

Send them back!



Some of the attendees at
Russell Square

Tuesday 28th February 35 people met, 12 of whom online, for our hybrid debate meeting at 46-47 Russell Square, London. The motion for the prepared debate was: **This House Would Keep Museum Artefacts Where They Are.**

The meeting started as usual with Table Topic mini-debates in the first half, chaired brilliantly by Lucy, with topics ranging from the relative benefit of apples and onions to the proper definition of a peacock. Club President, William H., won the vote for Best Table Topic Speaker, giving a good impression of a peacock in the process.

The prepared debate was chaired by Kristina, and our new member, Alexandra, spoke for the first time, giving an impressive opening speech for the Proposition.

Before the debate the vote was 9 in favour and 9 opposing with 17 abstaining (of the 35). After the debate – and despite an initial muddle by the President – it was clear that the Opposition had picked up more votes and got 13 with 10 going to the Proposition and 12 abstaining. As such, the motion was **defeated**.

Sarah won best Debate Speaker.



Former President of 104, Christopher Walker, giving an emotional appeal for the Opposition!



Sarah (r), being congratulated by Club President William. She is an experienced Toastmaster and won the Best Debate Speaker award. William won Best Table Topic mini-debate speech.

Limits to toleration!

25 people tuned in on Zoom for the online debate meeting on Tuesday 14th that started with former president and current debate coach Lo Luong Lo chairing the Table Topic mini-debates, with topics ranging from love and sports to maths and Artificial Intelligence.

Our Vice President Education, David, won the public vote as best Table Topic speaker, opposing the motion that This House Would Separate International Sports Events and Geo-Politics. So, bring out those protest banners!

In the second half our immediate Past President, Renata, chaired the prepared debate on the motion **This House Believes Tolerance Should Come Before Limiting Free Speech.**

As a value debate rather than a straight-forward policy debate, there was considerable room for interpretation, but both teams made excellent points about the necessity for toleration to guard against political censorship and compelled speech on the one hand, and the need to update our approach to respond to a new, digital age, building on the current practice of legislation on the other.

Before the debate 10 voted in favour, 4 opposed and 8 abstained. After the debate, 4 voted in favour, 14 opposed and 4 abstained. The motion as such was **defeated** with a swing to the Opposition. Well done Opposition team!

Doing her first debate speech at 104 London Debaters, Kennedy, who spoke for the Opposition, was voted the Best Debate Speaker by the audience – a tremendous achievement! Well done. Kennedy!



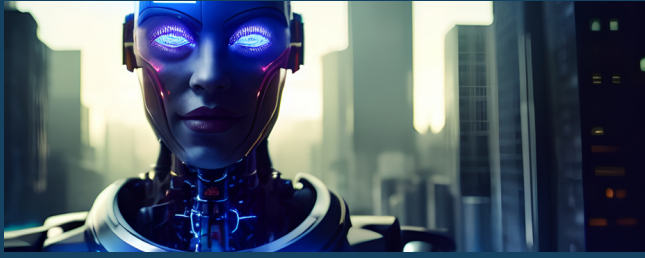
Some of the attendees at the Zoom meeting Tuesday 14th February. Kennedy won Best Debate Speaker.

At the pub there are no opponents!

The conversation
flowed at the
Queen's Larder pub
after the meeting.
From left to right:
Chris, guest Mo,
Sarah and VP
Mentorship Ami



New podcast episodes!



There are now two new episodes for you to delve into on the club's podcast, *The Debating Toastcast*: one on Paul Carroll's 3 questions for proposition teams and one on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and debating – how can it help you and what are the pitfalls.

This is a 3-way conversation between David Sexton, our VPE who has used ChatGPT for debate prep, Philip Corless, who wrote the excellent blog article on the subject, and Club President William who is utterly ignorant on the subject.

All episodes are on [Spotify](#) and [Amazon Music](#) – make sure you subscribe to get the future episodes!

NEW MEMBER WELCOME!

Alexandra Marsanu

Alexandra has been living in London since 2011. She works in management consulting and has advised dozens of clients but has always been enthusiastic about politics and current events having studied both political theory and business. She did her maiden

speech on Tuesday 28th for the Proposition.

“I joined 104 Debaters because I wanted to practice and improve my critical thinking, listening and public speaking skills. Speaking in public and carrying discussions in large events is a core part of my job and I’m looking to become more confident at this while debating some fun topics”

Members can now **renew membership** for the **reduced** rate of £70 (Down from £80!) That's only £5 per meeting!

Become a Committee Member

Clubs such as 104 London Debaters do not run themselves.

Our nomination committee, led by Immediate Past President, Renata, will be in touch to ask if you'd like to be nominated to serve as a club officer and help run the club. **The GM will be held on the 9th of May at 6.15pm. All members should attend, so please pencil this in your diary.**

You can find the Club Constitution with details on the roles by clicking [HERE](#) or look on the club website.

New venue from April 25th

From Tuesday, April 25th, the club will be meeting in new localities, or actually old localities: indeed, this is a return to where the club was born!

The new (old) meeting place is the Windsor Castle pub in Victoria, a 6 minutes walk from Victoria Station. Address: 23 Francis St, London SW1P 1DN



Not *THE* Windsor Castle, but still...

NEXT EVENTS:

March 2023:

**March 14th
on Zoom:**
Panel discussion

Topic:
**Is Western Democracy in
Decline?**

**March 28th
in-person (hybrid):**
Humorous debate

Motion:
THW legalise polygamy

Website: <https://104londondebaters.club/>

April 2023:

**April 11th
on Zoom:**
Standard debate

Motion:
TBC

**April 25th
in-person (hybrid):**
Blind debate

Motion:
**You'll find out on the
night!**