



District 91 District Council Meeting

Saturday 4 November 2017

14:00 – 16:00

Hilton Gatwick, South Terminal Gatwick Airport RH6 0LL

1 Call to Order / Welcome *District Mission, Introductions, Apologies, Moment of Reflection*

District Director Pedro Casillas welcomed all to the first District Council meeting of 2017-18. He explained the purpose, membership and function of the District Council and the importance of member attendance at the District Council.

Division K Director Tomasz Kropiewnicki was called on to recite the District Mission, which is:

“We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.”

The following guests and past District Directors were then recognised:

Region 11 Advisor Aletta Rochat DTM

Past District Director Jean Gamester DTM

Immediate Past District Vanessa King DTM.

Introduction of other District Officers

District Finance Manager Beauty Zindi

District Administration Manager Paul Rhys-Taylor

District Public Relations Manager Nigel Oseland

Club Growth Director Florian Bay DTM

Program Quality Director Andy Hammond DTM

District Director Pedro Casillas DTM

Division Directors and Area Directors in attendance were also acknowledged.

Apologies

District Administration Manager, Paul Rhys-Taylor, received a number of apologies from those unable to attend the meeting:

Tom Fletcher, VPE at Cheltenham Speakers; Florian Allwein, Area C34 Director; Paul Snelling, President at Solent Speakers; Tola Deja-Olawo, President at Blackrock Speaks; David McDonnell, VPE at Blackrock Speaks; Andy Hessey, VPE at Berkhamsted Speakers; Clare Abeng, President at FM Global Communicators; Janet Bramwell, VPE at FM Global Communicators; Dorottya Kis, VPE at London Trustmasters; Shola Kaye, Area C2 Director; Carlos Gimeno, Area J10 Director; Mikhail Krivoshein, President at Russian English Speakers.

Moment of Reflection

Two members of the district are known to have passed away since the last Council Meeting. George Hollis, former member of Epsom Speakers; and Gordon Piggott, member of Eastbourne and Battle Speakers. The Council observed a moment of silence.

Explanation of Protocol

The District Director explained the protocol and rules governing the Council Meeting, including how voting happens and how proxies are handled.

2 Adoption of Agenda

There being no objection, the Council agreed to adopt the agenda by unanimous consent.

3 Credentials Committee Report and Appointment of Tellers

Credentials Chair Jean Gamester arranged for assistant Monica Horten to present the Credentials Committee report.

From a total of 147 paid clubs in the District, 294 club votes were available to the Council (based on club presidents and VPEs carrying a vote each for their club). Dividing this number by a third gave us the 98 club votes required for a quorum, which was achieved as 105 club votes were registered.

An additional 22 votes were issued to District Executive Committee members, making a total of 127 votes issued for the Council Meeting.

Two tellers were appointed to observe the process. Mel Sheppard and John Morris.

The Credentials Report was accepted as stated, and the tellers were appointed, as agreed by the Council by unanimous consent.

4	Acceptance of Minutes of Council Meeting on 6th May 2017
There being no objections, the Minutes were accepted by the Council by unanimous consent.	

5	Confirmation of Appointed District Officers
The Council agreed to the following District Officer appointments by unanimous consent:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Administration Manager – Paul Rhys-Taylor ➤ Finance Manager – Beauty Zindi ➤ Public Relations Manager – Nigel Oseland 	

6	Confirmation of Vacancies Filled by DEC
Confirmation of District Officer Appointments	
The Council approved the DEC appointments of the following District Officers to fill vacancies after the May meeting of the District Council:	
Area A14 Director – Janet Alkema	Area H55 Director – Dee Alimi
Area C5 Director - Elaine Lawrence	Area J4 Director – Clifford Hurst
Area A46 Director – Gillian King	Area J7 Director - Matt Parker
Area A62 Director – George Smith	Area J21 Director – Leela Bassi
Area B6 Director – Gina Rocque Drayton	Area J22 Director – Carlos Gimeno
Area B8 Director - Brad Revell	Area K3 Director – Zoe Francis
Area C2 Director –Shola Kaye	Area H53 Director – Ian Upton
Area C45 Director – Shola Salako	Area K59 Director - Jason Thompson

7	2016/17 Year End Financial Report
<p>2016-17 Year End Audit Report</p> <p>Immediate Past Vanessa King presented the 2016-17 Year-End Audit Report. DD Vanessa thanked the Rachel O’Neill, Audit Chair and Audit Committee members Beauty Zindi and Shola Salako as well as District Meg Heyworth, who served for two years as District Finance Manager. Hearing no objection to the acceptance of the 2016/17 Year End Audit Report, the District Director declared it agreed for adoption by the District Council by unanimous consent.</p>	

8	Adoption of District 91 Budget and Finance Manager’s Report
<p>The District Director called on Finance Manager to present her report on the new budget for 2017/18. Beauty Zindi gave her report on how the district budget was arrived at, linking it to the District Success Plan which all members of the District Executive Committee have participated in developing.</p> <p>Questions came from the following Council members:</p> <p>Paul Imre (C13) President at Chiltern Speakers, asking about surplus retention and how the District manages this. Beauty explained that TI requires each administration to leave a surplus of £25000 in the coffers at the end of the year.</p> <p>Fergal Hogan (C19) VPE at Guildford Speakers, commenting that clubs should perhaps be told that districts achieving Presidents Distinguished status are granted a rebate for their district leaders to travel to the International Conference where they receive training for the good of the members. The District Director agreed that this should be shared widely with clubs via subsequent meetings.</p> <p>Christopher Walker (C33) President at St Paul’s Speakers, asking about plans to ensure the required surplus is left in the coffers at the end of the year. Beauty responded that Toastmasters International set a conservative member revenue number line that expands with the growth of the district; so if we do well this year as in previous years, we will have no problem ensuring the required surplus is left at year end.</p> <p>Filip Balota (C74) President at Gatwick Communicators, asking how club presidents can see the budget allocation for their division. The District Director indicated that this information should be shared between Division Directors, Area Directors and Area Councils.</p> <p>Hearing no objections, the District Director declared the adopted budget accepted by the District Council by unanimous consent. On behalf of the District Council, Pedro Casillas also expressed thanks to Beauty Zindi and all of the district leaders for their hard work in putting the budget together.</p>	

9	District Success Plan Status and District Leadership Team Officer Reports
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The Division Directors and members of the DLT were called on to give a one-minute report on how their work is contributing to the District's success plan.

Division updates came from the following leaders:

- Division A Director Steve Vear
- Area B8 Director Brad Revell (on behalf of Division B Director Joanna Szoska)
- Division C Director Robert Wyatt
- Division H Director Arnaud Sartre
- Division J Director Alison Morris
- Division K Director Tomasz Kropiewnicki
- Division L Director Seema Menon

District Leadership Team updates came from the following leaders:

- Immediate Past District Director Vanessa King
- District Administration Manager Paul Rhys-Taylor
- District PR Manager Nigel Oseland
- Club Growth Director Florian Bay
- Program Quality Director Andy Hammond
- District Director Pedro Casillas

11	Pathways Update
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Programme Quality Director and Chief Pathways Ambassador Andy Hammond announced that we are due to roll out Pathways in our District in March 2018

- Pathways Guides are being appointed in time for notification to Toastmasters International (TI) by 5th December deadline
- TI will train these Guides before they conduct club visits. 70% of clubs across the region must have been visited in order for rollout to be triggered.
- Anne Saunders will be Pathways Coordinator, assisting Andy Hammond with the process.

Key messages:

- Every member must log onto Toastmasters International website – they cannot use Pathways if they do not log onto the website. (The majority of District members never have). Please get them to do that now if they have not already done so.
- Clubs need to make time to schedule the visit from their Pathways Guide, which is a minimum of 45 minutes in duration (more is preferable). Please make sure the clubs are ready to schedule the visits by their Pathways Guides. Perhaps training can be collective and linked with Jan/Feb COTs.
- Groups of clubs can be trained together. Area Directors are asked to facilitate this as an option, to make the process more efficient.
- The rollout of Pathways in our District is an exciting prospect; however, the support of the DEC is needed to make it happen as smoothly as possible.

11	Toastmasters International Update
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DD Pedro Casillas gave an update following the International Convention, which took place this year in Vancouver, Canada. Part of the role of the Trio was to interview the next tier up of prospective candidates for the roles of international directors and regional advisors. There was a day of interviews, two days of training and the Trio also voted at the International Business Meeting.

131 votes given to Pedro – he posted on the website how those votes were cast. One salient point of note:

- **Dues payments method** – should a club member wish to bank their own payment with Toastmasters International, in agreement with the club, they can do so.

The District Director encouraged members to read an interesting article in the November edition **Toastmaster Magazine** about how Toastmasters is doing around the world. <https://www.toastmasters.org/magazine/magazine-issues/2017/oct-2017/toastmasters-facts>

12	Future Conferences
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PQD Andy Hammond updated the Council on the May conference pipeline, November options and the Conference Committee.

- *May conference.* Coppid Beech, Bracknell is the agreed venue for our May conference and tickets are now on sale. Andy highlighted the need to move the conferences around our relatively small district and to plan two years ahead so that members can see a plan and engage with the process. Andy introduced Dee Alimi as the new Conference Chair. Dee will need some help from the divisions to move things forward and get future conference planning underway.
- *Options for November events and training opportunities.* As Toastmasters International have decided that there will be no more November (district) conferences beyond this one, there will be only district level contests in May. So, we need to look at training and development opportunities in November for our members.

- *Conference Committee.* In order to decide as a district what to do about those other contests in between, a committee will be set up to consult our members and come up with some proposals for the District Council to vote on in May. The committee should be in place by the middle of December.

13	Motions
	A motion is a formal call for action proposed by a member of the District Council. A main motion is one whose proposal brings business before the Council. There was a call for motions on 5 th October, but no advanced motions have been received. The District Director called for any motions from the floor. None came.

14	Any Other Business						
	<p>Anne McCormack (C28) President at Ascot Speakers asked that the District look into ensuring that Public Liability Insurance is relevant to UK territory where D91 is in order for members to be protected when using the club venues. DD Pedro Casillas stated that this issue had been already raised and that he would confirm the Toastmaster International position on the matter for all in the District.</p> <p>Joann Walsh (C34) President at 104 London Debaters asked if the District had considered the implications for member clubs of the new data protection regulations from May 2018. DD Pedro responded that we will be discussing this with TI.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Action</th> <th style="text-align: left;">By whom</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>➤ Provide assurances via the District Newsletter that D91 club members are properly covered by the Public Liability Insurance Toastmasters International (TI) have in place as members use the club venues.</td> <td>DD Pedro Casillas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>➤ Consult TI and then advise the District how the new Data Protection regulations will affect us when they come into force.</td> <td>DD Pedro Casillas</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Action	By whom	➤ Provide assurances via the District Newsletter that D91 club members are properly covered by the Public Liability Insurance Toastmasters International (TI) have in place as members use the club venues.	DD Pedro Casillas	➤ Consult TI and then advise the District how the new Data Protection regulations will affect us when they come into force.	DD Pedro Casillas
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15	Announcements and Adjournment						
	The meeting was adjourned at 15:17 until the next meeting of the District 91 Council, to take place at The Coppid Beech Hotel on Saturday 5 th May 2018.						