

# District 91 Executive Committee Meeting

25 February 2018 at 09:30 – 11:30



**Jurys Inn London Croydon**  
**Wellesley Road, Croydon, South London, CR0 9XY**

| Ref | Time  | Item   |
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| 1   | 10:00 | <p><b>Welcome.</b> District Director (DD) Pedro Casillas, DTM, welcomed all to the third District Executive Committee (DEC) meeting of 2017/18. A special welcome was given to the Assistant Area Directors (ADs) in attendance, as well as a number of club leaders intending to stand in the Area elections.</p> <p>Pedro Casillas explained the protocol of the meeting.</p>  |
| 2   | 10:05 | <p>Administration Manager, Paul Rhys-Taylor, confirmed the meeting to be quorate with a (final) majority of 29 of the 47 DEC members in attendance.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b><br/>Administration Manager, Paul Rhys-Taylor, had received apologies from the following DEC members: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Steve Vear, Division A Director</li><li>➤ Gillian King Area A46 Director</li><li>➤ Gina Roque-Drayton, Area B6 Director</li><li>➤ Glen Savage Area B29 Director</li><li>➤ Florian Allwein Area C34 Director</li><li>➤ Sylvia Lobo Area H37 Director</li><li>➤ Ian Upton Area H53 Director</li><li>➤ Alison Morris, Division J Director</li><li>➤ Matt Parker Area J7 Director</li><li>➤ Leela Bassi Area J21 Director</li><li>➤ Tomasz Kropiewnicki, Division K Director</li><li>➤ Ga Lok Chung, Area K58 Director</li><li>➤ Jason Thompson K59 Director</li><li>➤ Richard Collyer Area L47</li></ul> |
| 3   | 10:07 | <p><b>Approval of minutes from District Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting of 03/11/17</b><br/>The minutes of the last DEC meeting had been circulated and published on the District website. These have been accepted by the DEC without objection.</p>  |

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| 4 | 19:40 | <p><b>Audit Committee Report</b></p> <p>Finance Manager, Beauty Zindi, presented the mid-year Audit Committee report. She mentioned the committee members by name and she thanked them for their hard work in preparing the report. The Audit Committee found that District expense claims were in order with all substantiating evidence in place and she showed the Audit Certificate signed by relevant members of the DLT and by the Audit Committee.</p> <p>Elaine Lawrence AD C5 asked that if a cheque was issued and not deposited in the previous year, would the DLT do anything about it. Beauty confirmed that the payee would be contacted to advise that the expense would be reversed if the cheque remained unbanked. Robert Wyatt Division Director (DivD) C asked whether Toastmasters World Headquarters (WHQ) see the Audit Committee report and comment. Beauty confirmed they do receive the physical records in order to monitor the work of the Audit Committee.</p> <p><b>Finance Manager's Report</b></p> <p>Finance Manager, Beauty Zindi, presented her report on the budget spend to date. She highlighted variances from budgeted expenditure and explained why we were overspent in Conference expenditure underspent on marketing and education/training.</p> <p>Elaine Lawrence C5 asked whether the District underspend this year would result in a reduced budget allocation next year. Beauty said this is not the case, but pointed out that there is money to spend on investment in the members in order to grow the District. Barry O'Connell AD K31 asked whether the underspend affects the amount Toastmasters International hold for us in reserve. Beauty said that it does not, but reiterated that the District will shrink through underinvestment and WHQ would simply hold in reserve the money available to us through member payments, if we don't show we need it.</p> <p>There were no objections to the acceptance of the Finance manager's report.</p> |
| 5 | 10:30 | <p><b>Leadership Committee Update</b></p> <p>Immediate Past District Director (IPDD) and District Leadership Committee (DLC) Chair, Vanessa King updated the DEC on the activity of the DLC, confirming that there is a crop of high calibre candidates for nomination for election to the roles above Area Director. The DLC are still looking for candidates for all positions so the DEC are asked to encourage others to step forward for nomination. Nominees will be announced on 7<sup>th</sup> April. Vanessa also said that it was possible for a candidate to stand from the floor during the election process, even if the candidate had not been nominated by the DLC.</p>   |

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| 5 | 10:35 | <p><b>Realignment Committee Update.</b> Paul Walsh, DTM, presented his update to the DEC on the Realignment Committee, thanking the members of the committee for all their hard work so far in pulling together the proposal. Emphasised that the DEC on Fri 4<sup>th</sup> May is crucial to ensure that the DEC is happy to recommend the proposal for acceptance by the District Council.</p> <p>Zoe Francis AD K3 asked Paul Walsh to comment on the reservations a club mooted for realignment might have. Paul suggested that change is hard to negotiate and pointing to a clear rationale, i.e. “for the greater good” is critical to the success of realignment discussions. Barry O’Connell AD K31 suggested that realignment was more for the good of the area and division and less direct benefit to the club. Paul Walsh contended that the benefits <i>are</i> to the club as realignment decisions ensure the club can be better served by its leaders.</p>  |
| 6 | 10:40 | <p><b>Programme Quality Director Pathways Update</b></p> <p>Programme Quality Director (PQD) Andy Hammond, DTM, updated the DEC on progress toward roll out. By 20<sup>th</sup> March, in Region 11 (Europe, parts of Africa and the Middle East), 70% of the roll-out club visits should have been undertaken. So far, District 91 has scheduled 92% of club visits and completed 58% of them, so we are on track. Pathways Guides will, till the end of June, provide virtual support to VPEs via email, webinars, etc and help the members to get on board with the Pathways Learning Experience.</p> <p>Brad Revell AD B8 asked how the other parts of the Region are doing. Andy indicated that he is privy to weekly updates which suggest Region 11 will hit the average for scheduled visits. Joanna Szoska DivD B asked if the roll out schedule is available. Andy Hammond confirmed that a full schedule of all visits is on the District website <a href="#">click here</a>. Rory Graves AD B52 asked if Pathways roll out final date is June 2020, then district leader roles would need to be completed in the coming year 18/19 in order to get credit towards DTM. Andy Hammond answered that he had asked that question to the Chief Executive (CEO) of Toastmasters International, who has said that ‘if a member’s district leader role were to end on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, WHQ would find a way of counting that as credit towards the old DTM programme, or it could be carried forward into pathways.’</p> |

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| 7 | 10:45 | <p><b>Report on the District Success Plan and the Distinguished Programme Plan</b></p> <p>DivD A Steve Vear sent apology but no report<br/> DivD B Joanna Szoska gave her update<br/> DivD C Robert Wyatt gave his update<br/> DivD H Arnaud Sartre gave his update<br/> DivD J Alison Morris sent her report via Clifford Hurst AD J4<br/> DivD K Director Tomasz Kropiewnicki sent apology but no report<br/> DivD L Director Seema Menon gave her update</p> <p>AD A1 Barbara Saph gave her update<br/> AD A14 Janet Alkema gave her update<br/> AD A42 Catherine Brewer gave her update</p> <p>AD B8 – Brad Revell gave his update<br/> AD B29 Glen Savage sent his report via Asst AD Jacqui Rosser<br/> AD B52 Rory Graves gave his update</p> <p>AD C2 Shola Kaye gave her update<br/> AD C5 Elaine Lawrence gave her update<br/> AD C33 Dave Longley gave his update<br/> AD C34 Florian Allwein sent his report via Robert Wyatt (DivD C)<br/> AD C45 Shola Solako gave her update</p> <p>AD H32 Stuart Field gave his update<br/> AD H35 Paul Andreas sent his report via Asst AD Richard Murray<br/> AD H37 Sylvia Lobo sent her report via DivD Arnaud Sartre<br/> AD H53 Ian Upton sent his report via DivD Arnaud Sartre<br/> AD H55 Dee Alimi gave his update</p> <p>AD J4 Clifford Hurst gave his update<br/> AD J7 Matt Parker sent his apology but no report<br/> AD J11 Tom Fletcher gave his update<br/> AD J21 Leela Bassi sent her report via Asst AD Eddie Maguire<br/> AD J22 Carlos Gimeno was absent and sent no report</p> <p>AD K3 Zoe Francis gave her update<br/> AD K31 Barry O’Connell gave his update<br/> AD K58 Ga Lok Chung sent his report via Asst AD Vijaya Avula<br/> AD K59 Jason Thompson sent his report via Asst AD Mark Wood</p> <p>AD L9 Cat Kipling gave her update<br/> AD L47 Richard Collyer sent his report via DivD Seema Menon.</p> |
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|    |       | <p>AD L56 Marcin Tolysz gave his update<br/>AD L61 Kavita Dulai gave her update</p> <p><b>DLT –</b><br/>Admin Manager Paul Rhys-Taylor gave his update<br/>Finance Manager Beauty Zindi gave her update<br/>Club Growth Director Florian Bay, DTM, gave his update and set the following action points:<br/>1) Encourage clubs to promote Talk Up Toastmasters (member-building campaign)<br/>2) Engage with the (Pizza) Renewals Challenge</p> <p>PQD Andy Hammond, DTM, gave his update<br/>DD Pedro Casillas gave his update, primarily recognizing the excellent work of the DEC.<br/>IPDD Vanessa King gave her update</p>  |
| 8  | 11:55 | <p><b>Update from Toastmasters International</b><br/>DD Pedro Casillas told the DEC about the planned visit of Toastmasters International CEO Dan Rex, DTM, in May. Pedro also informed DEC that he would be bringing even greater awareness of proxies in the run up to the International Convention in Chicago to ensure that clubs across the District were really involved in the voting in of the new international leaders and voting on the amendments of TI Policies.</p> <p>District Director, Pedro Casillas, apologized for the overrun of the agenda and asked for permission for the meeting to be extended until 12:05. This was unanimously agreed.</p> |
| 9  | AOB   | <p>Barry O’Connell suggested that Toastmasters International be asked to consider an opt-out system in respect of club representation at the international elections, i.e. that the proxies be automatically assigned to the District Director, making it up to each club to opt out in favour of their own arrangements. Pedro Casillas indicated it would have to be put to WHQ as this would be a departure from the Toastmasters bylaws.</p>   |
| 10 | 12:05 | <p>Meeting adjourned until the Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 19:30 at the Coppid Beech Hotel.</p>  |