



# POST TOASTIE

**SPECIAL AREA CONTEST EDITION**

**TOASTMASTERS 75 CLUB, PARIS**

Website: [www.toastmasters75.org](http://www.toastmasters75.org)

Contact us: [pr@toastmasters75.org](mailto:pr@toastmasters75.org)

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2009**

## The Backdrop

Toastmasters Area Speech Contests often make for great occasions! There is the fact that many of us know each other from previous contests. There is the fact that we are close neighbours which adds some spice to the rivalry. But always, it seems to me, they are great because they bring the very best out of everyone involved in them in any way.

And it seemed that so many factors combined on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at the Area B4 Table Topics & Humorous Speech contests at the embassy of Ireland, Paris which made it into a wonderfully enjoyable afternoon.

The Toastmasters spirit of empathy and mutual support for all speakers, as envisioned by Ralph C. Smedley, when he founded Toastmasters International 85 years ago was evident in abundance on Saturday afternoon.

The flag of the European Union, a symbol of mutual cooperation on a continental scale towards a common goal, fluttered alongside the Irish national flag just outside the window of the contest room. At 3pm on Saturday, the Clubs in Area B4, with Toastmasters 75 acting as host club, worked together to provide a perfect setting for a lively afternoon of competition.

### In This Issue

- Fall Speech Contests – The Backdrop
- Contest Opening
- The Contests
- The Thank You's



*Contest Chair Tom Croke welcomes  
Ambassador Kavanagh*

## Contest Opening



The contest was staged at the embassy of Ireland, Paris with the kind permission of **H.E. Paul Kavanagh**, Irish Ambassador to France & Monaco. Contest Chair, **Tom Croke**, who is based at the embassy as an Attaché, opened proceedings by extending an Irish greeting - *Cead Mile fáilte* (100,000 welcomes) to everyone present. He then invited the Ambassador to extend his own special words of welcome. Mr. Kavanagh greeted everyone and spoke warmly and humorously of the long and cordial relationship between Ireland and France. He also told us that some members of his own family are Toastmasters and he appreciated the huge effort that competitors put into preparing for contests. He wished all contestants the very best of luck.

Division Governor Joanne Telser then spoke to us about the upcoming Division contest in Luxembourg on 7<sup>th</sup> November. She also requested all Area B4 members to support the District contest in Hamburg on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Joanne told us that Paris will play host in Spring 2010 to a joint Division 'A-B' Conference in French & English. She added that Eva Croke of TM75 had agreed to be Contest Chair for the event.

Tom then introduced **Sharon Mangahas** as Contest Master for the Table Topics Contest and the games were ready to begin!



**Sharon** ran the contest in a smooth and poised manner which reflected careful preparation.

Her question for the Table Topics contest was wonderful in its simplicity - *'If you could go back in time - what advice would you give to your 18 year-old self?'*

## TABLE TOPICS CONTEST (cont'd)

The contestants (in order of performance) were:

1. Beatrice DESPER
2. Tricia SAMPSON
3. Johanne LEMAIRE
4. Eva CROKE
5. Danaë DEREAU

All gave spirited performances and when Danaë finished her performance Sharon called for the intermission.

Christianne DE ROY was our 1-person catering committee for the event and what a job she did!! Her canapés and other tasty treats were enjoyed by a very appreciative audience during the intermission.



### BACK TO BUSINESS!!

Proceedings re-commenced at 16h30 with **Eva Croke** as Contest Chair for the Humorous Speech Contest. Eva began by taking care of all formal announcements and then seamlessly ran the contest in a manner that put everyone at ease.

The contestants (in order of performance) were:

1. Jane GREY
2. Tricia SAMPSON
3. Beatrice DESPER
4. Danaë DEREAU
5. Curtis BRODERICK

The room resounded to peals of laughter for the next hour as each contestant regaled us with their humorous 'takes' on subjects as diverse as the sex lives of pigeons to a unique insight into the evolution of language.

At 17h30 Jill Jacquot as Chief Judge retired with her officials to tabulate the results.

## Interviews & Awards

**Sharon** and **Eva** then presented Certificates of Participation to all contestants and chatted with all Club representatives who had given such commitment and preparation to entertaining us during the afternoon.

Jill & Division Governor Joanne Telser then returned with the results:-

And what an afternoon it turned out to be for TM75 with Eva & Jane proving to be winners of both contests. The full results were as follows

### Table Topics

1<sup>st</sup> place winner: Eva CROKE  
*Toastmasters 75*

2<sup>nd</sup> Tricia SAMPSON  
*Toastmasters of Paris*

3<sup>rd</sup> Beatrice DESPER  
*The Europeans*

### Table Topics Contestants



### Humorous Speech

1<sup>st</sup> place winner: Jane GREY  
*Toastmasters 75*

2<sup>nd</sup> Curtis BRODERICK  
*Busy Professionals*

3<sup>rd</sup> Tricia SAMPSON  
*Toastmasters of Paris*



Division Governor Joanne Telser & Area Governor Jill Jacquot with all the winners

## Thanks to

- H.E. Paul KAVANAGH → For giving us a great venue.  
Irish Ambassador to France & Monaco
- All Contestants → For preparing so well & giving us two great contests.
- Everyone at Toastmasters 75 → For investing such energy and enthusiasm into the organisation of the contest and making it great for everyone.
- All Area B4 Clubs → For enthusiastically volunteering to help with running the contest.
- Mr. Kieran LOUGHNEY, the proprietor of → For sponsoring the gift basket gift basket  
Patricks – Le Ballon Vert, Irish pub → of Irish products with a total value of over €100 which was 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the raffle held to help us defray our running costs.



**Estelle (right) was the big winner!**

- Ms. Tina PHELAN → For doing such a great job throughout the  
Embassy Maitre d' afternoon.
- All photographers → For generously sharing your photographs