



# The French Toast

The newsletter for the Europeans Toastmasters Club n° 8018  
Meeting of May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Alice**, our club President opens the meeting and announces that we will elect the club executive committee for 2014/15.



The newly elected club officers are the following:

- President - **Paolo G.**
- VP Ed - **Dan**
- VP Membership - **Lenny**
- VP Public relations - **Yassine**
- Sergeant of arms - **Patrick**
- Treasurer- **Alice**, who will also be the Past President.

The vote took place as the quorum was reached and all candidates were unanimously elected. Congratulations to the team which will lead The Europeans next year! Their term begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 and all officers will be trained to their new function on Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Induction ceremony

VP education **Paolo G.** leads **Ivo's** induction ceremony in the absence of VP membership Emmanuelle. Ivo agrees to the Toastmasters promise and is unanimously voted in. Her mentor will be **Christian**.

## The meeting

Le président de soirée **Daniel** a présenté les différentes articulations et changements de la soirée en structurant son discours autour de la thématique du jour la "**photographie**"



**Akiko** told a funny story that happened to her when cooking spaghetti.

Time Keeper **Jean** reminded that being in time is very important and he will be really severe on making people respecting time.

Notre grammairien français **Serge** nous a donné le mot de la soirée en français : « **subrepticement** » et nous a exprimé son attente d'un usage qualitatif et quantitatif.

English Grammarian **Beatrice** proposes "**photographic**" as the word of the day.

## Table Topics

Table Topics master **Odile** calls upon people, shows each of them a different photograph, ask them to look at it, then first to describe it to the audience and finally to tell what they think or feel about that picture.

- **Christian**: an old room with a woman sleeping on the floor, a man sitting. It feels like insomnia.
- **Serge**: looks at a nice photo showing a couple hiking in nice scenery during a nice day.
- **Akiko**: describes a black dog protecting its master who is sleeping very peacefully. It may be in Africa.

- **Beatrice:** it looks like the north east of the USA, a beautiful blue sky and nice water. It reminds Beatrice of the Clint Eastwood's movie "The Bridges of Madison County".

**Yassine** is just arriving: walking through Paris, he noticed a high amount of homeless people. He proposes a toast *to all charitable organizations that help the poor and the needy.*

### Prepared speeches



Speaker n°1: **Ivo** presents her Ice-Breaker "*My name is Ivo*". She explains that her first name contains 14 letters. That's why she asks us to call her simply Ivo. She is from Madagascar and there it is a belief in her country that your name shapes your future. She is the second of three sisters. She works for an IT software company. Her hobby is design; she has been doing it for ten years. She decided to join the Europeans to improve her communication skills and to share a common journey with club members.



Speaker n°2: **Alice** présente son 10<sup>ème</sup> discours, qui va faire d'elle un "Communicateur Compétent" et dont l'objectif est d'inspirer son auditoire. Sous le titre « *Allez jusqu'au bout de vos rêves!* » elle nous raconte comment très récemment elle a réalisé qu'à 38 ans, elle n'avait pas fait ce qu'on peut appeler une carrière fulgurante, si elle se compare à la directrice de la foire de Paris, qui a son âge et dirige une équipe impressionnante. Mais en y réfléchissant, elle se dit qu'elle a choisi cette voie, le jour où, jeune commerciale juste sortie de l'école, elle a largué les amarres pour aller voyager, découvrir le monde et apprendre les langues étrangères. Elle nous exhorte à ne pas nous laisser dicter notre vie par la pression sociale, mais au contraire à rester fidèle aux rêves et aux valeurs que nous avons lorsque nous étions jeunes et pleins d'enthousiasme.



Speaker n°3: **Philippe L.** delivers speech 3 in the advanced manual "Speaking to inform". His goal is to make a demonstration. His title is "*Everything you always do without knowing it*". His topic today is the brain. There are trillions of connections in our brain: 10.000 times the population of the world. The neuron is pretty simple: it works like yes/no, depending on the kind of stimulations which are reaching it. Philippe proposed an example showing us how major modulators work on neurons. Science is just at the beginning of neuroscience, progress need to be done!

### Evaluation session

Table Topics Evaluator Teddy was surprised by the unconventional structure chosen by Odile, which captured the public's attention. A suggestion: ask improvisers to have a good look at the picture and then to put it down in order to have a better connection with the audience.

- Christian gave a really detailed description. He could have looked more at public.
- Serge had a very engaging body language. He could have structured his intervention some more.
- Akiko gave a really detailed description; more personal feelings could have been added.
- Bea made a good use of images and used a story to transmit her message, it was excellent!

### Speech evaluations

1. **Philippe P.** évalue le discours d'Ivo, qu'il remercie pour son sens de l'humour. Il dit qu'elle a montré beaucoup d'assurance pour un premier discours. Il lui suggère de parler d'elle plus directement, ce qui est une alternative au choix qu'elle a fait de mettre en évidence ce que les autres (ses parents, Google etc.) pensent d'elle. Il souligne son sourire, l'absence de notes et le bon contact visuel. Il lui conseille en dernier lieu de parler plus fort et surtout d'articuler, car il n'a pas tout compris...
2. **Alain** was really inspired by Alice's speech, for three main reasons: 1) the connection: it reminded him of some times in his own career; 2) the emotion: he could really relate to her fear "did I make the right decision" and 3) the solution: Alice made a very strong statement: "Stick to your values!" It was a very well delivered and interesting speech. Improvement axes: reduce the number of proposed solutions; too many of them diminish the strength of the message.
3. **Sean** found that Philippe L.'s speech was intriguing, starting from its title. The subject was

relevant to the audience if maybe a bit too technical. He thought that some slides could have been more extensively explained to the public. Involving the audience was a really good idea, maybe the participants could have been briefed in advance. And Sean recommends that Philippe slows down while speaking!

**Beatrice** as English grammarian said that **Ivo** used the word of the day "**photographic**" twice.

Le grammairien français Serge fait son rapport, d'abord quantitatif sur le nombre d'utilisations du mot du jour « **subrepticement** » : 2 fois par **Daniel** et **Ivo** ; ensuite qualitatif en mettant en évidence les éléments de l'arc en ciel : de belles expressions, du riche vocabulaire relevés dans les interventions en langue française de la soirée ; enfin quelques expressions familières qui n'apportent rien et qui peuvent être évitées, « on », « les gens »

Stumble Catcher Christian and Time Keeper Jean both presented a detailed report first on ah, hem, hum and then on our use of our allotted time.

**Michel** our general evaluator had a great evening, and enjoyed interesting and well prepared speeches.



He congratulated Alice who gave her 10<sup>th</sup> speech tonight and is now a **Competent Communicator!** Michel made some suggestions to improve our meetings: 1) check logistics before the start of the meeting 2) switch off all mobile phones! Michel was pleased with his evaluation team, a really experienced one. He told Teddy to try and use his notes in a smoother way with less hesitations; Philippe P. was very encouraging and should next time structure his evaluation in a more efficient way; Alain had an excellent structure with a strong introduction, he could've given more advice to the speaker; Sean spent too much time listing the positive points and didn't have enough time left to develop his suggested points of improvement.

### Who won the ribbons?



1<sup>st</sup> speech award: **Ivo**  
Best table topic: **Beatrice**  
Best speech: **Alice** and **Ivo**  
Best evaluator: **Sean**

Club President **Alice** concluded the meeting explaining that this year's goal was to reestablish the bilingualism in our club: this goal has been achieved! And the number of members has increased during the year.

Alice proposes to distribute obsolete - but nevertheless interesting! - TM manuals to the club members. She will bring part of them to the next meeting. Show up if you are interested!

**Odile** and **Alain** were representing the Europeans at District 59 Spring conference in Krakow last May. Odile explained that District 59 continental Europe will split in two separate new districts from July 1<sup>st</sup> on. We in France will belong to the "new" **District 59**, which will encompass **France, Benelux, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Portugal**. The second new district (95) will encompass the Scandinavian Countries, Germany, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Romania.

**Next meeting June 11: register for a role on EasySpeak!**

Note Takers: **Paolo G.** and **Serge** - Edition and Illustration **Odile**