



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

UK and Ireland

We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders.

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## The latest Toastmasters News from D71

### Our District Governor Speaks



Luanne Kent reflects on her year as District Governor. *"Thank you to everyone who has supported me and District 71 this past year and thank you to all who have gone before to build this fantastic district of which we can be so proud. I truly wish both of our districts the greatest of success in the future—it is a reflection of our success in serving our members"*

### King Laoire Conference

What a fantastic job Brendan Houghton and his team did in organising a world class conference. Having a great balance of "craic" and professionalism. World class speakers shared their energy to capacity audiences at a memorable weekend in Dun Laoghaire.



### Your Views



Two attendees share their thoughts and perspective on the last D71 conference. Contrasting views from Michael J Clarke, a regular conference goer and Patricia McGovern, who experienced a conference for the first time. What did they have to say?

### Malta Visit!

Daniel Sandars, a Toastmaster at Cranfield Speakers and his wife Stephanie took a night out from their family holiday on the Island of Gozo in Malta to visit Toastmasters Malta. Find out all about their visit.



### Upcoming Events



With many Toastmasters, especially in Ireland, taking a break from Toastmasters for the summer here is a snapshot of a few big events happening on your return. We're going to the Ploughing Championship, read here on how to get involved. Also upcoming are some fantastic workshops not to be missed.

### Leadership Opportunities

We are looking for individuals who may be interested in working in the following areas

- Article Writing
- Social Media
- Speech Craft
- Youth Leadership

Training will be provided

### Behind the leaders

Our DLT leaders may claim to have no life outside of Toastmasters, don't be fooled! Everyone has down time. So what do they do in their spare time? What dark secrets are they keeping from you? Who is the tap-dancer of the gang? Who is the book-worm?



### More Updates

- Who are the outstanding clubs in our District?
- Who are going above and beyond in achieving excellence?
- How can we learn from their success?



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## Luanne Speaks

### Our District Governor shares her thoughts



Dear Fellow Toastmasters,

My year as District Governor still has two weeks to go, so as I start this communication, I'm still on duty, and for the moment, it's still 'business as usual', so here's a final push.

The end of our 2013/14 Toastmaster year is only two weeks away and we've seen some outstanding achievements by our members. Though, as we approach the final days of our year, we still have some work to do as far as our District goals—and our District standing 'in the world.' However, I'm optimistic as I know that our members are always willing to deliver. To see how we stand against our district goals, and how you can help, please visit our website—and remember, while you can still use the D71.org address, please change your bookmark to [www.toastmasterclub.org](http://www.toastmasterclub.org) (in preparation for our reformation) If you currently use the website, the web address will take you to the last page you visited, so you will need to click on District 71 from the left side navigation panel to see the front page.

So that's the current business; now, since this is my final 'District Governor's page, I also want to take some time to share with you what it has meant to me to be your District Governor and to say thank you.

Throughout my term as a member of the District Leadership Team, and especially in my year as your District Governor, I have enjoyed meeting so many fantastic people, seeing so many people achieve, and visiting so many quality clubs. I've enjoyed seeing our members achieve. However, to be credible, I should also add that there have indeed been moments / experiences that could be described as challenging—but then isn't it the challenges that help us to grow—so I'm thankful for the whole package. The good part though is that the positive experiences of seeing our members and our District prosper has been truly exciting and rewarding and have clearly overshadowed any negatives.

In addition to our club and member achievements, which is our reason for being, the most memorable part of my year will be the transition of our current District 71 into two exciting reformed districts, 71 and 91. The reformation has played a significant part of each of my years on the DLT—and on July 1 it will be complete. The reformation is truly a sign of our growth and our success as a District in serving our members. Thank you to so many who worked so hard.

OK, another admission, when I think about our reformation, I do sometimes feel little waves of melancholy wash over. We have enjoyed so many wonderful experiences as District 71, the friends we've made throughout the entirety of the UK and Ireland, the excitement of our contests, the wonderful times we've enjoyed at conferences—the craic! However, when I think about each of our new districts establishing their identities and culture, striving to achieve, trying new ideas, I'm so excited. Change can be such an enormous positive force and I know in my heart that each will be successful.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me and District 71 this past year and thank you to all who have gone before to build this fantastic district of which we can be so proud. So now it's time to bid a fond farewell and to hand over to our incoming District Governors, Ciaran Moore, our new District 71 Governor and Hilary Briggs, our new District 91 Governor. I truly wish both of our districts the greatest of success in the future—it is a reflection of our success in serving our members

All the Best,

*Luanne Kent*

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## Conference Review

### All the best D71!



Chris Boden, from Buckinghamshire, was declared the overall winner in the Toastmasters International Speech Contest (Ireland and UK). Chris will now go on to represent the UK and Ireland in Kuala Lumpur in August.

Chris's speech was entitled "The Throw" and won over the judges on the day to be crowned the ultimate champion in a packed auditorium of the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire. Chris spoke about how his early experiences had taught him that it's more rewarding to throw yourself into life than to watch from the sidelines.

Chris joined Toastmasters in 2007 in Central London (Holborn Speakers), largely to help build his career by overcoming his fear of public speaking, and he was hooked right away. "I've always been competitive so when I found out there were contests I jumped straight in." said Chris.

"Toastmasters has helped me overcome my fear and has taught me a lot about public speaking. One of the most important lessons, in terms of creating an engaging speech, was learning to take a speech and craft it into something much better than I started with.

"This win is the end result of years of hard work so it means a lot to me. I've come a very long way from where I started. Growing up in Australia I was a painfully shy child. I barely said a word for the first 15 years of my life. My family still can't really believe that I could win speaking contests because I spent most of my life avoiding opening my mouth."

- 2nd Place: Gayna Cooper with a speech entitled "Marrowbones"
- 3rd Place: Janet Tarasofsky with a speech entitled "The 5 Stages of Grief"



The winner of the 2014 D71 Evaluation Contest was Simon Bucknall, of London Cardinals Club who is pictured on the left with Contest Chair Lynne Cantor. The Test Speech was entitled "Red Shoes" and was delivered by Sharon O'Neill of Bishopstown Toastmasters, Cork.

- 2nd Place: Jenny Crossley
- 3rd Place: Michael J. Clarke

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**Kenote Speaker Jock Elliott**



**Brendan and his conference team**

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## Your Views

**Michael J Clarke, DTM**



Wow – what a weekend it has been at the King Laoghaire Conference in Dun Laoghaire, Ireland – the last ever District 71 (large) Conference before we split into District 71 (smaller) and District 91.

I came third in the Evaluation Speech contest final. The test speech we had to evaluate was awesome. Never before in my twelve years in Toastmasters has a speaker reduced me to tears, but Sharon O'Neill with a speech about Red Shoes that was about Auschwitz and inhumanity managed it. And then I had to evaluate it! When your name is called, you either freeze or you just enjoy it. To stand on a stage and look out at nearly three hundred delegates – this was my dream fulfilled. Three and a half minutes (well just under) later I stepped off that stage and thought – yep I've done it and I could do no more. And I loved every single second of it.

To come third behind Simon Bucknall and Jenny Crossley, two awesome competitors is one of the greatest honours I have had in Toastmasters. And the trophy you get! It is lovely, don't get me wrong, but it is glass, heavy and has a pointed top. And I had to get this through security at Dublin airport! In the end I just presented it to them and told them it was a prize. They took it away to check – well actually all the security staff gathered round to look at it and then congratulated me.

As always District Conference was brilliant; brilliant workshops, brilliant contests, brilliant social events, but most of all meeting brilliant people. There were people there for the first time and all said – wow this is brilliant I'm so pleased I've come. If you ever get the opportunity to go to a District Conference please do spend the money and the time – it is so worth it. And if not, then at least try an Area or Division event. Now where did I leave my brain and body – oh yes, back in Dun Laoghaire – ouch. But it was so worth it!

**Patricia McGovern, Raheen Toastmasters, Limerick**



There are not many Conferences one can attend alone, comfortable in the knowledge that you are going to be in a supportive environment, have great learning experiences and meet new friends.. I left the conference feeling inspired, motivated and with contact details of new hopefully life-long friends that I plan to stay in touch with and will hopefully meet at future conferences.

In terms of the Conference organisation, I was thoroughly impressed with the professionalism displayed throughout, right from the first email notification of the event to my actual experience as a conference attendee and I truly commend the hard work and efforts of the organising committee for the execution of a well-planned well run event. As a newbie, what stood out for me most however was the exceptional quality and standard of each speaker who presented in the work-shops, the speech and evaluation competitions and I was truly in awe at the level the speakers were at and on a personal level this has given me a good bench mark from which to pitch my own journey as a fellow Toastmaster. I unfortunately missed the fancy dress part of the Conference scheduled on the Friday evening, yet I heard many great stories from fellow Toastmasters at the glorious banquet spread put on for us on the Saturday night and I'm happy to share that I along with many other conference attendees didn't leave the dance floor until 'Men in Black' stopped playing their music into the early hours of Sun morning. My only disappointment from the event was that Khaled Matlagaitu our Toastmasters International Director 2013-2015 did not see me fit to be his future wife despite promises by the organising committee that he was on the lookout for a future wife to take back to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. I suppose I can always try again at next year's Conference since following this positive experience I know I will be attending.



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## Malta Visit

### Cranfield Toastmasters on Holidays

Daniel Sandars, a Toastmaster at Cranfield Speakers and his wife Stephanie took a night out from their family holiday on the Island of Gozo in Malta to visit Toastmasters Malta. <http://tmmalta.tmclub.eu>

Daniel delivered one of the Successful Club series of educational speeches "Evaluate to Motivate" with methods and models drawn from the practices used at Cranfield Speakers.

President Mark Fenech said during his evaluation "That Daniel's educational speech "Evaluate to Motivate" came at the right time for the club", The speech provided a method and set of very effective evaluation models that focused on content, structure and delivery set within the feedback sandwich CCRRCS (C=Commend, R=Recommend, and S=positive summary).

Toastmasters Malta was established four years ago by Steve Holmes. It is Malta's only Toastmaster club and they do not reside within the support networks of a Toastmasters' district. They are within sight, with determined effort, of obtaining twenty members and chartering.

For these reasons, President Mark Fenech, on hearing that a traveling Toastmaster was interested in visiting, quickly suggested that a full meeting be convened. An informal practice meeting of four people soon grew to 12 members with six guests. This meeting was held at the Microsoft Innovation Centre in the prestigious new Skyparks building just outside Malta's international airport.

Daniel also evaluated the prepared speeches of Martina Brtnická and Sarinca Janca entitled "Steal like an Artist" and "Beware of our Brains" respectively. They were both project two from the Competent Communicator manual. Sarinca took Best Speaker award. Daniel was impressed by the high quality of the speakers and the meeting in general and wishes the members God speed on the path to chartership and their just recognition and reward.

A surprising pleasure for Daniel was to meet up with Ivan Gauci at the meeting as a fellow guest of TM Malta. Ivan had been at guest at Cranfield Speakers during his time at Cranfield University. He may well join now. This is proof of Toastmasters International global alumni potential, if ever it were needed.

Visiting Malta and using his Toastmasters' skills to help a prospective club has brought part of Daniel's life full circle. As a very new member, early in 2012, it was Toastmasters that provided Daniel with the initial public speaking skills to cope with the speaking demands following the sudden death of his father in Malta. Public speaking skills afforded Daniel a proactive role in mourning his father enabling a constructive closure and resolution of grief. Daniel was able to lead his brother in reading from the bible over the coffin at the funeral and presented the eulogy at Cranfield Speakers, at the memorial reception on London, and at the fund-raising memorial garden party at his parent's home. Many years earlier his parents had settled on the island of Gozo, in the Maltese archipelago, in retirement as expatriates.



The Toastmasters magazine came on holiday to the Island of Gozo with Daniel and his family and was photographed against the impressive coastal features of Dwejra, against the Great Rotunda Church of Xewkija, and being read by the eyes of Osiris on a traditional, brightly coloured, Luzzu fishing boat.

[www.facebook.com/cranfieldtoastmasters](http://www.facebook.com/cranfieldtoastmasters)

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Any comments to [d71.leader.team@gmail.com](mailto:d71.leader.team@gmail.com)

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## Upcoming Events

### National Ploughing Championship

With many Toastmasters, especially in Ireland, taking a break from Toastmasters for the summer here is a snapshot of a few big events happening on your return.



Europe's largest Outdoor Exhibition and Agricultural Trade Show, the National Ploughing Championships attracts on average 1,350 exhibitors and over 200,000 visitors annually. The 2014 National Ploughing Championships will take place from September 23rd to 25th September at Ratheniska, Stradbally, Co Laois

Trade Stands often provide a one-on-one interface, which is ideal for training new sales and marketing personnel by exposing them to customers and competitors.

We are looking for enthusiastic Toastmasters who will really sell the brand. We have some free passes for the 3 days. Indeed if you are planning to attend anyhow, why not pop by to say hello. We plan to have a TV there showing some of the best humorous speeches, t-shirt give-aways and an impromptu topic-session with visitors putting us through our paces. We are going to have a presence and make an impact! Be part of it. Get in touch now if you are willing to give up 2 hours on any one of the 3 days.

### Table Topics and Humorous Speech Winning Formulas Workshop

Do not miss this opportunity to learn from not just one, but two of the greats in Toastmasters. With competition season just around the corner, we offer you this chance to listen and talk to David Jones and Gerry French, previous District Winners of Table Topics and Humorous Contests respectively.



Come and experience a fast paced, highly interactive Table Topics workshop with the opportunity to practise impromptu speaking and get feedback from the dynamic David Jones. Discover proven techniques to help you create a top class Humorous speech with the effervescent Gerry French as he guides you on an all you need to know about the art of Humorous speech crafting.



This wonderful workshop will be taking place in The Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin on Saturday the 6th September. Chosen for its excellent conference rooms, accessibility to the DART and free car parking. Indeed the same venue as the last D71 conference.

We are offering an early bird special at only €15 if you book before the end of July. Full price will be €20. You can find info on <https://www.facebook.com/GreystonesToastmasters> or contact Paddy Lavelle on +353 86 812 6120.

This really will be a truly rewarding day, well worth a visit.

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## District Team

### A few insights and what you did not know!



#### Hilary Briggs

Apart from my active life within Toastmasters and professionally, I'm a keen cello player and love to play all types of chamber music; I'm a fitness fanatic using my bike as preferred mode of transport, taking swimming lessons to transform my technique (... as suggested by a fellow Toastmaster in a contest speech in Cork) and always ready to take on a crazy challenge such as walk 200 miles in 8 days for charity.

#### Kevin Lee

Hobbies and Interests: Musicals; Travel - I have lived, studied and worked in Malaysia, Australia, UK and Germany; Good Food & Great Wines. I am also slowly learning to savour single malts. Scuba Diving (tropics only). Member of the Royal College of General Practitioners; Op Telic (Iraq) Campaign Medal. Eligible for the Op Herrick (Afghanistan) Campaign Medal. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. Although I consider myself an honorary Glaswegian, my work takes me across the UK & Europe.



#### Jean Gamester

I love books. I recently read The Orphan Master's Son and it totally captured my imagination – all I wanted to do was to get back to it when work was over. It reads like a fantasy dystopia, and you have to constantly remind yourself that it is actually about real world North Korea. It combines some really harsh, heart-breaking realities with unreal mysticism, loyalty and all-embracing love. It won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction last year. Other recent reads include Jim Collins' Good to Great and Nelson Mandela's Long Walk to Freedom.

#### Phil Heath

When I was younger I was involved in a Motor Club doing navigational scatter events and treasure hunts throughout the country, but these days I have slowed down and can't find a decent driver! When I was 40, I learnt to tap dance and gained my bronze medal so quite an achievement for me at the time.

Recent consultancy work projects have seen me in Egypt, Turkey, Ukraine, Rwanda and Belarus. Unfortunately in some of those countries they seem to have riots and revolts after I leave so I am not sure if they are upset to see me go or don't want me back again!



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## More Updates

### Congratulations

The first Division to achieve Presidents Distinguished Division is Division H – Vanessa King  
The first Area to achieve Presidents Distinguished Area is Area 16 (Division C) – Michael May

### Lucan Toastmasters

Lucan Toastmasters mantra for the season was “He Who Cares Succeeds”

- C – Challenges
- A – Achievements
- R – Reaching Out
- E – Encouraging
- S – Succeeds

Our achievements include excelling in the speech contests in Division M, plus getting President Distinguished Club We reached out to the community too, conducting a Youth Leadership Program with the help of Joe McGrillen and Frank Corr in King’s Hospital School in Palmerstown, and Speechcraft Program conducted by Linda Fagan with our ten new members this Season. We encouraged our members with our meetings which are always very enjoyable and give out ribbons for Best Speaker, Best Evaluation, Best Response to a topic, and the President’s Award for Leadership. We also have a first timer ribbon for Icebreakers The challenges we met this year included having an assistant Toastmasters Role and improving the Social Functions. The challenges going forward includes improving our mentoring scheme.



Division M winners all from Lucan Toastmasters Club

Vincent Kirby - First Place Evaluation Contest  
Nuala Jackson - Contestant International Speech Contest  
Ray Cotter - First Place International Speech Contest

**Jim Watters – President Lucan Toastmasters**

### Haymarket Toastmasters

Our club is not even two years old but already Haymarket Toastmasters has gained a well-deserved, high reputation for its achievements; a reputation that is jealously envied by many. In the 2013/14 year the achievements include,

- The club is one of the top 10 clubs in the whole of the UK according to the Area Governor. A great achievement.
- Haymarket Toastmasters was the first club in Scotland this year to achieve the top Toastmasters International performance award. The award is called the President’s Distinguished Club Award and the club achieved this by the end of March, with several months to go before the end of the Toastmaster’s year.
- The club is setting up 2 new clubs; State Street and University of Edinburgh Business School
- The club sponsored and arranged hugely successful Master-class by Jock Elliott, a World Champion of Public Speaking. More than 65 Toastmasters attended from almost all of the Scottish Clubs.

**Professor Alex Roberts**  
**President: Haymarket Toastmasters**

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