



## Harry Higgins

Candidate for Debates Convenor of the 333<sup>rd</sup> Session of the University Philosophical Society

Why do I want to be your Debates Convenor?

**My college experience has been defined by the Phil.** I've been lucky enough to have met some of my closest friends, and have had incredible experiences along the way. Debating in the Phil has been particularly important to me. It has given me incredible opportunities, experiences, and above all has made me feel at home in college. I want to be your Debates Convenor because I want to be part of making all of the amazing things debating has given me available to everybody else.

## Competitions

### IV/Women's Open/Open

The IV and the Open are currently among the most enjoyable competitions in Europe. As DC I intend to expand on the previous successes of the IV and the Open and ensure that they continue not only to be the best competitions on the debating calendar, but to grow from strength to strength each year. As DC I will commit to making the competitions as enjoyable as possible for all competitors while maintaining the exceptionally high standard that people have come to associate with the Phil. I will make sure that the IV and the Open are fun not just for the speaker, but for the volunteers and everybody who makes the competition possible. In order to ensure that it runs smoothly I will work closely with the Treasurer and the Steward to make sure that the competition runs smoothly and has the best quality food and socials. **The Women's Open is one** of the most important events that Phil run, and I will work closely with my pros, who will be organising it, and always be there as a support.

## Internals

I will commit to making sure that Clarkies, Mahaffy's and the Lizzies Pro-am happen and are as successful as they have been. I intend to run Mahaffy's in Michelmas term to catch those who can often feel a gap in the internal debating calendar after maidens and offer them debating experience in the BP style to make sure that they are confident enough attend Inter-varsities. I intend to continue to run Mahaffy's as an open motions competition and will try to run it earlier in the term to increase participation. I will let my pros organise and run Lizzies.

## Gender Equality

Ensuring gender equality in debating competition is vital when being a woman can so often be a barrier to participation. As DC I will commit to ensuring gender equality on CA panels for the IV and Open (and the Women's Open, obviously). I will commit to running the women in debating workshop series with some of the incredible female speakers and judges who have been and are part of the Irish Circuit.

## Training and Development

The Phil have had a great year of debating, and as DC I want to build on this through training and development programmes. Importantly, I want to make sure that the opportunities to develop are not restricted to established debaters. I want to make sure that the institutional knowledge and experience of the Phil is available to all of its members.

### Fresher's workshops

As DC I will work with the VP to ensure that workshops continue to provide extensive but accessible introductions to competitive debating.

### Pro Am

I will make sure to continue that pro-ams are available not just to debaters who were school's debaters, but to anybody who wants the opportunity to improve.

### Drop in Debates

As DC I will commit to offering feedback-centric drop-in debates before big competitions. I will also make sure that people are willing to proam at these so that novice and intermediate debaters have the opportunity to learn and grow as well as feel confident before competitions, which can often be intimidating places.

I will work closely with my pros to make sure that drop ins run regularly, but will emphasise their importance before big competitions, and ensure that judges are available to give detailed feedback.

## Training

I commit to making some general training sessions available for those who want to develop, and will ensure that international trainings are run to a high standards. I will also work closely with treas to make sure that teams can attend as many competitions as possible. I also intend to offer the opportunity for a novice team to participate in Euros and Worlds training, an experience that I found invaluable to my development.

## Laws

I will ensure that the laws regarding pro-am requirements are upheld in the society.

Thank you for reading my manifesto!

