



## 10 Years of Debating

### A MASTERCLASS IN DEBATING

33 people turned out for the debating masterclass with Paul Carroll on Tuesday 9th April at The Windsor Castle.

Immediate Past President William welcomed guests and members alike, and introduced the club's founder, debate supremo and Distinguished Toastmaster Paul Carroll, who had prepared a treat for those present.

Paul started with the basic structure of an argument, tips on building a strong case with sound premises and spoke about how useful it can be to defend the side you DON'T personally agree with.

The participants were then divided into groups, each with an experienced debater as facilitator, and allocated a motion that they had to create three arguments, or premises, for and against.

In the next round, two spokesmen from each group presented the arguments they had agreed on, before being asked by Paul whether they presented the view they personally held.

We started our celebrations of 10 years as a debating club by providing all participants with a free drink (of their choosing), which certainly contributed to the jollity of proceedings.



Paul Carroll showing how it's done



Thank you to Paul for putting together and leading a brilliant session!



### Verbal Duels - Victory for First-Timer Karen!

On an otherwise cold and miserable April evening, 24 people attended an evening of heated verbal duelling on Tuesday 23rd at The Windsor Castle, Victoria.

Club President David welcomed guests and members and Debate Chair William followed with an explanation of the structure of the Duel Debates, reminding all of our intention to practice peaceful verbal duelling at 104 LD.

First up was Maria Galvanova, proposing the motion **This House Believes AI Will Make Us Happier**. She was opposed by Sasha Kovyaskina. The Q&A was kicked off by member Peter Dickson, followed by several engaged questions from guests and members in the audience.



Before the debate: 8 voted for, 5 against and 11 abstained. After the debate there was a swing to the Opposition with: 5 voting for, 12 against and 7 abstaining. Well done to Sasha for winning the vote and swing, and to both for presenting an interesting and often personal take on AI.

After the break and refilled glasses it was time for the second duel, in which our new member and first-time debater Karen Skehel proposed the motion **This House Would Legalise Assisted Suicide**. She was opposed by Paul Carroll. Again Peter kicked off the Q&A, and the audience was so engaged that the Q&A ran into overtime.

Before the debate: 9 voted in favour, 5 opposed and 10 abstained. After the debate: 11 voted in favour, 5 opposed and 8 abstained. Very well done to Karen for winning the vote and the swing!

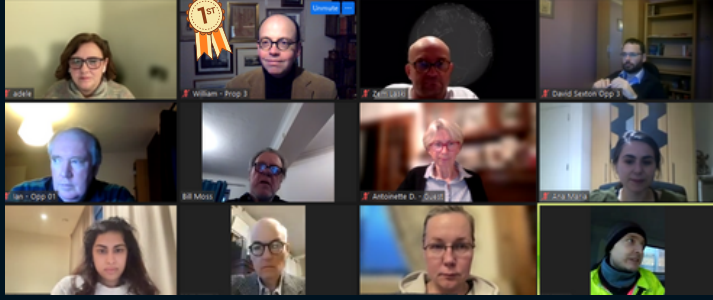
Karen also won the audience prize for Best Speaker, so double congratulations to her.

Evaluations were provided by Renata and David, respectively.

They highlighted many of the good points on both sides of the two debates, and offered recommendations.



# ONLINE CLUB: URBAN FOX HUNTING AND THE VALUE OF DEMOCRACY



Our TM Online Debaters club held its first meeting on the 10th of April, with 19 people in total, 9 of whom were guests.

President of the Online Club, Bill Moss, welcomed all and chaired the Table Topic mini-debates, ranging from making illegal drugs legal, Trump's virtues and urban fox hunting to abolishing capitalism and the importance of what you know (not *whom*). KB won best Table Topic for her defence of Trumpy. The prepared debate was on the motion **THB Globalism Renders Democracy Meaningless**.

## Members: Club AGM on Tuesday 14th

All members in good standing make your voice heard!

Please make sure to come to the AGM, which will be held at the start of the meeting at 7pm sharp on the 14th of May, in person at The Windsor Castle pub, Victoria. We will be electing the Club President and Executive Committee, and you may stand or suggest candidates on the night.

## 104 NEEDS YOU!!

104 is running 3 meetings a month. There is a friendly and dedicated team behind every meeting and every workshop.

Being part of the Club Committee that organises the club activities is not only helpful to the club as a whole, but a great opportunity for you to gain leadership experience. And it looks good on a CV.

Let William know if you're willing to help serve on the committee that starts from July. You may also volunteer to help run the online club separately.

Before the debate 5 voted in favour, 4 against with 6 abstaining. After the debate, which included a very engaged audience during the Floor Contributions, the vote had swung towards the Proposition, with 9 in favour, 2 against and 3 abstaining.

Well done to the Proposition for winning the vote and swing!

William Hagerup, speaking for the Prop, won Best Debate Speech.

Paul Carroll delivered the Debate Evaluation and pointed out the importance of clarity on terminology - *globalism* and *globalisation* had been used interchangeably in a slightly confusing way.

## Club Podcast 2135 listens!

The club's podcast, **The Debating Toastcast**, are reaching ever more listeners. The latest episode is with our Club President, David Sexton, whilst our most popular single episode has 364 listens. A new episode is on its way on *Logos, Ethos and Pathos*, and we will soon have Paul Carroll on to talk about the club's 10 year anniversary!



Sarah Beckwith (L) in Episode 8 talking about how debating and Toastmasters have been useful to her

There are episodes on rebuttal, on preparing an argument, on rhetoric and on the enthymeme, one with Lo Luong Lo on fallacies, interviews with members, as well as other episodes that can be helpful for debaters who wish to learn more and develop their skills.

The podcast is available on Spotify and Amazon Podcasts as well as YouTube.

The **Documents & Resources** section on the club website has lots of helpful material for debaters and so has our blog, *Disagreeing Agreeably* - please take a look.

## NEXT DEBATE MEETINGS:

**14th May**

Club AGM  
In person at The Windsor Castle  
pub in Victoria

Debate: This House Would Provide  
Puberty Blockers for Trans People  
On the NHS + AGM w/Club Election

**28th May**

In person at The Windsor Castle  
pub in Victoria

Panel Discussion: Question Time  
format - topic:  
**Why Britain Must Change**

**4th June**

Next ONLINE club meeting

Format and topic to be announced.

Contact Kristina to take part.