



The French Toast

The newsletter for the Europeans Toastmasters Club n° 8018
Meeting of October 23rd, 2013



When opening our meeting, Club President **Alice** relates the great success of area N3 contest hosted by the Europeans on Saturday, October 12th. **Pamela** did a wonderful job as our emcee creating a festive and joyful atmosphere, the location was both nice and cosy, we had two high level contests... and we are fortunate tonight to welcome the Humorous Speech contest winner, **Don**, a member of Busy Professionals TM club, who will deliver his winning speech in front of us and is waiting for our feedbacks, for he will represent area N3 in Luxembourg at division level next Saturday.

She then asks our guests to introduce themselves: **Michèle** has a TM friend in Togo who recommended TM to her; **Elisa** wishes to become a diplomat thus improve her speaking skills; **Tarek** just started a company in social media; **Arpinder** is a club president in Birmingham, England, visiting her daughter **Bal** who is studying in Paris, she has "dragged" her husband **Mandeep** to the meeting; **Florence** comes for the second time.

Toastmaster of the Evening Patrick's theme is *humour*. He tells us that he laughed a lot listening to Pamela's speech about French people's complicated relationship with food and wine.

Philippe L. gives a toast to **Mathieu Ricard**, a former doctor who became a Buddhist monk and reconciles science and wisdom.

Peter tells a joke about three senior citizens complaining about their legs, their eyes and their memory.

A l'intention de nos invités, notre chronométruse d'un soir **Emmanuelle** vient expliquer le fonctionnement des cartes de couleur.

English grammarian Jean proposes « *hackneyed* » (clichéd, stereotyped) as the word of the day.

La grammairienne française Alice propose à son tour "*drôle*" comme mot du jour.

Table Topics

Alain is our table topics master. He tells us that we are - all of us! -happy, no matter what we are. And our task will be to explain why.

-  **You are a squirrel.** **Philippe L.** a d'abord cru qu'il était un requin, il a donc été soulagé d'apprendre que « squirrel » voulait dire « écureuil ». Il lui a alors été très facile de montrer que les petits écureuils bondissants sont la joie même.
-  **You are a little cloud in a fair weather.** **Arpinder** tells us that as a little cloud, she is happy because she can change shape whenever she wants, give people some shadow when it is too hot, she feels quite fortunate indeed.
-  **You are a swallow.** **Jean** was at first a bit lost and then told us he was happy mainly because he could travel a lot and discover many foreign countries.
-  **You are a butterfly.** **Elisa** est heureuse de butiner de fleur en fleur, d'avoir de jolies ailes et de voler librement dans la nature.
-  **You are a gnarled old oak.** **Peter** is delighted with the word "gnarled"... looking at his own hands, he thinks he qualifies for that, but "old"??? No way!

Prepared speeches

Kim - Speech n° 9 (Persuade with power) - **Plastic** -



When I go to my sporting club, I take with me a plastic bottle of water and a sandwich wrapped in a plastic bag, she says. But we should know that our planet is totally polluted by plastic: the sea is full of it and it means death for millions of birds and fishes; the earth is covered with it, and it means poison on the long term for animals, plants and naturally us humans. We should reduce our use of plastic and reuse it before recycling it. When we go shopping, let's use reusable shopping bags. Let's have the courage to look at reality and to declare a personal ban on plastic to save the planet.

Beatrice - Advanced manual Technical presentations - **Backstroke**



Swimming backstroke has something to do with a better life, she says. She demonstrates what to do with the arms first: slice the water with your hand. As soon as your arm is in the water, push the water toward your legs. Go with Mother Nature, be like a frog, and wear hand paddles. Then your legs: to kick more efficiently, wear flippers, and kick from your hips, not from your knees. Finally, coordination: when one arm is going into the water, the other one goes out of it. And to swim straight, keep your head and your heart aligned, which is also true when it comes to leading your life!



Don - Contest speech "*Red heads do it better*" -

Since his speech is a contest speech, we won't tell its content, to keep it original until the division contest. [NDLR]

Evaluation session

Jean-Paul is our general evaluator tonight.

Odile evaluates the Table topics session. She thanks **Alain** for short, inspiring questions which obviously didn't left anybody speechless.

- **Philippe L.** really showed he was happy thanks to a perky attitude, voice and gesture. He should watch his clenched hands and let them go more often.
- **Arpinder** had an excellent idea regarding the change of shape related to her mood as a cloud. She has a very nice smiling face. She too should let her hands go.
- **Jean** was inspired and had good ideas, he was impressive! He had a slight tendency to join his hands in front of his stomach, like a praying monk.
- **Elisa** did a good job as a beginner: no visible stress, good ideas, and excellent reactivity. With more experience, she will learn to look at her audience instead of searching her inspiration at the ceiling or at the floor.
- **Peter** showed a great sense of humour and made us laugh. He should avoid looking at the Table Topic master while speaking. Look at the audience, Peter!

Teddy évalue le discours de Kim, dont il envie le sourire, qui la rend si avenante. Son discours était technique, son contenu riche et très intéressant. Sur le plan de la performance, Kim a commencé derrière le pupitre, puis s'est trouvée un peu cachée derrière tout son matériel - vidéoprojecteur et ordinateur - ce qui l'a un peu éloignée de nous et l'a empêchée d'être aussi dramatique qu'elle aurait pu. En ce qui concerne l'impact, Kim a tenu son public en haleine. Pour améliorer encore l'impact, Teddy lui conseille de faire appel à un assistant technique pour gérer les supports visuels, afin de pouvoir de concentrer uniquement à son discours. En tout cas, il pense que Kim a atteint son objectif et la remercie pour son message.

Paolo evaluates Beatrice's speech, which was a demonstration. Paolo is a sportsman and the topic interested him a lot. Asking the audience a few questions involved them directly and hooked their attention. The speech was well structured, exactly following the announced plan. Visual aids were good and gestures illustrating the backstroke were useful. Maybe Bea could've asked somebody to come to the lectern and try the backstroke.

Michel évalue le discours de Don, qu'il a trouvé excellent du début à la fin, avec un bon rythme, un bon enchaînement de gags qui l'on fait beaucoup rire. Il a particulièrement apprécié les « choses folles » : la perruque rouge, la cravate-bandana. Il le met en garde contre quelques gestes répétitifs qui n'apportent rien, et lui conseille de veiller tout particulièrement à la précision de ses mouvements/gestes.

Technical reports are then delivered successively by **Jean** (English grammar), **Alice** (grammaire française), **Philippe L.** (Ahs, hems, hums...) and **Emmanuelle** (Time).

Jean-Paul prononce ensuite l'évaluation générale de la soirée.

- Il a apprécié que dans son évaluation des improvisations, Odile ait remercié le maître des improvisations pour la qualité de ses sujets. Il n'a qu'une suggestion d'amélioration à lui faire : essayer de remplacer systématiquement le « mais » par « et ».
- Teddy a démarré avec beaucoup de force en soulignant le sourire de Kim. La structure de son évaluation était originale. Il lui conseille de cesser de « tricoter » avec ses doigts pendant qu'il parle.
- Paolo a annoncé d'emblée qu'il était sportif, ce qui lui donnait la crédibilité nécessaire pour bien évaluer le discours sur le dos crawlé, mais aussi pour offrir des suggestions d'amélioration.
- Michel est allé grappiller pour en tirer de nombreux points positifs. Jean-Paul lui conseille de ne pas annoncer au public qu'il n'a pas de suggestion à offrir !

En ce qui concerne la réunion en général, Jean-Paul se demande s'il ne serait pas plus judicieux de placer le pupitre à l'autre bout de la salle, où l'espace est moins restreint.

Il pense que nul orateur ne doit faire remarquer à son public qu'il a vu la carte rouge et que par conséquent, il lui faut conclure !

Il remercie Patrick d'avoir choisi l'humour comme thème de la soirée. Il pense qu'il aurait peut-être fallu davantage s'y référer pour davantage « chauffer » la salle avant le discours de Don.

Who won the ribbons ?



Best Table Topics: Arpinder

Best Speech: Don

Best Evaluation: Michel

To conclude, Alice asked our guests for their comments:

- **Michèle**... a découvert qu'elle faisait des "euh" !
- **Elisa** a trouvé ces deux heures très agréables et songe à s'inscrire.
- **Tarek** a trouvé les thèmes abordés très intéressants et veut revenir.
- **Arpinder** was delighted to visit a club in Paris and invites us to her club in Birmingham.
- **Mandeep**, her husband, whom attended a TM meeting for the first time ever, might after all join Arpinder's club!
- **Florence** a passé une excellente soirée.
- **Don** is very happy because of all the helpful feedbacks he received tonight. (We wish him all the best in Luxembourg this Saturday!)



Next meeting Wednesday November 13th at Bar de l'Echelle **downstairs**. **Please try and have dinner before the meeting**, because the room we will use is smaller than upstairs and it would be unpractical to have meals served in it. Thank you!

Odile, the French Toast editor