division H Director
Alison Morris	Division J Director
Tomasz Kropiewnicki	Division K Director
Seema Menon	Division L Director

Nomination and Election of District Executive Officers:

District Director Vanessa King commenced the voting in of the District leaders for 2017/2018.

Uncontested Roles

Where roles were uncontested, the District Administration Manager cast one vote for the single candidate. The following were elected:

Program Quality Director, Andy Hammond DTM

Division A Director, Steve Vear

Division B Director, Joanna Szoska

Division C Director, Robert Wyatt

Division H Director, Arnaud Sartre

Division K Director, Tomasz Kropiewnicki

Division L Director, Seema Menon

Contested Roles

District Director

There were two candidates: Pedro Casillas DTM of Berkley Square Speakers and Dudley Flynn of Broadgate Speakers, each of whom delivered a 2-minute speech.

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Number of votes</i>
Pedro Casillas DTM	79

Dudley Flynn	74
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Having won a majority of votes, Pedro Casillas DTM was declared the incoming District Director.

Club Growth Director

There were two candidates: Florian Bay of London Victorians and St Paul’s Speakers, and Graeme Phillips of Experience French, each of whom delivered a 2-minute speech.

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Number of votes</i>
Florian Bay DTM	113
Graeme Phillips	40

Division J Director

There were two candidates: John Christie of Porthcawl Speakers and Alison Morris of Thame Speakers, each of whom delivered a 2-minute speech.

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Number of votes</i>
John Christie	29
Alison Morris	124

Having won a majority of votes Alison Morris was declared the incoming Division J Director.

8	Mid-Year Audit and Finance Manager’s Report
<p>Programme Quality Director Pedro Casillas, DTM, assumed control of the meeting to enable District Director Vanessa King, DTM, to speak to the Mid-Year Audit report.</p> <p>No questions were raised and there being no objections, the Finance report was accepted by the Council by unanimous consent.</p> <p>District Director Vanessa King, DTM, thanked Finance Manager Meg Heyworth, DTM, and the members of the Audit Committee Rachael O’Neil (Chair), Shola Salako and Beauty Zindi, for their diligence in completing a mid-year audit of district finances, which has been accepted by World Headquarters. Particular appreciation was shown to Meg Heyworth for her hard work in managing the process and for service to the district over the last 18 months.</p>	

9	Division Director Reports
<p>Division reports were delivered by the Division Directors (further report information to be found in the Council Pack)</p> <p>Division A Director – Steve Vear Division B Director – Florian Bay DTM Division C Director - Dudley Flynn Division H Director – Gordon Piggott DTM Division J Director – Rick Cooper Division K Director – Wole Ososami Division L Director – Steve Brewer</p>	

10	District Leadership Team Reports
<p>Reports delivered by the District Leadership Team;</p> <p>Immediate Past District Governor – Jean Gamester DTM PR Manager – Helena Brewer Club Growth Director – Andy Hammond DTM Program Quality Director – Pedro Casillas DTM</p> <p>District Director Vanessa King, DTM, yielded control to Program Quality Director Pedro Casillas, DTM, then delivered her report.</p>	

11	Toastmasters International Update
<p>District Director King delivered an update from Toastmasters International concerning certain changes to the Bylaws, policies and procedures. By way of an introduction, she encouraged Council members in attendance to return to their clubs and explain to their incoming officers what happens outside of our district. From Toastmasters International the following proposals and provisions requiring our members’ vote are to be discussed and determined at the August Business Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A proposal that members should be able to pay their own dues online; ➤ A proposal that the requirement for dues to be paid by April 1st and October 1st be moved from the Bylaws to the Policy to make it possible for the Board to evaluate the benefit of this payment process to our members; ➤ Provision to allow the International Leadership Committee to change its operation slightly; ➤ Provision to change how international candidates can put themselves forward for election; ➤ Provision to allow changes to the election process itself; and ➤ Clarification around the status of honorary club member. <p>District Director King then resumed control of the meeting.</p>	

12	Pathways Report
<p>Distinguished Toastmaster Andy Hammond delivered the Pathways report and advised Council members that Pathways is now live in two pilot districts and is about to be rolled out in a third; and the member feedback is brilliant. Online materials are proving effective with members. The timetable for rollout in our district has been delayed until 2018, to make sure Toastmasters gets it right.</p>	
13	Bids for District Conferences
<p>The bids for future district conferences were as follows;</p> <p>November 2017 – Filip Balota of Gatwick Communicators has put in a bid to run the last autumn conference at Gatwick Airport Hilton Hotel. With no other bids for the autumn conference, this team was given permission to continue their investigation in the running of the November conference.</p> <p>May 2018 – Graeme Phillips – consideration for a conference in the South East, perhaps in Canterbury.</p> <p>May 2018 – Division J – consideration for a conference to be run by Division J</p> <p>The District Council gave the teams permission by unanimous consent to continue their early stage investigations into the delivery of the May 2018 conferences.</p>	

14	Motions
<p>District Director Vanessa King, DTM, advised that no advance motions had been received. If there were any motions now was the time to for them to be raised. Samir Malak DTM (C43 proxy for Connected Speakers Bromley) asked about general district realignment. District Director King confirmed that the Realignment Committee deemed only those adjustments made in Division J necessary this year. No motions were raised.</p>	

15	Any Other Business
<p>Division L Director Steve Brewer asked about online voting provisions. District Director King said there are none. She also confirmed that there is no charge for any member to attend the District Council Meeting. Also, it is reasonable to expect club funds to be used to subsidise travel costs for member or officer attendance at Council meetings.</p> <p>Vice President Education Ivanka Brown of Speakers of Croydon asked if there could be a more local depot of Toastmasters resources to avoid substantial shipping costs. District Director King said this question has come up before and been fed back to Toastmasters International. Two points about the status quo: clubs need to factor these shipping costs into their budget and this be linked with member dues; and with the advent of Pathways with much of the programme being online, it is likely there will be less paper being shipped, so costs will be reduced. District Director King DTM, offered to take this back to Toastmasters International for further advice.</p>	

Without objection, the meeting was extended for five minutes until 17:35. District Director King thanked ICT Committee e-voting lead, Tracy Miranda, Bob Nisbet DTM for his work on the audio desk and the Conference Team for their support during the Council meeting.

District Director King, DTM, invited District Parliamentarian, David Sutcliffe DTM to address the Council as he hands over the role to Immediate Past District Director Jean Gamester, DTM.

16	Announcements and Adjournment
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District Director King, DTM, adjourned the meeting at 17:33 declaring that the next meeting of the District 91 Council would take place on 4 November 2017 at a location to be confirmed.
