



POST TOASTIE

TOASTMASTERS 75 CLUB, PARIS

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7th February 2010

Bumper Edition

In this edition we're playing catch-up. It's been two months and five meetings since we last published an account of our Toastie activities. So we're getting back to business with a bumper edition. Rather than laboriously recounting each meeting we'll try to capture the 'essence' of our recent meetings.

The themes for some of the meetings ranged from *Thanksgiving, Winter /Holidays* to *Burns Night*. As you will see, the imagination and energy of our members is boundless!

TOASTS

We've had some great toasts at our recent meetings. **Catherine Assioma** gave us a toast to the joy of autumn leaves while **Cynthia Hart-Munier** invited us all to toast friendship. At our first meeting of the New Year, **Arlette Beressi** gave us a toast to the hope that we would all enjoy a good year in 2010. At our most recent meeting **Jane Grey** gave us an amusing and poetic toast to Rabbie Burns.

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JOKES

The TM75 tradition of including a joke in the warm-up period of the meeting continues to promote some rib tickling laughs. We have heard about fun with x-ray spectacles from **Arlette** while the unforeseen problems in breeding a multi-legged turkey came from **Sean Murphy**.

Catherine began 2010 where she left off in the old year - making us laugh! She told us about a rather dim-witted farm worker who finally figured out just what the farmer's daughter had been offering him and promptly fell off a roof! **Sergio Azpeitia Molina** gave a brilliant rendition of a tale of 3 canny Scots men giving 3 English men a lesson in thrift.

WORDS OF THE DAY

At our recent meetings we have used STUBBORN, SPORADIC, FESTIVE, PROSCRATINATE and ACKNOWLEDGE as words to enrich our vocabulary



TABLE TOPICS



Table Topics are impromptu speeches which help to prepare members to 'think on their feet'.

Table Topics are challenging in many different ways. The Table Topics Master must choose subjects which are not too obscure but are challenging for the speaker. The challenge for the Table Topics speaker is to remain calm, think clearly and present a credible and sometimes amusing response.

The best advice for Table Topics is to listen to each topic being explained as if you were the person sure to be asked to speak – rather than keeping your head down hoping you will not be chosen!

At our recent meetings, Table Topics Masters have included **Robert Barton-Clegg**, **Eva Croke**, **Catherine Assioma**, **Christianne De Roy** and **Christophe Marais**.

The range of topics reflects the diversity within our club.

"Who in past history would you like to meet if you had the possibility"

"The greatest gift we can give to others is...."

"What memory have you of a gift you received which you either adored or hated"

"Would you undergo plastic surgery? If so, what procedure would you have carried out?"

Finally at our last meeting, citing the notorious Thierry Henry handball incident from the pre-Christmas France-vs-Ireland football match, **Christophe** asked us *"If you could cheat and get away with it – would you do it?"*

PREPARED SPEECHES



A feature of our recent meetings is that we enjoyed the pleasure of hearing two of the newest members of our Club give their first speeches. **Anne Hamilton** in a speech entitled *'So what brought you to Paris'* told us how having come on a short term visit to Paris became a life long experience.

Anne followed up a great opener, when at our last meeting on 'Burns Night', appropriately as a Scots Lassie, she gave us a speech entitled *'A Man's a Man for a' that'* celebrating the life and works of the Scottish bard, Robert 'Rabbie' BURNS. On both occasions **Anne** picked up the ribbon for best speaker on the night – a great achievement.

Sergio introduced himself to us in the appropriately titled *'A Second Ice-Breaker'*. In giving us an insight into his Basque homeland and his personality, **Sergio** even offered roller-blade lessons to the more adventurous members of the Club!

Nathalie Marlot has enlightened us on two very interesting and diverse subjects – *'The Pet Economy'* and *'Customers & Costmetics'*.

Jeanne Feldman conducted a discussion group entitled *'TM75: Is that our Real Name?'* during which new names for our Club were proposed and discussed. The idea of changing name of the Club is being considered and this was the second session in a 3-part project. The final session will follow in the near future.

Eva spoke 'off the cuff' (i.e. speaking on a subject chosen by her evaluator) on *'Surviving Christmas'* and at our last meeting she presented a *'A Roast' to the Birthday Boy'*.

At our *'Thanksgiving'* meeting on 26th November 2009 **Jane** gave an educational session on the effective use of notes in public speaking.

At the same meeting **Arlette** and **Cynthia** gave us two very different speeches. **Arlette** told us how she organised exhibitions of her art, while **Cynthia** spoke to us on how to keep our food safe.

Intriguing speech titles have featured at our meetings! *'One Jellyfish Burger and French Fries to go'* and *'The White Stuff'* were speeches given by **Catherine** and **Sean**.

At the 28th January 2010 meeting **Tom Croke** gave an advanced manual speech entitled *'Being Human – Band Aid'* in which he discussed the human response to global tragedies.



Evaluations

As usual our evaluations at recent meetings have been thoughtful, encouraging and comprehensive.

NEXT MEETING

11th FEBRUARY 2010

FAMOUS SPEECH NIGHT

Special Thank You

A special 'Thank You' to Sharon Mangahas, Jerome Castaing, Tom Croke, Jane Grey, and Christianne De Roy who were TME's for the meetings featured in this 'Post Toastie'. Each of them brought their individual style to the meetings they presided over ensuring an enjoyable evening for everyone who attended.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11th MARCH - CLUB Speech & Evaluation Contest
 - 10th April - AREA International Speech & Evaluation Contest
 - 24th April - Joint Division A & B Conference Paris
 - International Speech & Evaluation Contests in English & French
 - Joint Workshops
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