

## *Ruairc O'Leary* *Candidate for Treasurer of the 334<sup>th</sup> Session*

I have simply treasured (eh?) my time in the Phil thus far and it would be an honour to continue on as the treasurer of the 334<sup>th</sup> session. From teaching schoolchildren to debate, to hosting inspiring guests (and even the occasional night out), the Phil does fantastic and worthwhile work. As treasurer, I would strive to ensure that the society is in as healthy a financial position as possible so that 334 can fulfill its huge potential. My manifesto will tell you why I have the skills, experience and ideas to take care of the society's finances for the upcoming year. Hope you enjoy...



### **WHAT CAN I BRING TO THE ROLE?**

***Comfortable with both Numbers and People:*** Given my study of economics, I am comfortable with figures. Such an understanding of finance is of course essential in dealing with the accounts and potential clients of the society. I would like to think that I am approachable and easy to get along with. This would allow for smooth budgeting discussions with other officers. I would be comfortable in discussing and developing budgets for any potential projects that they might have. As for sponsors and other clients, my personality would serve the society well in partnership meetings.

***Experience as Pro-Treasurer and MC of the 333<sup>rd</sup> Session:*** In 333, I served as Pro-Treasurer. This provided me with an in-depth insight into the work of the Treasurer, meaning that I would not be entering the role in total ignorance. As Pro-Treasurer, I was responsible primarily for securing Philander sponsorship and discounts for the membership card. I learned a huge amount about successfully negotiating with and enticing clients. I also had the opportunity to meet with our contacts at PWC on several occasions and so already have a working relationship with our current title sponsors. I thoroughly enjoyed my time as an MC in 333 and was an organised and committed council member. I rarely missed Phil obligations and made a contribution to the overall positive atmosphere and general good work of the council.

### **PLANS FOR 334**

#### ***New Projects:***

***Alumni Outreach:*** The vast and bountiful Alumni network has been underexploited in recent years. As Treasurer, I would aim to incentivise contributions from Alums by setting up a general Alumni endowment. Such a move, I expect, would encourage increased donations, as Alums would be secure in the knowledge that any monetary contribution to the society would go toward its long-term growth and prosperity rather than once-off expenditures.

**Capital Expenditure:** As Treasurer, I would work with Team Lib to purchase new equipment such as cameras and stands. This expenditure is both necessary and a solid long-term investment, given the increase in value to the Phil brand that improved photo and video quality provide, especially in discussions with potential and current sponsors. I would also deal with the Buildings department to explore the purchase of new furniture as well as repainting certain rooms.

**Debate Sponsorship:** There is undoubtedly untapped financial potential in the sponsorship of individual debates and other events such as the IV and the Open. Such sponsorship is difficult to organise and secure once the academic year gets going, so, during the summer, I would focus on setting up sponsors for the Bram Stoker Club as well as working with Team DC and Sec to obtain sponsorship for the IV and other headline debates such as the SER, in a manner, of course, that does not conflict with our headline sponsorship agreement.

### *Headline Sponsorship:*

Securing a healthy headline sponsorship package early in the summer is integral to the successful functioning of the society. The past few treasurers have cultivated a great relationship with PWC and I would have absolutely no problem with them continuing as our headline sponsors for 334. However, in order to secure as lucrative a deal as possible for the society, I would attempt to shop around a bit. I would be willing to create individualised proposals for other firms, highlighting everything that the Phil can offer – in particular, our stock of well-rounded future graduates. As has been suggested in the past, I would look to initiate interview skills workshops with our sponsor, thereby increasing the value of what the Phil can provide to a firm such as PWC.

### *General Management of the Treasury:*

**Financial Transparency:** At the beginning of the year, I will work out annual budgets with the various teams to give them a clear guideline for their expenditure. Obviously, however, circumstances may change and I would be more than willing to sit down with officers and re-assess budgets if they have new, innovative ideas. I will hold regular budgeting meetings with officers so that there is clear financial transparency and no-one is kept in the dark about the stock of money available.

**Cheques:** I will look to ensure that everyone is reimbursed as quickly as possible for any money that they spend on the Phil's behalf. I will hold office hours twice a week: at 6-7 before council on Monday and 6-7 before the debate on Thursday. These times split the week up nicely and everyone is likely to be around, so nobody will have to wait too long for their cheques. Obviously, in an urgent situation, I would be more than willing to meet up outside of these times to pay people back.

**Role of the Pro-Treasurer:** This year, Ciara did a super job in expanding the role of the pro-treasurer by giving me autonomy over specific projects such as Philander sponsorship. As treasurer, I would look to continue this trend by adding a few other projects to the remit of the Pro-Treasurer during the year. Specifically, I would look to give the Pro-treasurer responsibility for setting up a CV and interview skills workshop with our headline sponsors.

### **PHINALLY...**

Being a part of the Phil has been an absolute pleasure. It has provided me with some of my most cherished memories, experiences and friendships. As Treasurer, I would always have the society's best interests at heart and it would be a delight to continue to contribute to the Phil's success. Many thanks for reading.