



Talking Point

The Toastmasters Club of Berne



<http://besu.ch/bernetoasters>
Meeting at the Restaurant Galaxy,
Effingerstrasse 20, Berne (City-West),
next on August 26, 2002, 18:45 - 21:30.
Visitors welcome free no cost.

Volume 10, Issue 5
September 9, 2002

District of Continental Europe
District 59p Area 4 Switzerland
Toastmasters Club of Berne #3436
President: Rodrigo Guerra 031 849 2052
Editor: [Graham Tritt](mailto:Graham.Tritt@freesurf.ch) 031 829 3479

The Meeting of September 9

We had a busy meeting, with 9 members present: Stefan Bogdanov (BG), Vicko Andria (MG), Juliette and René Massas (FR), Allan Hart (AU), Pamela Holzinger (LK), Lydia Paulsen (US), Marianne Junger (CH), Graham Tritt (NZ).

We had 9 guests: Lisette Frey (CH), Warwick Johnston and Kevin Wilkinson (AU), Cameron and Renia Edwards (AU/NZ, just 3 days in Switzerland), Mehret Tekle and Michelina (ET), Steve Omole (NG) and Angela Weedon (UK). (Country codes from ISO3166 - maybe someone can put all the flags from www.fotw.ca/flags/iso3166.html together!)

Apologies were received from Obioma (NG, packing to move), Mary (CH, Yoga courses), Brigid (UK/CH), and Rodrigo (CL, just back from New York with a virus).

Graham opened the meeting and described the programme: after a business meeting we would have three speeches, from Juliette, Lydia and Marianne, and their evaluations. Then after the break we would hold the Table Topics contest, chaired by Allan with Lydia as chief judge, followed by evaluations led by Vicko.

Business

We have more *posters* for you to put on noticeboards or give to friends. We'll also create some *letters* which you can send to companies or schools. Please pass on any contact addresses to Stefan.

Members and intending members are asked to pay *fees* as soon as possible. The amount is for current members 60.- and for new members 90.- for the period up to December 2002. New members will get the members kit only when TMI receives both the form and the payment. If you did not receive the form, you can download it from www.toastmasters.org/pdfs/400f.pdf and bring this to a meeting. Be sure to add your name to the payment order, otherwise we might not know who paid it! Send to:

Migros Bank, 3001 Bern
Postkonto 30-590-8
TOASTMASTERS CLUB OF BERNE,
Account Number 16 847 162 704 - 8422

Meeting Assignments

Role	9 Sept	23 Sept	1 October
Toastmaster	Graham	Allan	Graham
Theme	TT contest	Debate (Vicko)	demo 1215-1330
Chief Evaluator	Judge: Lydia	René	
Table Topics	Contest: Allan	-----	
Speaker 1	Marianne	Graham	Mary
Speaker 2	Rodrigo	Vicko	
Speaker 3	Lydia (2)	Lydia (3)	
Speaker 4	Juliette(1)	Philbert (1)	

reply by email or call 031 829 3479 to register

Next Events

Monday September 23: Debate

We decided to meet in Berne rather than losing people on the way to Neuchatel. We have a debate planned!

Deadline September 25 to pay membership fees

Tuesday October 1: demonstration meeting at BIT,
Titanic II, Monbijoustr. 74, Tram 9 / Sulgenau, 1215

Monday October 14: meeting with Humorous Speeches
and visit by Roy Skinner, Area Governor

Saturday October 26: Alpine fall conference, Geneva
from 1100-1700 - every member should try to attend!

Humorous Speech and Table Topics Contests

Hotel Epsom Manotel, 18 rue Richemont, 1202 Geneva
just 5 minutes walk from Geneva Railway Station.

Theme: *Planning to Succeed*. Early Bird session 0930,
registration and opening 1030. Fee: 65.- if before 30
Sept, pay to postal account 17-481857-6 of Geneva
Toastmasters, CP 5021, 1211 Geneva 11, marked Area
Conference and your name.

Monday October 28: normal meeting,
theme "speeches from the underground"

Monday November 9: normal meeting

Friday 20-Sunday 22: District Conference, Pardubice
the European party - join 200 toastmasters at a resort

Monday November 23: Tall Tales

Further information

President Rodrigo Guerra, guerrameyer@freesurf.ch
VP Education Graham Tritt graham_tritt@hotmail.com
VP Public Relations Stefan Bogdanov bogi@freesurf.ch
VP Membership René Massas r.massas@bluewin.ch
Past President Pamela Holzinger 031 352 4357
Web site: <http://besu.ch/bernetoasters>

Table Topics Contest

The club Table Topics contest is held annually in the fall, as we select a representative for the area contest. You can find the rules on www.toastofchicago.org/ttrules.htm and some guides on www.toastmastersd69.org.

We selected the judges before the break (Lydia, René, Warwick) and reviewed their jobs, and we balloted for the order of contestants (Pamela, Graham, Marianne, Stefan, Juliette, Vicko).

A contest is valuable in many ways.

- *Members* see alternative ways of responding to the same topic, and can evaluate different delivery techniques.
- *The judges* learn objective methods and a skill that can be used for everything up to Olympic and Miss World competitions, should we ever be asked ...
- *Contestants* gain in confidence, overcoming butterflies, and are recognised in wider circles (we forgot to invite news reporters!)
- *the Club as a whole* builds experience in a procedure both formal and theatrical, involving all the members, and which can be used for publicity.

Allan as Contest Chairman capably led the contest session. While the contestants were led out of the room, he introduced the procedure and topic:

*Terrorism is merely a word,
but it conjures up many images.
Is terrorism ever acceptable, and if not, why not.*

One by one, the speakers were brought back into the room. The topic was read to them, and they had to respond. With eyes on the clock, all speakers reached their aims of 2 to 2.5 minutes. We'll report on their responses in the next newsletter.

Following the competition, Allan had a few more topics up his sleeve. He began with a dictionary definition:

Terrorism: the unlawful use or threatened use of force or violence by a person or an organised group against people or property with the intention of intimidating or coercing societies or governments, often for ideological or political reasons. (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, Houghton Mifflin)

Guerillas, freedom fighters, partisans - these are words used by minority groups to justify terrorism. What historical examples of these groups being successful exist?

Should terrorists ever be supported by other countries? Steve Omole answered yes, with the example of Liberia.

Terrorism is usually used by dissatisfied minority groups, but can also be used by majority groups. Can you explain any examples?

When one group seeks to dominate a country, terrorism is permitted and even historically justified. Examples ...

The Speeches

Table Topics and speeches will be reported in the next newsletter.

Evaluations

Angela as Timer reported that all speakers were within their time limits. That some people heard the bell was only because she enjoyed ringing it so much.

Vicko as General evaluator reported on the evening as a whole. We had rather too many interruptions at the beginning, and he asked us to arrive before 7 to order a meal. We should also read apologies for those absent. And finally, he thought that the evaluators were too nice, they should be sure to give 3 or more points to improve.

Some of your guests commented: Steve, that it was an unusual sort of meeting with tough questions well answered. Angela found it interesting and highly amusing.

Winners

Best Speech: Lydia

*Evaluation - equal votes each: Pamela, Rene and Stefan
Table Topic Contest: 1. Graham, 2. Juliette, 3Marianne.*

Speech Ideas

It was rewarding to see that the stack of Time magazines found many readers. We look forward to hearing more speeches on current international affairs! Please bring your copies back to swap with others. Also you are welcome to contribute other material to our "Ideas Box".

The Berne consultants ECOPLAN have many English documents on their site www.ecoplan.ch/homeengl.htm

Next week: Debate

The topic will be decided and teams selected before the break, and the dinner time can be used by teams to make their plans. How a debate runs is defined in http://tritt.bizland.com/tc_berne/nl/debate99.htm. There are two or three speakers on each side.

- A1** the **first speaker affirmative** will define the topic, introduce the Affirmative team, define their approach to the proposition, and present one or two arguments
- N1** the **first speaker negative** will clarify or refine the definition, introduce the Negative team and how they will argue, present one or two arguments, and rebut (refute or attack) the arguments of the first speaker
- A2** the **second speaker affirmative** will defend the definition (if necessary), have two or three points of argument, rebut the opposing team, and defend the arguments of the affirmative
- N2** the **second speaker negative** will have two or three points of argument, rebut the opposing team and defend the arguments of the negative