

Business and Professional Women (BPW UK) Public Speaking Competition

Northern Ireland Regional Report

The 2016/17 year has been another successful one for the BPW Public Speaking Competition in Northern Ireland. In November 2016, a series of regional heats were held, with teams presenting on topics as diverse as mental health, tax evasion, the impact of American politics on the world and the plight of Syrian refugees. The standards of elocution and delivery were high, and listening audiences were treated to a lively and informative debate by students who had clearly researched their subject matter extensively and were keen to share their opinions.

Five teams progressed from the regional heats to the final held at Newforge Country Club, Belfast on Saturday 11 February 2017. Once again, competition was stiff and the judges deliberated long, but Portadown College Team One were eventually declared the overall winners and will take their presentation 'You can't have your cake and eat it!' to the national final in Oswestry on 25 March.

As organisers, the Business and Professional Women would like to thank those businesses and companies who continue to sponsor our competition year on year, and whose representatives give generously of their time and expertise to judge the teams at the various heats. We sincerely value their partnership with us in this venture.

List of NI Regional Winners

Winning team:	Portadown College Team One
Runners-up:	Portadown College Team Two
Best Chairman:	Tim Neill, Portadown College
Best Speaker:	Grace Richmond, Coleraine Grammar School
Best Expresser of Thanks:	Sophie Heasley, Portadown College