



The French Toast

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

The meeting

I didn't get any notes about our president's introduction or our guests. NDLR

A vibrant evening!

Olivier A. as the Toastmaster of the Evening announced that Pamela would be the English note taker.



Patrick gave the Toast to the lady bugs of the garden - a natural way to keep the balance in the garden.

- **Paolo B.** donne le mot d'humour : Un homme veut acheter un cheval ; un fermier lui en propose un qui est spécial ; pour avancer, il faut lui dire "Mon Dieu" et pour arrêter "Merci ". Il s'en va avec son cheval qui s'emballé et court vers la falaise ; il finit par retrouver le mot qui l'arrête "merci" juste au bord du précipice : il s'exclame alors de soulagement "Ah mon Dieu"
- Timekeeper Gaëlle explains the color cards and the time keeping.
- Le grammairien français est **Olivier S.** (*pas d'indications sur son mot du jour, désolée ! NDLR*).
- English Grammarian Christiane proposes the word of the day "*instrumental*": pursuing an aim or policy - "The society was instrumental in bringing in the legislation"; instrumental - referring to musical instruments.
- Speaking Tips Provider Alicia talks about *bringing opposing ideas together*. She talks about "but" which is "the big canceller" and suggests that one puts opposing ideas together. You can use "*and*" to bring things together.

Table Topics

Table Topics Master **Yamina** asked questions about when you experience humor. (*Pamela couldn't hear her so we will skip the English part, sorry... NDLR*).



Philippe L. raconte comment son camarade de classe préparatoire lui a déclenché un sacré fou-rire ; alors que le professeur de maths assez indigeste fait une démonstration, son camarade dessine en quelques traits ce professeur sous les traits d'un cheval ; la

ressemblance, peu évidente au départ, lui apparaît alors criante et déclenche le fou-rire ...

Prepared Speeches

Sean - Special Occasion Speeches, Speaking in Praise - "**My Inspiring Aunt Maura**" -

I would like you to meet my Aunt Maura (shows a big photo of her). "Come here, Sean, I will teach you French!" - "I don't want to learn French!" Little did I know that I would be living in France! How she inspired me: my aunt Maura would ask me question after a question after a question: what was I thinking; what was I doing. She was interested in other people. There was a reason behind her curiosity: she was a nun, and then decided to quit and became a teacher of young people. She taught children in India, New Zealand, Uruguay, all over the world. In the end she would help elderly people in a nursing home. Just recently I met two of these people: they said she was considered a princess in the nursing home! Hindi, Swahili, Maori, French, English - goodness how could she speak all these languages! She followed these people she taught all around the world.

Alice - Educational Session from "The Successful Club Series": "**Why Should My Club Be Distinguished**" She spoke of having goals to achieve in Toastmasters; the Club has goals as well: make the members happy, have them practice speaking. Alice hands out a chart to everyone about the Leadership Track and the Communication Track and explains where we are standing now in both tracks regarding awards. She concludes hoping that we are all convinced to reach new goals next year!



Ivo - CC n°4 -Les mots pour le dire - « **Les plats de Madagascar** » -
Connaissez-vous les feuilles de citrouille et les breds? Oui quelques spécialités de mon île Madagascar ... Et que mange-t-on à Madagascar ? Ivo raconte comment 1100 ans de migrations ont façonné la cuisine et les plats de ce pays. Le riz est mangé 3 fois par jour soit 15 fois plus que les français ne mangent de chocolat; avec des breds, de la viande. Ivo fait souvent ce plat composé de bred avec ciboulette, épinards, chou acheté au marché de Paris ; puis elle prépare les saucisses en les cuisant à feu vif jusqu'à caramélisation et formation d'une croûte ; on rajoute un verre d'eau et enfin chacun met les épices, dont le piment ; on sert avec un accompagnement de mangues vertes, citrons marinés, tomates en petit cubes et bien sûr libre choix de condiments.

Evaluation session

Michel is the general evaluator.

Evaluation des improvisations par Emmanuelle :

Très joli choix de sujets par Yamina que le rire en accord avec les petites choses qui nous font du bien ; peut-être aurait-il mieux valu appeler la personne après avoir donné le sujet.

- Philippe L. : bien construit, bien inspiré et drôle, accessible.
- Wilfrid (invité) : sujet peu approprié à TM...

- Christiane : choix de l'acteur de Mr Bean très approprié, bien expliqué.
- Olivier S : bonne impro ; Olivier pourrait être plus présent, occuper l'espace plus largement.

Peter evaluating Sean's speech: I remember when you were shy in the beginning. You have truly progressed.

Teddy - talking to Alice about How to be a Distinguished Club speech: The conclusion was more about what it is in for us. In the introduction you used your personal story - how you were not motivated at work: Toastmaster gave you the idea of setting goals. Then you went into the body of the speech, and you talked about goals. And then you started to develop your idea on how to be a distinguished club. Good things: you used questions - which gets our attention. Your visual aids were very good - the ribbons behind you, and you handed out a paper that showed us everything you talked about. I loved your conclusion - our club is a distinguished club - and why people would like to come here. Suggestion: about closing the loop, you started about being more motivated; perhaps you could end about how you are more motivated at your work.

Evaluation par **Philippe P** du discours d'Ivo. Objectif atteint! Anecdotes marquantes sur le chocolat ; bien définir et répéter certains mots clés comme les breds ? Suggestion : donner plus de descriptions pour qu'on visualise bien les plats.

Olivier S. grammairien français : attention a l'expression "on s'éclate de rire " plutôt on éclate de rire.

English Grammarian Christiane: Alicia, Sean, Yamina, Peter and Teddy used "**Instrumental**". Christiane liked some expressions: "the refreshment of the ladybug", "killing urge"; "but is the great canceller"; "the battle of will". She reminded everyone to sound out the final "s's".

Stumble catcher Alain M. gave the exact number of hesitations and stumbles for each speaker, some of them making many of them (Gaëlle, Olivier S, Michel, Teddy, Emmanuelle).

Time Keeper Gaëlle reported that we were absolutely on time. Most everyone was on time. Alice was a little overtime. Each evaluation was a bit long.

General Evaluator Michel evaluated the evaluators:

- Emmanuelle gave a very encouraging and positive evaluation. One suggestion about how you managed the time: you spent a lot of time evaluating Yamina - we also want to hear more about others.
- Peter - just one suggestion - your introduction was a bit long - you should jump in the technical evaluation of the speech.
- Teddy: I liked the way you introduced your evaluation - very good point about the loop - coming back in the end to the beginning.
- Olivier S - you showed what you had to say.
- Alain M - you were straight to the point.

So in general all the speakers were very good: congratulations for everyone.

Who won the ribbons?



Best improvisation: **Philippe L.**

Best speech: **Sean**

Best evaluation: **Teddy**

Then **Paolo** asked the guests to speak. - "It was nice and positive right from the beginning" said one guest. And another: "It was fabulous, really well done." And on, like that.

Notes: Pamela & Philippe L- Edition and Illustration **Odile**

Next meeting: April 22nd, 2015