



The French Toast

The newsletter for the Europeans Toastmasters Club n° 8018 Meeting of February 11th 2015

Opening

Paolo G, our president addresses three topics:

- The club will start a recruitment drive to attract native English speakers; any support is welcome;
- Our club contests will take place on **March 11th**. **Alain M** and **Olivier A** are in charge of organizing them: contact them if you want to compete or to help;
- Our Area contest takes place on **March 21st**: as a support to our TM education, the club will reimburse the participation fees (10€) of any member who attends the area contest.

Paolo then welcomes our guests: **Rehana** (3rd time) and her sister **Nitasha, Ahlem** (1st time), **Sonia** (2nd time), **Nicolas** (member of TM club Les Ailes), **Stephanie** (who was TM in Australia), **Alicia** (3rd time) and **Bobby** (member of three clubs and Division Governor in China).

Induction ceremony:

Our VP membership is absent and replaced by the president, who inducts two new members: **Gaëlle R.** whose mentor will be **Lenny** and **Christiane R.** mentored by **Pamela**.

The meeting

Paolo B is our Toastmaster of the evening. "*Inspiring sentences*" is the theme of the day and every speaker should've provided him in advance with the sentence that inspires him/her the most. Otherwise, Paolo will choose a sentence he feels appropriate to the person!

The toast is given by **Gaëlle** to *innovation*, which is a state of mind

The joke by **Olivier A.** involves a French, an Italian and a Spaniard and has to do with the horrible English accent of the French!

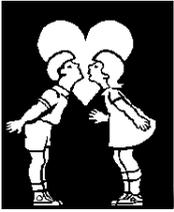
Kim explains her role as timekeeper

The English word of the day proposed by **Peter** is "*virtue*", the French word of the day proposed by **Ivo** is "*velours*".

The Speaking tip is offered by **Pamela**: *speak with a moderate speed and remember the power of well-placed silences.*

Table Topics

Table topics master **Alice** challenges us to react to a quote taken from romantic moments in famous movies or theatre plays.



Patrick, *quel est le plus beau baiser de cinéma dont tu te souviennes et pourquoi* ? Il explique que lorsqu'il était jeune il préférait les films d'action aux films d'amour... Finalement, le plus beau baiser est celui qu'il a donné à la jeune personne assise à ses côtés... qui est par la suite devenue son épouse !



Alain P, *que lui as-tu dit pour qu'elle t'embrasse* ? Il prétend l'avoir séduite en citant Kierkegaard, car c'était une intellectuelle qu'il fallait impressionner !



Alicia, *have you ever been a Scarlett?* She explains the difference between the Southern style "à la Scarlett O'Hara" and the Californian way of plain and direct communication (she is from San Francisco).



Gaëlle, *are you a monster or an angel?* Once she has been a real monster to get rid of a boy, alas to no avail! She finally succeeded by telling him she was a nice girl without any problems!!!

Prepared speeches



Olivier S delivers his Icebreaker entitled "*My Wedding*" and explains the unexpected troubles he had to face during his wedding day (his witness had forgotten his shirt, another one had left his suit at home, his father missed his cufflinks etc.). And the difficulty he had when it was his turn to deliver a speech prompted him to join Toastmasters.



Christiane R delivers her Icebreaker entitled "*The Hummingbird*" and describes her different lifestyles, first in Martinique, with its spicy food, fruit juices, rum, dances, sun and heat, then in Paris where she appreciated the food and wine, but not the climate and finally in London, where she met her husband and found a new way to make a living. She always wants to push the limit, the sky is the limit, hence the title of her speech: the Hummingbird.



Alain M tells us the story of "**Pandora's box**" [project n°1 in the advanced manual "Story telling": The Folk Tale]. Pandora was forbidden to open a box given to her husband by Zeus. But she couldn't resist and opened it: all of a sudden, all calamities, miseries, illnesses which can afflict humanity came out of the box. Terrified, she shut the box in a hurry and it was fortunate, for when she reopened it a last time, HOPE came out of it!



Jean D delivers an educational speech from the "Better speaker series" about "**Controlling your Fear**". After describing the physical phenomena (memory lapses, slip of the tongue etc.) that go along with stage fright (which is normal, by the way), he explains how careful preparation (rehearsal in front of a mirror, practice twice a day for at least one week) and planning (and this includes relaxation as well as positive anticipation of the delivery day) contribute to a proper delivery of any speech.

Evaluation session

General evaluator Philippe L reminds that evaluation must be positive and, to that end, adapted to the level and concerns of the person who is evaluated, so that he/she can progress.

Teddy evaluates the table topics. All impromptu speeches were good, and

- Alain P should use more pauses to allow the audience to take time and laugh at his humour;
- Patrick could have taken more time and expand on his personal story;
- Alicia should try and give more structure to her impromptu speech*;
- Gaëlle must not hesitate to breathe and make use of silences.*

Odile evaluates Olivier's speech:

- Positive points: bravo for this first speech, personal story, lots of humour;
- Suggestions: reinforce the conclusion, because it is what the audience will remember most; inhale and project your voice.*

Michel evaluates Christiane's speech

- Positive points: very colourful speech, vivid images, good voice, well-structured speech;
- Suggestion: improve your body language.

Sean evaluates Alain's speech

- Positive points: the tale conveys a message that is always relevant, no use of notes, good hand gestures;
- Suggestion: introduce more drama in the delivery, e.g.
 - o More vocal variety for the narrator,

- Different voices and / or places on stage for the four characters of the story.

Christian évalue le discours de Jean, qu'il a beaucoup aimé. Le contenu était adéquat, la voix était assez forte et l'articulation claire, L'auditoire était très attentif, donc intéressé. Conseils : éviter de parler de supports visuels que l'on n'utilise pas et faire attention au volume de la voix qui a tendance à baisser en fins de phrases.

** Notetaker's comment: these comments are frequent among new members such as Alicia, Gaëlle and Olivier S; they will have many further opportunities to improve on this.*

Technical reports:

English Grammar: **Peter**. Grammaire française : **Ivo**. Stumble catcher: **Yamina**. Timekeeper: **Kim**.

Evaluation générale faite par Philippe L.

Paolo B. a mené la réunion avec beaucoup de conscience. Il a un bon contact avec le public, a tendance à parler un peu vite ; Teddy évaluant les improvisations a su personnaliser son analyse ; Odile a utilisé son expérience pour recadrer le Briser la glace et a fait une démonstration de projection de la voix ; Michel devrait pointer les fondamentaux du Briser la glace ; Sean a construit son évaluation comme un discours, bravo ! Attention à quelques gestes mécaniques ; Christian a fait une très bonne évaluation sur le fond. Il aurait pu davantage souligner l'humour ; Peter mélange le français et l'anglais, donne néanmoins des conseils pertinents ; Yamina a bien classé les orateurs selon leur nombre d'hésitations ; **Kim** a fait un rapport enthousiaste et chaleureux. C'était une soirée d'un très bon niveau !

Who won a ribbon?



Best table topic: **Alicia**
First speech: **Olivier S & Christiane**
Best speaker: **Alain M**
Best evaluator: **Sean**

Paolo G clôture la soirée en demandant leurs impressions à nos invités, tous très positifs !
Alicia et Sonia sont prêtes à adhérer au club !

Note Takers: **Patrick & Alain**- Edition and Illustration **Odile**

OUR NEXT CLUB CONTESTS WILL TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 11TH

Contact **Alain M** or **Olivier A** if you want either to compete or to take a role (judge, sergeant at arms, counter, etc.) in the contests.

Next meeting: February 25th 2015