

ISSUE #6 17 NOVEMBER 2023

# TOASTMASTERS TALK #6

## WEEKLY UPDATES FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT



Guest Editors: Elizabeth Jordan & Andra Popovici

[www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)



### Message from the Program Quality Director, Danny Banks DTM

Thank you for your continued dedication to the work of Toastmasters in our District; contests, training and running and participating in your clubs.

As clubs/Areas/Divisions/District we aim to become Distinguished. The significance of attaining Distinguished status cannot be overstated. It signifies growth, increased participation in the Toastmasters programme, and the development of robust clubs.

One way to help your club attain Distinguished status is to run a Speechcraft course. In running a Speechcraft course you help non-members gain valuable skills and, if they complete the course they will be able to achieve a Level 1; so you will gain a new member and they will have a Level 1, both of which will count towards your club's DCP Goals.

Therefore, a proactive approach to club enhancement involves running a Speechcraft course. I encourage you to reach out if you are interested in organising a Speechcraft course, as we are pleased to offer financial support. The first 20 clubs undertaking the Speechcraft programme this year will be reimbursed for the associated material costs (\$50), as part of our commitment to supporting this initiative.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our Toastmasters community.

## This issue:

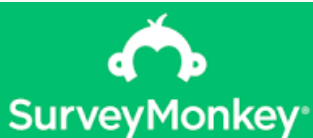
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**How often do you want to receive the District Newsletter?**

**Complete the short survey by clicking on the link below**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CYQLW5T>



## The District Mission

**We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.**

**How is the District Doing?**

**Congratulations to the following 14 clubs with 20+ members and 5 or more DCP Goals**

Club Name	Club Status	Mem. Base	Active Members	Goals Met
Leicester City Speakers Club	Active	27	29	6
Shropshire Speakers	Active	29	31	5
PMI UK Changemakers	Active	35	29	5
Heart of England Club	Active	27	30	7
Godiva Speakers	Active	35	29	5
Tullamore Toastmasters Club	Active	20	22	5
Galway Club	Active	35	34	5
Camulodunum Club	Active	28	29	6
Cambridge Speakers Club	Active	19	21	5
Lucan Club	Active	24	32	5
Dublin South Toastmasters	Active	30	29	5
UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School Toastmasters	Active	28	45	6
Strictly Speaking Harrogate	Active	31	35	5
Elvet Speakers	Active	25	35	6

**Thanks to everyone who has helped their clubs to achieve such great results. Keep it up and share best practice with other clubs.**

The Club Growth Director, Mairead Dillon, is seeking volunteers to join the CG team and help support low member clubs and build new clubs. If you are interested, please email: [mairiad.dillon.md@gmail.com](mailto:mairiad.dillon.md@gmail.com)

# Forthcoming DOT2 Training

## Special Guest: Region 10 Advisor Piotr Chimko



**TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL**  
DISTRICT 71

# DISTRICT OFFICER TRAINING

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**2** DECEMBER 2023  
11-4 PM

**VENUE**  
Arden Hotel, Coventry Road, Solihull B92 0EH, BIRMINGHAM

**TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL** Since 1924

The poster features a photograph of three people in professional attire clapping. The background is a dark red color with yellow horizontal lines. The text is in white and yellow.



**TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL**  
DISTRICT 71

# DISTRICT OFFICER TRAINING

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**3** DECEMBER 2023  
11-4 PM

**VENUE**  
Clayton Hotel, Stockhole Lane, Clonsagh, Swords, DUBLIN, K67 X3H5 minibus service from Dublin Airport

**TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL**

The poster features a photograph of a group of people sitting in a room, smiling and looking towards the right. The background is a dark red color with yellow horizontal lines. The text is in white and yellow.

DOT is an opportunity to network in-person, learn together and plan for success in the second half of the year. Area and Division Directors, please confirm attendance with PQD Danny Banks.

email: [pqd.dannybanks.d71@gmail.com](mailto:pqd.dannybanks.d71@gmail.com)



# Highlights From Division 'C' Contests on 11th November



## Contest Winners

### Humorous Speech Contest

Mick Rock, East Coast Club  
Aine O'Neill, Viking Voices  
Stephen Morrow, Lagan Valley

### Table Topics Contest

Seamus Hynes, Balbriggan Toastmasters  
James Watters, Dublin 15  
Maree Farrell, Castleknock Toastmasters





# Highlights From Division 'M' Contests on 11th November



## Contest Winners

### **Humorous Speech Contest**

1. Rebecca Cramp
2. Carmel Wynne
3. John Conlon

### **Table Topics Contest**

1. Ciaran Blair
2. Grainne O'Kane
3. Winifred Ryan





# Highlights From Division 'B' Contests on 12th November



## Contest Winners

### Humorous Speech Contest

1. Sonia Elston
2. Sean Dwan
3. Maura Meaney

### Table Topics Contest

1. Patrick Hynes
2. Sonia Elston
3. Maura Meaney



Division 'B' Director  
James Finnegan



# Forthcoming District Webinars



**D71 Wednesday Webinars**  
Wednesday 22nd November at 19:00 GMT



**'Telling Our Stories'**  
Vinette Hoffman-Gibbs, DTM



**D71 PR Masterclass**  
Thursday 30th November at 18:30 GMT



**Anthony Garvey**  
"How to get great PR for your Club"



**District 71 Leadership Series**  
Sunday 26th November 2023  
19:00 -20:00 GMT



**Stefano McGee, DTM**  
2nd Vice President  
Further details coming soon

Register for these events via the [D71 website](#).  
You will also be sent a reminder nearer the date



# Hurry & Register!

## History Quiz Night on 24th November at 19:00

### Inspired by Our History District 71





- A Gift of the book to every club in District 71
- Fun History Quiz Night on Friday 24th November at 19:00 - 20:00
- Clubs are invited to send a 1-2 mins) video on the history of their club to email:






[d71prmsueburnett@gmail.com](mailto:d71prmsueburnett@gmail.com)

[Register here](#) for the Quiz Night on Friday  
24th November at 19:00

# Celebration Across The District

  
**ENNIS**  
  
**Celebration Dinner**  
 7:30pm, Sat 18th November 2023  
 Temple Gate Hotel Ennis  
 Guest Speaker:  
**Mark Quinn, International public speaking champion and Michelle Dillon, Met Eireann**

**District 71**  
 Congratulates  
**Longford Toastmasters**  
 Happy 20th Anniversary!  
*"We learn best in moments of enjoyment"*  
 Ralph Smedley



**EUROPE DIRECT | SOAPBOX 2023**  
 "THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A VOTE THAT DOESN'T MATTER"  
 "IN TODAY'S TURBULENT TIMES, IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE BY VOTING IN THE EU PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS."  
 3 MINUTES TO EXPRESS YOUR VIEW  
 BE IN WITH A CHANCE TO WIN AN APPLE IPAD!  
 €1,000 Grand Year Total Europe Direct for full details  
[www.europedirect.ie](http://www.europedirect.ie)

## Tralee Toastmasters are the talk of Munster!

**Members set for national finals after provincial wins**

MEMBERS OF the Tralee branch of Toastmasters International are set to pit their oratory skills against the very best public speakers in Ireland and the UK after winning a place at the Toastmasters Annual Conference in Portlaoise next year.

BY AUDREY REIDY

Recounting last Sunday's competitive action, Division B Director James Finnegan explained that: "The First Competition was Humorous Speech and the winner was Sonia Eiston from Tralee Toastmaster Club with a speech titled 'In Praise of the DA'."

The next competition was Table Topics (Impromptu Speaking) where each contestant was given two to three minutes on 'What Three Questions do you wish you had the answer to?' which was won by Patrick Hynes from Shannon Toastmasters Club.

Giving the keynote speech at Sunday's finals was Toastmasters Club Growth Director Mairead Dillon, who originally hails from Tralee. There was also a spontaneous standing ovation for the achievements of Irish Toastmasters member Maura Meany, from the Shannon Club, who was recently named 2023 Toastmaster of the Year for the UK and Ireland.

The provincial finals, which were hosted by the Tralee Toastmasters Club, were facilitated by James while Derry Butler was the Contest Chair and Tom O'Keefe was the Chief Judge at the event.

For anyone wishing to give the Toastmasters experience a go, the Tralee branch will be holding an open night on Monday November 20 at 8pm at St Brendan's Parochial Hall, Upper Rock Street, Tralee.

Toastmasters offers a safe, supportive and encouraging environment for people to improve their public speaking and leadership skills while also providing opportunities for personal development.

Toastmasters International are currently celebrating their 99th anniversary and have approximately 270,000 members in 14,200 clubs in 145 countries.

For further information, check out [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org).




**AROUND MALLOW**  
With Eugene Cosgrove  
[ecosgrove@corkmail.ie](mailto:ecosgrove@corkmail.ie) 086 8505684

### Serious night of humour coming up at Toastmasters

Speakeasy Toastmasters features the first of its competition nights on Thursday, October 12 when it has its Humorous Speech Contest.

It is said that fact is stranger than fiction and this may well be the case. There have been many speeches in the Humorous Speech Contest based around contestants' experiences as they negotiate their way through life. Being able to draw on that experience and turn it into a speech is a talent that is wonderful to behold.

Speakeasy Toastmasters have had a great history of success in this competition. Matt Lawless went as far as the District 71 Final (Ireland and Britain) on two occasions, winning it outright in 1985 with his speech 'First and Last', about his life of flying.

Michael O'Connell appeared in four district finals, winning in 2008 with his speech, 'Feel the Fear and Blow it Up Anyway', about his pink laptop. Gerry O'Callaghan competed in the 2003 final with his speech, 'Toby', about his pet rodent.

All those who attend are in for a great night of entertainment and, who knows, you may be there for the unmaking of a speech that goes on to much bigger and better things.

The 'Table Topics' Contest is where contestants are required to speak for two minutes without prior knowledge of the subject. Table Topics are intended to help speakers to develop the ability to organise their thoughts quickly and express themselves clearly and succinctly.

Kieran Buckley, Jeremiah Rosayne and Pat Sexton have all reached district finals, with the latter winning the competition on four occasions.

Winners of both the Humorous Speech and Table Topics will go on to represent the club and progress to the North Cork Final on Tuesday, October 24 in Fermoy.

All are welcome on the night, proceedings get underway at the Hibernian Hotel in Mallow at 8pm on Thursday, October 12 with tea and coffee served during the break.

ST. GORNAT'S CEMETERY  
Mallow Brian Fein will be honoured to mark the centenary of the Volunteer Andy O'Sullivan Cemetery, Mallow on 8 at 12 noon, to coincide with the centenary of the Civil War. He died in 1918 and is buried in the cemetery.

The main speakers at the event are as follows: M.A.R. thank everyone and brought lovely sandwiches and biscuits.

MALLOW FIELD Club Social Services Co on Tuesday night

If you wish to be a guest contributor, submit your article to <https://d71toastmasters.org/share-with-the-district/share-a-news-article/>



# Wednesday Webinar Summary

By Division 'B' Director, James Finnegan



James Finnegan  
District B, Director



This weeks Wednesday Webinar was on the subject of "Resolving Conflict" and was expertly facilitated by Gerry Dunn DTM.

Gerry brings over a decade of professional experience to his role as District 71 Conflict Resolution Officer from his career as Court Mediator as appointed by the Sheriffs Court in Scotland. He explained the importance of the Mediator Mindset which is to stop Conflict getting out of hand.

Toastmasters, like all professional organisations has policies covering Conflict Resolution - Policy 3.0 Ethics and Conflict - but as Gerry says if you have got to the stage of reading them, things have got to a pretty bad level. There are also the Toastmaster Core Values of Integrity, Respect, Service and Excellence.

It must be remembered that the Mediator is not making judgments on a situation but tries to find middle ground in a resolution that might not get total agreement from everyone, but one that can lived with by both sides. To get this rapport requires a commitment to Confidentiality, Impartiality and Flexibility

Conflict can be caused by a number of factors including Personalities, Stress and Workload, Clashes of Values and Poor Leadership. These can occur in all walks of life, and Gerry gave a number of fictitious (hopefully) scenarios that gave the attendees an opportunity to try out some mediation techniques for themselves.

This was a fascinating and informative experience and Gerry was warmly thanked for his presentation that got us all involved, thinking and participating.



# Guest Contribution by Member

Kyle Murtagh, D71 Evaluation Champion (x2)



District Champion, Kyle Murtagh, offers an in-depth video explaining exactly how to deliver an effective Toastmasters Evaluation.

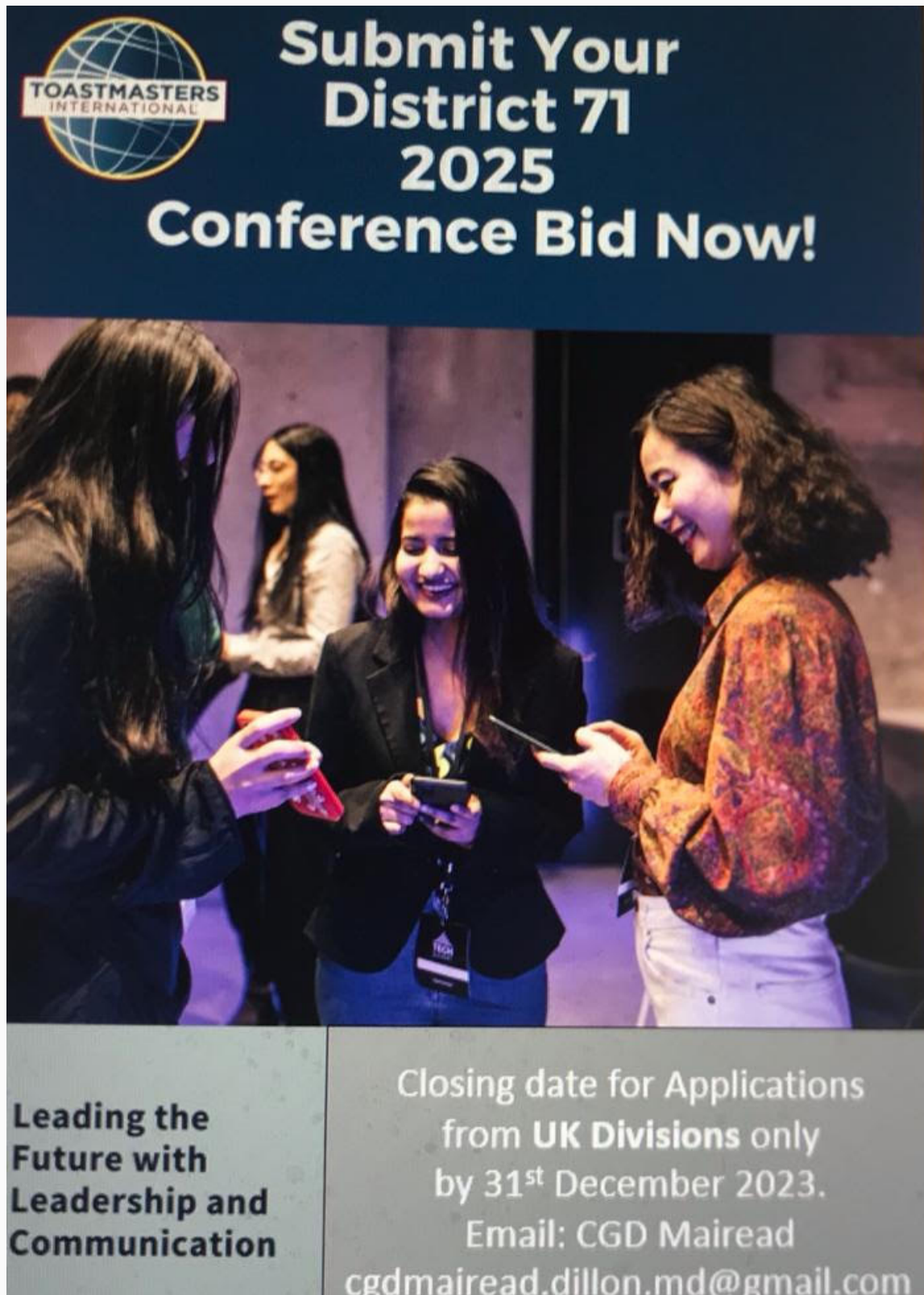
The training will help a lot of new Toastmasters understand evaluations and would help seasoned members have more success in the evaluation contest.

Here's the link to the video: <https://youtu.be/swr-cVNyeOU>

<https://youtu.be/swr-cVNyeOU>

If you wish to be a guest contributor, submit your article to <https://d71toastmasters.org/share-with-the-district/share-a-news-article/>

# Bid to Host the 2025 UK Conference



The advertisement features a dark blue header with the Toastmasters International logo on the left and the text "Submit Your District 71 2025 Conference Bid Now!" in white. Below the header is a photograph of three women in a social setting, looking at their smartphones. The bottom of the advertisement is split into two grey sections. The left section contains the text "Leading the Future with Leadership and Communication". The right section contains the text "Closing date for Applications from UK Divisions only by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Email: CGD Mairead cgdmairead.dillon.md@gmail.com".

**Submit Your District 71 2025 Conference Bid Now!**

**Leading the Future with Leadership and Communication**

Closing date for Applications from UK Divisions only by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.  
Email: CGD Mairead  
cgdmairead.dillon.md@gmail.com

Contact: [cgdmaireaddillonmd@gmail.com](mailto:cgdmaireaddillonmd@gmail.com)

# Key Dates Coming Up



The COT2 Training Window is now opened

**1 Nov 2023 - 28 Feb 2024**

For Area and Division Directors to Offer COT Sessions

**COT2 Target > 90% Officers Trained**

## Preparation for new Pathways LMS

Pathways learning experience is moving to a new Learning Management System (LMS) in the first half of next year. We are preparing to transfer your education data from the existing LMS to the new one well in advance of the transition to support a successful launch.

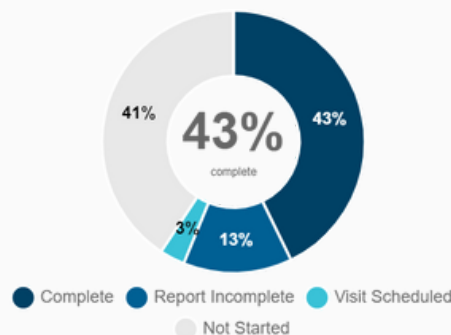
To ensure that your education achievements transition to the new LMS correctly, you need to check that they are all submitted on BOTH Base Camp and Club Central by

**December 15th 2023.**

## Area Director Club Visit#1 Report Status

Target: 100% report submission

**Deadline: 30 November**



Please complete club visits and submit reports before the deadline of **30th November**.



# Monthly Poetry from District Poet-in Residence, Mike Keenan

## Trees



**Mike Keenan,  
Poet-in-Residence**

Majesty notwithstanding  
No tall trees left standing  
It takes my breath away  
No oxygenated walk today

Heartfelt bonding rendered  
Neither now easily tended  
I cannot turn my eyes to see  
The remnants of these noble trees

Walking there was just a part  
Partners in the work of art  
Where to sit when feeling tired  
Would Newton have been inspired

Nobility cannot exist  
All must get the human twist  
Royalty cruelly forced  
A dethroned desert forest

Aesthetically deficient  
A dead door beneficent  
If only they had left the bark  
Now silent sterile stark



**Mike Keenan,  
Poet-in-Residence**

Like a ward of amputees  
A line of stumps of elegant trees  
Environmental phantom pains  
Never to be seen again

The melody of the whistling breeze  
The magical music through the trees  
All in a line up to perform  
Beethoven in a storm

No standing tall and reaching out  
They were clear to me what I'm about  
How now to sink our roots  
Stripped of basic truths

The tall great oaks of men  
Will we ever see again  
And lament that they're not there  
The lady sycamore fair

I talk of life with spirit and heart  
Of which we only share a part  
If trees are Mother Earth's big lung  
Then her song is nearly sung

Heralding a darker day  
Less sweetness in the month of May  
No symphonic dawn Chorus  
The queue is forming for us



# Useful Resources to Support Members

**District 71 website**

**District Youtube Channel**

**Toastmasters International Website**

**District 71 'Help Hub'**

**Visit the District Store**

