

# Sadhbh Nuanán Ní Dhonnabháin:

Candidate for Debates Convenor of the 334<sup>th</sup> Session



## Why I want to be the next DC?

Debating and the Phil have been a defining aspect of my time in college so far- I wouldn't have become involved in the Phil without debating but I found I enjoyed everything about the society! I have loved my experience with the Phil from the people, competitions and the experience I've gained and want to make sure others have the opportunity I have had! **We've had a really successful year in debating but I want to help us achieve more! I love reaching out to people and helping them to get involved in debating and the Phil generally.** It's been great to see the freshers I signed up during freshers' week interested in debating and participating in competitions. A huge part of that is encouraging people to take part in debating which I have really enjoyed doing. **As DC I really want to help everyone who wants to debate** and improve because we have so many people bursting with potential in the society who deserve as much help as team DC can give them!

## Experience:

As part of team DC this year I learned so much from the Trinity IV, Open, Mahaffey's and workshops, as well as **co-convening the Trinity Women's Open which has prepared me well for this role.** I am confident that I succeeded in my role as pro-DC due to my dedication to the job and supporting others.

Importantly **women in debating had a great year!** The Trinity Women's Open was an incredibly successful with a **record number of sign-ups from the Phil** and a well-attended women's workshop beforehand. **I organised two women's workshops** this year for women in the Phil which were well attended and enjoyed by attendees (including me)! I have become much more confident in the role through having to fight to ensure that everyone who signed up would get a place. I also had to ensure we stuck to a budget and got good deals for food and the socials which has equipped me well for 334.

A good relationship with other societies is integral from DC. Working well with the Hist means well-run competitions which will be fine **because I get on really well with those involved in the Hist.** In terms of the other societies, I am good friends with people involved in various debating societies in both Ireland and abroad. This is strengthened by our participation in competitions and registration fees paid on time which is something I will do.

## Inclusion and Diversity:

- I want to be certain that people **feel confident enough to debate** because I've seen this year how reluctant people can be due to a lack of experience- especially women
- I value personally reaching out to people as it can be a great confidence boost for them and mean they feel more included both in debating and the Phil more generally particularly as a fresher
- It can be really hard to come into college without prior debating experience or to feel judged on the circuit because of your gender and I want to ensure people don't feel the burden of that in 334
- I want to focus on getting freshers involved with the first few competitions in Dublin and then really **make sure everyone is including freshers** at Cork which is the first big competition where we get to really get to know the freshers, get them involved in the Phil and more generally become friends!

## **Training and Development:**

I intend to continue the weekly training and workshops but I will start earlier in the year. I want to **focus on intermediate debating-particularly female intermediates**- as it is often difficult to continue debating if you don't feel the necessary help is there. I want people to have the confidence to improve their debating while also showing people how fun competitions and training can be regardless of the result by encouraging everyone to take part. Internals are a fantastic way of getting people involved and I will support my pros' organisation of Lizzie's and Mahaffey's continue to be successful

### **Pro-Ams**

- People feel really welcome in the Phil when they're paired with those already really involved so I will make sure my pros feel supported in running Lizzie's
- I will **implement a Pro Am system** that ensures that there is always an opportunity for one at a competition. I will have this available in the debating group page so people know where to go
- The one-on-one focus here makes Pro-Ams a great way to improve which is why I want to emphasise them in 334

### **Workshops**

- Workshops work best when people have something to look forward to. With that in mind I want to put as many workshops on as possible before competitions so that people feel prepared for them
- I want to facilitate both fresher and all-inclusive debating and judging workshops so that we can continue to give everyone the opportunity to participate in both
- Focusing on specific topics like IR, law, feminism, etc. with drop-in debates of the same theme after will ensure more people are learning and debating

## **Competitions:**

### **Trinity IV, Open and Women's**

- The IV is without a doubt the biggest and most enjoyable Irish debating competition and I want to ensure great competitions are run continuing on from this year's success
- The Open is a great advantage for the Phil as one of the first Euros prep-competitions and I promise to make sure it is run well
- I will make sure that my Pros feel valued and supported especially when carrying out tasks they're unlikely to have done before like convening Women's, Internals, etc.
- The work volunteers put in was amazing this year and I think it is really important that team DC as a whole appreciate, support and feed them!
- For Women's I would make sure that my female pro(s) have as much say as I do because Women's was a unique opportunity for leadership that is often denied to women
- I also want to ensure more funding for DC this year, namely **sponsorship for Women's and the Open**, and if given the opportunity want to expand on the competition and make the biggest Women's competition in Ireland even bigger
- Sponsorship means **reduced reg fees and more accessibility** which is really important for greater participation

### **Competition Attendance**

- An important factor in ensuring attendance at competitions is sufficient notice which means **regular posts and updates** for everyone in the society
- I plan on making a **comprehensive list of the year's competitions on the circuit** so that people can see which comps they'd like to attend and post it in our debating group which I want to revive in 334. I want to people advance notice of competitions so that people know to sign up
- I will also continue my approach to reaching out to freshers which has been **positive reinforcement and enthusiasm** alongside my (slightly extra) Facebook posts and emails
- Transparency is really important to me from the team selection for competitions to the organisation of Trinity competitions and I promise to be open with everyone

In conclusion, I have the required knowledge and experience to be a great DC. I promise to dedicate myself to the job and guarantee that people get the most they possibly can out of competitive debating in the Phil. Thank you for reading and I hope you'll consider voting for me!

*Sadhbh xxx*