



# Talking Point

## The Toastmasters Club of Berne



<http://besu.ch/bernetoasters>  
Meeting at the Restaurant Galaxy  
Effingerstrasse 20, Berne (City-West)  
next on October 14 and 28, 18:45 - 21:30  
Visitors welcome and free.

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District of Continental Europe  
District 59p - Area 4 Switzerland  
Toastmasters Club of Berne #3436  
President: Rodrigo Guerra 031 849 2052  
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### The Meeting of September 23

On a cold and rainy night, most of our members and invited guests preferred to stay home! We had 7 members present: Allan, Rodrigo, Graham, Rene, Juliette, Pamela and Vicko, and one guest: Marianne Krempe, for the second time. Marianne hails from Germany and is a speech therapist. Apologies were received from Lydia, Hans, Marianne, Mary and Brigid.

Rodrigo presented club business and asked officers for reports. Graham mentioned the Geneva and Pardubice/Czech conferences, and Rene emphasized the need to pay fees now for registration with Toastmasters International.

Allan and Rene introduced the meeting procedures and presenters. In the first half, we would have two speeches, from Vicko and Graham, followed by their evaluations. We would also select *the debate topic and teams*. After the break, the debate would be led by Vicko, with Graham as chief judge, followed by general evaluations led by Rene.

### Committee Meeting

We will have a committee meeting on 14 October, from 1800 to 1845, preceding the meeting. Rodrigo will tell us the agenda, and as usual, all members are invited. We hope that Area Governor Roy Skinner will join us, and we hope to produce a "Success Plan" for the club.

### Become a Toastmaster

Why be a member, when you can be a guest for free? You:

- receive the New Members Kit - the manual and further material, plus the monthly Toastmasters International newsletter, the District, Area and Club newsletters
- have the right to make speeches and receive evaluations, have a mentor, take part in debates and enter contests
- are able to take on other roles at a meeting, participate in conferences, and attend social events of the club

Payments are already due! Pay your 60.- to Migros Bank, 3001 Bern, Postkonto 30-590-8, Toastmasters Club of Berne, Account Number 16 847 162 704 - 8422. (Add your name to the payment order so we know who paid it.) This covers up to December 2000; new members also pay 30.- for the New Members Kit.

### Meeting Assignments

Role	23 Sept	1 October	14 October
Toastmaster	Allan	Graham	Rodrigo
Theme	Debate Vicko	demo 1215-1330	Humorous Speeches
Chief Evaluator	Rene	Graham	
Table Topics	----	Vicko	Vicko
Speaker 1	Graham	Mary	Roy Skinner
Speaker 2	Vicko	----	Marianne (7)
Speaker 3		----	Allan (HS)
Speaker 4		----	Graham (HS)
Speaker 5			Hans (2)

Reply by email or call 031 829 3479 to register  
Be ready with your speech in case someone is away!

### Next Events

- Deadline NOW!** to pay membership fees  
**Tuesday October 1: demonstration meeting at BIT,**  
 Titanic II, Monbijoustr. 74, Tram 9 / Sulgenau, 1215  
**Monday October 14, 1800 committee meeting**  
**Monday October 14: meeting with Humorous Speeches**  
 contest; presentation by Roy Skinner, Area Governor  
**Saturday October 26: Alpine fall conference, Geneva**  
 Register by email to [din@intl.ch](mailto:din@intl.ch) fee after 30.9 is Fr 75  
 For details of the presentations see [link](#) to the program  
 0822 train from Berne arriving 1026 in Geneva  
 0850 Graham has room for 2 more travelling by car  
 1030-1055 registration and refreshments  
 1100 formal opening and introductions  
 1115 *Success on the International Podium* M. Kalmar  
 1130 Table Topics contest  
 1230-1400 lunch and conversation  
 1400 *We Plan As We Think* - Roy Skinner  
 1430 Humorous Speech Contest  
 1530 Coffee Break  
 1600 Awards, Comments, Announcements, Closing  
 1630-1730 Area Council meeting (Rodrigo, Graham)  
 trains from 1634 and every half hour to Berne  
 Who wants to stay for dinner in Geneva? (Note that winter time starts on Sunday - an extra hour to rest!)  
**Monday October 28: normal meeting**  
 theme "speeches from the underground"  
**Monday November 11: normal meeting**  
 theme to be decided  
**Friday 20-Sunday 22 November: District Conference**  
 the European party - join 200 toastmasters in the Czech town of Pardubice, fun and contests in three languages.  
 We leave Thursday evening, arriving back Sunday late  
**Monday November 25: Zibelemarit and meeting**  
 Tall Tales theme and competition

## Debate

We selected the topic for debate from those given in the newsletter. Five wanted to decide about a war, three were more interested in Swiss gold, and one was concerned about the environment in Berne.

The teams selected were: Affirmative Pamela and Allan, and Negative, Rodrigo and Rene. They made their respective plans during the dinner break. Before the debate, we determined that the proposal was supported by three persons and opposed by five.

### ***Bush should bomb Iraq!***

Pamela led the attack: Bush is courageous in trying to save the world from a great disaster. The US is not misinformed, Saddam Hussein has even gassed his own people. Saddam's own sons, who escaped to the west, revealed that the nuclear and chemical programs were continuing. They were duped into returning and were killed as traitors. In World War II much of the world ignored the way Hitler was treating the Jews, and when we woke up it was too late. The US does not need to play hero, it is trying to save the world from a similar disaster.

Rene opposed this, he described Bush as a Texas cowboy still believing he was in the wild west, with weapons taking the place of diplomacy. The Indians, the Iraqi, suffer poverty, hunger, imposed by the west. We must see the world as a whole, and consider the consequences geopolitically - for instance the response from other Islamic countries. (Rene ran out of time at 3 minutes!)

Allan supported Pamela and attacked the views of Rene. It is clear, he said, that Saddam is developing genocidal chemical and atomic weapons. Iraq does not deserve such a leader, who attacked Kuwait for his own selfish reasons. Calling Bush derogatory names does not change anything. That he should fear international opinion and upset the neighbours should not stop him from doing what is right and has to be done!

Rodrigo summed up the negative side's views. It is a small world, and everything has consequences. Arab humiliation dates back to the 6-day war in 1967, but we can win a war but lose the peace. We should not attack others because they think different, but should look for the root causes of problems. Who are we to point fingers? We should find a solution, not eradicate the guilty.

## Decision

The judges retired to consider which was the better team. Note that they are not concerned with the rightness or wrongness of the proposal, just with the team organisation and their delivery of arguments and rebuttal of the opposition. A guide to the judging of debates can be found on [link](#). Toastmasters often argue for things they do not believe in!

In the judges' view, the positive team had a clearer logic flow, better organisation and more powerful delivery.

## Sustainable Development

Vicko gave a #7 *speech*, whose aim is to show all your organisation and delivery skills rather than concentrating on developing each one separately.

The real economy is not measured, he told us - we must include health, education, job security, housing, and other quality of life factors. Climate is also important, pollution, biodiversity - strange for economists! We have to take care that businesses do not just maximise profit, but preserve the interests of the whole population.

Vicko's examples included the cost of clean water, the quality of food, and the use of renewable energy. We can simply not handle a rise in sea level of even a few meters - the cost of unsustainable development is taken out on the poor. He appealed to all of us to do what we could, to influence decisions at all levels

## The 10 Basic Speeches

Graham gave an *Informative Speech* from the advanced manual. For the newer members, he explained and also demonstrated the ten projects of the basic CTM manual. Details of the Toastmasters education program can be found on [www.toastmasters.bc.ca/ed-program/ctm.html](http://www.toastmasters.bc.ca/ed-program/ctm.html)

## Evaluations

Rene evaluated Graham, finding that voice and body language were good, but that the organisation could be improved - with smoother transitions, and a slower and more powerful conclusion.

Rodrigo evaluated Vicko, naming his good points like information content, voice use and variation. Vicko could improve in posture and move away from the podium, giving fair attention to the audience in all room areas.

All speakers and debaters were on time except Rene! We did not have an ah counter or grammarian.

## Winners

***Best Speech: Vicko***

***Best Evaluation: Rodrigo***

***Debate: the positive side  
(Pamela and Allan)***

## Further information

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