



# The French Toast

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

## Opening

**President Paolo G** opens the meeting and announces that we have now entered the digital era: as nobody printed the meeting agenda, he suggests that we open our online meeting manager on our mobile! He then congratulates the winners of the Area contest from last Saturday for moving on to the Division contest: **Sean**, who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the International Speech Contest and **Alice**, who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Evaluation Contest. He - **Paolo G** - placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the International Speech Contest. Finally he asks the 10 guests to introduce themselves: **Alain, Beatrice, Carol, Christina, Michel, Nadia, Patrice, Sarah, Suzanne** and **Yan**.

## Induction ceremony

**VP Membership Lenny** conducts the induction ceremony for our new member **Alicia**. After she has accepted the Toastmasters promises, members are requested to vote and Alicia becomes officially a new member of our club. Congratulations! - Her mentor will be **Alice**.


## The meeting



**Philippe L** is the Toastmaster of tonight's meeting. He chooses the theme of "*Spring and Renaissance*".



**Emmanuelle K.** porte un toast « *aux optimistes*. »

**Gaëlle** is giving the joke:  *A scientist asks a frog to jump, and the frog jumps. He then take off one leg, and asks it to jump, and the frog jumps. Same thing after taking off its 2<sup>nd</sup> leg and then 3<sup>rd</sup> leg. After taking off his 4<sup>th</sup> leg, he asks the frog to jump, but the frog doesn't jump. So the scientist concludes from this experiment that if you cut all four legs to a frog, it becomes deaf!!*



**Odile** gives us the speaking tip. The *best way to make a long lasting impression* on the audience is to use a prop, a thing which will last in the listeners' memory. She gives some striking examples from winning speeches (Alain's three legged stool, Sean's aunt Maura's picture)? Next time you want to make a strong lasting impression, **BRING A THING!**

## Table Topics

**Ivo** is the Table Topics Master. Her theme is *the creation of a new company*.

*She wants first to hear from the founder what the business of this company is.*



**Alain P** is the founder. His idea is to create a company where people hug and kiss each other. It will generate love and people's life will change forever.

**Yassine is the Human Resources Director.** He is looking for experienced people but most of all for patient people. Candidates should know that the atmosphere in the company is nice and respectful.

**Christiane is the Founder's Personal Assistant,** she is here to solve all problems, she is his right-arm. She is very efficient, even though she is not a model as personal assistants used to be in the old times.

**The Financial Director is Alice.** She promises investors that if they give their money, they will get love in return. And as the company is due to grow in terms of employees, there will be more value produced, and they will get good dividends.

### Prepared Speeches

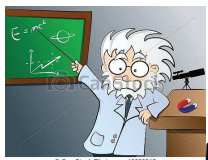


**Olivier A** gives his 2<sup>nd</sup> speech from the Communication Manual. "*Corruption: the bane of society*".

He first introduces his subject with a souvenir of him and his father in Africa being arrested by police and asked for money in exchange for tranquility: his first experience of corruption. He explains corruption is everywhere and gives a list of places and countries with real facts. He then shows us how corruption is damaging, because it kills regular businesses and impoverishes nations, and, what is worse, those unfair situations can drive people to riot. He then gives us three solutions to fight corruption: first, we must make the right choice in front of corruption, say no to bribery. Second, as executives and responsible people we must define clear rules within our organizations. Third, we can wake up people's awareness through social media. In conclusion, Olivier says it's our duty to fight corruption; so let's do it!



**Michel** gives his first speech - the Folk Tale - from the advanced manual Storytelling. "*Demeter and Persephone*" Persephone was taken away in the underworld by Hades, who was in love with her. Her mother Demeter, the goddess of harvest, nature and prosperity, was terribly worried and looked for her everywhere without finding her. While searching, she dressed in black, stopped harvesting and feeding her animals, and people were starving. Zeus wanted Demeter back to work; he negotiated with Hades to bring Persephone back to her mother. Hades accepted to give Persephone back for 6 months each year only. So Persephone came back to her mother. Demeter was so happy that she started to don bright colors again, went back to work, and looked after the animals, the harvest; people could eat again. At the end of the six months, Persephone went back to the underworld with Hades. So once again, Demeter stopped working until Persephone was back. The tale explains why we have four seasons: spring and summer when Persephone comes to live with her mother, autumn and winter when she is with Hades.



**Paolo B** prononce le 10<sup>ème</sup> discours de son manuel de communication : « *La physique et moi* » -l'idée de ce discours est de vous inspirer positivement de mon histoire personnelle avec la physique. Ça a commencé dès mon enfance, avec des cours de physique en dehors de ceux de l'école. Petit à petit j'ai commencé à y prendre goût et à l'aimer. Une fois au lycée, j'ai décidé de poursuivre mes études universitaires en physique. Parmi les raisons qui m'ont poussé à faire mon choix il y a en premier lieu « l'impartialité » de la physique : c'est comme ça et ce n'est pas autrement. Ce n'est pas comme les langues, le français ou l'italien, où chacun exprime son avis ou son opinion. Et puis, comme je suis une personne qui aime bien voyager, la physique m'a permis de sortir de ma ville natale et de découvrir plusieurs endroits dans le monde. La physique m'a permis de comprendre trois choses : 1- faire la différence entre le modèle et la réalité. Le modèle est fait pour simplifier la compréhension du phénomène. 2- comprendre que le bon sens ne sert à rien en physique. 3- découvrir la théorie de la probabilité quantique. A la suite de mes études universitaires en Italie j'ai décidé de préparer mon doctorat en France, et j'ai fini par trouver une boîte dans laquelle je fais de la physique tous les jours. J'aime bien mon métier mais un peu moins mes chefs ! Actuellement, mon rapport à la physique se porte très bien.

**Jean** gives an educational session about "*Impromptu speaking*". He first gives very useful advice to the speaker: listen carefully to the question, stay calm, and don't let the question destabilize you. Then the speaker should structure his speech, use emotions and control his time. He also gives advice to the Table Topics master who should ask simple and short questions of general interest. To conclude, he explains that life asks us to give impromptu speeches at many different occasions, so we should practice!

### Evaluation session led by Lenny

**Yamina** is the Table Topic Evaluator. She praises Ivo for her excellent topics.

Alain acted like an actor, his voice was fantastic; Yassine was very controlled; Christiane was very good, she shouldn't cross her hands in front of her stomach while speaking. Alice was very confident, shouldn't cross her hands and could've moved a little bit more.

**Sean** évalue le discours d'Olivier A dont l'objectif est de transmettre un message structuré. La structure a été bien utilisée. Olivier a commencé avec une histoire personnelle en introduction. Dans son discours, il y avait bien un corps, illustré d'exemples, autour de deux thèmes. Dans la conclusion, Olivier a fait une synthèse de son sujet et a offert un message (3 conseils pour lutter contre la corruption). Conseils d'amélioration : 1) Utiliser des mots plus simples et en travailler la prononciation anglaise et 2) Tâcher de moins utiliser les notes, qui constituent une barrière entre l'orateur et l'auditoire. Merci pour ton discours.

**Christian** évalue le discours de Paolo B. Ton but était d'inspirer l'auditoire en utilisant des émotions. J'ai bien aimé ton sens de l'humour et aussi les exemples qui illustrent ton amour de la physique et ton envie d'aller vers l'essence des choses. Pour t'améliorer : tu aurais pu dire que quand on résout un problème en physique, c'est fait pour la vie, c'est un pas de l'humanité vers l'avant, même si c'est un petit pas. Tu aurais pu parler aussi des mathématiques. En général tu as fait une bonne prestation intellectuelle et émotionnelle.

**Alain M** évalue Michel. He stresses that Michel chose his words very well, enabling the listeners to visualize the scenes. The delivery was excellent with a good presence without notes. Michel had a

good use of his hands and body. Alain praises the outstanding use of his voice. He suggests Michel could have a stronger introduction in order to hook the audience; he could also add some pauses to the delivery of the speech. In conclusion it was an entertaining story with an unexpected conclusion.

**Paolo G** évalue le discours éducatif de Jean. Il nous arrive à tous de devoir répondre sans préparation à une question. Jean nous a expliqué comment on peut gérer ces situations et il nous a donné des exemples, des suggestions, il nous a indiqué les erreurs à éviter. Suggestions d'amélioration : nous sommes de plus en plus distraits et sollicités, il aurait été plus efficace d'éviter l'exposé de type universitaire, d'introduire plus d'interactivité en commençant par poser une question. Il faut également travailler la variété vocale et le contact visuel pour renforcer l'impact de cet excellent contenu.

**Patrick** is the stumble catcher. Because he has no time to give the full list of speakers, he congratulates Odile and Alain P for no hesitation at all. Paolo G speaks slower than before and therefore there is huge improvement. Olivier A had no hesitation at all until he reached the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of his speech and started to stumble.

**Akiko** is our time keeper and announces that most people were excellent at using and respecting their imparted time.

**Lenny** summarizes the evening with a lot of humor. He thanks the kitchen of the restaurant for the background noises, Paolo for announcing the change in the program format at the last moment, and Alice for cancelling her educational session to alleviate a very - too - busy agenda!

He starts his evaluation of evaluators: Yamina did a very good job. Sean is very courageous because he gave an evaluation in French for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. Alain M had a very good eye contact with Michel and gave a very good evaluation. Christian focused a bit too much on details and was glued to his notes, so please less details and more eye contact next time! Paolo G has a great presence; he took over the stage and should win the next evaluation competition! Patrick is thanked for sparing us the details of stumbles. Akiko is advised to speak louder!

Who won the ribbons?



Best improvisation: **Alice**

Best speech: **Paolo B.**

Best evaluation: **Paolo G.**

**Philippe L.** congratulates Paolo B. who just completed his 10<sup>th</sup> speech and is now **Competent Communicator**, as well as **Jean**, who as off tonight is **Competent Leader Bronze**.

**Paolo**, notre président, pense que ce soir nous avons battu tous les records : un nouveau membre (**Alicia**), deux certifications (**Paolo B** et **Jean**), quatre discours, quatre évaluations et dix invités, auxquels il donne la parole pour un court commentaire, car nous avons dépassé l'heure de clôture !

Notes: **Alice** and **Yassine** - Edition and Illustration **Odile**

**Next meeting: April 8<sup>th</sup>2015**