



POST TOASTIE

TOASTMASTERS 75 CLUB, PARIS

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24th September 2009

A FULL HOUSE

Our 2nd Club meeting attracted a large and interesting audience. An Executive Committee meeting preceded the event and by the time the Club Officers joined the meeting *'the joint was jumpin'*.

Almost our entire Club membership attended this meeting and we were joined by 9 guests. The atmosphere was most convivial with very good interaction between TM75ers and guests.

Our Sergeant-at-Arms, **Sharon Mangahas** opened the meeting and invited Club President, **Eva Croke** to the lectern. Eva greeted all our guests, welcoming everyone to the meeting, in particular, our newest member, **Sean Murphy** who was received into our Club with a warm round of applause. **Eva** reminded all Club members of our upcoming Table Topics & Humorous Speech contest on 8th October 2009. Eva then introduced our Toastmaster for the evening (TME), **Christophe Marais**, assuring us all that we would be in the hands of a genial host.

TOAST

Eva proposed the toast. She toasted her mentor, **Jane Grey**, in particular and the concept of *'mentoring'*, in general. Eva felt a mentor should always be;

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M Motivating

E Enthusiastic

N Never Negative

T Totally Supportive

O Objective

R Realistic

Eva told us that Jane had all of these qualities in spades. Eva's toast to Jane was - *'May your mornings bring you joy and may your evenings bring you peace..... May your troubles grow less as your blessings increase'*.

JOKE

Christophe's joke of the adventurous penguin in Paris and its good fortune in being found by an imaginative (if slightly crazy) citizen produced lots of chuckles.

WORD OF THE DAY

Anne Hamilton, gave the word of the day as **'AMBIGUOUS'** - *an adjective meaning having more than one possible meaning or interpretation.*

'SPAM' TABLE TOPICS !



Sharon Mangahas was our 'mischievous' Table Topics Master. **Sharon** decided to challenge Club members by giving us a selection of the subject titles of some of the many hundreds of e-mails which fill her 'junk mail' folder. She invited us to speculate on what the titles meant and our reaction on opening such mails.

Jeanne Feldman was invited to speak on a mail with the following title - '*2 hours a day - €950 a week*'. In an eloquent contribution Jeanne told us that even though this sounded very tempting - even for the curiosity value, she would not endanger her IT software by opening this mail. What went into her SPAM folder was thrash and she treated it as such.

Robert Barton-Clegg was challenged by a tantalising title involving '*Guaranteed weight loss*'. In the course of his well thought through contribution Robert told us that because he subscribes to certain sites regarding health issues he is regularly bombarded with mails offering solutions for everything from weight loss to ways to look younger - all with no effort, of course. Robert told us he selectively chose which sites to open mails on health issues and that the occasional piece of good advice he picked up outweighed the risks of picking up a software bug.

'Look Great, Feel Great, Detoxify' - would you open an e-mail with this title and why? **Jane Grey** was challenged to discuss this possibility. She explained that as the title impinges on her professional life that logically she would feel compelled to check it out. Jane told us that it could give her an insight into her opposition, always an important factor in her world!

Tom Croke was asked would his curiosity be aroused by an e-mail with the subject line '*Meet your Mate*'. Tom told the audience that such a title was indeed tantalising, however, given that pornography proliferates on the Web he would not be sufficiently tempted. In any case, he told us he had already met his mate!

The purpose of Table Topics is to have members 'think on their feet' and **Sharon's** original and innovative take on them really challenged all contributors.

The audience voted **Tom Croke's** contribution best on the night and he duly collected the best Table Topic ribbon.

PREPARED SPEECHES

Our prepared speeches segment was preceded by an education session. Club member, **Pamela Shandel**, gave us an energetic, informative and most enjoyable speech on **Voice Projection – Making Contact**'.

Pamela launched into her subject with gusto! She offered us concrete advice on improving our voice projection. Relaxation, awareness of cultural differences and positive body gestures were some of the suggestions offered, together with interesting Web links for pronunciation help. To access them go to www.youtube.com → "search": → "**English Pronunciation**" & "**Tips for tonic accents English ESL**"

Pamela's ed. session was very well organised, contained lots of practical tips and we are very grateful to her for taking the time to put it together and delivering it with such aplomb.

We had two speakers in the main prepared speeches segment and **Sean Murphy** kicked us off with his Ice-Breaker – *'Don't be Disappointed Everyone'*.

This was **Sean's** maiden speech at our Club. He delivered it in a relaxed and witty manner giving us an insight into his thus far 'well travelled' life. Sean focussed on his college years. We learned about the food in Philadelphia and heard how his love of motor cycles was picked on a 'Spring Break' in Florida. Sean's description of his car journey to the coast with his buddies had resonances of Jack Kerouac's famous novel *'On the Road'* Or perhaps more accurately, the similarities were with the (2000) movie *'Road Trip'*.

Sean collected his 1st Timer ribbon in recognition of his eloquent debut as a Toastmaster

Speak & be HEARD



Christianne De Roy was next up with her speech *'Update of the Current Financial Markets'*. This was an 8 – 10 minute speech, with 4 to 5 minutes for questions & answers.

For most of us the financial markets and the current financial crisis is simply a blizzard of bewildering figures. In an assured and very comprehensive speech **Christianne** thoroughly explained banking and accounting systems. She held our attention with the simple visual aid of a company balance sheet and explained each point on it, not only once, but several times throughout her speech. **Christianne** really stimulated her audience to ask questions and she was clear and unambiguous in her replies.

This was an excellent public speaking performance!



EVALUATIONS – WHAT DID WE MAKE OF IT ALL?

Tom Croke, as General Evaluator, opened the evaluation segment of the meeting by explaining the structure it would take. He then invited **Jeanne Feldman** to present her evaluation of **Sean's** ice-breaker speech.

Jeanne complimented **Sean** for giving us a speech full of colour and wit. She praised his relaxed body language and felt that while he did not use many gestures, the overall impression was that his speech did not need them. **Jeanne** praised the obvious thought and preparation that had gone into the speech. She advised **Sean** to reflect longer on the parts of the speech which introduced a negative tone into what was a very good ice-breaker. This included the title of the speech. Overall, **Jeanne** told us, **Sean** gave the impression of someone who was relaxed when speaking in public and who should continue to improve with more experience.

Our next evaluator was **Jane Grey**. She told us **Christianne's** speech was very successful in its clarity of treatment, of what for many people is a dry subject.

Jane felt that **Christianne** was obviously comfortable talking about the subject but that her presentation was structured in a way that kept her audience interested. **Jane** thought that her visual aid was simple but effective. **Jane** commented that she did not know how **Christianne** spoke for but felt certain that, given the level of audience interaction she had to have exceeded the time allowed. In general, **Jane** believed that **Christianne's** speech achieved the aim of the project.

In her Grammarian's report **Anne Hamilton** told us that while a number of speakers had used the word of the day, *AMBIGUOUS* it had not proven as popular as she had hoped. **Anne** complimented the standard of English used throughout the meeting. She corrected a number of errors in the use of certain words, for example, 'reunir' from the French cannot be used as 'to reunite' a group of people for a meeting – rather you call (or bring) people together for a meeting.

Toastmaster Police Reports

Eva was our Ah Counter and she told us that SO was the most commonly used filler word on the night

'You Know' was also used by some speakers as crutch words.

Marc Mazouz, our Timer, told us that time keeping at the meeting was generally good. However, because of audience interaction, two of speakers, Pamela and Christianne had exceeded the allocated times for their presentations.

As General Evaluator, **Tom** commented on the great ambience of the meeting. He reminded us of the handshake drill at the end of speaking contributions and said that some early speakers had forgotten this act of courtesy. He then returned the meeting to the most genial of TME's, **Christophe** whose Gallic charm had put every speaker at their ease and ensured smooth transitions throughout the meeting

Our Guests

We had 9 guests at this vibrant Club meeting.

Dewi Jones and **Melanie Tsang** were returning guests who both enjoyed the meeting.

Muriel Stanley, **Gueric Gordon**, **Keith Redmond** and **Marisa Di Benigno** attended their first Toastmaster meeting and all gave positive feedback. **Veronica Felgentreu**, visiting from Germany enjoyed the meeting and regretted that she could not regularly attend.

Catherine presented the winner's ribbon and a special 1st timer's ribbon to **Nathalie** for her ice breaker speech.

She then turned the meeting over to **Eva** for closing guest comments and Club business.



Solange Cazier-Charpentier, a regular guest said that once again she enjoyed the meeting and looked forward to seeing us in the future.

Also visiting was a Japanese Toastmaster, **Shintaro Inagaki** who told us he found the meeting stimulating and loved the friendly supportive atmosphere.

Our President, **Eva**, then thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

REMEMBER



CLUB CONTEST NIGHT

TABLE TOPICS

&

HUMOROUS SPEECH

THURSDAY

8TH October 2009