



Welcome to  
**104 London Debaters**

2014–2024

*Introduction to debating at 104*

# What is 104 London Debaters?

104 LD was started by Paul Carroll, DTM, and others in 2014 and chartered (i.e. became a fully fledged Toastmasters Club) in 2015.

Most Toastmasters Clubs focus on public speaking, not debate, so 104 is a specialist club within the TM umbrella.

Toastmasters International (TMI) was started in 1924 and has as of 2023 more than 280,000 members in 144 countries distributed among more than 14,700 clubs.

The clubs are divided into districts, divisions and areas, and 104 is part of District 91, Division B and Area 18.

The name "104 London Debaters" was taken from the Toastmasters' rulebook on debating, which is rulebook no. 104. So nothing to do with Room 101.

Like all Toastmasters clubs, 104 is a friendly and supportive environment in which to learn. As a Toastmaster you improve by getting feedback on your speeches – and with us the focus is on the debate aspects.



Founding member, Paul Carroll, DTM  
(distinguished Toastmaster)

# The 104 Club Ethos

As a member of Toastmasters International and my club, I promise:

- To attend club meetings regularly – let the VPE know if you can't make it
- To prepare all of my debates to the best of my ability, (basing them on the Toastmasters education programme when possible)
- To prepare for and fulfill meeting assignments/roles (timekeeper, debate chair, etc.)
- To provide fellow members with helpful, constructive evaluations
- To help the club maintain the positive, friendly environment necessary for all members to learn and grow
- To serve my club as an officer when called upon to do so
- To treat my fellow club members and our guests with respect and courtesy
- To bring guests to club meetings so they can see the benefits Toastmasters membership offers
- To adhere to the guidelines and rules for all Toastmasters education and recognition programs
- To act within Toastmasters' core values of integrity, respect, service, and excellence during the conduct of all Toastmasters activities

# The Toastmasters Pathways

## Self-driven learning with peer support

104 offers a great forum for socialising and having a nice time discussing interesting topics and having a pint afterwards.

But as part of Toastmasters we can also help you to progress through the Pathways, which are the various courses and educational routes offered by Toastmasters.

If you are already familiar with this, you can discuss with our VP Education how to make your debate speeches fit with your chosen Pathway.

If you would like more information on how the Pathways can help you, including how you can take part in the speech and evaluation competitions organised by the Toastmasters network, please have a chat with the VP Education or your mentor, if you have one.

It is not a requirement to take up a Pathway, but it is included in your membership fee and can be helpful as a framework to measure your progress as a public speaker and debater.



# Communication

The VP Education has the responsibility for filling the various roles in the debate meetings with willing volunteers. Tell the VPE if you are happy to do a role and also if you have a preference.

The [Club Wiki](#) has information on what the roles entail.

[EasySpeak](#) is a web-interface developed to help TM clubs organise their meetings and keep track of members' progress through the Pathways.

By clicking "yes" or "no" on EasySpeak, you will be in attendance, as soon as you know, you help the VPE know who he can ask if he needs to fill a role.

We tend to send out emails to all members through EasySpeak, but promotional emails to everyone on our mailing list through MailChimp.

We also communicate club-relevant information via our club WhatsApp chat group.





Welcome William\_Hag

Links:

- 104 London Debaters
- Bloomsbury Speakers
- City Limits
- PMI UK Toastmasters Club
- Area K59

**104LondonDebaters**  
(President)

Support e-S

Last contribution: *Never*

Meeting on 25 Apr

Record Actuals...

My Participation

Scheduling & VPE Tasks

Member Statistics

My Communication

Membership Management

Organisation

Site Navigation

Previous

### 104 London Debaters

Next

meeting agenda

### 11th April 23 at 18:45 Europe/London

This is an online meeting, click here to get the date and time at your location

Toastmaster Meeting - 2 Hours, 10 Mins

I went to this meeting!

add user email

detail agenda

Agenda closed to online user changes

Enter actual results and CLOSE this meeting

close roster checklist sp. intro

Meet online: [Click here to join meeting](#)

Word of the Day **Autodidact**

Meeting Theme THW ban privately owned schools

[Edit Meeting Text]

Proposer #1 (Lucie Gavrilova - Prop 1THW would ban privately owned schools) does not have a Workbook Assignment!  
 Opposer #1 (Alexandra Marsanu - No to banning privately owned schools) does not have a Workbook Assignment!  
 Proposer #2 (Chiko Maranga - Prop 2 THW would ban privately owned schools) does not have a Workbook Assignment!

Save

#### Actual Attendance

Total Attendance : 17

Member (16 /32)

Member	Status	Response	Notes
<a href="#">add user</a>			(Pre-meeting reply)
William Hagerup	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)
Alexandra Marsanu	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)
Ami Kotecha	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)
Anna Heyman	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Bill Moss	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Chiko Maranga	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)
Christopher Walker	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)

Save

#### Meeting Award Recipients

Ribbon / Award	Recipient	Delete
Best Speaker Award	-- Select Recipient... --	✗
Best Table Topics Award	-- Select Recipient... --	✗
Best Evaluator Award	Sasha Kovyazina	✗
Best Individual Speaker	Rowan Moore	✗
Table Topics Speaker	-- Select Recipient... --	✗
-- Add Another Award... --		

Hide Speech Details

#### Actual Meeting Roles

Save

You can click here that you are coming

**Member (16 / 32)**

[add user](#) (Pre-meeting reply)

William Hagerup	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)
Alexandra Marsanu	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)
Ami Kotecha	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)
Anna Heyman	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Bill Moss	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Chiko Maranga	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)
Christopher Walker	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
David Sexton	✗	<input type="radio"/> Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N	(NOT Attending)
Henry Ojuor	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Joann Walsh	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Kamal Khan	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)
Kennedy Ellery-McLean	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Kristina Bhuller	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)
Li-Shing Ng	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Lo Luong Lo	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Lucie Gavrilova	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)
Martin Axon	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Matthew Stevens	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Neil Coughtrey	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Oliver Kurer	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Paul Carroll	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Peter Dickson	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Philip Corless	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Tentative)
Primrose Musingarimi	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Renata Bailey-Sokol	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Rod Goodyer	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Rowan Moore	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)
Sarah Beckwith	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Sasha Kovyazina	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)
Shanmukha Rao Pilli	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Attending)
Siso Sibanda	✓	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)
Tomas Zboril	?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	(Unknown)

**Special Guest (0 / 2)** [\[Show\]](#)

**Visitor (1 / 18)** [\[Show\]](#)

**Awards**

Best Speaker Award: -- Select Recipient... --

Best Table Topics Award: -- Select Recipient... --

Best Evaluator Award: Sasha Kovyazina

Best Individual Speaker: Rowan Moore

Table Topics Speaker: -- Select Recipient... --

-- Add Another Award... --

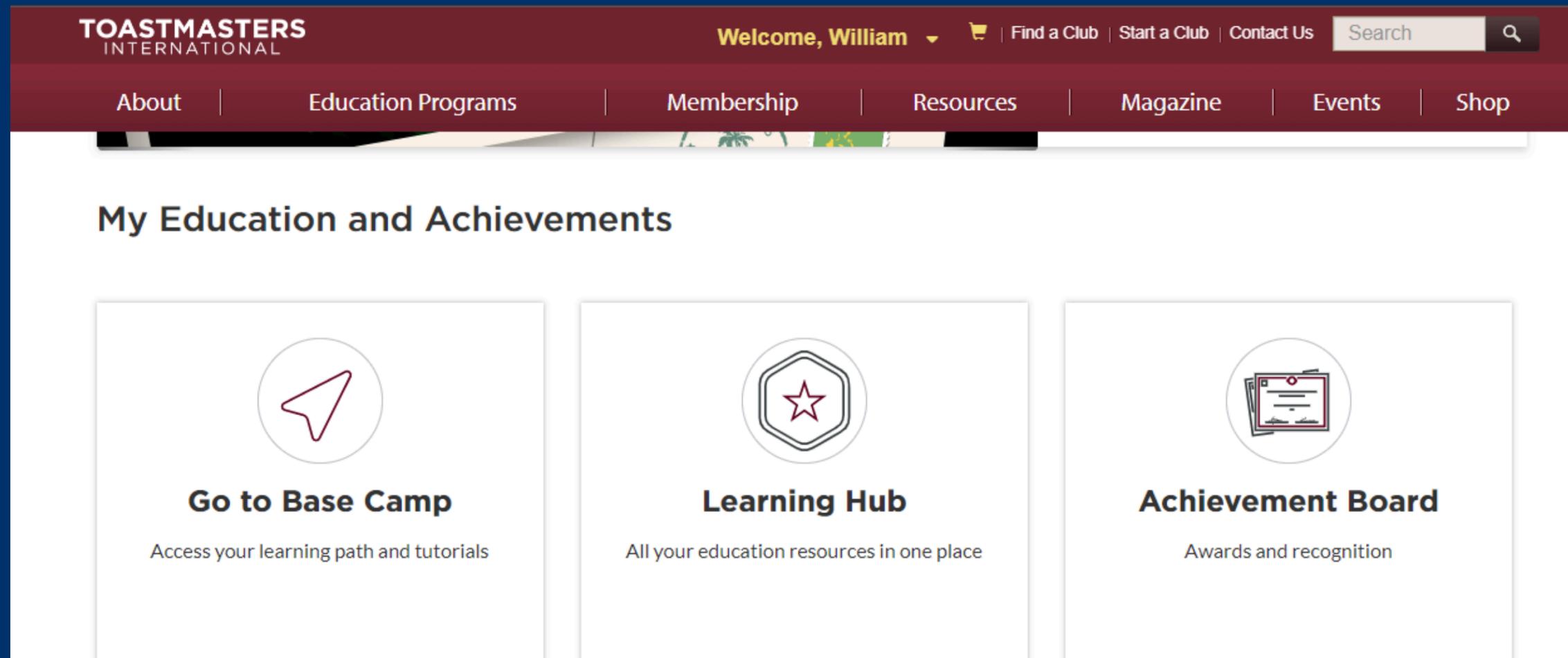
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**Actual Meeting Roles**

Role	CL	Presenter
Sergeant at Arms		Renata Bailey-Sokol
Zoom Meeting Manager		Renata Bailey-Sokol
President		William Hagerup --- CONFIRMED
Timekeeper		Ami Kotecha --- CONFIRMED
Zoom Vote Master		Renata Bailey-Sokol
Table Topics Chair		Kamal Khan --- CONFIRMED
Vice President Education		William Hagerup --- CONFIRMED
Debate Chair		Ami Kotecha --- CONFIRMED
Proposer #1		Lucie Gavrilova
Previous Evaluators	24 Jan 23	Sarah Be
Prop 1THW would ban privately owned schools (?-? min)		
Opposer #1		Alexandra Marsanu
Previous Evaluators	28 Feb 23	Sasha Ko
No to banning privately owned schools (?-? min)		
Proposer #2		Chiko Maranga
Previous Evaluators	24 Jan 23	Sarah Be
Previous Evaluators	12 Jul 22	Oliver Ku
Previous Evaluators	22 Mar 22	Oliver Ku
Prop 2 THW would ban privately owned schools (?-? min)		
Opposer #2		Kristina Bhuller
Previous Evaluators	11 Oct 22	Paul Ca
Previous Evaluators	09 Aug 22	Paul Ca
Previous Evaluators	26 Jul 22	Lo Luong Lo
No to banning privately owned school no. 2 (5:00-7:00 min)		
Dynamic Leadership #3-6 - Using Descriptive Language (5:00-7:00 min)		
Present a speech describing any topic in detail		
1st Opposer #3		Shanmukha Rao Pilli
1st Proposer #3		Rowan Moore --- CONFIRMED
1st Debate Evaluator		Sasha Kovyazina --- CONFIRMED
Coach 1		William Hagerup --- CONFIRMED

# Toastmasters International Website

This is where you can access the Pathways and many other resources.



The screenshot displays the Toastmasters International website interface. At the top, a dark red navigation bar contains the logo on the left, a user greeting 'Welcome, William' with a dropdown arrow, a shopping cart icon, and links for 'Find a Club', 'Start a Club', and 'Contact Us'. A search bar is positioned on the right side of the navigation bar. Below the navigation bar, a horizontal menu lists 'About', 'Education Programs', 'Membership', 'Resources', 'Magazine', 'Events', and 'Shop'. The main content area features a section titled 'My Education and Achievements' with three distinct cards. Each card includes an icon, a title, and a brief description: 'Go to Base Camp' with a paper airplane icon and the text 'Access your learning path and tutorials'; 'Learning Hub' with a star-in-hexagon icon and the text 'All your education resources in one place'; and 'Achievement Board' with a certificate icon and the text 'Awards and recognition'.

**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

Welcome, William | Find a Club | Start a Club | Contact Us | Search

About | Education Programs | Membership | Resources | Magazine | Events | Shop

## My Education and Achievements



**Go to Base Camp**  
Access your learning path and tutorials



**Learning Hub**  
All your education resources in one place



**Achievement Board**  
Awards and recognition

# The committee 2023-2024

The Toastmaster-year runs from 1st July to 30th June, and with TMI one can not serve as Club President two consecutive years. Any paid-up member can stand for election to be a committee member including Club President. Election for the next period's committee has to be done in the month of May.

Below is the committee for 1st July 2023–30th June 2024:



William Hagerup  
Immediate Past President/ VP PR



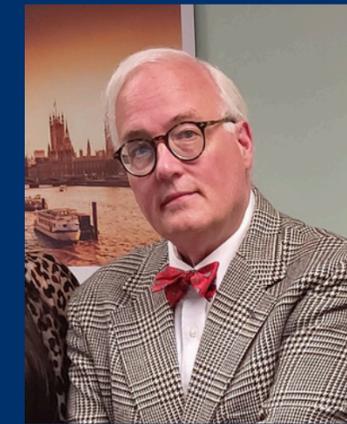
David Sexton  
Club President



Kristina Bhuller  
VPE



Kamal Khan  
VPE 2 - Pathways/Club Secretary



Paul R. Carroll, DTM  
Founder and Treasurer



Renata Bailey-Sokol  
Newsletter Editor



Lucie Gavrilova  
VP Membership



Siso Sibanda  
VP Mentorship



Sergeant at Arms

# The committee 2024-2025

The new committee for the next TM year that starts the 1st July



Joann Walsh  
VP Membership



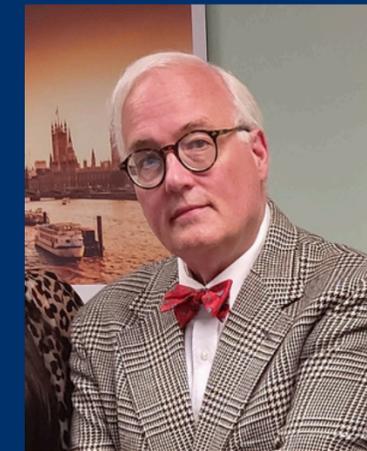
Lucie Gavrilova  
VPE



Kristina Bhuller  
Club President



Sarah Beckwith  
VPE 2 - Pathways/Club Secretary



Paul R. Carroll, DTM  
Founder and Treasurer



Renata Bailey-  
Sokol  
Website Manager



William Hagerup  
Vice President PR



Kamal Khan  
VP Mentorship



David Sexton  
Immd. Past President / Sergeant at Arms  
Committee Member w/o Portfolio



Christopher Walker

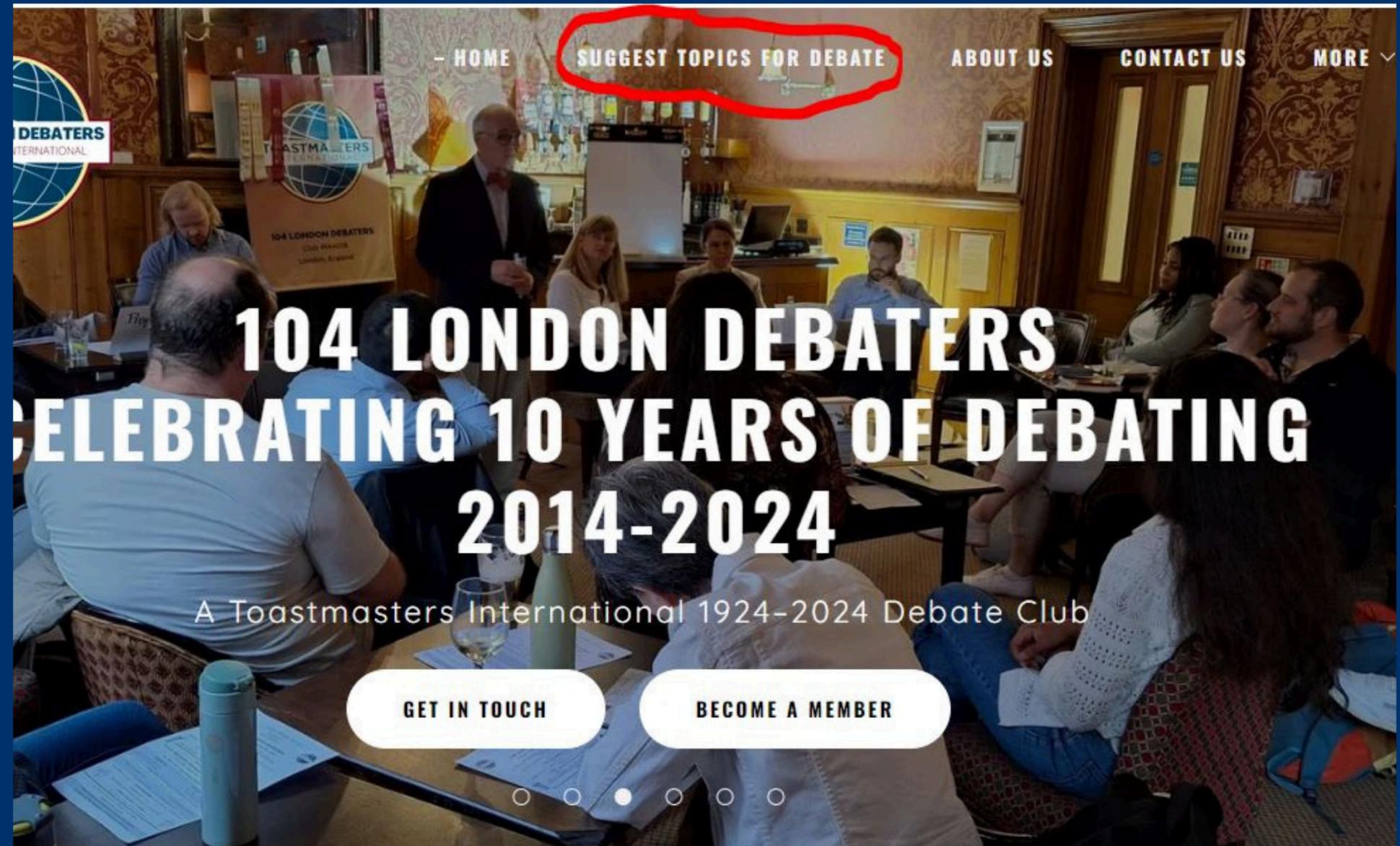
# How to suggest topics

Open the website and click on the links to suggest topics for future debates.

We sift topic by 3 criteria:

1. Can it become a clear pro/con motion?
2. Is it winnable by both sides?
3. Is it meaningfully controversial?

The topics we think can make a good debate, will then be turned into a motion.



# What happens at 104 ...

...doesn't quite stay at 104

But not far off: all debates are conducted under the Chatham House rule which states:

"participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed".

This so that all debaters can feel confident to defend something they disagree with or oppose something they agree with.

**The Chatham House rule**



# How we debate

Usually 2 teams of 3 debaters: **Proposition**, the affirmative side who defends the motion and **Opposition**, the negative side who opposes the motion.

The teams must meet in advance of a debate and agree the case they wish to argue together. The aim is to come up with the case most likely to convince the voting audience. This means you may need to abandon your own personal views in order to forward the case the team believes is the strongest or most convincing case.

The teams are assigned a Debate Coach, although, if one of the debaters is a coach, this may not be done.

## Types of debate:

- **Standard debate:** 2 teams of 3 debate a motion pro and con (the most common format of debate);
- **Balloon Debate:** 5-6 people debate individually to be kept in the balloon (often representing something/someone); lowest votes are evicted;
- **Panel Discussion:** Not a debate but a discussion of a theme, with 5-6 panellists usually representing a discipline or interest;
- **Duel Debates:** 2 debaters go head to head (with 3 duels in the course of the meeting)
- **Humorous Debates:** Like a standard debate but with a funny/silly/light-hearted topic
- **Debate blank slate:** Like a standard debate, but debaters only told motion on the same night
- **Table Topic Debates:** improvised mini-debates with one Proposer and one Opposer for each motion



At 104 we usually debate as a team - that means adjusting yourself to what the team as a whole thinks is the best way to argue for/against a motion

# The Clash – not the punk group, but the rebuttal process

If the two sides simply stand up and deliver two separate cases, we are not having a debate; merely a lecture series. Both sides must engage with the other side's arguments – the clash – and this happens during the rebuttals.

## Debate structure at 104 :

**Opening speaker Proposition:** Sets out the motion, gives the definition of the motion and key terms, and starts to present the argument in favour

**First Opposition Speaker:** Responds to the argument put forward by the Opening Speaker preferably using the structure explained in the workshop on Effective Rebuttal: Defend, Attack, Assist

**Second Proposition Speaker:** Responds to the counter-arguments put forward by the Opp, can introduce new points.

**Second Opposition Speaker:** Responds to the Prop's refutation and can introduce new points.

### FLOOR CONTRIBUTIONS

**Summary speaker Opp:** Summarises the Opp's case: NO NEW ARGUMENTS

**Summary speaker Prop:** Summarises the Prop's case: NO NEW ARGUMENTS

The summary speakers can also rebut, refute and respond to floor contributions, but not introduce new arguments not mentioned in the main debate

# Debate terminology

**Motion:** the statement that the Proposition team will defend and the Opposition team will oppose.

E.g.: This house would abolish fruit

There are 3 main categories:

1. **Policy** - usually preceded by This House Would (legalise/ban/introduce/abolish, etc)
2. **Value** – usually preceded by This House Believes (X is more important/valuable than Y or similar)
3. **Fact claim** – often preceded by This House Thinks/Believes (something is X, or X will happen, that X is Y, or similar)

Other categories, or sub-categories, do exist, but the above are the most common, especially at 104.



# Debate terminology

## Argument

The entire process of deliberation for and against

## Premise

The basic claim that you make. E.g. if the motion is *THW favour pencils*, the premise is that pencils are better than pens because you can write upside-down with them and they are better for the environment

## Grounds

The grounds or reasons for the claim, i.e. 1. pencils are made with graphite, which makes them good for writing upside-down, and 2. Pencils are made of wood, so less plastic in the world, more natural

## Warrant

The connection between the claim and the premise: we WANT or NEED to write upside down and we WANT to be kind to the environment

## Backing

The facts or other supporting data/quotes, etc. to back up the warrant: trials have shown pencils to be able to write upside-down, and studies have shown their minimal impact on the environment, etc.

## Rebuttal

Responding to and refuting an argument and counter-arguments made by the opposing side - but also your chance to help the audience assess the debate as a whole (in your favour)

## Clash

When the rebuttal process engages well with the two sides' various arguments, we say that a "clash" took place. This is usually a hallmark of a good debate.

## Fallacy

When a claim is not supported by the premises it is called a fallacy. We aim to avoid them.

# Burden of proof

The Proposition team (sometimes called The Affirmative) has the **burden of proof.**

That means it is for the Proposition to prove a motion, not for the Opposition to disprove it.

It is enough for the Opposition to demonstrate that the Proposition has not proven its case.

But, where the Opposition makes claims of their own, or presents an alternative scheme, they will have to offer supporting argument/s for that.

Both sides should be aware of the importance of NOT increasing their own burden of proof by making unnecessary claims. Stick to what is strictly necessary to help the audience decide.



# Components of a good argument

Based on the Stephen Toulmin's model

**Claim/premise:** A statement that something is so.

**Grounds:** The reasons/assumptions supporting the claim.

**Warrant:** The link between the claim and the grounds/premises.

**Backing:** Support for the warrant: statistics, experts, scientific reports, etc.

**Modality:** The degree of certainty employed in offering the argument.

**Exceptions:** Exceptions to the initial claim.

The point is not to follow this mechanically, but to think through some or all of these elements when you are preparing your arguments, whether for or against



# Motion: THW acquire a family dog

## Argument for the proposition:

**Intepretation of the motion:** We are arguing that this family should be getting a labrador or similar breed of dog as a family pet

**Claim/premise:** A pet would enhance the family's overall happiness

**Grounds:** Having a pet increases the owners' happiness

**Warrant:** We, as a family, would like greater happiness, it would contribute to our well-being to have one, and therefore acquiring a pet is the right thing to do.

**Backing:** Studies have shown that people with pets are 30% happier than people who do not have pets.

Professor Fido, an expert in family psychology at the University of Well-Known Institution, said: "Adults are more content and calm and children learn responsibility and develop more empathy if a family has a pet."

**Modality:** If we were a family likely to travel a lot, a pet may be problematic, but as we are not, we have a high degree of certainty that this argument is true.

**Exceptions:** We don't think any pet would bring the same degree of happiness, a rat or snake in a box would, for example not. But a dog would fit the bill, but not, perhaps, an extremely big dog, as that may be too costly and difficult to keep.



# Arguments for the Opposition

For the opposition case we often use the PETAL approach

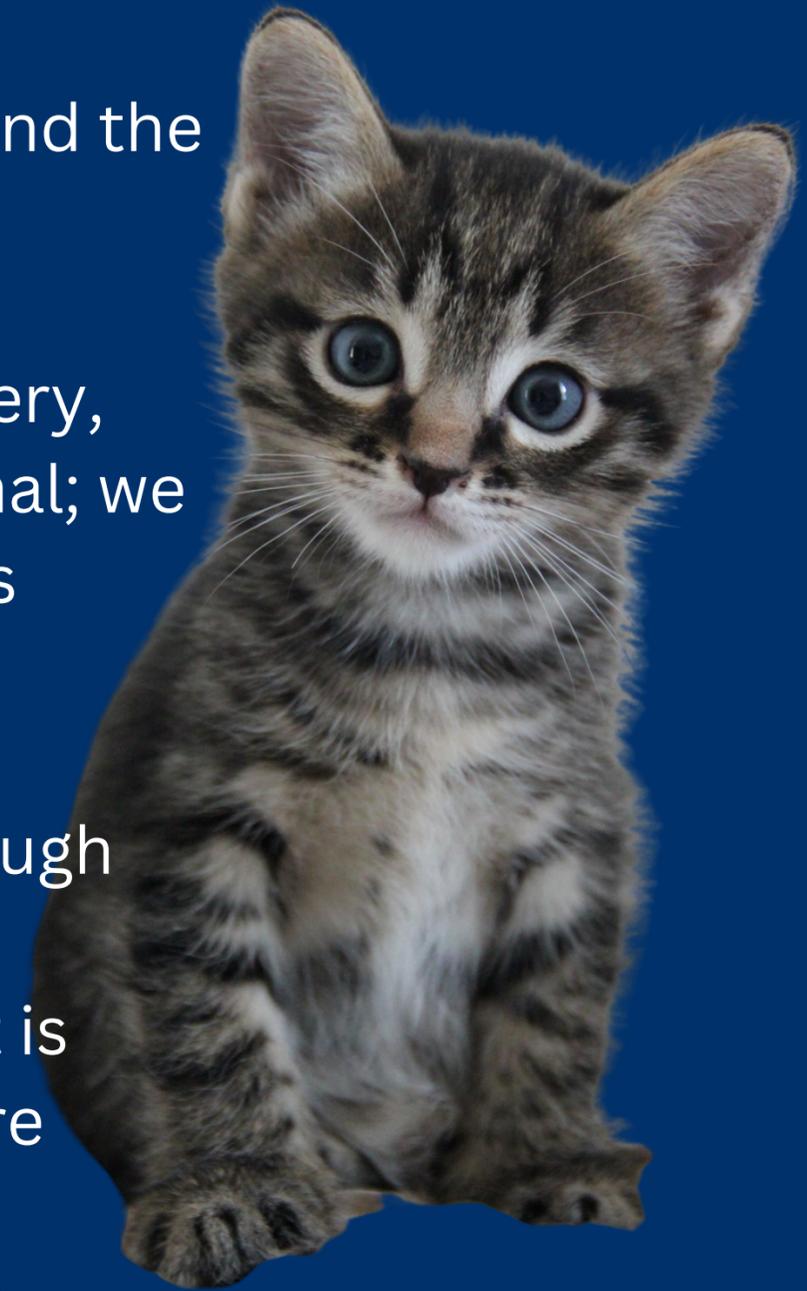
**P: Is it practical?** Getting a dog requires a lot of training, both of the owners and the animal, you cannot easily go on holiday or be away the whole day. We are all working or at school, so getting a dog would not be practical.

**E: Is it ethical?** Some vegans argue one should not keep pets; it is akin to slavery, whilst we may not agree with that, we need to consider the needs of the animal; we will not have the time to look after a dog with our busy lives, and so for us it is unethical to get one.

**T: Tried before?** Have other families like us acquired pets? Yes - look at the Stewarts; they got a dog and had to get rid of it because they didn't have enough time for it. Painful for all parties; it did not enhance their happiness.

**A: Are there Alternatives?** Yes, although we agree with the premise that a pet is generally good for a family, we should not be getting a dog, but a cat - they are more independent and a better fit for our busy lives.

**L: Logical fallacies?** [This is something to listen out for and call out during the rebuttal process]





# Support/help

At 104 London Debaters we offer support and help for debaters in various ways:

**Mentoring** - talk to the VP mentoring if you haven't got one yet. The mentor is someone who can talk through your goals with you and help give you feedback to achieve them, and also assist you in preparation for debate.

**Coaching** - debate teams are usually assigned a coach to help and guide them in the preparation for debate. He's not supposed to control or steer, merely offer input to ensure the team prepares thoroughly (see Debate Coach guidelines on website).

**Resources** - The club makes various educational resources available - workshops, blog, podcast, etc. - for its members and others who are interested to learn.

# Resources for debaters

It's generally a good idea for debaters to follow news and current affairs. It's a good idea to try to get a balance of sources.

The Guardian is free online, but also fairly left-wing, BBC has good quality documentaries, but is also regarded as centre-left.

More or Less is a very good radio programme on BBC Radio 4, which deals with numbers and stats in the news. VERY GOOD for debaters.

Good quality centre-right sources are The Spectator and The Telegraph, and the Spectator has a weekly broadcast on Thursdays on YouTube where they cover the main issues of that week's magazine.

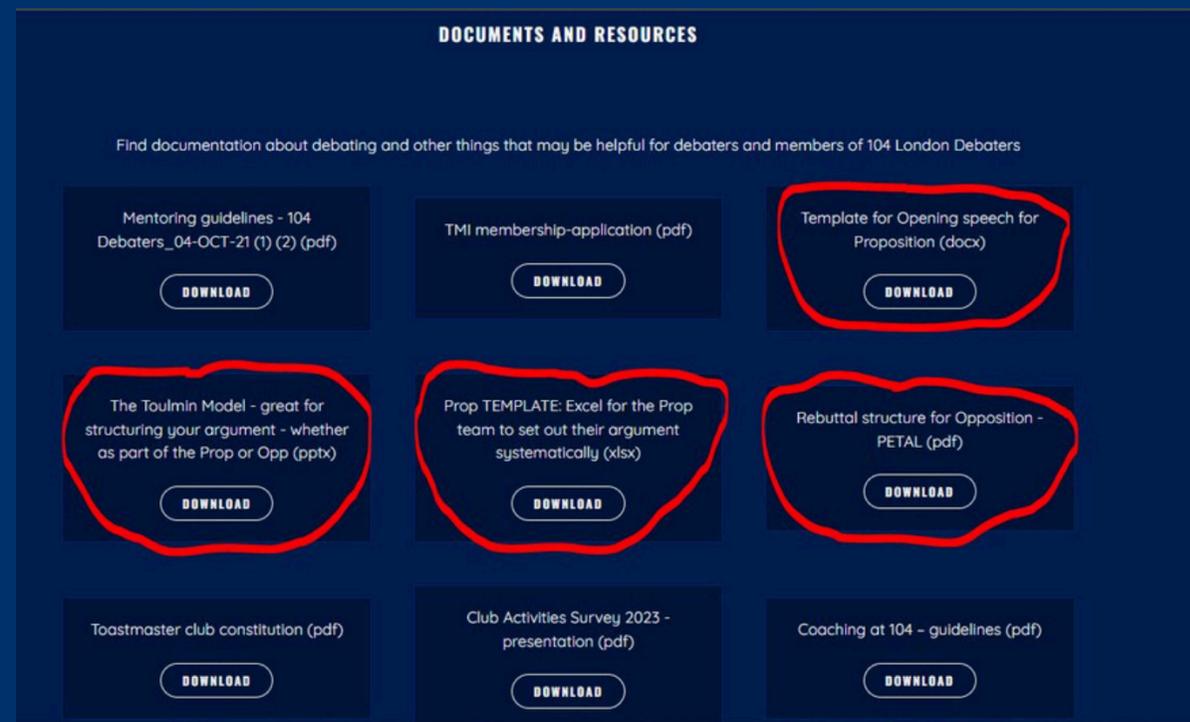
The Week gives a good digest of news from various sources, whilst The Economist is regarded as classically liberal with good quality reporting.

Specifically for debate references it is better to go back to the original studies, which would usually have been published in an academic journal, such as The Lancet for medical studies, although expert quotes can of course be found and quoted from newspaper/magazine articles.



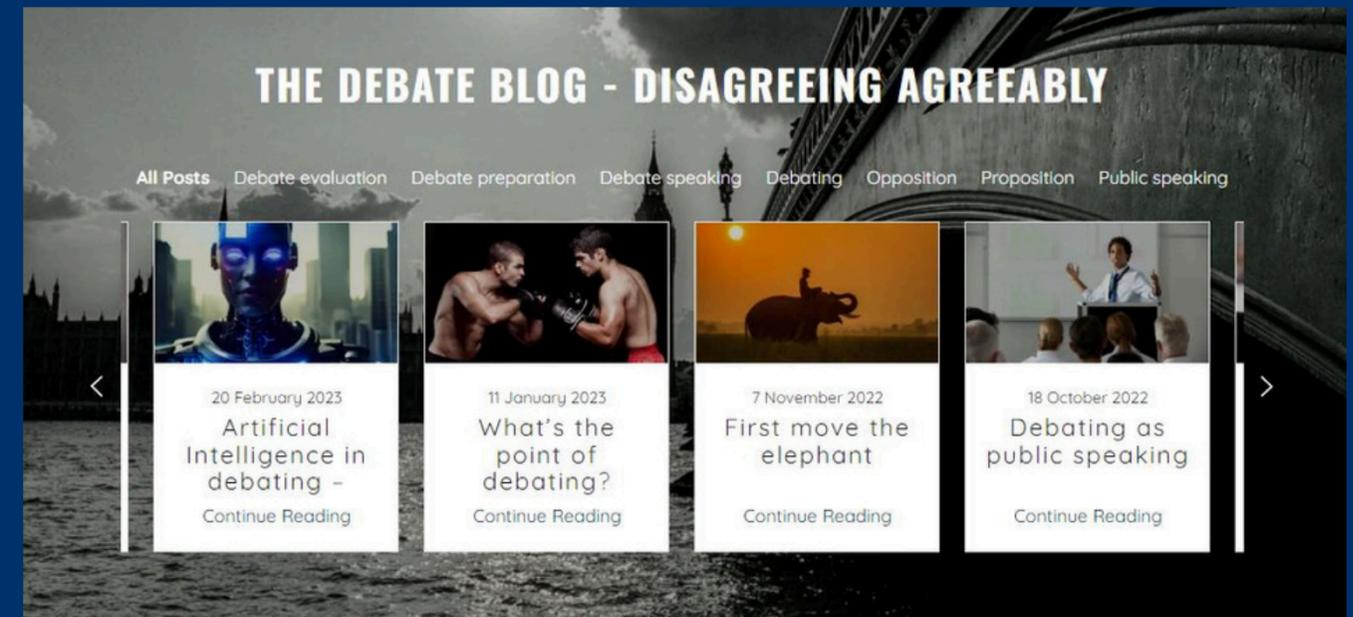
# Resources for debaters

On our club website, <https://104londondebaters.club/>, there are now an increasing amount of material helpful for debaters, both in terms of learning about key aspects of debating, but also specifically to help you in preparing for debate.

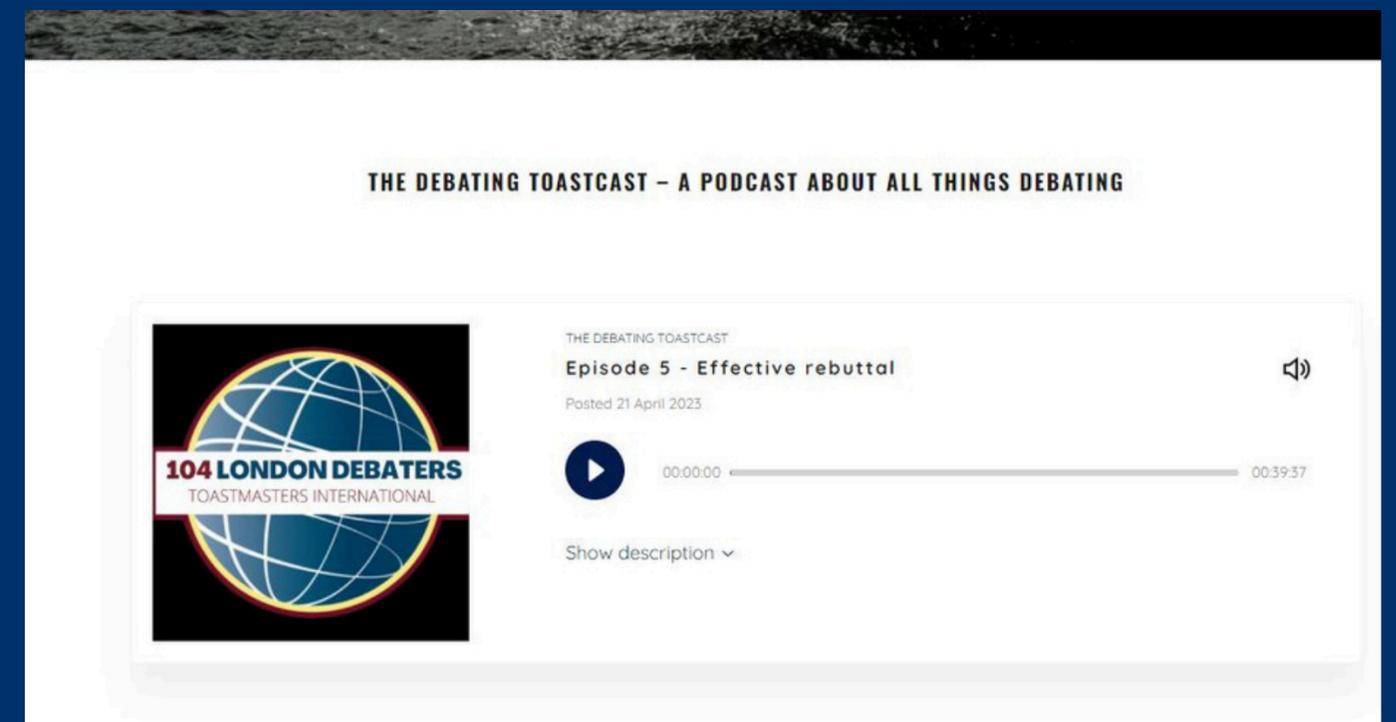


The circled links are particularly helpful when you are preparing to be in a debate, whether Prop or Opp

[Club Wiki: useful info on roles and much more](#)



The club blog has articles that is relevant for debaters, covering various aspects of debating at 104 and more generally



There is a direct link to the podcast, but if you open it in Spotify you also get the video.



# Workshops

In addition to resources for self-study, we are aiming to hold one to two workshops per quarter.

These will be put together and presented by some of our most experienced debate coaches on topics most relevant for debating at 104.

Non-members are charged for these, but they are free to members, so do take advantage of them.



# Further study

If you wish to delve a little deeper into debating and related topics, there are many resources on the internet or a plethora of books and courses. The below are recommended as a good starting point.

- **A Rulebook for Arguments** by Anthony Weston - a short and easy to read introduction to/refresher on the basic concepts of debating (recommended by Paul Carroll)
- **Art, Argument and Advocacy – Mastering Parliamentary Debate** by John Meany and Kate Shuster
- **The Art of Debate** by Jarrod Atchinson (a lecture series on Audible, part of The Great Courses series)

Broader reading:

- **The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion** by Jonathan Haidt – helps you to understand why people disagree and therefore how you may better convince them by taking their perspective into account.
- **Rationality: What It Is, Why It Seems Scarce, Why It Matters** by Steven Pinker – helps you to identify weaknesses and fallacies in your own or others' thinking, not least the My Side-bias which often leaves us blind to errors on our own side.



**Most importantly:**

**have fun debating and  
socialising**



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Author: M.W. Hagerup

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Updated 8th June 2023

Updated 11th February 2024

Updated 2nd June 2024