

Sorcha Ryder

Candidate for the Office Of President



From the moment I walked into the GMB as a fresher, the Phil has been **my home away from home**, giving me memories that I will cherish for years to come. My involvement with the Phil has shaped me into the person I am today and has helped me make friendships that I know will last a lifetime. I would be **honoured to be your President**, so that I could dedicate a year giving back to the society that has given so much to me. I believe I have the necessary experience, the innovative ideas and most importantly the **vision** to lead the 334th session and make it the best that it can be!

My Experience:

332nd Session: Pro-DC:

- I worked with Team DC to promote competitive debating. I organised **weekly drop in debates** and debating workshops to provide practice and constructive feedback to new debaters.
- I successfully **co-convended** the Trinity Open, The Women's Open and The Trinity IV, all massive logistical undertakings. My DC experience honed my event management and teamwork skills, which I carried over to the role of SMC.

333rd Session: SMC:

- I went above and beyond in my role, gaining **unparalleled experience** that will stand to me as President. I was an indispensable part of Team Pres, working closely with Conn everyday and gaining **invaluable insights** to the behind the scenes of Presidency. I consistently sought more responsibilities and spent hours planning the logistics for every Hon Pat. The smooth running of every Hon Pat event brought me immense pride.
- I personally and professionally **managed our team of 13 MCs**. I distributed the weekly duties and took one myself (which I will continue as President). I provided the MCs with consistent support and encouragement while they adapted to council life. I worked hard to ensure a positive atmosphere, and my appointment as Equity Officer of the Trinity IV 2018 attests to my commitment to council welfare.
- I conceptualised and ran my own **Speaker Series** - The Momentum Series, with multiple events such as the Beyond Repeal Panel Discussion. I spent weeks successfully securing guests and hosted every event I planned myself. I established **long term connections** with every guest. I successfully pitched our society to diverse individuals, appealing to their unique interests and making it difficult for them to say no. One guest Rachel Allen had to cancel her visit, but I persisted in negotiations with her until a new date was agreed.

Why Would I Be a Good Leader?

Leading Within Council:

- **Emotional awareness** is vital as President. SMC has given me the experience in facilitating all teams and their unique needs and talents, allowing me to become emotionally and professionally attuned to team roles and dynamics. I'm prepared to be on call for all of council for any problems they may have.
- I know how to foster a community of hard work and genuine passion, so that the society runs efficiently, while ensuring everyone is having **#good #banter** under my leadership.
- I will develop a cohesive Team Pres unit and pass on my institutional knowledge to the next SMC.
- I will formalise a **reporting system** for both myself and the teams, enabling us to keep track of projects and acknowledge achievements. I will set regular meetings with every team, including Bram. I will not aim to be a micromanager, but rather a **facilitator**, for every team's own personal vision.

Leading Within College:

- I have the people skills to successfully be the Phil's **ambassador**. I know how to best represent the Phil and prioritise our interests depending on whether I am speaking to a fresher, another society or the Provost office.
- I will arrange meetings over the summer with all **senior college officials** to foster positive working relationships with them, and to become a recognisable and approachable figure to them during the year.
- I will continue relations with CSC, examinations office, college security and estates and facilities.
- I will **foster good relationships** with the leaders of other societies to facilitate future collaborations.



My Ideas - What Will I do as President?

Hon Pats:

- Hon Pats are at the **heart of the President's role** on council. They draw huge media attention and attract a diverse range of students. I promise to fully devote my summer to working long hours at my computer to achieve the most returns on my emails, so that the 334th session can have the best quality of Hon Pats.
- This may involve months of planning and technical negotiations, but I am ready to hit the ground running with this work and will begin

seeking Hon Pat suggestions from our new council as soon as term is over.

- I have skills of **persuasion and negotiation** to convince Hon Pats that our invitation is an honour. I have the SMC experience of pitching to multiple guests and securing them at affordable prices.
- I will be **opportunistic** during the year to book Hon Pats as they are already touring or flying to the UK.
- To secure guests that may be beyond our budget, I will utilise our relations with institutions such as Oxford, Cambridge and UCD, and RTE and the Ray Darcy Show to explore the possibility of **co-hosting guests**.

Social Media Presence:

- Our website can often be the **first impression** potential Hon Pat and external organisations obtain of the Phil. I want to make better use of this untapped resource and will work with Team Lib to **fully update** it to reflect current endeavours, with up to date videos, sections for each team and weekly calendars.
- I will invest in a new **MacBook** and **photoshop classes** for the incoming Librarian if necessary. I will develop a clear work structure with them to ensure our event coverage is put up speedily on all social media. I will keep up our good relations with TN and UT to get the utmost coverage of our events in student media.

A Different Kind of Discourse:

- While chamber and competitive debating are integral to our society, we should also promote other kinds of discourse. I will run **Circle Conversations**: bi-weekly casual meetups to chat about current affairs. This will create non-competitive pockets of community. I will make the successful **SoapBox** an annual event.
- I want to improve on our **discourse at a college level**. I will be opportunistic about Trinity affairs and host responsive events to educate the student body, such as Q&As with the Provost, panel discussions with the leaders of the SU and mediations during pivotal political moments such as the current student protests.

Collaborations:

- Collabs are a big aim of 334. They break down our cliquey image, bring new people into the GMB and result in higher quality events. I will promote them for every team. I can **utilise my links** with Comedy Soc, Players, Law Soc, FLAC, TAF, and DUDJ. I will incorporate collabs to host a multi-day Festival and a Political Summit.
- I will pursue more unique collabs with **smaller societies**. We can go to those who are cautious to come to us, and host the collabs in alternative locations to show that we are not confined to the walls of the GMB.

Bram and Subcommittees:

- The work of Bram should not go unnoticed. I want to invest in high quality recording equipment to record each Bram paper and liaise with Trinity FM to create a **weekly Bram podcast**, at each author's permission. This will expand Bram's reach to students all across campus and encourage new participants.
- I will foster a strong subcommittee culture with both freshers and extraordinaries. I will encourage each team to establish their own subcommittees and will give them freedom to **work independently** on new projects.

Diversity:

- Diversity is a priority of mine. I will secure a **diverse range of Hon Pats** from disciplines across the board, catering to the interests of all our members. I will work closely with Team Sec to ensure the term card engages a broad range of issues that are accessible to the whole student body, not just our regular attendees. The Phil really does have **something for everyone**, and I want to make sure we are providing these incentives.
- I represented the Phil at an **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion** CSC workshop and will be meeting with the disability service to find ways for the Phil to become more inclusive to every kind of student.
- I want to celebrate **International Women's Week** with a multi-day programme, liaising with Team Sec, Bram, the SMC Speaker Series and incorporating our new conversation circles. I will host a Soapbox event featuring female leaders of other college societies. I will also actively engage with my role as **Eliz President**.

Competitive Debating:

- I want to continue our great traditions of reaching finals, and ensuring that every Phil member who is interested in competitive debating, at any level, is **afforded the opportunity** to do so. I will encourage experienced debaters to actively continue to pass down institutional knowledge and expertise to newcomers.
- I will formalise our **Pro Am system**, whereby teams are automatically paired. I will work with Teams DC and Sec to continue our training and development programmes and public speaking and confidence workshops.

Social Side:

- I will support Team Stew to ensure both their weekly and annual events run smoothly, as well as giving them **creative freedom**. I will help them establish long term connections and deals with clubs and bars.
- I will encourage social events that **aren't just nights out**, making post-council meeting hangouts a done thing. I will plan regular activities for all members such as movie nights, day outings or Pav trips (sesh!).

Financing and Sponsorship:

- I will work closely with our incoming treasurer during summer to establish a **contingency plan** with our headline sponsors PWC. I will explore individual sponsors for special events such as Women's Week.
- We will establish **specific budgets** for the year to effectively support each team financially. We will explore areas where we can cut down or reallocate expenditure, to enhance efficiency and value for money.

GMB Maintenance:

- The **GMB is a privilege** which we shouldn't take for granted. I want to spend summer improving our facilities. I will meet with the GMB premises manager bi-weekly to discuss maintenance. I have a good relationship with Jim, Joe and the cleaners. I want to touch up the paintwork, get new officer chairs and fix up the back wall of Chamber. I want to get new Bram couches and give both it and Resource a **massive clean out**. These top floor rooms that often go unused could be rented out to societies as an alternative to Convo.
- The GMB should display the wonderful recent accomplishments of the Phil, so I want to **update** both the posters on the stairs and the photos in Council. I want to retain a copy of every poster to keep on file in Bram.
- I will make a huge effort to keep Council and Bram clean everyday and will be encouraging council to do the same. I will be working with Team Stew to arrange monthly clearouts.

To Conclude:

The Phil has completely **defined my college experience** and I couldn't picture my life without it. I never could have imagined as a fresher that three years later I would be running for the privilege of being your President. It would be an honour to represent the society that welcomed me with open arms, and if elected, I would give my **absolute all** to 334. That is a promise I make to you, to the Phil as an institution and to myself. Thank you so much for taking the time to read this.

Sorcha xxx

