



Stick to one spouse!

Renata chairing the last
 debate at Russell Square



36 people turned up for debate on Tuesday 28th. 21 in the room and 15 on the Zoom. We had 13 guests in all, which is fantastic.

We also welcomed new members Anna Heyman and Peter Dickson. Peter had his debate debut speaking for the proposition and showed few signs of being a beginner.

The Table Topic session was led by Sasha, although Lucie had to kick it off as Sasha was delayed on the train – oh the joys of public transport. Topics ranged from sun-cream to wild camping and former Club President Joann was voted Best Table Topic speaker - well done, Joann!

Immediate Past President Renata was Debate Chair, and before the prepared debate 4 people voted in favour of the motion **This House Would Legalise Polygamy**, with 10 against and the rest abstaining. After the debate the Proposition had impressively doubled their vote, but the Opposition had also increased their vote to 12, and so the motion was rejected with a swing to the Prop. Siso, speaking for the Opposition, was voted best Debate Speaker – well done, Siso!

Former President of 104, Joann Walsh won best Table Topic speech on wild camping!



The conversation *flowed* at the Queen's Larder pub after the meeting.

Siso won the Best Debate Speaker award for her excellent Opposition speech.

Democracy works (sometimes)

On Tuesday 14th 19 people met on Zoom, four of whom were guests, for the Panel Discussion on the topic **Is Western Democracy in Decline?**

Five members had each taken on one persona each: The Philosopher, Chiko; The Historian; Renata; The Populist, William; The Economist; Lucie; The Policy Adviser, Lo, and the Panel was confidently moderated by Ami.

Each of these had researched the topic from their respective perspectives and presented their general take in the initial statement, which took us from ancient Greece to the challenges faced by the Western democracies today: can democracy and capitalism coexist, asked the Economist; democracy is messy, declared the Policy Advisor, but not in decline; it hasn't produced the result working people need, it has failed, claimed the Populist; from its early incarnation to today, democracy is flawed, explained the Historian; democracy is misguided and can only work in small communities, posited the Philosopher.

The audience voted on their favourite speaker of the night. Club President William, who had to step in and do the Populist at short notice, won the award. Congratulations, William!

After the discussion there was time for a round of Table Topics, jointly chaired by Sasha and David.

Finally members and guests spent nearly an hour in the Virtua Bar continuing the conversation.



Some of the attendees at the Panel Discussion Tuesday 14th March. Club President William as the Populist won the popular vote.

At the pub there are no opponents!



New podcast on THAT speech!



Club President William has taken a close look at a debate speech given at the Oxford Union by the comedian and social commentator Konstantin Kisin. The speech has had millions of views, but how does it measure up to the debate standards we set at 104?

Listen to the latest podcast to see what can be learned - what works well, what could - and indeed should - have been better.

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

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Rod Goodyer

Rod is a qualified actuary currently working in the field of investment and with over twenty years of experience.

Rod recently joined 104 and is keen to develop his skills in building a persuasive argument and critical thinking while enjoying the debates



Peter was born in Northern Ireland, was educated in Scotland and lives now in London. He is an engineer by profession.

"I have forever been in awe of quick-witted eloquent orators and would love to learn those skills, hence joining 104 Debaters. And besides, I have a highly opinionated son about to graduate with a degree in Politics so I have to work hard to keep ahead of him"

Peter Dickson



Club AGM on Tuesday 9th May

The AGM will be held on the 9th of May at 6.00 pm.

All members should attend, so please pencil this in your diary (it's only for about 40 minutes).

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

Workshop on rebuttal

On Wednesday 19th April Club President and debate coach, William, will be giving a workshop on one of the most crucial aspects of any debate: the rebuttal. This is what makes or breaks a debate and the workshop will cover techniques used by leading debate experts.

This will be on Zoom, please register on [Eventbrite](#).

New venue from April 25th



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

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


Happy Easter!

April 2023: NEXT DEBATES:

**April 11th
on Zoom:**

Standard debate
meeting

Motion:

THW ban privately
owned schools

**April 25th
in-person:**

Blank Slate debate

Motion:

Debaters will only be
told on the night!

**May 9th
on Zoom:**

AGM for members at 6pm
Standard debate meeting
from 6.45pm

Motion:

THW increase the pension
age to 70

May 2023:

**May 23rd
in-person:**

Topic: New parents
should pay tax for their
offspring's projected
carbon footprint

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