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104 LONDON DEBATERS NEWSLETTER

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TOASTMASTERS

International

*"He who knows only his own side
of the case knows little of that"*

- John Stuart Mill



10 Years of Debating

SETTING THE BAR HIGH!

21 people tuned in to the 104 London Debaters' Zoom Room on Tuesday 13th February for an evening of improvised and prepared debates.

Chiko Maranga chaired the improvised Table Topic mini-debate session, with topics centred on emotions; from happiness being overrated, through jealousy, emotional people and the trustworthiness of anger.

Our founding member, Paul Carroll, won best TT for his take on the toxicity of emotional people.



Some of the attendees at Tuesday 13th's online debate meeting

After the break, where we all enjoyed hearing a little from the guests, it was time for Kamal Khan to take up the gavel and chair the main debate of the evening. With many puns he introduced the motion **This House Believes Alcohol is Good for Society**.

Before the debate 6 people voted in favour, 8 against and 7 abstained. After the debate both teams had increased their vote, with 8 voting in favour, 9 against and 3 abstaining. The Proposition won the swing, but the Opposition had enough to defeat the motion.

Lo, arguing for the Proposition, won the prize for best speaker for a spirited defence of alcohol providing plenty of proof.

In the evaluation, William pointed out that the definition of "good" could have been worked on more to the Prop's benefit, as it was a key value, and that the Opposition risked increasing their burden of proof by favouring pubs with carrot juice and yoga.

MAJORITY FOR FIRST PAST THE POST

42 people elected to attend the debate meeting on Tuesday 27th February, where the main debate was about the electoral system in the UK.

Sasha led the improvised Table Topic debate session, with topics ranging from fast food and smartphones in schools, to vapes for kids.

After the break and with glasses refilled from the bar, our former Club President, Renata, chaired the debate with more assurance than Sir Lindsay Hoyle.

The motion was **This House Rejects First Past the Post for General Elections**, and after a debate with excellent rhetoric and substantive arguments, both sides had convinced more people to vote for them, but the Opposition more.

14 voted in favour, 17 opposed, 11 abstained, and so the motion was defeated with a swing to the Opposition.



Left to right: Lo, Stan, Debate Chair Renata, Kristina, William, and Sarah

Our Founding Member Paul Carroll, DTM, delivered the debate evaluation, and said that both sides had fulfilled their roles well with a good clash over the purpose of democracy itself.

Repeat guest Karen won the prize for best Table Topic speech!



Immediate Past President, William, won the audience prize for Best Debate Speech for his contribution for the Opposition team

New members welcome!



Sharin Islam

This month we welcome a newest member to our 104 family: Sharin Islam. Sharin is an Italian Bengali who loves psychological games and intellectual battles. For Sharin words are like bullets that we all need to master. He is mastering the power of words in 4 languages!

Back to 2 In-Person Meetings Per Month!



The Club Committee has decided that it is time we return to being a club that meets fully in person again.

And so, from April onwards, both our debate meetings will be in person, starting with an in-person workshop with our founding member, Paul Carroll, DTM, on April 9th at 6.45pm at The Windsor Castle, Victoria. Topic to be confirmed.

Online solution

For those members who can only meet online, we have a solution: we will be starting an additional online meeting once a month, with the first meeting at the end of April.

This forum will be called 104 Online Debaters and may eventually become its own club, if there is enough interest. Let Kristina know if you wish to take part in that.

Learn 3 Effective Rebuttal Techniques And More!

The rebuttals are what make a debate a debate rather than just a series of lectures, as you can read more about in the blog post on rebuttal structure, in the club blog **Disagreeing Agreeably**.

Our club podcast, **The Debating Toastcast**, has now over 1900 listens and there are recently published episodes on Rhetoric; what the point of it is, what an enthymeme is, and why **know your audience** is bad advice.

Go on the club's website to find out more.

Time to renew your club subscription

The new membership period starts next month, so it's time to renew to be paid up until 1st October. Details to follow via club email.

Join The Committee!



A Toastmasters club is a joint venture - you are a participant, not a consumer. As such, 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 - elections to be held in May.

NEXT DEBATE MEETINGS:

Contact Kristina to take part

12th March

on Zoom

Motion: **Psychology is Pseudoscience**

Classic format with two teams of 3 debaters each, one Prop one Opp.

26th March

in person at the Windsor pub in Victoria

Motion: **This House Would Pay Reparations for Slavery**

Classic format with two teams of 3 debaters each, one Prop one Opp.