



Welcome from the editor

Welcome to the September edition of the D71 newsletter. In this month's edition, you'll see contributions from Division M Director Ciara Halloran, as well as news from the District Leadership Team, and stories from around the district. Next month, our newest division, Division H, will be featured. As always, your contributions are welcome. [Please contact the D71 leadership team by clicking here.](#) Thank you!

Going from Strength to Strength in Division M by Ciara Halloran, Division Director 2017-18

As the largest division in D71 now with 29 clubs, unsurprisingly a lot has happened in Division M since our last newsletter exactly a year ago. Here is the low-down of our year. . . *in reverse!*



September 2017

Traditionally a busy month with many clubs returning from their summer break and club contests held in Humorous Speech and Table Topics. Additionally, we are proud to congratulate Accentuators on their 1st anniversary held Thursday September 7th and privileged to welcome UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School to the Division as our newest chartered club, application awaiting confirmation!

August 2017

The Annual Toastmasters Convention was held in beautiful Vancouver this year and I was lucky to be able to attend with a handful of Division M Toastmasters together with members of neighbouring Division C and District Leaders. Back in Ireland it was a busy time in as the Division team of Area Directors Elaine Gallagher (2), Paddy Lavelle (5), Oonagh O'Farrell (7), Henry King (18), Sandra Losty (26), William Cotter (54) and Assistant Division Director Brendan Haughton, ran Club Officer Training sessions for those unable to make previous dates. Big thanks to our two neighbouring Divisions, D and C, for enabling club officers from our division to take part in their training where feasible.

July 2017

We welcomed in your new division leadership team for this year, I look forward to working with the calibre, experience and enthusiasm of this year's Area Directors. We kicked off our year as eager beavers holding division-wide Club Officer Training on Saturday July 1st in the Irish Management Institute, Sandyford Road, Dublin. We had approximately a hundred members attend and held sessions on club officers' roles, to developing a club success plan, to supporting clubs in starting their Toastmasters year off strong!

June 2017

I would like to thank outgoing Division Director, Peter Redmond, for his contribution and his team's great success in achieving President's Distinguished for Division M! They have set the bar high for our team taking over. Huge congratulations to every club who achieved distinguished status and to all the many members who achieved or contributed to recognition

points on the Distinguished Club Program, you are a credit to all your clubs – Thank You!

May 2017

Manchester was "A Kind of Magic", we had three division members running in district elections: Brendan Haughton, Karen O'Donnell and Ciara Halloran. We had Simon Scriver and Áine Ni Glynn represent us in the International Speech & Evaluation Contests respectively. Congratulations to both for doing us proud and to Áine for taking 3rd place! Well done to Colm McGlade who won the Evaluation contest and thanks to all those who came to support and supported our candidates for election through their assignment of proxies – your support as always is greatly appreciated.

April 2017

Great fun and knowledge at the Div M Spring Conference April 23 in the Green Isle Hotel with three amazing workshops from Olivia Schofield and Peter Redmond, followed by two highly exciting contests. New social club Tallaght Toastmasters held their first and demonstration meeting and Allianz club charters, congratulations to both, we wish them great success.

March 2017

Greystones Toastmasters held their Educational Awards night and Lucan Toastmasters host an Evaluation Workshop.

February 2017

Super events in Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan with Julie Kertesz presenting her story-telling workshop and workshops by 2015 Champion, Mohammed Qahtani. These were organised by a number of the division clubs. Division-wide Spring Club Officer Training was held in the Red Cow on February 4th.

January 2017

Greystones Toastmasters host a Mentoring workshop by Paddy Lavelle.

December 2016

Club Christmas parties....

November 2016

Amazon Toastmasters Dublin charters, founded 2 months ago!

Well done to Division C and Peter Kiernan for hosting a fantastic Dubhlinn Autumn Conference in the Regency Hotel! Division M were out in force.

October 2016

Congratulations to Chris O'Byrne and Dermot Carey who won the Humorous Speech and Table Topics contests in Division M.

Inside

- International Conventions
- Money Matters
- Training the Trainers
- How to be a successful Advanced Toastmasters Club
- Points mean Prizes



District Director's message

Hello Fellow Toastmasters and most welcome guests. This has been a busy few weeks and I would like to take a couple of minutes to tell you about what has been happening in your District. It all started off by the Trio (District Director, Program Quality Director and the Club



Growth Director) going to Vancouver for our District Leader training. I arrived on the Saturday and we were expected to be at the Convention Center on Sunday at 9am for interviews. Interviews consisted of 15-minute slots with the candidates who were in the running for international slots – that is, the International Directors, Second and First Vice President and International President-Elect. This was interesting as we were able to discuss with them the problems that we have here in our District and see what their ideas were on how to fix them.

Training began on Monday morning and continued through until Tuesday afternoon. We had 12 different training sessions during those two days – from how to write our budget, to completing our District Success Plan. It was very interesting and we learned a lot. The 2017 Convention started on Wednesday. There were several workshops during the convention on many subjects – something for everyone.

The Opening ceremonies were Wednesday evening beginning with a flag ceremony. This ceremony consisted of 102 country flags which represents the countries that have Toastmasters clubs established. I had the great honour to carry the Flag of the Republic of Ireland. The United Kingdom flag was carried by the Southern United Kingdom District 91 Director. We had the privilege of watching the

Accredited Speaker session where 6 of the 7 speakers earned the title of Accredited Speaker, including our own Clare Crowther from Division E – the first-ever from the United Kingdom.

We watched approximately 30 of the best speakers competing to win their prospective semi-final contests to move onto the World Championship of Public Speaking, which was held on Saturday. We watched the finals where Manoj Vasudevan, a Toastmaster from Singapore, was crowned “World Champion of Public Speaking”.

We went to Candidates' Corner, Golden Gavel award ceremony and two business meetings, where elections were held and proposals were agreed. Quite a task to get 24,000 people to vote without any problems. Met up with old friends and made new. It was a good experience and looking forward to the next. Some of the members of our District then went onto a 7-day cruise to Alaska with 300 other Toastmasters. Others arrived early or stayed late to take in the sights of Canada.

We had the District Executive Committee (DEC) meeting a few weeks ago. The DEC is where any appointments that have been made since July, and the Budget, are agreed. It was a busy weekend and the group did ask a lot of questions but in the end, our budget and appointments were approved.

As you can see, we have been very busy in the District. We have chartered our first club for the year with the probability of others to charter this month. Remember, September is our dues month. I hope all members have promptly paid their dues to your Club Officers. Treasurers, remember to pay Toastmasters International. Please don't wait until the last day of the month, as this is when everyone else is also trying to access the website. Remember there is no longer a grace period. Plan ahead. If a member wants to compete in the Humorous Speech or Table Topic contests, they must have paid their dues to Toastmasters International.

That is it for this month. Please take care and remember to set the bar high and aim even higher!

Red Skelton
District 71 Director



Have you ever been to a Toastmasters International Convention?



As Vancouver was only my second convention, I'm still a fledgling convention-goer . . . but in danger of becoming a serial one!

The Vancouver Conference Centre with its living roof has stunning views of Grouse Mountain, of majestic cruise ships disgorging their passengers and of seaplanes taking off, circling the bay and returning to land on the water like graceful ballet dancers.

Inside the conference centre the convention got underway with the "Parade of Flags" opening ceremony. How proud we were in District 71 as our District Director, Red Skelton, carried the Irish flag onto the stage. I know I'm biased but Red didn't put a foot wrong. Did you know that it takes about 3 hours to train a



toastmaster in how to carry a flag!

I'm getting ahead of myself because before we could enjoy the convention we spent two long gruelling days of training for our roles. Red, John and I "enjoyed" quality time together working on the District Success Plan and Budget. In my breakout

session, I met and networked with other PQDs from Region 11 as we discussed the challenges we would face in our roles. These sessions were beneficial. It's always reassuring to know that other districts face the same challenges as our District. But all good things must come to an end and we were giddy as schoolboys and schoolgirl when we graduated with honours.

Speech semi-finals day saw Vinette Hoffman-Jackson own the stage in her semi-final. She gave us that "look" that only Jamaican mothers give



and we were very proud to turn to our neighbour and say, "She's the D71 contestant, you know".

Red, John and I had an early start on Saturday morning to catch Clare Crowther's presentation as she competed to be recognised as an Accredited Speaker. Clare (pictured right) sparkled on stage in her eye-catching red dress. She was confident, her presentation was poised and professional. Another proud moment for District 71 as Clare was awarded Accredited Speaker status. A first for D71 and the first outside the United States and Canada. She is one of only 74 accredited speakers worldwide. Clare is a member of Hull Speakers, Division E. What an achievement!



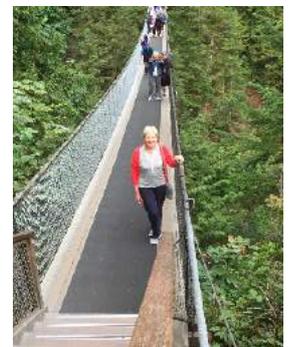
Another D71 stalwart, Past International President Ted Corcoran, oversaw the "craic" aka "sing-along" session each evening. At this could be spotted such serial-convention attendees as Noel O'Beara and Cecil Kirk, as well as the all-singing, all-ukelele-playing Bea Metzler, among others.

But it wasn't all fun and fun for the trio. As well as the two days of training, we had a full day of interviewing candidates for roles on the Board of Directors, and there were judging duties to attend to.



With the best interests of the District at heart, John and I knew how important it was to take very good care of Red. We duly went in search of an Irish pub so we could keep Red's strength up with a pint or two of Guinness.

In return, I was granted leave of absence from my Toastmasters duties for a day to do a spot of sightseeing. I enjoyed seeing the Capilano Suspension Bridge, Stanley Park and all the tourist attractions that the city's hop-on, hop-off bus had to offer. Did you know that the Lions Gate Bridge was built by the Guinness family?



The International Convention 2018 is in Chicago. Why not start saving for it now? It's a great place to spend time with your fellow Toastmasters across the world, check out a new city, see the World Championship of Public Speaking, excellent workshops and much more.

Patricia O'Reilly, DTM
Program Quality Director



POINTS MEAN PRIZES!



Imagine how smug I felt to have come up with the idea of making this year's Growth Incentives progressive – **the more you do to grow members and clubs, the bigger the prize.**

It wasn't until I met with my fellow CGDs in Vancouver that I discovered this was not a new idea, other Districts were doing it!

It did help however that I didn't have to reinvent the wheel.

So what's on offer?

Club Membership Growth Campaigns

Smedley Award – August to September

Talk up Toastmasters – February to March

Beat the Clock – May to June

Add 5 New, Dual or Reinstated Members:

- Award Ribbon from TI plus TI Shop gifts to the value of \$20
- Add 7 New, Dual or Reinstated Members:
- Award Ribbon from TI plus TI Shop gifts to the value of \$40
- Add 10 or more New, Dual or Reinstated Members:
- Award Ribbon from TI plus TI Shop gifts to the value of \$75

Clubs with Fewer than 12 Members and Clubs with 13-19 Members

By 31 March 2018:

Join 3-4 new members:

- TI Shop gifts to the value of \$15

Join 5-7 new members:

- TI Shop gifts to the value of \$30

Join 8 or more new members:

- TI Shop gifts to the value of \$50

Clubs with fewer than 12 Members are also eligible for the appointment of a Club Coach and up to €125 (£100) to help with marketing/promoting the club.

Clubs with 20 + Members

By 31 March 2018:

Join 5-9 new members:

- TI Shop gifts to the value of \$15

Join 10-19 new members:

- TI Shop gifts to the value of \$30

Join 20 or more new members:



- TI Shop gifts to the value of \$50

** Only one of the above awards applies – they cannot be doubled up.*

Net Growth of 5 or More Members at the year end

Special Recognition Award – watch this space!

Treasurer's Early Renewal/Member Retention Incentive

80% + of Dues paid by the deadline:

- TI Shop gifts to the value of \$10

100% of Dues paid by the deadline:

- TI Shop gifts to the value of \$20

Chartering New Clubs

Application to Organise a Toastmasters Club submitted and paid to TI:

- TI Shop gifts to the value of \$20

Club Charter Application completed by TI:

- TI Personalised Club Banner (value \$100)

Demonstration Meetings

- Up to €100 (£80) for room hire to conduct a Demonstration Meeting with 20 or more guests (submit the meeting flyer, attendance list and receipts to qualify)

Guest/Open Nights/Other Recruiting Events

Get 20 or more new guests to the meeting:

- Up to €25 (£20) towards the cost of refreshments (submit the meeting flyer, attendance list and receipts to qualify)

Club Sponsors, Mentors and Coaches

- TI Shop gifts to the value of \$15 on successful completion of role.

Look out for other incentives in the second half of the year.

To obtain any of the above prizes I will be keeping an eye on the numbers but please feel free to contact me to claim your prize if you haven't heard from me.

You can either purchase direct from the TI shop and District will reimburse the above amounts on submission of an invoice or I will purchase selected items on your behalf.

Enjoy your Membership and Club Growth activities.

Please keep me informed of your activities – I may be able to help further.

Have fun!

[John Cox](#)

Club Growth Director



Training the Trainers

The weekend immediately after the Manchester "It's a kinda magic" conference, the District's chairs for Speechcraft (Daniel Sandars) and the Youth Leadership Programme (Mairead Dillon) were in action delivering the Success Communication workshop "From Speaker to Trainer" (Item 257) to fellow Toastmasters.

On the Saturday (20th May) the action was in Division G (now H) at Cranfield University (UK) where Daniel trained 11 members from a wide area ranging from Leicester Leaders in the North down to Camulodunum Speakers in Essex. On the Sunday (21st May) the action moved to Division M and the idyllic and picturesque Dun Laoghaire Motor Yacht Club in Dublin (Ireland) where 13 members had gathered together with trainers Mairead, Daniel, and Brendan Haughton. Mairead decided to run the event in Ireland the following day to capture what Daniel had learnt delivering it on the Saturday, certain in the knowledge that he would forget little having scarcely slept since!

The objective of the workshops was to give Toastmasters a broad grounding of training skills that would help equip them to coordinate and deliver Toastmasters International's community programs: Speechcraft, and the Youth Leadership Program. The workshop lasts around four-and-a-half hours and contains many activities, exercises and role-plays covering all the stages from identifying a need for training, designing a course around the needs of adult learners, breaking the ice, establishing a group rapport, dealing with disruptive behaviour, and finally to getting feedback. Throughout the standard materials we were able to introduce practical examples and models drawn from our experience with the Youth Leadership

Programme and Speechcraft thus creating added relevance.

The feedback we received from these workshops was highly positive with enquiries to run subsequent workshops in Divisions S and E and in the Areas around Cambridge, and Hertfordshire.

[Daniel Sandars \(click to email Daniel\)](#)

District 71 Speechcraft Chair 2016-17

Trainers and newly-trained trainers at Dun Laoghaire Motor Yacht Club



Front row

Brendan Haughton, Felicity Cuthbert, Josephine Gibney, Ciara Halloran, Carolanne Murphy, Jane Mooney, Fiona Morrissey, Mairead Dillon, Germaine Dalton

Back row

Paul Duffy, Gearoid Murphy, Teresa Redmond, Gerry French, Daniel Sanders

Money Matters by Les Hodgson, Finance Manager

Double check that TMI subscriptions for competition competitors have been paid by 30 September. Competitors not in good standing with TMI in receipt of the subscription must be disqualified. TMI do not allow any discretion in this area and competitors have been disqualified at all stages of the competition in the past. It is not relevant if the club has received the member

subscription or not, it must have been paid to TMI.

Do not leave subscription payments to the last minute. The TMI system is often overloaded around subscription times and there is no leeway. Payments not received by TMI before the due date mean the club and the members are not in good standing. No reasons or excuses are accepted by TMI.



A Snapshot of the 86th International Toastmasters Convention – Beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

by Ciara Halloran & Kathleen Gately

As members of Rathfarnham Toastmasters our last attendance at the International Convention was in Calgary 2008 when we supported fellow club member Sultan Nazir who won the District 71 International Speech Contest and made it into the world semi-finals. This year the combination of a visit to beautiful Vancouver and the Toastmasters annual conference drew us back to Canada so what was our experience of this year's convention?

Day 1

Events commenced on Wednesday August 23rd with the Board of Directors briefing, which gave us insights into the work of our International Directors and an

[Click here to read the rest of Ciara and Kathleen's Convention report!](http://d71toastmasters.org/a-snapshot-of-the-86th-international-toastmasters-convention-in-vancouver/) Visit <http://d71toastmasters.org/a-snapshot-of-the-86th-international-toastmasters-convention-in-vancouver/>



How to be a Successful Advanced Toastmaster Club

by Ciara Halloran

President of PowerTalk Advanced Toastmasters Club.

I was recently contacted by one of our divisions for insights and advice on how to establish and develop an Advanced Toastmasters club so I thought this is a good time of year to put pen to paper and capture thoughts for the benefit of others who may also be considering setting up such a club. Currently I am President of **PowerTalk**, an advanced club in Dublin, which meets monthly the third Monday of the month in the top floor of Bar 51, Haddington Road, Dublin from 7.30-9.30pm.

We welcome guests at all levels to visit the club and Toastmasters are eligible to join the club once they have achieved the first 6 projects in the Competent Communicator (CC) Manual. Most of our members are 'dual members' of Toastmasters: they would be member of a home club, and our club. PowerTalk

was founded in 2002 though it was not always an advanced club, it was developed into an advanced club when it was opened to a social club and members decided to try an advanced club in Dublin as there wasn't one and the club need a way to attached members.

How is the club run? We use the Toastmasters Easyspeak website to manage club meetings and agendas with speech slots assigned by the Vice President of Education (VPE). We keep costs low: the membership fee to the join the club is the Toastmasters International fee, and a meeting door charge of €5 enables us to run our club meetings for the year.

The main differences with PowerTalk to other clubs is we emphasise evaluations as the way to learn by having an 'Evaluator of the Evaluators' as a separate role to the General Evaluator. The Evaluators also give their evaluations directly after



the speeches; this mimics the Evaluation contest, where evaluators don't get much time to compile and prepare their evaluations. As an advanced club, we also hold educational workshops and guest-speaker events for a wider audience, partnering with other clubs or the division and district to provide special educational events.

There are a few challenges with an advanced club based on our experience. Firstly, it can be difficult to get the educational awards on the Distinguished Club Program (DCP) because either our members have already completed for example the CC or Competent Leader so for us to get this recognition members need to do these manuals again or a multitude of times. Secondly the recognition of awards for dual members may go to their home club and not the advanced club so DCP status takes significant effort and buy-in to achieve. Thirdly, filling club officer positions involves members agreeing to take one these roles again even if they have already fulfilled them before, giving time and expertise to support the running and management of the club.

The benefits are improved development through peer learning from experienced club members, high standards, an opportunity to give speciality speeches and the ability to fast-track your completion of educational Toastmasters tracks through dual membership and with a club that allows time for some of the longer speech projects.

On a recent trip to Vancouver, where I had been a member of another advanced club, I reconnected with my fellow Toastmasters and asked them for their advice on how to establish and sustain a successful advanced club. This is the advice they gave:

- 1) *Clearly define what the club's niche is, as just calling it "advanced" is often not sufficient.*
 - a) Some clubs focus on education by offering a high number of education events.
 - b) Others focus on speech craft and foster a competitive speaking club with emphasis on providing the best learning experience for Toastmasters and supporting professional speakers.

- c) Another idea is to focus on strong evaluations using group panel format, deeper or longer evaluations to give improved feedback and for evaluators to hone their skills.
- d) Mentoring can be a draw as experienced members may not be given mentors in other clubs due to meeting the needs of mentoring for new members.
- e) Advanced Speakers Club Vancouver uses the dinner-meeting format: they meet over dinner with members dine, and meetings start with a traditional toast.

- 2) ***Like most clubs, membership-building (and PR) is continuous as there will be some attrition annually. Unlike other clubs, your pool of potential members is limited to those with experience or "advanced", so this needs to be taken into account when setting your membership target each year.***
- 3) *Advanced clubs can offer their area, division and district significant value but it may not be in the form of achieving **President's distinguished status** each year, which can be a challenge if the club doesn't have a large membership.*
- 4) *Advanced clubs tend to be more likely to allow members **try new ideas** for meeting and meeting role formats, and enable the longer speech projects, so you can learn a lot and progress your education faster.*
- 5) *The opportunity to give **non-manual speeches**.*

I would highly encourage any club member or area interested to consider an advanced club. It is important that the club like any other new club has support to draw from in getting off the ground and even a club sponsor and mentors to facilitate success.

PowerTalk's next meeting is October 16th, 19.30 in Bar 51, Haddington Road, Dublin.



Did you know...

how Toastmasters grew in the '40s and '50s?

After the Second World War, our district, District 18 (yes D18! – that's not a typo!) – was constituted on December 21, 1945. With Will Goldie at the helm as District Governor (DG) for 1946/47 and comprised of just **six** Scottish clubs, such a decision wouldn't be countenanced today. These days, 60 clubs is the norm for a new district, and, even then, it would be termed "provisional" for some time afterwards.

In the 14 years after the war, from 1944 to 1958, Toastmasters International grew by a factor of eleven – from approximately 250 clubs to 2850. D18 clubs, then, comprised about 3% of the worldwide total, with 80,000 members in 30 different countries. This included 2500 members in Britain.

In 1958, the Dublin club, #2601, became the first club chartered in Ireland – an achievement which requires an article in itself. By 1959, there were 2900 clubs worldwide and of the 85 clubs listed in D18, 76 were in Scotland, 7 were in England, with one sole club (Dublin), in Ireland.

Remarkably, there was also a club recorded in the Channel Islands – Jersey #939, chartered in April, 1950. This club was still alive in February 1960, but by December 1961, number 939 had been allocated to a new club, namely R.A.F., High Wycombe. How the Jersey club started, and who was involved, will probably never be known.

In Scotland, by 1959, there were clubs as far north as Kirkwall in Orkney and spread across the country in Thurso, Aberdeen, Nairn, Inverness, Banff, Dundee and Stirling, as well as numerous clubs in the Glasgow and Edinburgh areas.

The clubs in England at this time are recorded as Lancaster (Lancashire), Sunderland, Darlington (Durham), Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Loughborough (Leicester), Tower (Blackburn) and Aylesbury. Of these clubs, only Aylesbury, #762, chartered in 1956 and Dublin, #2601, chartered in 1958, survive

today as member clubs of Toastmasters International.

The progressive total of Chartered Clubs for each year was as follows: 1945–2; 1946–6; 1947–10; 1948– 11; 1949–13; 1950–20; 1951–36; 1952–50; 1953–59; 1954–69; 1955–73; 1956–80; 1957–82; 1958–83; 1959–85; 1960–90; 1961–91; 1962–108; To June 1963–119. (Extract from TCBI Club Directory 1963/64).

The number 18 was subsequently given to the Delaware district in the U.S.



A 1953 banquet in Glasgow with, undoubtedly guest of honour Dr Ralph Smedley. In front row, from left, were Will Goldie (2nd), Dr Smedley (4th), Jim Ewart (5th), David Mo (6th), and James Macaulay (?) far right.

To read more of the history of Toastmasters, visit <http://d71Toastmasters.org/history/>

Did you know. . . ? is a regular feature by Ted Corcoran, DTM, Past International President of Toastmasters.

Ted has documented the development of Toastmasters in Ireland and Britain in *A Comprehensive History of Toastmasters in Great Britain and Ireland: 1935–2014*.

Read Ted's account of researching and publishing our District's history on the next page.



The story behind

A Comprehensive History of Toastmasters in Great Britain and Ireland: 1935–2014

I began thinking about writing the history around the time discussions began around reforming D71. I had served in every role from club to International President and knew I could bring a broad perspective to writing it. I also strongly felt, if it was to be, it was up to me! While I had information and some records from the time I was AG in 1989/90 onwards, I had little prior to then. I did have Jim Latten's history, which was of some value, but didn't cover much prior to the early '80s.

It is said that if you set a goal, the universe cooperates to help achieve it. This is certainly what happened in this case. One Thursday, I was invited to the Dublin club 2601 to give a talk about leadership. In talking about persistence, an important leadership trait, I referenced Paddy Cunningham, the founder of the Dublin club and responsible for introducing Toastmasters to Ireland. His persistence over a period of time resulted, finally, in the club being chartered. The full story is now in the history and makes a most interesting read.

On arrival home, shortly before midnight, I checked my computer and there was a message from Lisa Cunningham, Paddy's daughter, whom I hadn't seen, or spoken to, for many, many years. To my immense surprise and some shock, she told me she had found a collection of her father's Toastmasters materials in her attic, and asked if I'd like to have them. The rest is, indeed, history and I was thus enabled to write the district history, which includes some Toastmaster International history too, all the way from 1935. Altogether, it took a good six-months-plus of research and work, but I was able to complete it before the new D71 and D91 came into being.

On completion, I had one remaining problem. What to do with the important and irreplaceable material? Keeping it in my garage was not an option. A friend told me about the Archive section in Pearse St Library in Dublin. I met the Chief Librarian who was delighted to accept it. There it now safely lies for any future historians and researchers to study.

Finally, the job was done and I could relax knowing that our history was written and available to all.

Ted Corcoran



Ted Corcoran, DTM, PIP

Ted Corcoran joined Fingal Toastmasters club in 1985 in Dublin. Having served at club and district level, he was elected District Governor of District 71 in 1994/1995 and led his district to Presidents Distinguished District status, finishing second in the world in achievements that year.

This led to his election for a two-year term as an International Director in St Louis, Missouri, in 1996, representing all the Toastmasters in the rest of the world outside North America.

In 2000, in Miami, he was elected 3rd Vice President and went on to serve as International President in 2003/2004, the first European to do so in the 80-year history of the organisation.

As President, he presided over an International Board of 23, and 200,000 members in 10,000 clubs in 90 countries. His duties took him all over the world, to Australia, South Africa, the Middle East, Europe, USA, Canada, UK, and, naturally, to every corner of Ireland. In total, Ted served for seven years on the Board of Directors – five as an officer and two as a director.

He has since served as Region Advisor for Region 11 for year 2011/12.

He is an honorary member of six Toastmaster clubs and regularly attends both the Fingal and Swords clubs in Dublin.



9 Lessons I learned on my Road to Vancouver 2017

By Vinette Hoffman-Jackson

On Saturday 13th May 2017, after months of competition, I was selected to represent District 71 (UK & Ireland) in the International Speech Contest in Vancouver, Canada, which was a dream come true. I somehow managed to retain a calm exterior whilst graciously accepting my trophy and giving my thank-you speech although butterflies were doing somersaults in my stomach.



After the competition, I exchanged a few smiles and pleasantries then headed to my room where the magnitude of my achievement became apparent and I was overcome by emotions. I laughed, cried, danced a little then called home to share the good news.

The following few weeks leading up to the competition swiftly flew by and I slowly got used to the recognition and the congratulations that came with the title. However, the process taught me nine very important lessons.

[Click here to read the rest of Vinette's story on the D71 website at . . .](#)

<http://d71toastmasters.org/9-lessons-i-learnt-on-my-road-to-vancouver-2017/>

Travelling Toasties



Mish Barad received her 2016-17 "Travelling Toastie" award at District Officer Training, presented here by District Director Red Skelton



Travelling Toastie Colette Grant from Lucan Toastmasters visited Clondalkin Toastmasters, welcomed here by Terry Mason, President. Keep travelling, Toasties! #TravellingToastie



Steve Campion, ACS, ALB, is Area 20 Director in Division H. He is President of East Herts Speakers, Secretary of Cornerstone, VPE/sponsor at Winchmore Hill Speakers, and a member of Saffron Walden Speakers. We don't know where he found the time to write his article, but we're delighted he did!

Have you got one in you?

As you may have seen on the website and on our social media pages, we're delighted to report that an article by Steve Campion has been published in The Guardian newspaper! Well done Steve! (In case you haven't read it, [here is a link.](#))

Steve wrote his article on improving presentation skills, to help raise awareness of Toastmasters, and it has been very widely published. These articles promoting Toastmasters provide advice around the topic of public speaking, presentation skills, and business skills development.

Would you like to help promote Toastmasters, by writing an article? It's a great experience and can help you stand out for your skills. We need one article every month, but there are some important guidelines you should know before you start. [Click here to find out more.](#)

The screenshot shows the top of a Guardian article. The header includes navigation links like 'become a supporter', 'subscribe / find a job', and 'the guardian'. Below that are category links: 'news / opinion / sport / arts / life'. The article title is 'Want to win over an audience? How to improve your presentation skills' under the 'Guardian Small Business Network' section. A sub-headline reads: 'Whether the prospect of delivering a presentation fills you with excitement or dread, there are key steps to ensuring you make an impact'. Below the text is a photograph of a wooden podium with a microphone. The author's name 'Steve Campion' and the date 'Tuesday 12 September 2017 07:00 BST' are visible. The article preview text states: 'Presentations shouldn't be just a set of bullet points on a screen. In An Inconvenient Truth, Al Gore used presentation slides to provide a compelling argument to his audience. Your next business presentation may not win any awards, but there are things you can do to make an impact.'



Now is your chance to represent your Toastmaster Club and show us how talented you are when delivering comedy material.

Comedy Show

OPEN MIC COMEDY SESSION
FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

BOOK YOUR PLACE
BY 23rd OCTOBER 2017

Jean Stewart
jean@jsdevelopment.co.uk

All Clubs at the Conference are invited to provide a member to represent them at this event.
5 – 10 minute duration

Judging carried out by your peers.

The winner will be presented with a unique trophy to take back to their Club.

Open Mic Comedy Session 3rd November

While it may be most people's biggest fear, we Toastmasters have taken steps to conquer "Mount Public Speaking". But stand-up comedy? You've got to be kidding.

Actually, no. The clever folks at the Steel City Conference are giving us a chance to get up on stage with one mission: to make the audience laugh.

I'm delighted to good folks in Sheffield have organised this Open Mic Comedy Session, for two reasons. Almost one year ago, I made my stand-up comedy debut. And if it weren't for Toastmasters, this never would have happened. And now that I've been bitten by the stand-up bug, I want everyone who's ever had an inclination to give it a try, to give it a try! What better opportunity than the loving embrace of your Toastmasters family, to cheer you on as you take those first funny steps. And who better to torment you -- all weekend! -- when it all goes horribly wrong?

If you think you'd like to give it a go, you must register by 23 October. [Contact Jean by email here.](#)

There's even a trophy for the winner! Go on!

Laura Bruce
Public Relations Manager

"Steel City" conference is nearly here!

Starting in Sheffield on Friday 3rd November, this will be the final Autumn conference. Along with workshops and Toastmasters executive meetings, the Steel City Conference will feature the District finals of the Humorous Speech Contest, and the Table Topics Contest.

New this year, Friday night will feature an Open Mic night, so get your comedy routine warmed up and give it a go! Make sure to indicate you would like to take part when registering for the conference.

For details and to register, visit steelcity2017.co.uk.

STEEL CITY CONFERENCE

3-5 NOVEMBER 2017
SHEFFIELD
steelcity2017.co.uk