

Programme Quality Director report.

The role of the Programme Quality Director encompasses 6 key area:

- The Distinguished club programme.
- District Training
- Pathways.
- Speechcraft
- Conference
- Contests

The Distinguished Club programme.

These are the number of Distinguished clubs (as of 18/04/24)

Distinguished Clubs	
Base	To Date
193	75
Goals	
Distinguished	78
Select Distinguished	87
President's Distinguished	97
Smedley Distinguished	107

At the moment we have another 30 clubs which could achieve Distinguished status if they could add new members/ achieve educational awards.

I am certain that we will have achieved Smedley Distinguished level by the end of the Toastmasters' year.

District Training

This year we organised training for District Officers (Division Directrs and Area Directors). DOT 1 was held in June online and we trained 54 Officers, DOT 2 was held in person in Birmingham and Dublin and 31 Officers were trained.

During COT 1 we trained 799 Club officers and COT 2 trained 650 club officers.

Twenty-two clubs during COT1 sent all 7 officers and nine in COT 2.

I would like to thank all those DD's, AD's and members who organised and ran COT training.

We have also held a regular Wednesday evening webinar covering a wide-range of topics, including: contest training, conflict management, using F and Z principles to design posters and many other topics. Once again thank you to all those members who led those sessions.

Pathways

This year we tried an innovation in offering a monthly, District-wide Onboarding session for new members. This has proved successful, and we have 20-30 members attend the sessions.

Our focus has been on encouraging clubs to get their members through to Level 1 Pathways. This has been fairly successful, currently (18/04/23) we have 45 clubs with four L1's and 405 members have achieved their L1.

Speechcraft

We have had a number of clubs run Speechcraft, indeed we have a new corporate club chartered after having built-up membership through running Speechcraft.

It is an excellent way of gaining new members and building clubs, unfortunately there has been a poor uptake this year which I hope will improve over the next few years.

Conference

An excellent conference is being planned by Peter Kieran and his team at Portlaoise from 10-12th May.

It will involve contest semi-finals and finals as well as several workshops, Gala Dinner and a guest speaker Roger Caesar

Peter and his team have been working really hard to make sure that this is a high quality and enjoyable event.

Contests.

This year our District Council voted to have all contests in person. I'm pleased to say that our Division and Area Directors and their teams have risen to the challenge and we have had to excellent, well-organised contests.

I would also like to thank Liz Welch who has worked really hard as Contest chair to make sure the contests will run smoothly.

I would also like to thank our District Chief judges: Peter McAuley (Ireland) and Bob Ferguson (UK) for their detailed knowledge and constant support.