

# Victory in verbal battle

**Ruimsig** — Maragon Private School's debating teams packed a punch during the (South African Council for English Education) held on 4 and 11 May.

Debating in the heavyweight (senior) division brought together the current team, consisting of Daniella Gama, Kiara Hirachund, Lethabo Bosoga and Armandt le Roux, who took part in rounds one to six of the debating league.

Daniella Gama achieved a hands-down win against Brescia House during the first round, being awarded best speaker. Daniella made use of her "deadly upper-cut", often arriving in the form of a strongly-worded criticism.

Kiara Hirachund dealt another knock-out blow for Maragon during the second round, pitted against Redhill, while Daniella's upper-cut proved decisive yet again during the third round. Kiara's wit and adorably sarcastic defamations of the opposition's argument gave her the upper hand during round four.

However, the fifth and sixth rounds were lost to Northcliff High School and Brescia House, respectively.

Nevertheless, much praise must be thrust upon the senior debaters for their superb efforts.

After the third and fourth rounds, it was announced that Maragon's senior team was ranked second in the entire region — and that Kiara and Daniella were among the top 10 best speakers.

Eager to maintain the mildly epic debating standards that Maragon is known for, Kurt Swart, Luthando Rodolo and Renaldo Nel donned their proverbial debating gloves and gun guards for the first round of the welterweight (junior) league. The line-up of their opponents was as follows:

Krugerdsorp High School — A battle often fondly referred to as the West Rand Wallop, Maragon earned a notorious win over KHS, with Luthando Rodolo's buccaneering and brilliant argument earning him the best speaker award.

Northcliff High School — The industry was torn



**The senior provincial debating team, from left: Lethabo Bosoga, Armandt le Roux, Daniella Gama, and Kiara Hirachund.**

asunder by the news of Kurt's retirement for this round. Who would replace him? Mpumi Jaka stepped up and dazzled with a previously unseen flair, flamboyance and never-ending attitude, to stun Maragon's opponents into defeat, and notch up a best speaker award in the process.

Rounds three and four were, unfortunately, lost. However, the juniors qualified for regional rounds five and six, held at Wits University. Talented speakers Mpumi Jaka, Luthando Rodolo and Renaldo Nel geared themselves up for these two very crucial rounds, winning both battles with their

infamous "I'm right, you're not" technique.

Overall, there has been a huge increase in the size of the debating team this year, warranting special thanks to all the pupils who functioned as researchers, floor, audience and fans.

In closing, the juniors and seniors have done exceptionally well this year, often punching above their weight against more experienced opponents, yet still having the tenacity and verve to come out on top. Well done to both teams, who have — for the first time in Maragon history — qualified for the provincials.



**The eloquent Carla Devantier-du Plessis and Melissa Rabie.**

## Well-spoken and well done

**Ruimsig** — Once again the Maragon Private School's public speakers have taken the world of rhetoric by storm.

On Wednesday, 4 May and 11 May, confident and talented speakers from various houses took part in the school's fifth annual public speaking competition.

The talented Carla Devantier-du Plessis was awarded best junior public speaker, with Renaldo Nel placed in second position. In the senior competition, the gifted Melissa Rabie took the honours of best senior speaker, while Leon Petrou was announced as runner-up.

A week later, the two winners of the inter-house competition proudly represented Maragon in the Morgan Ellis public speaking competition, where they stood their ground with great eloquence.

