

ISSUE 11 May 2025



DISTRICT 71

NEWSLETTER

D71 BRANDBUILDERS



ENJOY | GROW | CELEBRATE

STALLONE-OBARAEMI SAMUEL

Glasgow Toastmasters , Area 60, Division S

WWW.D71TOASTMASTERS.ORG

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FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR



MAKE MAY MEMBERSHIP MONTH!

As the Toastmasters year draws to a close, May offers one of the best opportunities to grow your club. Whether your club stays open through the summer or takes a well-earned break, there are still plenty of reasons to make May your membership month.

For clubs that remain active during summer, a May membership drive brings new energy and fresh voices into meetings, perfect for sparking creativity and keeping momentum going. For clubs that pause over the summer, May is still a vital time to welcome new members. Why? Because people are already looking ahead. May is a month of planning—new goals, new skills, new connections. When someone joins now, they get a taste of what Toastmasters can offer and can look forward to diving in fully come September.

New members in May can attend one or two meetings before the break, meet their future mentors, and get inspired by the club's stories and spirit. Plus, by joining now, they won't miss out on early communications or summer social events that help them feel part of the community from day one.

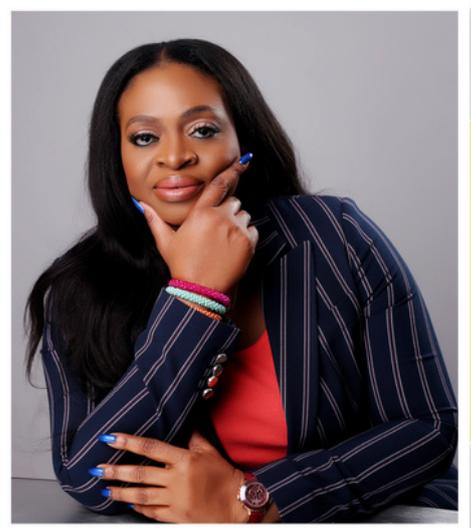
Make it easy for guests to say yes: host an open house, encourage members to bring a friend, and share personal stories of how Toastmasters has helped you. People don't just join a program—they join people.

Remember, growing your club isn't just about numbers. It's about creating more opportunities for learning, leadership, and lasting friendships. So let's finish strong. Let's inspire, invite, and welcome new members this May.

Make May membership month—and set your club up for even greater success in the new Toastmasters year!



FROM THE PRM'S DESK



Fellow Toastmasters,

As we approach the final stretch of this Toastmasters year, I'm reminded of the power of finishing strong. This is our second-to-last edition—and what a journey it's been! Whether you're working on your last speech, leading a committee, or planning one more club meeting, now is the time to give it your all.

Every effort you make contributes to a lasting legacy in your club, area, division, and district. Let's keep the momentum going, celebrate our progress, and close out the year with the same passion and purpose we started with. One more edition to go—let's make it count!

Warm regards,

Angela Afieghe
PR Manager,
Toastmasters District 71



DISTRICT 71 LEADERSHIP TEAM

DISTRICT
DIRECTOR

PROGRAM QUALITY
DIRECTOR

CLUB GROWTH
DIRECTOR



DANNY BANKS

MAIREAD DILLON

STEVE CAMPION

IMMEDIATE PAST
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATION
MANAGER

FINANCE MANAGER

PUBLIC RELATIONS
MANAGER



ELIZABETH JORDAN

PAIGE SKELTON

WILLIAM KEARNEY

ANGELA AFIEGHE



DISTRICT 71

DIVISION DIRECTORS



TIM LEECH



NICHOLAS O'NEIL



PATRICIA GRAY



GEORGINA
HODGKINSON



RANDY EKAKITIE



KEVIN O'REILLY



OLGA BYRNE



FEMI OLULAJA



PAUL MCCARTHY



DISTRICT 71

PR AMBASSADORS



Rob Partridge
Division F



Claire Downie
Division S



Katuta Lumpa
Division H



Aparna Sasikumar
Division N



Shantelle York
Division E



Sudepto kushary
Division M



Folasanmi Ajayi
Division D



Centennial Plus One Pledge



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE MONTH



DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Join us for the District Executive Committee Meeting as we review progress, discuss key initiatives and plan for the continued success of District 71.

Tuesday
6 May, 2025

07:00 PM
09:00 PM

Scan to register

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

TUE 06

07:00 PM - 09:00 PM



DISTRICT LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES SHOWCASE

Hear directly from the candidates, understand their vision, and cast your vote with confidence in the upcoming elections.

7th May, 2025

19:00 (BST)

Scan to register

District Leadership Candidate Showcase

WED 07

07:00 PM - 09:00 PM



Back to School Solihull Conference 2025

Join us in Solihull, for the D71 Toastmasters Conference!

Voco St John's Hotels Solihull, B91 1AT

D71 Back to School Solihull Conference 2025

FRI - SUN 09-11

Voco St John's Hotels Solihull, B91 1AT



DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

10th May, 10AM-1PM

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

SAT 10

10:00 AM - 01:00 PM



ABOUT MENTORING

TUE 13

07:00 PM - 08:30 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE MONTH

POETRY WORKSHOP

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Learn from poets
- Discover the art of poetry
- Practice writing your own verses

14th May, 2025
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



PRINCE AGYEMAN
77th Poet in Residence

POETRY WORKSHOP

07:00 PM - 08:00PM

WED
14

Join our Speech Craft Course
Tyne Online Toastmasters

LEARN to overcome your fear in PUBLIC SPEAKING

4 of the speaking skills you need to succeed, e.g.

- Full Encouragement
- Member Speaking Workshop
- Public Presentation - Toastmasters

A consecutive online meetings on Thursday

- 7.00 - 7.15 PM (UK time)
- From 7.20 - 8.30 (UK time)

Register NOW

- All skill level WELCOME
- All Nationalities WELCOME
- Web: TyneToastmasters@gmail.com



SPEECHCRAFT TYNE ONLINE TOASTMASTERS

07:00 PM - 08:00 PM

THURS
15



CORPORATE CONNECT - PATHWAYS AND BASECAMP

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

FRI
16

EMPOWER YOUR WORKFORCE

Empower in your company should have a voice

This is a series of five events designed specifically for business leaders and HR professionals.

What you will learn:

- How organisations have benefited from the Toastmasters programme
- How to introduce confidence and get practical training
- Learn tips from business leaders and HR professionals

27 March, 2025
10 AM - 12 PM (GMT)



PR MASTERCLASS 010

07:00 PM - 08:00PM

WED
28

EMPOWER YOUR WORKFORCE

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This is a series of five events designed specifically for business leaders and HR professionals.

What you will learn:

- How organisations have benefited from the Toastmasters programme
- How to introduce confidence and get practical training
- Learn tips from business leaders and HR professionals

27 March, 2025
10 AM - 12 PM (GMT)



Empower Your Workforce

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

THURS
29



DISTRICT CONFERENCE

SPRING CONFERENCE 2025



Toastmasters District 71

Spring Conference

Back to School Solihull Conference 2025



*Join us in Solihull, for the D71
Toastmasters Conference!*

9 - 11 May, 2025

 Voco St John's Hotels Solihull, B91 1AT

 www.solihull2025.co.uk

Contest only tickets still available at
Solihull2025.co.uk



DISTRICT EVENT



In today's rapidly changing world, connecting and learning from one another has never been more vital. Our Corporate Connect meetings are specifically designed to enhance collaboration and best practice sharing across corporate and organisational clubs.

Our latest session was our biggest yet, with representatives from 11 clubs attending. We explored the theme of **“Learning & Development – tied to professional development plans & engaging HR.”** By comparing experiences, we found that there were many ways of achieving success. The clubs that had higher levels of engagement with HR and related teams also benefited from having fees paid, meetings held during regular hours and more support in building and maintaining membership.

To further enhance engagement between Toastmasters clubs and HR teams, here are three key recommendations:

- **Show The Value:** Regularly share success stories and clearly demonstrate how Toastmasters adds value to the organisation by supporting HR objectives and employee development. Visit the [Show The Value](#) section of our website for examples.
- **Invite Participation:** Invite HR representatives to Toastmasters meetings and workshops to showcase the tangible benefits and foster stronger relationships.
- **Discuss Plans:** Actively involve HR in planning club activities, ensuring alignment with broader organisational development strategies.

Thank you to Shirley Marshall of Toastmasters in Travel and Ciara Clougher of Microsoft OneVoice for their leadership of this initiative.

Join our next Corporate Connect meeting on Friday, 11th April, focusing on the important topic of **“Building and Maintaining Membership”**.

Together, let's harness the collective wisdom of District 71's corporate clubs to empower our teams and organisations.

DISTRICT EVENT

EMPOWER YOUR WORKFORCE

Professional growth and effective communication are keys to success in the modern workplace. Our “Empower Your Workforce” series of webinars and in-person events is tailored specifically to HR professionals and business leaders, showcasing how Toastmasters equips teams with critical workplace skills.

Our most recent event featured insightful contributions from Declan Drummey from the club at Analog Devices and Pat Johnson, past President of Toastmasters International. If you missed it, you can watch the highlights on the [District's YouTube channel](#). Pat shared extremely useful insights with us. She highlighted three specific skills that are essential in any workplace and which our clubs help people develop:

- **Listening Skills:** Listening is foundational yet often overlooked. Toastmasters transforms members into active listeners who interpret nuances, detect gaps, and engage meaningfully, skills vital for informed decision-making and effective leadership.
- **Critical Thinking:** When active listening meets critical thinking, employees can critically assess ideas, offer constructive feedback, and enhance the quality of team decisions. This helps foster innovation and agility within organisations.
- **Speaking Skills:** Whether in business meetings, presentations, or impromptu interactions, speaking with clarity and confidence is crucial. Toastmasters sharpens these skills, equipping employees to handle different communication scenarios effectively and persuasively.

Find out more about the series and upcoming events at empoweryourworkforce.org. If you know HR leaders or colleagues who could benefit, ask them to attend. I'm sure they'll be glad you did!



BEHIND THE BADGE: DIVISION DIRECTORS STORY

A bit of a nerd by both nature and nurture, I was no orator when I first visited Toastmasters in 2017. Comfortable giving technical presentations, I was attracted to the challenge of public speaking outside that comfort zone. I was quickly hooked beyond rescue and have since enjoyed completing two paths, serving in several club officer roles as Area Director and now as Division Director. With family life, leisure interests such as photography and gardening, and engineering employment to provide a livelihood, I'm not at any risk of being bored!

I recall being overawed when a fellow club member became Area Director some years ago, but later found myself slipping into it almost unawares. That was a wonderfully rewarding year, opening up unexpected and welcome challenges. Thus, drawn in, offering to undertake the division rôle was a rather natural step.

At almost the halfway point of the programme year, I can say that the Division Director role has been every bit as satisfying. It has been a great pleasure supporting a crew of Area Directors, drawing on my own experience of last year. The opportunity to contribute to district-wide activities and to learn from members with extensive experience has been quite invaluable. As I think of handing on the baton in six months or so, I couldn't recommend the rôle warmly enough, and hope to hear of spirited competition for the limited Division Director roles available! Get in line!



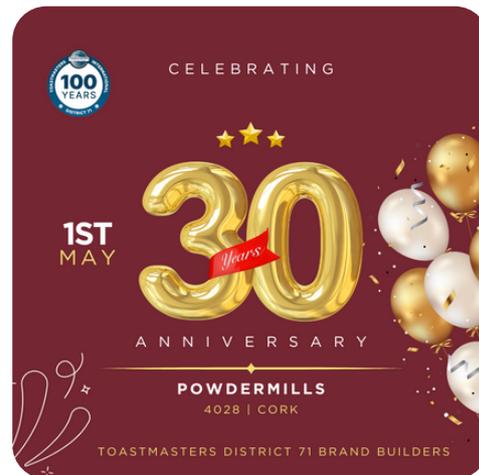
CLUB MILESTONE CELEBRATION



MAY HONOREES



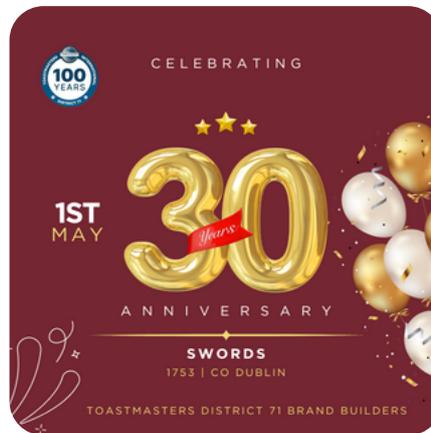
Fermoy Club
1st May - 55 Years



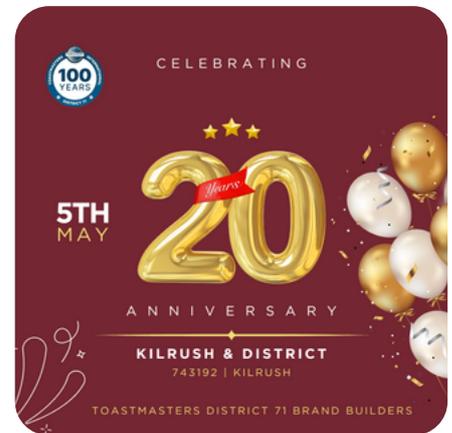
Powdermills
1st May - 30 Years



Navan
1st May - 32 Years



Swords
1st May - 30 Years



Kilrush & District
5th May - 20 Years



CLUB MILESTONE CELEBRATION



MAY HONOREES



Capital Communicators
1st May - 30 Years



Roscrea Speakers
9th April - 18 Years



Kinsale
12th May - 16 Years



Wicklow
12th May - 21 Years



PMI UK Changemakers
14th May - 3 Years



CLUB MILESTONE CELEBRATION



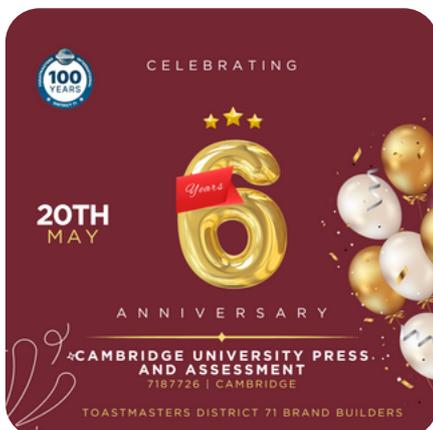
MAY HONOREES



Cornerstone Communicators Advance
14th May - 15 Years



Cork East
20th May - 23 Years



Cambridge University Press
20th May - 6 Years



Birmingham New Street Speakers
22nd May - 6 Years



Doncaster Speakers
24th May - 14 Years



FEATURED CLUB EVENT

INSIDE GLASGOW TOASTMASTERS' RECORD-BREAKING SPEAKATHON: A NEW ERA FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING IN SCOTLAND

By Pamela Palmer | Contributor

On April 1, 2025, something historic happened in a cozy hall in Glasgow, Scotland. Not a protest. Not a political summit. But a revolution of voices.

Glasgow Toastmasters, a 23-year-old institution quietly shaping the voices of leaders, change-makers, and entrepreneurs, hosted its very first **Speakathon**—a marathon-style speaking event showcasing the depth and diversity of public speaking talent within the club.

What's a Speakathon?

Think of it as the TEDx of Toastmasters—a dynamic, high-energy event where speaker after speaker takes the stage, delivering fast-paced, insightful, and deeply personal speeches. In one evening, the mic rotated like a baton through the hands of 20 role players and speakers, many of whom were standing in front of an audience for the first time in their lives.

And this wasn't just a one-off experiment. This Speakathon was curated to commemorate a milestone—**Glasgow Toastmasters' 500th meeting** logged in easySpeak, the club's CRM tool. Though the actual count far exceeds that number, considering over 100 meetings took place before the software was introduced, this digital marker served as a powerful reason to celebrate.

Let's put that into perspective: 500+ meetings, with an average of 20 contributors per session, equals over **10,000 speeches** delivered since inception. That's 10,000 chances for someone to grow, stumble, rise, and find their voice.

Breaking the Ice—One Brave Soul at a Time

At the heart of this Speakathon was a special feature: **10 first-time speakers** stepping up to deliver their ice-breaker speeches. In Toastmasters, the icebreaker is a rite of passage—the first prepared speech where a speaker introduces themselves and begins their journey of confident communication.

And what a lineup it was:

- **Louise Jack** opened the stage with “Ctrl+Alt+Succeed,” a riveting take on career reinvention in IT.
- **Atharv** reminded us we're all “More Than Just Notes.”
- **Magda** hilariously tackled forgetfulness with “Why Did I Walk Into This Room?”
- **Mustafe's** “Our Brain: The Original Rogue AI” merged science with storytelling.
- **Anna** braved emotional terrain in “Courage on Thin Ice.”

Each speech wasn't just an introduction—it was a story, a slice of real life, raw and unrehearsed.



FEATURED CLUB EVENT

A Legacy Worth Celebrating

The Speakathon crescendoed with a **Legacy Speech** from celebrated communicator and club icon **Ameed Versace**. His words were part time capsule, part call-to-action. In 10 electrifying minutes, he walked the audience through the evolution of the club—from its humble beginnings to becoming a launchpad for **stand-up comedians, world-class speakers, consultants, and business leaders**.

He reminded every guest in the room that public speaking isn't just about stage presence—it's about owning your story. Ameed's delivery lit up the crowd, leaving a trail of goosebumps and goals.

Leadership in Action

The event also spotlighted the leadership of **Stallone-Obaraemi Samuel**, the first Black president in the club's history. His vision has helped Glasgow Toastmasters evolve from just a public speaking club into a community where people know each other beyond the stage, do business together, and cheer one another's personal growth.

In Stallone's own words:

"We are building a family here—not just speakers, but listeners, learners, and legacy-makers. People should walk in as strangers and leave as friends."

Under his watch, the club has flourished as a haven for students, teachers, parents, and professionals—all committed to mastering the art of expression.

A First for Everyone

True to the theme of new beginnings, even the **Toastmaster of the Day, Michelle McCleod**, was experiencing her debut in that role. The Speakathon wasn't just a chance to shine—it was a chance to learn, to lead, and to leap. Michelle kept the energy flowing like a pro, threading each speech with warmth, timing, and style.

Why Speakathons Matter

In an age of information overload, the ability to speak clearly, confidently, and authentically is gold. Events like this matter because they allow everyday people to test their courage, stretch their voice, and show up for themselves in a big way. It's not just about performance. It's about transformation.

Whether it's a teacher learning to tell better stories, a student mastering interviews, or a mom launching a podcast—**Speakathons create the room where it happens**.

As Glasgow Toastmasters toasted to 500 meetings and 10,000+ speeches, one thing was clear:

The mic isn't just a tool—it's a torch. And the next generation of leaders is already holding it.



FEATURED EVENT

DIVISION D INTERNATIONAL SPEECH AND SPEECH EVALUATION CONTEST



FEATURED EVENT

DIVISION F INTERNATIONAL SPEECH AND SPEECH EVALUATION CONTEST



FEATURED EVENT

DIVISION M INTERNATIONAL SPEECH AND SPEECH EVALUATION CONTEST



FEATURED EVENT

DIVISION H INTERNATIONAL SPEECH AND SPEECH EVALUATION CONTEST



FEATURED EVENT

AREA EIGHT DIRECTOR MIKE MAUNSELL AND PAST DIVISION DIRECTOR JAMES FINNEGAN RECENTLY ADJUDICATED THE ARTICULATION FINALS IN IRELAND.

This is a competition for secondary school pupils who must make a presentation of between five and ten minutes on one artwork, object or building that has a personal connection and interpretation for the student.

It is organised and facilitated through Irish Museums, and is continually expanding across the UK and Ireland.

James adjudicated the Munster Final at the Kerry County Museum, and Mike adjudicated the All-Ireland Final at the Hunt Museum, Limerick.

Neither were easy tasks with a very high standard of presentation and eclectic manner of subject matters across the Competition.

We would encourage any local Toastmasters club to get involved in this Community activity.



FACE OF DISTRICT 71



Celebrating Stallone-Obaraemi Samuel. Club President, Glasgow Toastmasters. Glasgow Toastmasters , Area 60, Division S



In 2018, my life changed with one simple suggestion. A friend of a friend, Don Azubuike, saw something in me and said, “You need to check out Toastmasters.” That’s how I found Lighthouse Prestige Toastmasters in Nigeria. From my very first meeting, I knew I’d discovered something special. I joined immediately, ready to pay my dues and chase the mic.

Back then, titles didn’t matter to me. I wasn’t interested in being a Timer or Toastmaster of the Day—I just wanted to speak. And I spoke. At club meetings, outside events, anywhere I could find an audience. But everything shifted the day I received my first evaluation from a Toastmaster named Olanrewaju. “Use the stage with purpose,” he told me. “Use vocal variety.” That feedback was a turning point. It humbled me—and it sparked a new mission: not just to speak, but to grow and lead.

Finding My Voice—and My Leadership

Over time, I served as Secretary and later Vice President Membership at Lighthouse Prestige. I believed I was growing, but my real leadership journey didn’t begin until I moved to the UK.

For nearly a year, I explored clubs in Edinburgh—Haymarket, Capital Communicators, Waverley Communicators. Each had its merits, but something about Glasgow Toastmasters felt like home. When I finally visited, I knew: this is where I belong.

My first role was Vice President Public Relations. I loved content creation, social media, storytelling. But soon, a bigger call came: Area Director for Area 30 (Edinburgh). I had never even served as Club President. Was I ready?

It took one conversation with Elizabeth Jordan, our District 71 Director, and Division S Director Philip Cooper to make a decision. I said yes—and never looked back.



FACE OF DISTRICT 71



Making History in Glasgow

In July 2024, I became President of Glasgow Toastmasters—the largest club in Scotland and one of the largest in the UK. I was honored—and nervous. I'd only been in the club for about 18 months. I was stepping into the shoes of Ronnie Smith, under whose leadership the club became President Distinguished. And, I was making history as the first Black President of the club.

“Can I lead people who’ve been here for a decade?” I asked myself. “Can I lead across cultures?”

The answer came when I reframed the role—not as a test, but as a platform to grow and serve. That mindset changed everything.

We aligned our leadership team over lunch. We drafted a club plan. But enthusiasm alone wasn't enough—momentum waned. I had to lead with more than charisma. I created systems, made videos, sent follow-ups, and kept the team inspired with a mix of structure, heart, and grit.

What Toastmasters Taught Me

This journey has given me more than words. It gave me wisdom. Here are five truths I now carry:

1. Your energy sets the tone. People follow your frequency before your instructions.
2. Structure is love. Systems create safety, and safety fosters growth.
3. Hard conversations are leadership conversations. Discomfort sharpens direction.
4. Clarity is leadership. People don't follow confusion—they follow vision.

Not everyone will get it. Lead anyway. It's not about applause; it's about impact.

Final Thoughts: What I Know Now

Leadership is not about control. It's about stewardship. About making space for your team, your peers, your critics—and yourself—to grow.

To every new Toastmaster, every club officer, every person on the edge of commitment: This journey is worth it. You'll be challenged. You'll be stretched. But if you show up again and again, you'll become someone even you didn't expect.

I didn't become a leader because I chased the title. I became one because I kept showing up—and because an extraordinary tribe believed in me.

And that's what leadership is all about.



DTM SPOTLIGHT

HONORING OUR HIGHEST ACHIEVERS



SHIRLEY GALLAGHER, DTM
GUARDIAN TOASTMASTERS



JOHN W. KENDALL, DTM
NORTH HERTS SPEAKERS



HEIDE DE WOLF, DTM
LINCOLNSHIRE SPEAKERS



HOWARD BALKIND, DTM
MANCHESTER COMMUNICATORS



DTM SPOTLIGHT

HONORING OUR HIGHEST ACHIEVERS



JONO POON, DTM

PEGASUS SPEAKERS
ADVANCED MILTON KEYNES



LARRY LYONS, DTM

ROSCREA SPEAKERS CLUB



CARMEL TURLEY, DTM

CORRIB ORANMORE
TOASTMASTERS



JAMES FINNEGAN, DTM

WORDSMITHS ONLINE
TOASTMASTERS

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



VPPR OF THE MONTH (April 2025)



**MARTIN
PAVION**

**VPPR FOR LIVERPOOL CITY
TOASTMASTERS**



CALL FOR SUPPORT

HELPING HOWARD BALKIND, DTM ATTEND THE CONFERENCE IN SOLIHULL

We have an urgent request for support from one of our dedicated Toastmasters members, **Howard Balkind, DTM, from Manchester Communicators**. In June 2023, Howard was struck by a sudden spinal abscess that left him paralyzed and reliant on a wheelchair. Despite these challenges, his spirit and dedication to Toastmasters remain strong, and he is eager to participate in the upcoming conference in Solihull this year.

To make this possible, we are seeking assistance from district members who can offer a lift to the conference. This is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate the strength and compassion of our Toastmasters community. If you are attending the conference and have room to help Howard, who needs special accommodation, please consider lending your support.

For those able to assist, please reach out directly to Howard via email at [**howardbalkind@gmail.com**](mailto:howardbalkind@gmail.com) to coordinate. Your generosity can make a significant difference in ensuring that all members, including Howard, have the opportunity to grow, learn, and engage with our vibrant community.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to help a fellow Toastmaster in need. Your support embodies the true spirit of our organization.

QUIZ

CORNER

INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete the following questions and submit your answers via email to prmanager@d71toastmasters.org (Subject of the email should be "Quiz Corner").

The winner will be randomly selected from the entries with the highest scores and will receive a special Toastmasters prize!

1. What is the name of the speech that Toastmasters give to introduce themselves and begin their Pathways journey?

(A) Iceberg Speech

(B) Icebreaker

(C) Welcome Talk

(D) First Word

2. Which platform is used for tracking educational progress in the Toastmasters Pathways program?

(A) Club Central

(B) Base Camp

(C) Member Dashboard

(D) Easy Speak

3. Which month does the Toastmasters year officially end?

(A) July

(B) December

(C) May

(D) June

4. Which District 71 campaign encourages clubs to gain 10 new members?

(A) Go for Gold

(B) Beat the Clock

(C) Open Night

(D) Power Up Pathways

5. What is the theme for District 71's celebration of Toastmasters' 100th anniversary?

(A) Century of Eloquence

(B) A Century of Speaking

(C) 100 Voices, One Journey

(D) 100 Years of Excellence

6. Who was the first Toastmasters International President from District 71?

(A) David Templeman

(B) David Templeman

(C) Bob Ferguson

(D) Ted Corcoran

LAST MONTH'S QUIZ WINNER
John Conroy
Tallaght Toastmasters

PURPOSE PIONEERS

JOIN THE JOURNEY

Join Our Visionary Quest for Club Growth!

Step up and be part of an extraordinary movement within District 71 as we embark on a groundbreaking strategy to create new clubs! This is your chance to develop your skills, collaborate with visionary leaders, and play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Toastmasters in our community.

Seize this opportunity to transform your personal and professional landscape. Let's innovate, inspire, and drive success together.

To join, send an email to clubgrowthdirector@d71toastmasters.org and contribute to a legacy of excellence and achievement!

Join the Brand Builders Team!

Dive into a world of innovation, connect with fellow leaders, and leave your mark on our district's legacy in this Centennial year.

Supercharge your Toastmasters experience by joining our elite District Public Relations team! This is your golden opportunity to master new skills, influence our community, and accelerate your Pathways projects.

Don't just participate—lead and inspire! Send an email to prmanager@d71toastmasters.org to sign up today and transform your Toastmasters journey into an extraordinary adventure.



CHALLENGES & REWARDS

VPPR OF THE MONTH:

Are you ready to showcase your creativity, engage our community, and take your club's public relations to new heights? This is your chance to shine and bring €50 to your club!

How to Participate:

Every month, we're looking for a Vice President of Public Relations who stands out by boosting the club's visibility, engaging members, and innovating communication strategies. If you've got what it takes, dive into this exciting challenge!

Why Join the Challenge?

You will be the winning VPPR gain recognition across the district and increase your PR skills. You will also secure an additional €50 for our club, which can be used to enhance our Toastmasters experience & complete your pathways project!

Get Involved:

Start planning your strategies, engage with your club members, and let's make some noise about the great work you are doing!



VPPR OF THE MONTH



CHALLENGES & REWARDS

Social Media Post of the Quarter Contest!

Ready to showcase your creativity and social media savvy? Enter our Social Media Post of the Quarter contest and you could win **€50** for your club!

Contest Details:

Create a post that embodies the spirit of Toastmasters, engages the community, and reflects your club's unique vibe. Whether it's an inspirational quote, a success story, a clever meme, or an event recap, make it impactful and make it shine!

Winning Criteria:

1. Creativity and Originality: Bring something new and exciting to the table. Surprise us!
2. Alignment with Toastmasters Values & Brand: Your post should be compliant with the TM brand, and embody and promote the values of leadership, communication, and personal growth.
3. Engagement: We're looking for likes, shares, comments, and overall interaction. Get the community talking!
4. Visual Appeal: Make sure your post is visually captivating. Use high-quality images or graphics that grab attention.
5. Message Clarity: Your post should communicate clearly and effectively, delivering its message in a powerful way.

How to Participate:

Simply tag your club's official social media account in your post and use the hashtag **#D71BrandBuilders** and **#D71PostOfTheQuarter**. Posts must be made within the current quarter to qualify. Send a link of your post to prmanager@d71toastmasters.org



CHALLENGES & REWARDS

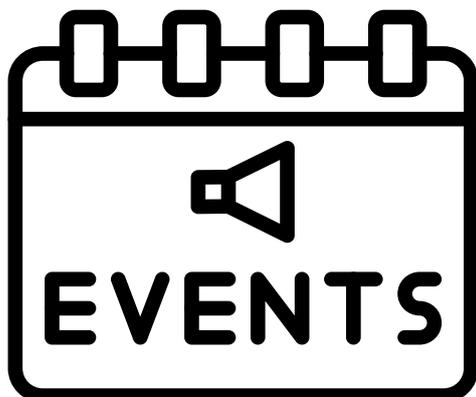
Open Night Incentive

Calling all Toastmasters! Put your event planning and publicity skills to the test. Host an open night within the toastmaster year that not only captivates but also attracts a crowd! If your event draws 20 or more attendees and gets featured in the local newspaper or on the radio, your club wins **€50!**

Incentive Details:

1. Organize an Event: Plan and execute an event that draws at least 20 attendees.
2. Capture the Moment: Take photos and videos to document the event's success.
3. Gain Media Coverage: Get your event published in a local newspaper or broadcast on a local radio station.
4. Submit Your Proof: Send in your pictures, videos, and a copy of the media coverage to claim your prize.

Note: Each club can claim this incentive once, so make it count! This is a fantastic opportunity to boost your club's visibility, engage the community, and showcase the vibrant spirit of Toastmasters.



CHALLENGES & REWARDS

#MyWhy Incentive: Share Your Story, Win €50 for Your Club!

Are you ready to inspire and engage? Participate in our #MyWhy drive by sharing a one-minute video detailing why you joined Toastmasters and why you continue to be a part of our incredible community. The most engaging story of the month will win €50 for their club and gain special recognition!

How to Participate:

1. Create Your Video: In one minute, tell us your Toastmasters journey. What drew you to join? What keeps you coming back? Make it heartfelt and inspiring!
2. Post & Tag: Share your video on social media using the hashtag #MyWhy. Make sure to tag our official page so we don't miss it!
3. Engage Your Audience: Encourage likes, shares, and comments. The post with the most engagement wins!

Prize Details:

The participant whose video garners the most engagement for the month will not only bring €50 to their club but will also be featured in our district communications, showcasing their story and their club.

Deadline: Get your videos posted and rack up engagement throughout the month. Submit the link by email to prmanager@d71toastmasters.org on or before the **28th of the month**. We'll tally the results and announce the winner at month's end.

Why Join the #MyWhy Drive?

This is your chance to highlight the impact Toastmasters has had on your life, connect with others on a similar journey, and contribute directly to your club's success. Let's fill our community with powerful stories and reasons that keep us all coming back for more.

Ready to share your why? Grab your phone, record your story, and let's show the world the power of our Toastmasters community!



CHALLENGES & REWARDS



TOASTMASTERS DISTRICT 71

100 YEARS

BEAT THE CLOCK!

Participate by just adding 5 new, dual or reinstated members from 1 May till 30 June 2025 and get recognition in the District's Hall of Fame, plus a ribbon for your banner from Toastmasters International.

MAY 1 - JUNE 30, 2025

BEAT THE CLOCK

Participate by just adding 5 new, dual or reinstated members from 1 May till 30 June 2025 and get recognition in the District's Hall of Fame, plus a ribbon for your banner from Toastmasters International.

GO FOR GOLD

Add 10 new members from May 1 to June 15, and your club will receive €50, an official Club Officer Pin Set, and a Celebration Pack.

This is your chance to grow stronger, reach more people, and be rewarded for excellence.



TOASTMASTERS DISTRICT 71

100 YEARS

GO FOR GOLD

Add **10 new members** from **May 1 to June 15**, and your club will receive **€50**, an official **Club Officer Pin Set**, and a **Celebration Pack**.

This is your chance to grow stronger, reach more people, and be rewarded for excellence.

MAY 1 - JUNE 15, 2025

CHALLENGES & REWARDS

Shine at the D71 Conference in Solihull on Us!

WINNER:



MATTY BEHAN



PR TIPS & TRICKS

Simple PR Strategies to Help Your Club Gain New Members This May

The Toastmasters year is drawing to a close, but there's still time to grow your club and welcome fresh faces. As clubs aim to finish strong, Public Relations plays a vital role in helping you attract and convert guests into committed members.

Here are three easy-to-implement PR strategies to boost your membership this May:

1. Show, Don't Just Tell

Instead of only inviting people to meetings, show them what they're missing. Use photos, quotes, or video snippets from your meetings on social media. A 30-second clip of a passionate speaker or a fun Table Topic can spark interest better than any flier.

2. Promote a "Bring a Friend" Meeting

Ask each member to invite one guest to a specific meeting. Create a simple graphic and give the event a name—"May We Meet You?" or "Guest Night Special." People are more likely to attend if invited personally.

3. Make Joining Easy and Clear

Post a simple 1-2-3 step guide to joining your club on your social media pages. Include meeting dates, contact info, and a warm message. Reduce friction and boost conversion.

A little creativity and consistency can go a long way. This May, let your club's PR be intentional, visible, and member-focused, and watch your guest list turn into a growing membership list.

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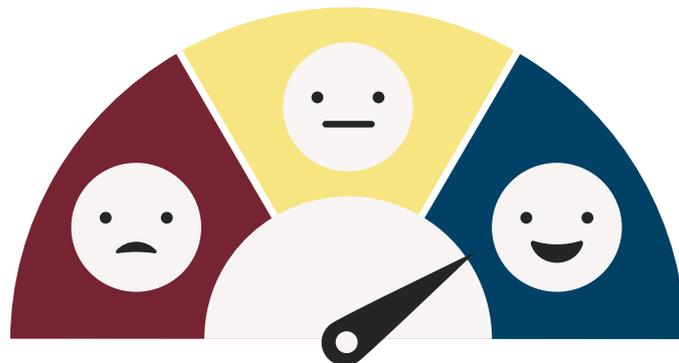


MARY MURTAGH
Raheen Toastmasters



NOEL O'BEARA
Fingal Toastmasters

FEEDBACK & SUGGESTIONS



WE VALUE YOUR INPUT!

HELP US IMPROVE YOUR NEWSLETTER

We're always striving to make our newsletter more engaging and valuable for you. Your feedback and suggestions play a crucial role in shaping the content and ensuring it meets your needs and interests. Here's how you can contribute:

Share Your Thoughts:

What did you enjoy in this issue? What would you like to see more of? Your insights help us tailor the newsletter to better serve our community.

Suggest Future Content:

Have ideas for articles, features, or topics? Would like to suggest clubs or individuals that are outstanding and deserve to be recognised? Let us know! Your suggestions can help us create content that resonates with you.

How to Provide Feedback:

Email your feedback and suggestions to prmanager@D71toastmasters.org or send us a message on our social media platforms. We're always listening!

Photo of the Month:

Submit your favourite moments captured during club meetings or events. The best photo will be featured in next month's newsletter!

Join the Conversation:

Engage with fellow members by discussing your favourite articles and sharing your thoughts on our [Facebook Group](#). Let's build a vibrant and interactive community!

THANKS TO OUR EDITORS!

Angela Afieghe
Elizabeth Jordan
Folasanmi Ajayi

Share with other members and non-member friends/colleagues that you know.

THANKS FOR READING!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

