



DISTRICT 91 TOASTMASTERS

SPECIAL EDITION



COUNCIL PACK

2nd May 2026

Reflections, Milestones & Highlights
from the District Executive Team 2025/26



DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



FINANCE REPORT



DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS



MILESTONES & ACHIEVEMENTS



COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Together
WE LEAD.
WE INSPIRE.
WE ACHIEVE.



Foreward

District Director

Debbie Williams DTM

The 2025/26 trio with Francesco Fedele DTM International Director for Region 10

Welcome to this special edition of the District 91 Council Pack for the 2025-2026 program year.

As I turn through these pages, I am reminded of the incredible energy, creativity, and dedication that our members and clubs have brought to this year.

This pack is more than a collection of updates; it's a celebration of what we've achieved together. From club milestones and leadership accomplishments to innovative initiatives and inspiring stories, each section highlights the passion and teamwork that make District 91 such a vibrant community.

I hope you enjoy exploring the progress we've made so far. Let it inspire you, remind you of what's possible when we work together, and celebrate the difference each of us contributes to our district. Thank you for your dedication, your enthusiasm, and for being part of the journey that makes District 91 shine.



Receiving the District Program Quality Award for 2024/25 from Immediate Past International President Radhi Spear DTM at the International Convention August 2025



The trio at the International Convention August 2025

Debbie X

Agenda

1 Welcome & Introductions

Past District Director Honour Roll
Debbie Williams DTM

2 District Mission

Steve Vear DTM

3 Review & Acceptance of meeting agenda

Debbie Williams DTM

4 Credentials Committee Report & Apologies

Olga Galaiko DTM &
Deborah Stevens

5 Acceptance of 21st Sept 25 Council minutes

Debbie Williams DTM

6 Confirmation of Appointed District Officers

Debbie Williams DTM

7 Mid Year Audit Update

Audit Committee

8 Finance Update

Guler Cortis

9 District Alignment Committee Report

Barbara Saph DTM



10 District Leadership Team Reports

DLT

11 District Leadership Committee Report

Steve Vear DTM

12 Elections for Program Year 2026/27

Debbie Williams DTM

13 Advance Motions

Debbie Williams DTM

14 Meeting Adjourned

Debbie Williams DTM



Olga Galaiko DTM
Credentials Chair

The District Council meeting can be attended by any member and there is no charge for them to do so. Only members of the District Council are able to speak or vote. However, to be eligible to vote, Council members must have registered prior to the credentials deadline of Wednesday 29th April 6pm.

Minutes from District Council meeting 21st September 2025

Published on the District 91 Toastmasters [website here](#) or available by scanning the code



District Leadership Committee Report

The District Leadership Committee report and nominations can be found on the District 91 Toastmasters [website here](#) or by scanning the code



Confirmation of District Officers

The following District appointments have been made since the last District Council meeting:

- George Weller Area Director A1
- Suhas Kumar DTM Area Director A46
- Ryan Oldman Area Director J10

District Alignment Committee Report

An annual review of District alignment is carried out as per Toastmasters International requirements, stated in Protocol 7.0 District Structure. The report can be viewed by following [this link](#) or scanning the QR code



Barbara Saph DTM
Alignment Chair

Finance Manager

Fellow District Council members,

I am pleased to be presenting the Finance Manager's Report for District 91 covering the period from 1st July 2025 to 31st December 2025 at the District Council meeting on May 2nd, 2026.

Our budgeted membership revenue for 2025-2026 is £95,901, of which approximately 43% has been utilised so far. This indicates that spending is on track for this stage of the year.



Guler Cortis

	07/01/2025 Through 12/31/2025		
	Actual	Budget	Variance
▼ District Revenue			
▶ Membership Revenue	47,288.89	45,842.03	1,446.86
▶ Oct/Nov Event Revenue	2,955.20	5,000.00	(2,044.80)
▶ Speech Contest Revenue	365.00	0.00	365.00
Total District Revenue	50,609.09	50,842.03	(232.94)
▼ District Expenses			
▶ Oct/Nov Event Expenses	2,301.40	5,000.00	(2,698.60)
▶ Recognition	3,987.75	1,360.00	2,627.75
▶ Club Growth	1,698.40	3,475.00	(1,776.60)
▶ Marketing Outside of Toastmasters Expenses	60.00	2,720.00	(2,660.00)
▶ Public Relations Expense	2,193.78	3,450.00	(1,256.22)
▶ Education & Training Expense	2,484.61	6,850.00	(4,365.39)
▶ Speech Contest Expenses	973.66	2,275.00	(1,301.34)
▶ Administration Expenses	3,273.90	3,330.60	(56.70)
▶ Food and Meals Expense	2,781.88	3,955.00	(1,173.12)
▶ Travel Expense	8,979.05	9,015.00	(35.95)
▶ Lodging Expense	7,672.80	6,578.00	1,094.80
▶ Other Expenses	2,178.23	0.00	2,178.23
▶ Allocation Expenses	2,462.12	2,397.54	64.58
Total District Expenses	41,047.58	50,406.14	(9,358.56)
Total Net Income	9,561.51	435.89	9,125.62

The District Audit Committee Report for Mid-year has been completed

Members of the District 91 Audit Committee 2025 2026 Marta Gocek, Chair, Bob Nisbet DTM, and Anthony MacKenzie performed a Mid-Year Audit in accordance with the Audit Committee Guidelines.

All financial records of District 91 for the relevant accounting period were reviewed. Audit Committee concluded that these financial documents adequately reflected the District operations for the Mid-Year term, from 1st July 2025 to 31st December 2025.

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL
TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL
Certification for
December 2025
2025-2026
DISTRICT # **D91**

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Complete all sections on the Narrative tab.
2. Fill in the white cells below with the appropriate information and print out this page.
3. Obtain related signature below. **Typed signatures are not acceptable.**
4. Distribute monthly reports per Toastmasters International protocol 8.4, to the District Director, Program Quality Director and Club Growth Director within 30 days after the end of the month.
5. **Quarter reports due to World Headquarters:**
* September Report: **October 31**
* December (Audit) Report: **February 15**
* March Report: **April 30**
* June (Audit) Report: **August 31**
6. Submit approved narratives and certification page to World Headquarters by email:
* Scan and email the PDF to DistrictFinancialReports@toastmasters.org

NOTE: This certification form must be complete for the report to be accepted by World Headquarters. Reserve funds will not be released until World Headquarters receives the completed report.

In Base Currency	GBP
Monthly Net Income/(Loss)	(5,757.53)
Year to Date Net Income/(Loss)	9,125.62
Total Available Funds	24,925.11

1. We, the undersigned, certify that all District financial records have been made available to the Audit Committee for inspection and that any unpaid bills or other outstanding obligations for the 2025-2026 term have been reported to the Audit Committee and included in accruals section of this audit. We further certify that there are no other outstanding District obligations incurred for the 2025-2026 term.

Dated this 14th day of February

Debbie Williams
District Director (for the year audited)

Guler Cortis
District Finance Manager (for the year audited)

Complete only for the Mid-year Report and Year-end Report:

2. We, the undersigned members of the Audit Committee, have examined the records of District D91 for the 2025-2026 term in accordance with the Audit Committee Guidelines* and believe that this report properly reflects the operation for that term.

Dated this 14th day of February

Marta Gocek
Chairman

Bob Nisbet
Member

Anthony MacKenzie
Member

* Audit Committee Guidelines are available on the District Finance Corner of the Toastmasters International Website: [HERE](#)
NOTE: Audit Committee members cannot be members of the District Executive Committee (e.g., District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, Immediate Past District Director, Admin Manager, Finance Manager, Public Relations Manager, Division Directors, Area Directors).

Observations

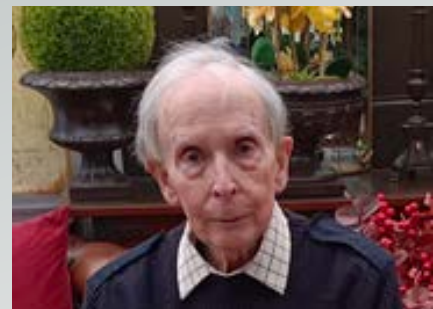
1. Accounts and claims were in good order
2. All claims had clear evidence of being checked by approvers, and many of them had comments or queries
3. Pre-approvals were attached to all claims, two of them signed after the date of purchase
4. Audit files were well organised and complete; only one supporting bill for a small claim was missing
5. Auditors' queries were resolved in a timely and professional manner

Recommendations

1. Ensure pre-approval forms are signed before the purchase
2. Provide all supporting bills for each claim
3. Enable conducting regular bill register check, ideally bi-monthly rather than every 6 months

In conclusion, District 91 remains in a sound financial position, with stable income, controlled expenditure, and healthy reserves.

We are well-positioned to support our members and deliver on our strategic goals for the remainder of the year.



Audit Committee: Marta Gocek, Audit Chair, Bob Nisbet DTM & Anthony MacKenzie

Division A

Division A had a strong first half of the Toastmasters year. Our proudest contest moment came at the Autumn District Contests, where Danny Wang of Reading Speakers, representing Division A, claimed the District Championship in the Humorous Speech Contest. Shenaz Banu from Bristol Central Speakers added to the celebration by placing third in Table Topics, a brilliant double act that put Division A firmly on the map.

Kevin Harrington, Area Director of A17, became the first-ever Area Director of the Month since the District launched the programme this year. On club health, five clubs achieved and set the gold standard with all seven officers trained in Round 1 of the Club Officer Training, with four clubs repeating that feat in Round 2.

We set a goal of 17 clubs achieving Distinguished status or better by year-end. Already, 10 of those clubs have reached at least Distinguished, a clear sign of the Division's momentum. We are also actively pursuing leads for three potential new clubs.

Post-renewal membership dips are a reality across Toastmasters, and Division A was not immune. Three clubs in particular have been rebuilding and are yet to reach the eight-member threshold required for good standing. Rather than leaving them to navigate this alone, the Division team has stepped in with direct, hands-on support. The experience reinforced a key lesson: early intervention matters. I learned to identify warning signs sooner and respond with targeted support rather than waiting for clubs to ask.



Yogendra Paranjpe

My priorities between now and 30th June are clear. First, membership growth, as I want every club in Division A to be in good standing, and I am personally supporting our three rebuilding clubs to achieve this. Second, I am focused on converting our three new club leads into chartered clubs, which would meaningfully expand our Division's reach. Third, I want to push our Distinguished Club goal over the line, from 10 to our target of 17. Every club that finishes the year strong sets the foundation for a healthier Division next year, and I am committed to making sure no club is left behind in the final stretch.

Division A, you should be proud of all that you achieved this year, no matter how small it may seem. But the year is not over. Whether you are working towards a Pathway milestone, helping your club grow, or simply showing up week after week, every contribution counts.

Let us finish this year the way we started it: together, and aiming high.

Division B

My dear fellow toasties,
I've opened almost every message over the past two years with these words, and it feels strange knowing this may be the last time. But if there's ever a moment to say it with meaning it's now.

Division B is a division that shows up. This year, we've delivered strong Area and Division contests, with members stepping forward, competing, and supporting one another to make each event a success. That energy has been consistent across the Division, and it says a lot about the kind of community we have.

I also want to recognise specific achievements. Tube Talk is the first club in the Division to achieve Smedley Distinguished this year, which is a fantastic milestone. Kings Speakers has also had an incredible turnaround, growing from three members to ten.

More broadly, all clubs that have achieved any level of Distinguished should be proud of themselves. Yes, these are Division achievements, but they only happen because members keep showing up, supporting one another, and rising to the challenge.

Finally, thank you to my team of Area Directors: Sarah, Riccardo, and Beverley for hitting the ground running, adapting to constant change, and continuing to support clubs throughout.



Mary-Anne Ledger

One of the biggest challenges this year has been capacity. At times, we tend to rely on a small number of people to carry a lot, and when that happens, it doesn't just stretch people, it starts to impact club leadership and sustainability.

This is the reality we need to acknowledge. Clubs cannot thrive on the shoulders of a few. We all have a role to play, in our clubs, in our own journeys, and in supporting one another. Let's not take that for granted.

My focus for the remainder of the year is to keep the momentum going and support clubs where it matters most. That means helping clubs finish strong, supporting membership growth, and encouraging progress towards Distinguished wherever possible.

I also want to keep recognising the effort behind the numbers. Behind every milestone is a club that kept going, adapted, and put in the work. As we head towards 30 June, my priority is to help clubs build on what they have already achieved and finish the year with pride.



Division C

It has been a huge honour to lead the Division C team this year and I want to thank and congratulate the tremendous team of Area Directors who made it possible.

This was never less apparent than with the area/division contests, and club officer training, where it was common to see four or more of us supporting each event - a real team effort, truly demonstrating how combining our forces helped make the items more manageable (and fun)! We have also welcomed several new clubs to the division this year, it's great to have you with us!

A key challenge is always to ensure we are providing the right level of tailoring of support for our clubs, while benefitting from sharing learnings across clubs where it is appropriate. This year we got better at this as the year went on, being better aware of which best practices from other clubs might make the best impact for incremental improvements for others, depending on their unique circumstances. We are also seeking to embed the learning to support the team for next year who can capitalise with a strong start.

For the remainder of the year, we will continue to focus on supporting our clubs to grow, particularly those with scope to get above the 'magic' 20-25 members, where we know that the growth of clubs tends to be more strongly self-sustaining. We also have some prospective clubs who are approaching their charter - so watch this space!



Richard Jones

Toastmasters is an amazing place to get involved, learn and grow, and participate to a superb community. In your club, and in the wider district, go for it, embrace opportunities and get involved! If you see spaces: volunteer! If you don't: volunteer anyway! There are always more opportunities that might not be visible! (Did I mention that having more hands to share is easier and more fun?)

I wish you a fantastic year ahead in your Toastmasters journey.



Division D

I am proud of all the members and leaders of Division D for exemplifying the toastmasters values throughout the year and serving selflessly. Under the active guidance of the Division Mentor and Past District Director Diane Richardson DTM and the DLT and DEC, we have achieved more than what we initially expected. We are in line together to exceed the Division Success Plan and indeed almost all Area and Club Success Plans for 2025-26.

Key Achievements

- 88% membership net renewal over base representing member satisfaction
- Now the largest division in the district with 678+ members up from being the second largest
- 143+ levels filed and expecting 300+ to be filed by year end despite three clubs under a year old
- 19 clubs achieved five or more DCP goals
- 15 Distinguished clubs with seven Select, one Presidents and one Smedley Distinguished already
- Three DTMs awarded to Rupa Dutta, Diane Richardson & Seema Menon

The geographical spread of 2475 square miles of 29 clubs was a challenge for joint meetings, area visits, training events, division contests and new club growth. This was overcome by cohesive teamwork from all committee & council members sharing the load and leveraging online communication. Two corporate clubs closed at the beginning of the year due to redundancies/loss of interest, posing a challenge for chartering more clubs.



Smita Narayan DTM

Focus for Remainder of Year

- 31 clubs of which 22 Distinguished
- Presidents Distinguished Division
- 900+ members aiming for 16.5% Membership growth.

Division D is DYNAMIC . I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all that helped us grow, as better communicators and leaders and to all who showed up and helped their club members grow. We are a member focused division and thanks to all executive committee members and Division Council members for serving tirelessly. Special thanks to Kanti, Ana, Milica, Rafael, Ian, Monica, Tom, Duncan, Ruth, Diane, Seema Rupa, Janet, Jeevan, Madhurantika, Ron, Arnaud, Ramesh & many more.



Division H

This year, Division H achieved Distinguished status in early April and at the time of writing, the only Distinguished Division in District 91. This reflects consistent effort across all areas, with 100% of clubs paid, strong engagement from club leaders, and 11 clubs already Distinguished. More clubs are actively working towards their goals before year-end.

Area H32 has reached Select Distinguished, setting a strong example of focused leadership, while Area H55 Director Malcolm Braganza was recognised as Area Director of the Month in March - a testament to the quality of leadership across the Division. Another highlight was a well-supported and successful Division Contest, where the standard of speeches and evaluations demonstrated clear growth.

A key challenge this year has been maintaining consistent communication and visibility across areas with differing engagement levels. I've learned that progress comes not from pushing harder, but from meeting clubs where they are and supporting them in ways that work for them. Shifting the focus from chasing outcomes to building trust, stability, and realistic progress has led to stronger results.

The priority now is to build on this momentum by supporting more clubs to achieve Distinguished status before 30 June. This includes completing remaining club visits, supporting membership growth, and helping committees stay focused on achievable goals.



Monica Dragnescu

The aim is not just to reach targets, but to build sustainable habits that carry into the next Toastmasters year.

Division H shows that results come from consistent effort over time. You showed up, did the work and it's paying off.

As we move towards the end of the year, keep it simple: stay consistent, support each other, and finish strong. You're closer than you think.



Division J

Although we are one of the smallest divisions in the District, we have so far obtained 85% renewal of our base figure, which is the best in the District. Some need more members but as a Division we are working on this. I have enjoyed visiting clubs across the division and attended all Area Contests and Club Officer Training.

By the end of the year I will have visited the majority of the clubs I am responsible for. I was involved in both the COT BETA training sessions within our District. All Clubs completed their Club Success Plans within the required time limits

The Division Contest in November was followed by a Division Club Officer Training, which started off the training season with a bang. Whilst we managed to get 72% of our Club Officers trained in the first half of the year, this reduced to 56% in the second half, meaning we need to be more encouraging to Committee members to get trained in both periods.

We have had challenges with numbers in some clubs but no loss of clubs and expect two new clubs to charter before the end of the year, if not before May. My aim as set out in my Success Plan was to have all Clubs at 20 or more members, this is still my goal but I have adjusted it to be at least the same number if not more clubs at 20 than at the start of 2025/26.



Alison Morris DTM

I could not have done any of this without the help of my lovely Area Directors and you the members. I am very proud to be a member of Division J and I feel I am leaving the Division in good standing although there is more to do and my year ends soon, but I will still be there to help, guide and support both in the Division and District.



Photo of the new Hemel Speakers Club Meeting where we donated a set of lights to the club, with John who made the lights and Sujanth the Club President

Division L

This year, I have focused on people, community, and leadership development to build strong momentum across Division L's five Areas and 21 clubs.

The contest seasons have been a key highlight, with full participation across all Areas and successful delivery of every contest, strengthening collaboration, confidence, and engagement across the Division. We have achieved 119 educational awards, including one Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) and four Triple Crowns, reflecting consistent member progression.

Club performance continues to strengthen, with two clubs at Select Distinguished, four at Distinguished, and six progressing towards higher levels. Notably, Area L16 has been among the first Areas in the District to achieve Distinguished status, demonstrating strong leadership and execution. Leadership continuity remains a key strength, with 100% of successor roles identified and two Area Directors stepping forward as candidates for Division Director, reinforcing a strong and sustainable leadership pipeline.

This year began with significant structural challenges, including inheriting four inactive clubs and navigating the impact of realignment. In addition, several clubs faced venue disruptions, requiring adaptability across the Division. My approach has been to focus on collective leadership, consistency, and proactive support. Through regular engagement, coaching, and collaboration, we have stabilised performance and supported clubs in rebuilding momentum. The key learning has been clear: sustainable success is built through trust, visibility, and shared ownership at every level of the organisation.

My priority for the remainder of the year is to sustain momentum and deliver a strong finish. I am focused on membership retention and growth, while ensuring a seamless leadership transition across all Areas and the Division. Following the contest season, engagement across clubs remains strong, and performance is increasingly reflecting the strength of leadership and community within Division L.



Elena Bella

I will continue to prioritise consistent support, visibility, and alignment across all clubs, while developing future leaders and strengthening collaboration across Areas.

Division L's progress is driven by its people — our members, club officers, coaches, and leadership team. Leadership in Toastmasters is not a title; it is action. Every time you step forward, support a member, or take on a role, you are contributing to something bigger.

As we approach the final phase of the year, I encourage you to stay engaged, support each other, and continue to lead by example. Together, we lead. Together, we grow. Together, we deliver.



Team 2025-26





District Director

The 2025 - 2026 program year has been full of energy, dedication, and remarkable achievements across District 91.

One of the highlights came at the Toastmasters International Convention in Philadelphia, where the UK flag was proudly carried on behalf of District 91. Seeing our District represented on the global stage, alongside Toastmasters from so many countries and cultures, was a powerful reminder of the diversity, collaboration, and community that define what we do every day.

Our work in local clubs contributes to a worldwide movement celebrating leadership, communication, and personal growth.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the District Leadership Team for their commitment throughout the year:

- Program Quality Director, Seema Menon, DTM
- Club Growth Director, Lynne Gayer, DTM
- PR Manager, Allen Paul, DTM
- Finance Manager, Guler Cortis
- District Administration Manager, Deborah Stevens
- Immediate Past District Director and DLC Chair, Steve Vear, MBE, DTM

A special thank you also goes to our Parliamentarian, Past District 91 Director, Rupa Datta, DTM, Credentials Chair, Olga Galaiko, DTM, and Alignment Chair, Barbara Saph, DTM. Your behind-the-scenes work keeps the district organised, informed, and moving forward.



Debbie Williams DTM

Across the year, we've celebrated achievements in many ways. In the second half of the Toastmasters year, we introduced Area Director of the Month, recognising outstanding leadership and dedication at the area level. This initiative has inspired excellence and showcased the passion that drives our District.



Another highlight was the redesign of the District 91 website, led by Rob Dewing, Janet Alkema, DTM, and Amy Jones, DTM. The refreshed site makes information more accessible, improves communication, and presents our district in a professional, modern way. It's a testament to the creativity, collaboration, and dedication of those working behind the scenes.

I have also been fortunate to receive mentorship and support from many remarkable Toastmasters along the way including: Region Advisor Lilian Shaftacola, DTM; Past District 91 Directors Helena Boden-Brewer, DTM; Andy Hammond, DTM; Diane Richardson, DTM; and International Directors Francesco Fedele, DTM and Patrick Oluyide, DTM. Your guidance, encouragement, and example have been invaluable and inspiring throughout this year.



Philadelphia also highlighted the power of inclusivity and global connection. Seeing Toastmasters from around the world come together reminded us that our work goes beyond individual clubs or districts, it contributes to a global network of learning, growth, and leadership.

It has been an honor to share this journey with such a dedicated and inspiring community.

I have been truly proud to serve as District Director for the 2025 - 2026 program year.

Your resilience, teamwork, and passion have been truly inspiring.

While challenges with club numbers have tested us, every member and leader has stepped up. Clubs have thrived through creative leadership, milestone achievements, and innovative initiatives. Each story reflects the dedication that makes District 91 a vibrant and thriving community.

This council pack celebrates all that you, the members, and leaders of District 91, have accomplished so far. From club-level successes to district-wide initiatives, every achievement is a reminder of the strength, creativity, and collaboration that defines our district.



Thank you for your commitment, your enthusiasm, and the difference you make every day. Together, we have achieved so much, and it has been a privilege to celebrate this remarkable year with all of you.

Program Quality Director

Building Forward: A Year of Simplifying processes, Supportive and Sustainability in District 91

District 91 has long been known for its strong culture of excellence. This year was no different but what stood out was not just what we achieved, but how we chose to achieve it.

A Strong Foundation, A Clear Direction

The district's performance reflects a year of steady momentum and intentional progress. With Pathways adoption at 86%, there is clear evidence of engagement and commitment across clubs and encouraging 500 new members who joined since January 2026 to start their Pathways journey could take this adoption percentage higher.

Educational achievements have been equally encouraging. With more than 920 level completions and nine members achieving Distinguished Toastmaster award, the focus on learning and growth has remained strong. These milestones are not just metrics, they represent confidence built, voices strengthened and leaders in the making.

Club success continues to shine through, with Sustainable Speakers and Tube Talk Toastmasters leading the way as Smedley Distinguished Clubs. Alongside them, 65 clubs have achieved Distinguished status, with many more within reach, demonstrating that excellence is not isolated, but shared across the district.



Seema Menon DTM

At the same time, efforts to strengthen leadership capability have continued through District officer training with 100% Division and Area Directors trained, flexible Corporate Club Officer Training sessions, Pathways, VPE drop-ins and Contest Collective. Each initiative has been designed with one goal in mind, to simplify access, provide support and create consistency.

A promotional graphic for the District 91 Corporate Club Officers Training Series. The graphic features the Toastmasters International logo and the year 1924. It includes the text "CORPORATE CLUB OFFICERS TRAINING SERIES" and "LEARN FROM SOME OF OUR TOASTMASTERS MOST INFLUENTIAL LEADERS". It also lists the dates and times: "NOV 4TH TO 6TH - 8AM - 9AM" and "NOV 18TH TO 20TH - 12PM - 1PM". At the bottom, it says "3 TOPICS, 6 SESSIONS" and "1 EMPOWERING JOURNEY". The graphic is decorated with several circular portraits of women, including Seema Menon DTM.

The People Behind the Progress

While the numbers tell one part of the story, the true strength of the year lies in the people behind it.

The Program Quality team brought not just expertise, but a willingness to experiment, collaborate and grow together.

Janet Alkema, leading the Trainers Bureau and Drop-In sessions, became a trusted sounding board, someone who combined structure with creativity, always open to trying new ideas.

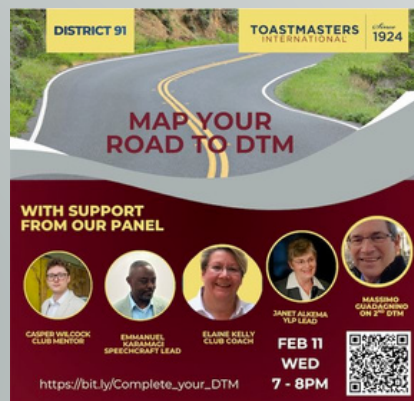
Pallavi Pawar & Alistair Driscoll brought their corporate expertise into Club Officer Training, ensuring sessions were practical, relevant and impactful.

Elango Thiruppandiaraj & Shubham Jain transformed incentives into engaging, technology-driven experiences making recognition simple, visible and motivating.

Rekha Mathew & Madhurantika Moulick stepped into podcasting for the first time, creating the Ditch the Nerves podcast and delivering 18 episodes this year filled with leadership insights and inspiring stories.

Innovation also took shape through Edeje Onwude, who introduced the Mentor Buddy concept, an initiative grounded in the belief that no one should navigate their Toastmasters journey alone. This idea carries a deeper personal connection.

Jean Gamester, a constant guiding light, has been an invaluable mentor to me offering perspective, encouragement and clarity through the year. That experience reinforces a simple truth: every member and every officer benefits from having a mentor. Mentor Buddy is an extension of that belief creating a culture where support is not incidental, but intentional. Simplification remained a consistent theme throughout the year.



Jeevan George developed tools that streamlined contest promotions and certificate generation, while Rory Graves from ToastHost helped redesign the way Club Officer Training is tracked reducing administrative effort and freeing up time for leadership. And when it came to making everything work seamlessly, Rob Dewing is always there, solving challenges and enabling ideas to come to life.

Reimagining Connection: The November Milestone

In a shift from tradition, District 91 hosted a mid-year event that brought members together to reconnect, recharge and celebrate. The District Humorous Speech and Table Topics Finals were held as a standalone event for the first time in a few years, creating a unique space focused on spontaneity, creativity and joy.

The impact was immediate. Members experienced a more focused contest environment, the calendar felt more manageable and most importantly, the event created a sense of belonging and energy across the district. It was a simple idea, delivered in a supportive way, with the potential to be sustained for years to come.



A Year of Learning and Building

This was a year of experimentation, reflection and growth.

Not everything worked perfectly and that was part of the journey. What mattered was the willingness to try, to learn and to improve. Every initiative, every adjustment, every conversation contributed to a bigger goal: creating systems and experiences that are not just effective today, but sustainable for the future.

As the year moves towards its close, the focus remains clear - act early, stay consistent and support every member, especially those just starting their journey.

Because success in District 91 is about creating an environment where progress happens naturally.

An environment that is supportive.
An approach that is simple.
A vision that is sustainable.

And together, that is exactly what has been built.

Collaboration, Leadership and Spirit

The spirit of collaboration extended far beyond the core team. Paul Walsh, as District Chief Judge, ensured that contest judging was handled with integrity and care. Pearl Cadogan, the conference director, brought resilience, humour and unwavering support. Jill Segal, as Conference Mentor, provided guidance and wisdom that helped shape key decisions. And behind it all, the conference team worked tirelessly often unseen, but deeply impactful bringing the Toastmasters spirit to life through their dedication.



DISTRICT 91

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL Since 1924

Flow with The Fall

DISTRICT HUMOROUS SPEECH
and
TABLE TOPICS CONTEST FINALS

23 NOV 2025 | 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM



November
District
Contest Finals



Club Growth Director

THANK YOU to every member and leader, for being responsive, for taking part and for engaging. Club Growth would not be where we are without you.



Lynne Gayer DTM

Campaigns

The year has been full of creativity, connections and a fair few challenges! The Tube, Bus and Digital campaigns created excitement, engagement and enquiries. Additionally, we also invested in the Toastmasters Global LinkedIn campaign. The result of all these campaigns led to District 91 being number one in the world for new membership payments at the end of March. These campaigns came together with thanks to Diane Richardson, Genevieve Stafford Jack, Janet Alkema, Maria Pardo, Ramesh Halai and Rob Dewing. Plus, thanks to Seema Menon and her team for putting things in motion last year.



New Clubs

It has been an exciting journey for three new clubs, Richmond and Wandsworth, Toastmasters at the BBC and Wells Fargo. Well done, to all those involved over several weeks and months in bringing the new clubs into the Toastmasters family. We have more to come - eight clubs are in the pipeline getting ready to charter before year end. Exciting times all round.



Heartfelt gratitude and thanks go to my Club Growth Team;

- Arnaud Sautre - For being the Corporate Lead and for providing knowledge and wisdom.
- Casper Wilcock - For leading our Club Mentoring programme as well as being a Mentor himself.
- Emanuel Karamagi - For determinedly leading the Speechcraft programme and never giving up.
- Jeevan George – For simplifying things in the background.
- Kate Jonnes - Our Extension Chair in supporting new club leads.
- Lydia McDowal - For doing the, sometimes thankless, task of cold calling prospects as well as developing a funnel for next year.
- Ramesh Halai - For being an absolute rock in his support of demos to help prospective clubs understand what Toastmasters is all about as well as dealing with rounds of paperwork when clubs go to Charter.

- Shubam Jain - For leading the Club Growth incentive recognition award communications.
- Simon McKee - For being a supportive Club Coach Lead and for helping to keep me sane!
- Janet Alkema - Not officially part of the Club Growth Team but provided a huge amount of support with the educational drop-in sessions amongst other things.



Sharing Knowledge and Experiences

Many members have stepped up to share their knowledge and experiences either through district newsletter articles or through the drop-in sessions. Thank you for sharing to help others develop and grow; Allen Paul, Apoorva Agarwal, Colette Ainscough, Diane Richardson, Emanuel Karamagi, Fern Kerr, Florian Bay, Kevin Harrington, Laura Jones, Maria Pardo, Monika Dragnescu, Nadya Hamedi, Olga Galaiko, Sonia Botsarova, Sujanth Sivanesan.

Sponsors

Clubs, whether new or challenged benefit from Sponsors, Mentors and Coaches. To all those who stepping up to Sponsor a club and take the lead to bring Toastmasters to a whole new group of people, you create an environment where others will gain, develop and grow.

Mentors

To all the mentors, wow what a difference you make as new clubs start to realise the benefits of the Toastmasters programme. A special welcome to the new mentors this Toastmaster year; Ana Sampaio, Casper Willcock, Harshit Agrawal, Malcolm Breganza, Riccardi Genevri, Valerija Slavina.

Quotes from grateful clubs:-
 'What a tremendous support' and
 'Our mentor has been an amazing support!'

Leaders

Club Officers, Area and Division Directors, You continue to make a difference every day. You lead, you inspire, you support. As at 14th April we had 158 clubs and 8641 membership payments. We are still waiting on 12 clubs to renew, 11 of these being corporate clubs that have challenging payment processes. We still have some work to do and two months to go. Getting back to base and beyond is in sight. Your time and effort is truly valued. Thank you for everything you do and will continue to do and together we will grow.



DLT

To my fellow Trio members and District Leadership Team, the year continues to be a challenge and I'm sure these challenges will take us right up to 30th June!

We are a strong team who work together, support each other and we are laying down foundations for next year.

THANK YOU ALL

Coaches

To all our club coaches who take on the challenge to bring low membership clubs up to distinguished status. You help to bring back the energy and excitement so clubs can continue to flourish. A special welcome to the new coaches this Toastmaster year; Barbara Saph, Kanti Doshi, Massimo Guadagnino and Nick Ronald.

DISTRICT 91 TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL *since 1924*

DROP IN SESSIONS

ACHIEVING CLUB MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

DISCOVER PROVEN STRATEGIES TO ATTRACT MEMBERS, ENHANCE CLUB VITALITY, AND STRENGTHEN LEADERSHIP THROUGH KEY TECHNIQUES

KEVIN HARRINGTON
A17 AREA DIRECTOR

WED DEC 10TH
7 - 8 PM

<https://bit.ly/ClubGrowthStrategies>

DISTRICT 91 TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL *since 1924*

PRACTICAL STEPS AND ADVICE FOR A SUCCESSFUL **SPEECHCRAFT**

Grow your Club Series

EMMANUEL KARAMAGI

Register Now

- Boost Club membership
- Community exposure
- Leadership Opportunities

NOV 05 WED
7:30 - 8:30PM

bit.ly/Speech_Craft_2025

DISTRICT 91 TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL *since 1924*

CREATE REELS / SHORT VIDEOS THAT GROW YOUR CLUB

Master Short Videos for Club Promotion in this interactive session

REGISTER

NOV 2 SUN
5PM - 6PM

<https://bit.ly/CreatingReels>

USING IMAGES

BEST PLATFORMS TO USE

ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS



SUN

7 - 8PM

https://bit.ly/PR-and_Social_Media



IT'S ALL ABOUT Club Growth Campaigns



DISTRICT 91

TOASTMASTERS SELFIE CHALLENGE

SPOTTED ON THE LONDON TUBE!

Spot the Toastmasters "Speak, Lead, Grow." poster at a London Underground station.

📷 Take a selfie with the poster

✉ Email it to: spotted@d91toastmasters.org.uk

Please include in your email:

- Your name
- Station spotted
- Your Toastmasters club

Win £50!

TOASTMASTERS SPOTTED - BUS EDITION

Not travelling by Tube? Keep your eyes open on the roads! 🚗

📷 Spot a Toastmasters advert on a bus
Take a clear photo of the bus

DISTRICT 91 **TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL** *Since 1924*

CONVERT GUESTS TO MEMBERS

FROM HESITANT GUEST TO CONFIDENT MEMBER

Register Now

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

DEVELOPING SKILLS

FEB 15 SUN
7 - 8PM

NADYA HAMED, DTM

DISTRICT 91 **TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL** *Since 1924*

FROM 14 TO 53 MEMBERS HOW DID MARIA DO IT?

MARKETING

Grow your Club Series

MARIA PARDO

This year's Club Growth Campaigns made sure that District 91 was getting the word out to prospective members as well as encouraging existing clubs to grow their membership. From LinkedIn, tube stations and buses to drop ins and selfie challenges, we've had it all!

DROP IN SESSIONS

HOW TO RUN AN OPEN HOUSE MEETING

GROW YOUR CLUB SERIES

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW TO START A CLUB

GROW YOUR CLUB SERIES

FERN KERR STARTED HSBC 8CS LONDON TOASTMASTERS A YEAR AGO. IT HAS NOW GROWN TO 33 MEMBERS AND WON AWARDS AT THE DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Public Relations Manager

If there's one thing we've learned this year, it's that PR is not about sending messages. It's about making them move, to ensure that the right information reaches the right people, and more importantly, that it leads to action.

This year, we continued to strengthen our communication across multiple channels:

Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube helped us create visibility and engagement. We achieved 1K Subscribers on Youtube, 14K followers on LinkedIn and 7K on Facebook. Our website has been restructured, making it easier for current and future teams to update and maintain.

And at the centre of it all, the District newsletter. The newsletter has evolved into a single place where members can see everything important happening across the district, from opportunities and events to ideas they can take back to their clubs.



Allen Paul Pulikkal
DTM

One of the biggest shifts this year has been our focus on short-form content.

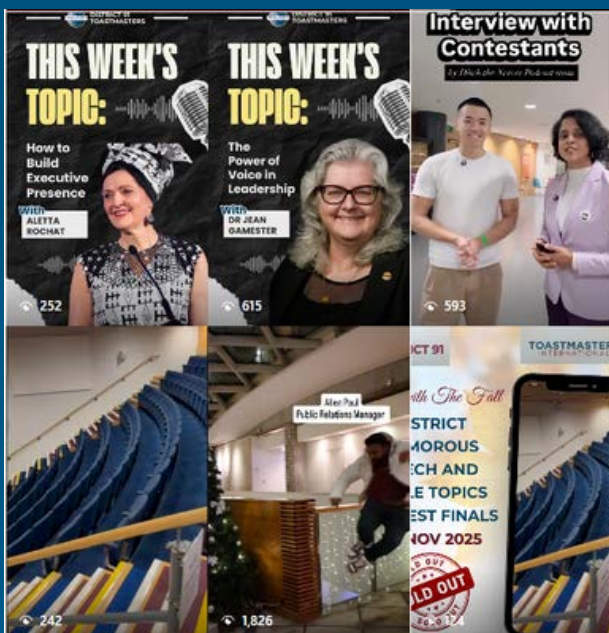
Reels have helped us capture attention in a way traditional posts often don't. They've allowed us to show the real energy of Toastmasters, the people, the moments, and the stories behind the meetings. Because sometimes, a 60-second video can do what a long message cannot.

This year, we continued campaigns that went beyond simple promotion, and created participation.

The Tube Selfie Challenge brought a sense of fun and visibility, with members spotting Toastmasters across London and engaging with the campaign in a creative way.

Similarly, our Bus Campaign across multiple cities extended our reach beyond traditional channels, helping Toastmasters be seen in everyday spaces.

These initiatives showed that PR is at its best when it invites people to take part, not just observe.



This year, we also introduced PR Awards to celebrate clubs that are doing this well:

- Outstanding PR Award
- Best PR Campaign
- Best Design
- Best Reel

These are not just awards, they are a way to highlight what's working, so others can learn and grow. The Awards will be presented at the 'Hall of Fame' after the end of the term.



Behind the Scenes, PR is never a one-person effort.

A big thank you to:

- Gena, for bringing ideas to life through design and social media
- Jeevan, for shaping and delivering the district newsletter
- Janet, for continuing to do designs in my absence.
- Rob, for our website.



Their work has helped ensure that our communication is not just consistent, but meaningful.

Looking Ahead, when communication works, everything else becomes easier, clubs grow, members engage, and leadership becomes more effective.

This year wasn't just about campaigns, posts, or platforms.

It was about people, the member who found the confidence to speak, the guest who walked into a meeting for the first time, the club that grew stronger because someone shared the right message at the right time.

PR plays a small part in that journey. But when it works well, it creates moments that stay with people long after the message is gone.

And that is what we continue to build.



GENEVIEVE STAFFORD



JEEVAN GEORGE



ROB DEWING

Immediate Past District Director

The role of the Immediate Past District Director is to support the District Leadership team in whatever way the team and the District Director directs. This year, as is normal it also involved the pleasure of chairing the District Leadership Committee. I want to thank all the members of my team for their service – you will see our report linked in this pack, a lot of work has gone into getting to that point, and I thank them on behalf of you for their service.

What started as a visit to Wessex Speakers in Winchester some ten years ago has ended in a journey which can mostly be looked back on with such joy and gratitude.



Steve Vear MBE DTM

While I have spent a lot of time joking about how it is other peoples 'fault' that I ended up in District Leadership, as I prepare to leave office as a district officer for the final time, now seems the right time to make some final acknowledgements.





First of all, thank you to my District Leadership Team of 2024/25 – what a pleasure and honour it was to lead you.

I also want to thank some very special people on a more individual basis:

Vanessa King – thank you for trusting me to take on Division A all those years ago and for always being there when I needed you, including serving as my Parliamentarian.

Rupa Datta – you never stopped asking me to serve again, and what a pleasure it was to sit alongside you as Parliamentarian.

Jean Gamester – For more than one reason, I would not have been District Director if it wasn't for you. Thank you for being an amazing role model for us all to look up to. I could not be prouder that you are set to be a future International President. You are amazing.

Debbie Williams & Seema Menon – I know we didn't get the result in 2024/25 that we deserved thanks to some disappointing circumstances, but we can always be proud for the way we led our District and build the memories we did. I think our trip to California will always be my most favourite Toastmaster memory. I know this year has not been easy, but to watch you both grow and achieve this year has been a delight.



I now join a special and talented group of members as a Past District Director of District 91. A group that I am proud to be part of and will do all I can to champion our District and our members at every opportunity.

DTT Team



Steve Vear MBE DTM

Debbie Williams DTM



Allen Paul Pulikkal DTM



Seema Menon DTM



Deborah Stevens



Lynne Gayer DTM



Guler Cortis

Division A

George Weller
A1



Kevin Harrington
A17



John Christie DTM
A19



Yogendra Paranjpe Division Director



Rob Dewing
A42



Suhas Kumar DTM
A46



Kelvin Lam
A62

Division B



Riccardo Ginevri
B6



Beverley
Daniel-Blugh
B8



Sarah Beckwith
B18



Mary-Anne Ledger Division Director

Division C



Richard Jones Division Director



Eleni Kyrtsia
C5



Pearl Cadogan
C25



Afreen Kansal
C34



Hephzibah
Emereole
C58

Milica Bennett
D14



Division D



Smita Narayan DTM Division Director



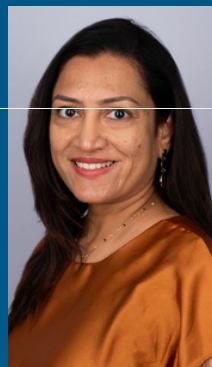
Ana Sampaio
D20



Ian Rex-Hawkes
D29



Rafael Guzman
D53



Kanti Doshi
D61



Division H



Monica Dragnescu Division Director



Johnathan Kaye
H32



Andrew Smith
H35



Rosemary
Dzikunu
H37



Malcolm
Braganza
H55

Helyn Ashford
J4



Division J



Dominic Heaney
J7



Ryan Olden
J10



Adrian Lane
J11



Andrew Graner
J22



Alison Morris DTM Division Director

Division L

Adalgisa Mazzone
L16



Rajan Jesuraj
L23



Elena Bella Division Director



Muriel Teisseire
L27



Sarah Ndebele
L56

District Officers



Rupa Datta DTM
District
Parliamentarian



Olga Galaiko DTM
Credentials Chair



Paul Walsh DTM
District Chief
Judge



Barbara Saph DTM
Alignment Chair

Thank you!

Thank you to all the Club Presidents and Vice Presidents of Education who have served as part of the District Council this year.

Thanks also to all our club officers and all our members across the District for all you do for Toastmasters - whether that is competing in contests, volunteering for roles to allow contests to happen or simply participating in club meetings, we would not be District 91 without you!



DISTRICT 91

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

Since
1924

#WeAreDISTRICT91