

District Executive Committee Meeting (18:00 – 20:15 hrs Via Zoom) 26 April 2020 – Minutes



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

Time	Item	Lead
18:00	<p>1</p> <p>Introduction District Director, Florian Bay welcomed everyone to the 5th and Final District Executive Committee Meeting (DEC) on 26 April 2020 in the 2019-2020 Toastmasters Year. Due to the Corona Virus Outbreak The Meeting was held online via Zoom.</p> <p>DEC Constitution: The District Executive Committee (DEC) comprises of the District Leadership Team (DLT) & the Area & Division Directors. Sarah Beckwith, our Parliamentarian, was also in attendance to ensure compliance with Roberts Rules of Order.</p>	DD Florian Bay
18:05	<p>2</p> <p>District Mission Ruth Ribeiro read the District Mission, “We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving Excellence”</p>	Admin Mgr Ruth Ribeiro

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Roll Call & Quorum

In attendance:

DLT Members	Name
IPDD	Andy Hammond
DD	Florian Bay
PQD	Arnaud Sartre
CGD	Helena Boden-Brewer
Admin Mgr	Ruth Ribeiro
PR Mgr	Susan Rayner
Fin Mgr	Violet Karamagi

Division	Area	Name
A		Mike Burrows
A	1	Rob Dewing
A	46	Debs Wallace
A	62	Grace Jones
B		Rupa Datta
B	6	Gagan Singh
B	8	Shane Snow (by phone)
B	29	Adam Flisiak
C		Ken Essien
C	33	Rakesh Patel
H		Sandra Mighty
H	15	Adenola Olayide
H	35	Michael Crane
H	37	Mo Dawodu
H	53	Vaneshen Mootoosamy
J		Nikita Parks
J	4	Diane Richardson
J	7	Murielle Sarda-Hutchings
J	10	Bryan Gunton
J	11	Jackie Preuss
J	21	Tom Hostetler
J	22	Carrie Baker
K		Liang T Li
K	12	Dave Longley (by phone)
K	13	Andrew Morgan
K	58	Nadya Hamedi
K	59	Francis Itoadon
L	9	Andy Blake
L	47	Rosy Holt
L	56	Elaine Kelly

18:07

3

Ruth
Ribeiro
Admin
Manager

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L	61	Nike Ogundana
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Non DEC Members in Attendance (4)

Parliamentarian	Sarah Beckwith
Chair Alignment Committee	Janet Alkema
Guler Cortis	Div H Assistant
Harun Dugley	A35 Upcoming Director

Apologies Received from

Division	Area	Name
B	52	Adolfo Tunon
H	55	Ellis Byrne
L		Beauty Zindi
L	16	Monika Swiderska

Absent without Apology

Division	Area	Name
A	14	Tugçe Yilmaz
A	42	Mona De Silva
C	2	Sarita Yadav
C	5	Anja Eichen
C	34	Alex Mckee
C	45	Richard Fallon
K	3	Kemi Folarin
K	31	Avni Vij

The District Executive Committee (DEC) has 51 members.
26 DEC Members were required for a Quorum.

At the start of the Meeting there were 37 participants, consisting of 33 Members of the DEC & Parliamentarian, Sarah Beckwith, Chair of the Alignment Committee, Janet Alkema, & 2 others (Guler Cortis and Harun).

We were therefore Quorate.

By the end of the meeting there were 42 attendees, 4 of whom were non DEC members, making a total of 38 DEC members in attendance.

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18:10	Reports on Progress so far in 2019/2020 Year		
	1 min for AD/DD & 3 mins for DLT		
Title	Name	Success	Challenge
Div A	Mike Burrows	22 out of 26 clubs have paid up so far.	Wessex A1 yet to place renewals. Treasurer has confirmed renewals will be complete within 2 days.
A1	Rob Dewing	Enthusiasm shown adapting to online meetings. Currently using newly gained skills in work and private life.	Renewals so far over 10. 17 so far short of 20. Shilling Speakers not yet Chartered.
A14	Mike for Tugçe Yilmaz		Fluor – Club coach not formalised. Farnham speakers has only 6 members.
A42	Mike for Mona De Silva	Casterbridge and Ferndale have gone to weekly online meetings. Good DCP points.	Chase Side – Only 2 members have renewed.
A46	Debs Wallace	One third of all clubs have met 9 Goals. Basingstoke, Verizon & own club successful. Newbury 8 Goals Reading 5 Goals Microsoft 5 Goals Basingstoke -1 Triple Crown Award. Clubs have taken to online meetings like a duck to water	Oracle showing as having only met 1 goal. Will contact their VPE to update the Dashboard as they are doing better than currently shown.
A62	Grace Jones	Online Meetings a success.	Armada and Bath Spa have failed to get 20 Members. Renewals are challenging at the moment. Thornton is yet to charter.
Div B	Rupa Datta	Div B currently has 68% Renewals New Teams are Transitioning	2 clubs have no online meetings
B6	Gagan Singh	Presidents running online meetings are getting creative tweeking meetings to have sound effects. Clubs are enjoying the moment. It gives people hope. Something to look forward to.	Award Submissions. Most are on Pathways, however this is currently not reflected online.
B8	Shane Snow	4 clubs have min 5 DCP points	Significant 25-30% Reduction in

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		3 clubs have more than 7 DCP points Some have embraced the opportunity to embrace technology and learn new skills.	Renewals Some want to put Toastmasters Meetings on hold until we are able to meet in person again. People come to socialize and if social distancing is the normal it is not fulfilling that purpose. Transition to Pathways
B29	Adam Flisiak	We have 2 President's Distinguished Clubs. All the Area Director Visits have been completed. Pathways uptake is progressing well.	BMS could do with some help. Recommend people giving speeches and helping out with GE roles.
B52	Shane for Adolfo Tunon	Most clubs have renewed with over 20 members Kings & Imperial clubs now have Sunday meetings with members visiting online from Asia.	Polish your Polish has less than 20 members.
Div C	Ken Essien	Online meeting transitions are going well. Re: Succession Planning – A number of candidates are stepping up.	Have chased Area Directors to complete admin milestones.
C 33	Rakesh Patel	Registered but unavailable to speak	
C34	Alex McKee	Absent. No report	
C45	Richard Fallon	Absent. No report	
C5	Ken for Anya Eichen	Elections are currently being held at clubs	JP Morgan is a challenge. Elaine Kelly is a promising club coach.
Div H	Sandra Mighty	Area Directors all present except Ellis (Toastmasters related clash)	1 club has a significant reduction in their Membership. Membership renewals is currently a challenge.
H15	Adenola Olayide	Online meetings have been embraced by all clubs. There is innovation embracing guests to meetings from Europe & the US as well as from a wider UK catchment. Legacy speakers club has	

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		chartered.	
H32	Tom Thompson	The Area Competition was hosted online just one week after Covid Lockdown was imposed. Membership retainments are going well in most clubs.	County Communicators tried to use own software. They have found that the New Zoom app works better. Gatwick speakers are down to 11 members. Tonbridge currently have 10 members. There is an open house meeting next Wednesday, 29 th April 2020.
A35	Michael Crane	2 clubs are Presidents Distinguished. Havan Dugley is present at this meeting from Beaconham Communicators. He is standing for A35 Director.	Clubs are lagging in the 1 award per member. 1 club needs support at Committee level as committee members mostly resigning.
H37	Mo Dawodu	Membership renewals are at 100%/ 50% and just under 50% There has been some exciting and innovative collaboration at Area and International level	There are issues with one club Treasurer. Some older members have challenges with online meetings.
H53	Vaneshen Mootosamy	2 clubs are currently Presidents Distinguished clubs (Epsom and Sutton Speakers). Surbiton is not far behind and will hopefully also become Presidents Distinguished. Guests are attending clubs meetings and online meetings have been embraced.	Mole Valley is currently facing challenges with DCP points and in the transition to online meetings. Vaneshen & his assistant have been chasing but there is currently no update.
H55	Ellis Byrne	Absent	
Div J	Nikita parks	2 new clubs have chartered. Currently manage 30 clubs. 16 are Distinguished. 5 more will be distinguished if they manage to renew 20 members.	There are currently 5 clubs that are not in good standing. They have not submitted renewals and renewals are lower than desired.
J4	Diane Richardson	Thame Speakers have 85% renewals with over 20 members. Chiltern Speakers currently have 31 members. There is a 67% Renewals Rate All 4 clubs are aiming at Presidents Distinguished.	Maintaining enthusiasm, during the lockdown. Members are keen to get back to face to face meetings.

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J7	Murielle Sarda - Hutchings	All clubs have taken to online meetings like a duck to water. Murielle is motivating members to try out international clubs. Successful membership renewal in ¾ of all clubs.	It will be a challenge to Charter Whitney Speakers by the end of June. Bista renewals are sluggish with fewer than 20 members having renewed. Returning to face to face meetings may prove to be a challenge.
J10	Bryan Gunton	The Area Contest united clubs, and I am really proud of how they all came together.	Valleys and Vale Speakers Club are facing challenges. More than 20 renewals were expected but numbers are lower. The biggest challenge is that a number of their members are key workers helping fight the Corona virus. There is a retention dive at Cardiff Speakers due to the large student population. Students were sent home early with lessons cancelled due to lockdown so expected.
J11	Jackie Preuss	Generally pleased with renewals. 4 clubs have made a slight loss. 1 club has 1 more member than in October. Gloucester Speakers renewed the same number of members as in October. They have 8 DCP points. They have embraced online meetings and obtain 2-3 guests at every meeting	Gloucester Speakers do not have 20 members renewed yet. The challenge is coverting guests to members to bring the number of members to 22.
J21	Tom Hostetler	Burnham speakers currently have 23-24 members and are in the process of Chartering. Still 6 clubs.	HCL is going into suspension. It never really got off the ground.
J22	Carrie Baker	Milton Hills has President’s Distinguished status. Online meetings are causing some problems for some members. They will rejoin once there are face to face meetings.	Immunicore have had redundancies hence struggling. They may switch from being a Corporate Club to a Community Clubs.
Div K	Liang T Li	All Area and Division Contests have been successfully completed.	18 Clubs out of 21 have successfully submitted renewals. That is 58% and there are still 4

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		We have 5 President's Distinguished clubs. 4-5 Select Distinguished Clubs	more days to go. Some clubs are unclear if they are going online or not.
K3	Liang for Kemi Follarin	All clubs are now online They use MS Word Team	1 Community Club struggling with 1 member. Looking at refusing a club membership. Tideway Toastmasters are closing the Company, based on their project coming to an end. They are not taking on any new employees.
K12	Dave Longley	Barking Speakers was one of the first clubs to take their meetings online. It was a successful and lively meeting.	In Stratford Speakers people are currently taking on more than one role. It is hoped that the new Committee will be able to sort this.
K13	Andrew Morgan	A tale of survival. All clubs meet minimum required memberships. 4/5 are now meeting online. 4/5 competed in Area Contests. Club Elections are going ahead. There are no Committee Struggles.	
K31	Liang T Li for Avni Vij	Apologies. Avni not present.	
K58	Nadya Hamedi	4/5 clubs have 20+ members. There have been 168 renewals 1 st London Speakers won the Talk Up Toastmasters Award. City of London Speakers won the 20/80 Award Bloomberg Educational Awards 5 DCP points. Broadgate are 1 point away from Distinguished. PMI have a 100% adoption rate in Pathways. 3 clubs have set their election dates. 4/5 Club visits have been completed.	Broadgate are on 10 members, hoping to get them up to 20. 3 of their club officers have not renewed. 1 club visit report has been submitted, and 2 are on their way.
K59	Francis Itoadon	Super Online Contest with 30 attendees. 2/5 clubs are using Zoom online. There are discussions re teaming up the clubs to run online	Membership Growth. City Criers Club are facing serious challenges. Speakers Corner – Currently chasing online status.

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		sessions.	
Div L	Rupa Datta for Beauty Zindi	Beauty expressed how she was very excited to stand for Division Director and how she never could have anticipated managing the Covid 19 outbreak. She wanted to thank her team from the bottom of her heart for all the work they had contributed throughout the year. Thanks to Andy for his work with the TT workshop. To Elaine for helping in the Spring Division Contest. To Rosie who is currently struggling To Nikki for her work with women’s clubs & to Monika for her dedication and professionalism and the huge contribution she has made in Alignment mapping.	
L9	Andy Blake	Workshop Speakers chartered in October. Berkeley Square Speakers obtained 10 DCP goals They had 7/7 officers trained. Paddington Speakers produced a Distinguished Toastmaster. London Business School won the Talk up Toastmasters Award in March.	2 clubs are not meeting online. Finding Committee Members to take over during the new terms.
L16	Rosy Holt for Monika Swiderska	The current Area Director has stepped down. Clubs have supported each other and have good leadership.	
L47	Rosy Holt		4/5 clubs are struggling. Went virtual from Corona. Renewals effected. Will struggle to get 20 members in each club and with Committee Elections.
L56	Elaine Kelly	Some clubs meeting weekly online. Others fortnightly.	Renewals Work Commitments.

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		5 clubs are discussing a larger joint meeting so that they can continue online.	Succession of club committees
L61	Nike Ogundana	All meetings are now online.	Renewals & Committee Elections 1 Treasurer stood down half way through the term in office. Someone else has stepped up and just taken over.

DLT TEAM MEMBER REPORTS

Title	Name	Success	Challenge
PR Mgr	Susan Rayner	<p>Visitors to D91 Website up 30%. We have on average 1,200 to 1,500 visits to the website each month.</p> <p>The most popular sections are the Clubs Ambassador Programme, Tips on winning Speeches, Newsletters and the District Conference.</p> <p>In Facebook, we have an average of 20-40 likes a day.</p> <p>The newsletters to Leaders from Florian Bay have a 50% open rate and a 30% click through rate.</p> <p>Monthly reports have a 30% open rate and a 20% click through rate.</p> <p>The District Conference information has a 30% open rate and a 20% click through rate.</p> <p>So people are reading and are interested in the information we put out there.</p> <p>The D91 Website is up to date.</p> <p>All virtual backgrounds are available for online meetings.</p>	<p>Our Instagram & Twitter accounts are a bit flat.</p> <p>We are looking for short 10-30 second snippets of success stories.</p> <p>Where people are given the opportunity to share what has inspired them about Toastmasters, or what inspired them to join and what they have achieved through joining and supporting their clubs.</p>
CGD	Helena Boden-Brewer	<p>We have achieved very positive online engagement despite initial reticence.</p> <p>Our focus is on supporting our members and the various</p>	<p>Renewals are a challenge. We may not meet the targets we'd like to meet.</p> <p>We have a number of incentives in place to increase Membership Nos</p>

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		<p>challenges they face. We recently ran a webinar “Survival for online interviews” to support some of our members who are currently facing the challenge of finding employment in a period of social distancing.</p>	<p>such as the: The Plus Three (+3) Incentive – Add 3 Members and Win £30 for your club) The Beat the clock incentive – Add 5 new members The Open House Meeting Incentive (which we will now honour in an online setting) Funds are available for Online Marketing of an Open House Meeting (up to £100).</p>
PQD	Arnaud Sartre	<p>Arnaud thanked everyone for their incredible efforts online. Pathways adoption is now up from 70 to 73% Arnaud announced that District officer training (DOT) which was originally advertised to take place over 2 days on 13th & 14th June will now be merged into 1 day taking place on Saturday 13th June only. It is likely that this will take place in the evening. See link to Arnaud’s slides [-]</p>	<p>Submission of New Officer Lists by the End of June. Conference Planning Pathways Adoption: 55 base camp managers are currently not yet enrolled on Pathways. This is a challenge going forward.</p>
DD	Florian Bay	<p>Our District Director Florian Bay reflected on his year in office and the impact of the Corona Virus. He recalls the very challenging conversations that took place whilst deliberating what action to take to best represent 5000 Toastmasters. “It was a difficult decision to have” His mentor encouraged him in learning to run meet-ups online. He is proud that many Toastmasters stepped up to the challenge of converting face to face meetings to a community of online clubs, providing a focus for learning and growth, a support network, albeit online to our many members. Many of our members went on to take that</p>	<p>Membership renewals are still a challenge but it is not the end of the world. It is more important to ask our members how they are doing and find out how we can help. Some Divisions have lost 1/3 of their clubs</p>

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		<p>learning and applied it in paid work settings, in Church, school and youth group settings. Florian himself explained how he is meeting up with clubs online in Poland and Russian and how inspiring that is. We currently have 144 clubs in good standing. We hope to end with the same number of clubs that we started with.</p>	
19:10	6	<p>Finance and Expenses Update Florian Bay presented us with a Finance update on behalf of Violet Karamagi, our Finance Manager, who was present on the call but feeling quite unwell.</p> <p>We wish Violet a speedy recovery.</p> <p>Please see link to slide presentation [-]</p>	<p>FB for Violet Karamagi</p>
19:30		<p>District Realignment for 2020/21 Year Janet Alkema presented the District Realignment Proposal for the 2020/21 Toastmasters year. See Slide Show as per attached link [-]</p> <p>Agreed proposals need to be submitted by the District Council to Toastmasters International by July 15th 2020. A major change is the proposal for a Brand new Division D.</p> <p>Janet Alkema thanked Monika Swiderska, our Cartographer, for her unflinching and expert guidance in accurately mapping Clubs to help with the District Alignment process.</p> <p>Q/A: Vaneshen M: asked for clarification on when the boundaries are expected to be ratified and said that he would be discussing this at his upcoming Area Council Meeting.</p> <p>Janet Alkema: Clarified that the new boundaries, once approved would come into effect on 1st July 2020.</p> <p>Nikita: Raised a question concerning the number of Areas per Division.</p> <p>Ken Essien: Raised a question as to why St Paul’s Speakers club was moved out of C33. He and Janet agreed that they would discuss this matter together offline.</p>	<p>Janet Alkema</p>
19:50		<p>Online District Council Meeting Review (02 May 2020) District Director, Florian Bay presented us with an update on the</p>	<p>Florian Bay</p>

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	<p>District Council Meeting taking place on 02 May 2020. He explained the need to have a Quorum of 1/3 of the Presidents and VPEs of all clubs and for members to be in good standing. We currently have 87 registered. To be Quorate we need a total of 120. See slide show as per attached link [link] Poling will be carried out using Election Runner. This was tested in the meeting. Members voted via an email link.</p>	
20:00	<p>AOB for the District Executive Committee x 2 Rupa Datta – GDPR Reminder When posting zoom meeting photos to FB and social media care needs to be taken that members are not using copyright logos and sporting images that do not belong to them (ie Disney pixels) and that personally identifiable information is not displayed. It is a window into people’s homes. Some members may not want their photos taken and posted online in this manner. Similarly non members details should be removed from Easy Speak and TI once memberships cease. FB said that he would ensure a message is sent out re GDPR in his next communication/newsletter.</p> <p>Andy Blake – Question on the process of selecting District Judges and Consideration of Diversity. Arnaud replied to this highlighting the instructions as outlined in the Contest rule book. le: that Judges must remain anonymous. The must be a member of a club in good standing and not a member of the same club as someone participating in the contest. There is an attempt to have a representative from all Divisions so that there is a good mix of representation. That said there is no gender sensitive information when looking at members lists so it is possible that there are shortcomings. There is as broad a diversity as possible relative to the small numbers of available judges across the divisions that are also willing to take part as a judge.</p>	
	<p>Florian Bay addressed the DEC in a closing message He said that it had been an absolute pleasure and honour working with the DEC and thanked everyone for their hard work throughout the year. Whilst we may not be a Distinguished District due to the Corona Virus impact he acknowledged that he had led an organization of 5000 members with many transitioning to online meetings and provided a sense of community during challenging times. He expressed gratitude to the Team that have supported him and made all these achievements possible.</p>	
20:15	Meeting Adjourned.	

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