



Epsom Speakers Club

No. 2487

Area 53 – Division H – District 91

President's Report 2016-17

This time last year, I joked that I would only accept the role of President if I didn't have to do much. I was confident that the Committee could do most of the work, supporting and supported by members. I'm pleased to say that, while I have done a bit of work, the Committee have been outstanding, with many members stepping up to help carry the load. At 51 years old, ESC is a mature and an ever supportive, fun and friendly club, delivering another wonderful year of growth and development. It's been a real pleasure to be part of this team.

As a Club, we are again on course to retaining the highest award of **President's Distinguished club** status for the 8th year in a row. There are 10 goals in the Distinguished Club Program relating to education, membership, training and administration. Clubs that achieve nine goals receive this President's Distinguished status, signifying a high-quality club which encourages and celebrates members' achievements. My thanks to the Committee team who have worked so well and hard to ensure we maintain this highest of standards.

Membership Growth: We've had a steady stream of new members joining this year, making a total of 35, three more than this time last year. Many thanks to VP Membership, Gillian Prior, for handling the numerous enquiries generated from the website and Meet-Up, and converting guests to becoming members.

New and refreshed Website: Big thanks to our multi-talented Webmaster, Sergeant-at-Arms and joint VP Public Relations (with Amanda Zwarts), Lloyd Griffiths, for designing and developing ESC's website (www.epsomspeakers.co.uk). It's great to have a home for my President's Club meeting reports. The plan is to continue to add useful resources and content to the website, making it easier to access and retrieve information as required.

Mentoring programme: Mentoring is an important part of the Toastmaster's experience. From making new members feel welcome and showing them the ropes, to helping crystallise their reason for joining and working closely together to ensure those aims are met and exceeded – with no small amount of fun along the way.

Many thanks to Adam Jones for stepping up to take on the role of Mentor Coordinator to run the process in a more focussed way. Working closely with Surbiton Speakers Club, the first phase was a fantastic training session held in November last year for mentors, led by Amanda Zwarts and Charlie Warshawski. More experienced members are invited to act as mentors, and this workshop helped them to really get under the skin of what it means to be an effective mentor, how to carry out this important role and how it can develop mentors, mentees and the club.

Youth Leadership programme: My thanks to Patrick Ebbs for taking the lead on supporting schools with public speaking and leadership development. ESC continues to sponsor the Youth Leadership programme, a special Toastmasters International programme aimed at young people (18 years and under), at Reed's School Toastmasters' Club. We have been doing so for the past 15 years, supported by a team of experienced members who, in exchange for a delicious meal, deliver short educational sessions to the students. Patrick also runs a programme at the local Glyn School in Epsom. From September, there are plans to run a programme at Woodcote School in Croydon, which Charlie Warshawski will lead.

Training and workshops: In addition to shorter Educational sessions run during Club meetings, we organised two workshops for members and extended the invitation to other clubs in our Area. In August last year, we welcomed Richard Stacey, from Early Birds Speakers in London, who gave a very inter-active workshop and masterclass on "Confidence Building and Tackling Table Topics". And in April this year, Freddie Daniells, from Holborn Speakers and Excalibur Speakers clubs in London, delivered his "Exceptional Evaluations" workshop to an eager and appreciative audience.

I'd like to remind and encourage everyone that, as a member of this Club, you are also members of the much wider Toastmaster community where you are welcome to attend an array of outstanding training and development events, many at London club venues.

Administration and Finances: Grateful thanks to our Treasurer, Dave Goodman, for transforming ESC's archaic banking facilities and dealing efficiently with the money side of the Club. Together with Club Secretary, Ian Upton, Dave and Ian have also successfully negotiated a discount for venue hire at Bourne Hall.

Toastmaster of the Year (ToTY) Tally: Thanks also to Costa Nicolaou for taking on the role as keeper of the Toastmaster of the Year (ToTY) tallies. Costa meticulously keeps account of member attendance, and allocates points to members for various roles they undertake during meetings, attendance at other clubs, workshops, contests, etc. At our end of year President's Dinner, scheduled for Monday 26 June, we will have an Awards Ceremony to celebrate members' contributions during the year.

And in conclusion, it's been a super and successful year, thanks to the tireless effort of our VP Education, Peter Parker, who has the task of planning and organising every Club meeting. I know he's had wonderful support from the Committee team - from Ian and Gillian who set up and organise the team of volunteer members who take turns to download and distribute the video recordings after each meeting, and also from Lloyd, who stepped up to be this year's Contest Organiser and Chief Judge at our International Speech and Evaluation Contest in March.

It's been a pleasure and a privilege to be President this year, and seeing how much everyone – including myself - has developed from moving outside their comfort zone. This role has made me do things that I never thought I'd do, and learn to actually enjoy doing them!

Good luck to the incoming Committee team, and all members in your continuing development.

Doris Sew Hoy, President.

15 May 2017.