



## NEWSLETTER

July 8th 2022



Left to right: Algy Bruce, William Hagerup, Paul Carroll, Renata Bailey-Sokol, Li-Shing Ng, Lo Luong Lo, Rowan Moore, Kristina Bhuller, Oliver Kurer, Bill Moss, Phillip Corless. On the screen we see Kamal Kahn, Jenny Liu, Monica Chien; some of the attendees at the Balloon Debate Meeting on the 28th June, before most tootled off to the Queen's Larder Pub.

## Tuesday, July 12th: Do You Blame The Government?

On Tuesday at 6.45PM (UK time) the club meets for a Zoom only debate on the extremely current issue of energy prices. The motion is **TH blames the UK government for our soaring energy prices**, and will no doubt be an electrifying debate.

Contact our VP Education David Sexton to take a role and register for the meeting on the club's [EasySpeak](#) page.

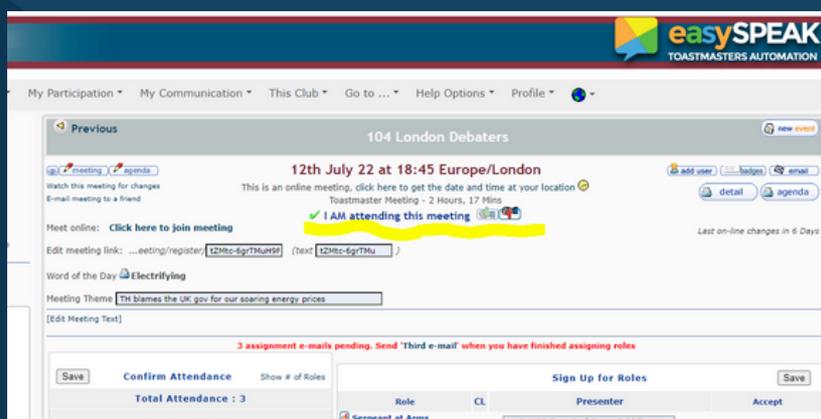
Formal debates usually fall into one of three categories: policy, value or statements of fact. Most of our debates are one of the two first ones, but this is the third: is it true that the government is to blame? If so, in what way?

During floor contributions the audience can make energetic contributions.

[Register for the Zoom meeting here](#)

Make it [EasySpeak](#)

Please use the club's [EasySpeak](#) page to let the VPE know that you're coming and to accept roles in the meeting.





From left to right:

In-room Zoom Master Oliver Kurer, Debate Chairman Paul Carrol, contestants Li-Shing Ng, Trang Le, William Hagerup, Kristina Bhuller and Renata Bailey. Online Zoom Master was Kamal Khan.

## Mary Poppins Wins Balloon Debate

The summer Balloon Debate was held on 28th June at the club's new localities at 46-47 Russel Square in the hybrid format, with one speaker, Trang Le, participating on screen, and the other four, Li-Shing Ng, Kristina Bhuller, Renata Bailey-Sokol and William Hagerup, in the room. The chairman was Paul Carroll, our founding member.

The theme for this Balloon Debate was "*Which Fictional Character Would Sort out the Summer of Discontent*", referring to strikes, inflation and other problems contributing to a summertime where the living is far from easy.

The fictional characters were as follows: Batman (Li-Shing Ng), James Bond (Trang

Le), Marty McFly (Renata Bailey-Sokol), Cruella DeVil (Kristina Bhuller) and Mary Poppins (William Hagerup).

The runners-up were Cruella, with a plan that involved boiling and skinning the strikers, and Mary Poppins, who favoured a spoonful of sugar combined with a firm umbrella.

The audience preferred the umbrella, so Mary Poppins was the fictional character that got to remain in the balloon basket and go sort out the strikers and politicians. (Perhaps she would have preferred to be thrown out).

**Next debate 12th July, Zoom only: TH blames the government for the soaring energy costs**

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

## Renata Bailey Bows Out



Lo Luong Lo, Renata Bailey-Sokol and Oliver Kurer. Thankfully Renata will continue to support the club not only as the Immediate Past President, but also as VP Membership!

The Balloon Debate Meeting on the 28th June was the last one presided over by Renata. The now former immediate past president, Oliver Kurer, and another former president, Lo Luong Lo, presented Renata with a very well-deserved bouquet of flowers from the club and Lo's home-made carrot cake (which was delicious!). Renata's qualities as a team builder and encourager was emphasised, but also her heroic efforts to get the club back to physical meetings, securing the excellent localities of CIEE in Russel Square. THANK YOU, Renata!

The new committee from 1st July is: William Hagerup, President; David Sexton, VPE; Renata Bailey-Sokol, IPP and VP membership; Li-shing Ng, VP PR; Kamal Khan, Secretary; Paul Carrol, Treasurer; Philip Corless, SaA; , Ami Kotecha, VP Mentoring; Sasha Kovyazina, VP.