



# The French Toast

The newsletter for the Europeans Toastmasters Club n° 8018 Meeting of February 25<sup>th</sup> 2015

## Opening



President **Paolo G.** started the meeting on time. It was his birthday. "Happy Birthday!" we said in unison. **Paolo** welcomed our guests: **Colette** and **Jean-Baptiste** (friends of Pamela) **Maxime**, **Marie-Françoise**, **Stephanie** and **Mark** (from Speechmasters).

"The next meeting is our club contests (International Speech and Evaluation)" he said, and encouraged members to be helpers.

"**Area A-5 contests** and Evaluation Workshop, " were announced **next March 21<sup>st</sup>** and Colleen, our area governor was properly introduced.

## The meeting

Toastmaster of the Evening **Ivo** was introduced. "Very stressed", she said, because it was her first time as TME. [*But she presided over smoothly, shrewdly and exuded authenticity. Marc*]

The theme of the meeting was "**First Timer**".

Then Ivo explained with clarity the roles and how the meeting would proceed.

**Paolo B.** propose un toast "**à la dignité grecque**".

The joke was delivered by **Christian**. It was a story about the eighties in the former Soviet Union. The story depicted how bureaucratic soldiers were then! [*It was dynamite! Everybody laughed like hell. Marc*]

Timekeeper **Christiane** said: "Let's respect time!".

English grammarian was our honored guest, **Mark** of PSM. His explanation was dynamic, smooth and the word of the day was "**Novice**", which coincides with the theme "First Timer".

**Jean**, grammairien français, expliqua en quoi consistait son rôle et proposa comme mot du jour : "**Incipit**" (début d'une oeuvre littéraire).

VP membership **Lenny** explained **our mentoring system**. "A mentor does not have to be perfect, but needs to be caring ". [*He sounded gentle, sincere and encouraging. Marc*]

## Table Topics

"Novice members should find the questions easy", said **Alain M.** our Table Topics master tonight.



1) **Christiane** - **Public Speech must be learnt rather than taught. Agree or disagree?** - It's experience that counts. There are books and books, but just speak, just do it. The more you do, the better you get.,



2) **Philippe P** - *A good teacher is almost always a good public speaker, agree or disagree?* "NO!" he started. "Good teachers do NOT have to be good speakers, he went on.



3) **Mark** - *The Internet is the most important technology invented in 100 years, agree or disagree?* "The discovery of the Internet was the best thing that ever happened to me!" he began. He toiled and got a master's degree in electronics, then the Internet bubble did burst, he was disheartened but now, his skills help him greatly in what he does for a living!



4) **Peter** - *Dog is man's best friend, agree or disagree?* - "When I got divorced, I decided so. Because my wife loved cats. Dog is faithful and loyal".

## Prepared speeches



**Jocelyn** - Ice Breaker - *"My Journey To Here"*

"Freedom, Relationship, Learning opportunity" are three important things to enjoy an adventurous life. Jocelyn got around a lot, went to Rome, back to Canada and so on. She tried scuba diving, then went to Cambodia, Indonesia, enjoyed stretching the limit of her comfort zone. She came to Paris in 2005, found the city particularly welcoming and finally found Paris to be her home. "Freedom, Discovery and Wonderful Relationship, Learning Opportunity" brought her to Paris.



**Yamina** - Project n° 2 - Organize your speech - *"Your Body Talks to You Too"* - Just a gesture can change your attitude and state of mind! The power of posing is strong. High power posture makes us expressive. Stretch out, and try high power posture, it will be impactful on your mind. The difference is significant when we make high power postures. Fake it until you make it!



**Gaëlle** - Ice Breaker - *"Pourquoi je suis ici ?"* Je viens d'une petite ville de Lorraine qui s'appelle Valmont, et jusqu'à présent j'ai vécu dans plusieurs villes en Europe (Strasbourg, Luxembourg, Berlin, Edimbourg, Francfort, Genève, Paris). C'est pourquoi je suis contente d'arriver dans un club qui s'appelle « The Europeans ». Et comme j'aime me lancer des défis et qu'il est important pour moi de pouvoir apprendre et progresser, en particulier dans le domaine des présentations à l'oral, je me réjouis de rejoindre ce club Toastmasters.



**Paolo G.** - Advanced manual Persuasive Speaking: Addressing the Opposition - *"Puce magnétique sous-cutanée"*- Ce soir je vais vous parler d'un produit qui va simplifier, améliorer, même plus, révolutionner nos vies : la puce RFID sous cutanée !

Les utilisations possibles sont sans limites : carte d'identité, permis de conduire, passeport ; argent liquide et carte bleue ; sécurité ; santé ; accès au bureau et à la maison.

La question de la vie privée se pose : à part certaines informations qui seront obligatoires pour tout le monde

(carte d'identité, permis de conduire), chacun aura la possibilité de choisir les informations qui seront dans la puce, et de changer ce paramétrage à tout moment.

Cette technologie est déjà utilisée dans plusieurs domaines : civil, militaire, vétérinaire et n'a pas donné lieu à contre-indications jusqu'à présent. La technologie est fiable et robuste, pour cette raison nous en avons validé le déploiement dès le mois prochain. A partir du 1<sup>er</sup> Mars, un test sera lancé sur un échantillon de volontaires de 50.000 personnes en France. Après la 1<sup>ère</sup> année de test, le déploiement sera progressif et volontaire pendant 3 ans. Dans 3 ans, cette technologie sera obligatoire pour tout le monde.

Je vous conseille de vous porter volontaires pour l'utilisation de la puce au plus vite, vous n'allez plus vouloir revenir en arrière.

## Evaluation session

Yassine was first timer as General Evaluator, but made a clear definition of evaluation outset. "Speakers can improve with the help of Feedback called evaluation. Specific examples with positive remarks would be encouraging to speakers".

**TableTopics Evaluator Michel** started, "Alain, your table topics session was not good, but excellent! Good questions!"

\* Christiane, your personal story was appealing, I liked your way of telling it. If you could connect with the audience even more, it would have been superlative.

\* Philippe P., your "NO!" was such a great way to get our attention, and you voiced your opinion well. Perhaps a stronger voice would be more impactful all the way through.

\* Mark, your presence was great. Your personal story was impactful.

\* Peter, the first sentence was funny. Your change of emotion during the delivery was super. Perhaps you could have left the lectern and come closer to the audience.

## Speech Evaluators

1) **Teddy** for Jocelyn - Your speech organization was good. Smoothly told, it was a good personal story.

Recommendations: Hands could be at ease, and it seems there was too much information in 6 minutes, so it seemed to be a bit fast paced. More pauses, moderate speaking tempo and clear articulation would be recommendable.

2) **Lenny** for Yamina - High power posture was impactful. You took control of the audience. Very well-crafted message. Your speech was well prepared and delivered with sincerity. If you could pause a bit more and let the audience have time to digest your impactful words and practical suggestions, it would be even better. Good eye-contact, smooth storytelling, amicable smile, good delivery. Perhaps you could try not to look at the timekeeper so much next time. Also, it would be recommendable to edit your speech and shorten the draft so that you can leave more space for the audience to appreciate your speech. I was taken in!"

3) **Pamela** for Gaëlle - You might be a novice speaker, but I could hear you clearly. Well-crafted, it had a clear form, with Introduction, Development and Conclusion. I would recommend that you do not make frequent references to notes. Eye-contact did not seem to be enough. Facial expressions could have been a bit more animated. Hand gesture also could have been more natural. In summary, humor was there, good smile, you asked a question in the beginning and ended with the answer, enthusiasm was also evinced, super!

4) **Colleen** for Paolo G. - You started with the speech objectives, and spoke very confidently. Pumping out phrases in the beginning, to me, did not seem to be effective. Definition of certain words also seemed to be a bit difficult. Then you started to speak more smoothly, especially toward the end, and during the question and answer session. Two of the three objectives were met, the project was about presenting something to opposing people. On the whole, it was a good delivery.

## Technical reports:

Grammarians' report in English by Mark. Areas for improvement: the word "*novice*" could have been used more!

"I was frozen with fear", "Speaking perfectly means you don't speak at all"; "Checking the boxes", "boils down": good expressions he missed for a long time, away from North America!

Stumble Catcher Peter delivered a thorough report. Each and every speaker's number of stumbles was reported with humorous and yet gentle care.

Christiane made the timer's report smoothly and with humor.

General Evaluator Yassine provided us with his impression of the meeting: constructive evaluations were so helpful. Evaluations need to be geared to the speech objectives. Evaluators need to focus upon and remind the audience of the speech objectives. Then, it would be even more effective.

[*Very constructive general evaluation! Marc*]

### Who won a ribbon?



Best table topic: ?

First speech: *Jocelyn and Gaëlle*

Best speaker: *Yamina*

Best evaluator: *Pamela*

Toward the end, Ivo thanked everyone for actively participating in the meeting and created a congenial mood.

Area governor **Colleen** announced that **Jean** was awarded "*Triple Crown Award*" ACB, CL and ACS this term! Congratulations, Jean!!!

Then Colleen encouraged, energized and enticed us all to participate actively in upcoming contests saying "This is the time for you to shine!"

"Please participate in the contests not only as contestants, but also as organizer, judge and member of the audience!

**March 11<sup>th</sup> club contests,**  
**March 21<sup>st</sup>, Area A-5 contests.**  
Practice, practice and practice!

Holding contests is a team work and helps those contestants! Colleen was hilarious, empowering and convincing. Everybody's hand went up when she asked for helpers.

Then our president Paolo thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 22:20.

Note Taker: **Marc** (English) - Edition and Illustration **Odile**

**Next meeting: March 11<sup>th</sup> 2015**