



Talking Point

Toastmasters Club of Berne Newsletter



http://fast.to/tc_berne

Meeting at the Restaurant Galaxy,
Effingerstrasse 20, Berne (City-West),
18:45 - 21:30. Guests welcome, free.

Volume 11, Issue 6
September 22, 2003

District 59 Division E Area 4
Toastmasters Club of Berne #3436
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Meeting

Rodrigo opened the meeting, welcomed guests, and announced the coming events – the Stuttgart Division conference on Saturday 11 October, and the Lucerne District conference on 7-9 November.

We had 4 guests: Amy McLauchlin from the U.S., Beatrice Zaugg from Berne; Polina Kireva from Bulgaria, and Ken Jaio from China. Graham as Toastmaster explained the programme and General Evaluator Rachel named her team.

In the first half we had three presentations: Rachel on *The Origins of Words* (CTM manual #2), which was evaluated by Marianne; an *interactive workshop* led by Rodrigo (from the ATM manual Discussion Leader), evaluated in round robin fashion, and a short seminar on *Judging*, in which Graham explained how we would evaluate the table topics.

In the second half of the evening we had Table Topics, led by Vicko. We had *two contest sessions*, where speakers had to remain outside until called to come in by the Sergeant at Arms, and spoke on the same topic. Graham served as Chief Judge and selected judges from those not taking part, so many of us also learnt new evaluation skills.

Finally we had the *evaluation session* led by Rachel, and Rodrigo closed the meeting at 2130.

Membership list

Vicko Andriamiharisoa	1700 Fribourg
Barbara and Stefan Bogdanov	3127 Mühlethurnen
Angus Carrick	3075 Rüfenacht
Philip Ebalu	3604 Thun
Andreas Friedrich	1223 Cologne
Peter Gallmann	3097 Liebefeld
Edwina Groeflin	1715 Alterswil
Rodrigo Guerra	3147 Mittelhäusern
Marion Haase	3027 Bern
Allan Hart	3047 Bremgarten
Laura Hartmann	3012 Bern/BE
Pamela Holzinger	3006 Bern
Marianne Junger	3006 Bern
Marianne Krampe	3007 Bern
Lydia Paulsen	3150 Schwarzenburg
Rachel Rohrer-Christ	3005 Bern
Carmen Schürch	3006 Bern
Hans Struck	3006 Bern
Graham and Monika Tritt	3033 Wohlén
Hans Wandfluh	3472 Wynigen
Anthony Weitz	3012 Berne

Roles

Role	22 September	13 October
Toastmaster Evening	Graham	Vicko
Speaker 1	Rachel	
Speaker 2	Rodrigo	Marion CTM #2
Speaker 3	Graham	Pamela ATM
Speaker 4		Graham conf.
Table Topics Master	Vicko	Rachel
Sergeant at Arms	Graham	
General Evaluator	Rachel	
Speech Evaluator 1	Barbara	
Speech Evaluator 2	All	
Timer / Counter	Vicko	
Chief Judge	Graham	
Judges HS	None	
Judges TT	Many	
Grammarian		

Mail allan_hart@hotmail.com
or call Allan 031 324 31 07 for an assignment

Events

Wednesday October 1: Geneva. Anyone who would like to give a humorous speech or Table Topic in French should give their name to Graham, and participate at Geneva.

Wednesday October 8: Humorous Speech Contest (in English) at the Lausanne club meeting. Come and attend this meeting, Graham will leave at about 5 pm.

October 11: Division Conference in Stuttgart. Graham and Vicko leave at 0700 on Saturday morning and will be back on Sunday evening. Ask for details if you did not yet received them. The total cost (share transport, conference, Oktoberfest, hotel, spa, meals) would be SFr 100-200.

Monday October 13: Normal Meeting 1845–2130 in Bern

Monday October 27: Normal Meeting 1845–2130 in Bern

November 7-9: District Conference in Lucerne. Details are on district59fallconference.toastmastersofbasel.net The deadline for registration is 16 October, so please register and pay by this time. Only once in ten years do we have a European conference in Switzerland, so take the opportunity and attend this Fall District Conference and meet 200 Toastmasters from all over the continent.

Monday November 10: Normal Meeting 1845–2130

Monday November 24: Tall Tales Evening

Table Topics – Vicko Andria Stegreifredewettbewerb

The first table topics session was our official German-language area contest. The topic was:

- *Should we trust experts, or politicians?*
- *Sollen wir eher Experten oder Politiker trauen?*

Results were:

- 1 Marianne Krampe**
- 2 Rachel Rohrer**
- 3 Barbara Bogdanov**
- 4 Marion Haase**
- 5 Angus Carrick**

Angus receives a special award for courage, as the others were all native German speakers. However he did not notice the flags and was disqualified for over-running the allowed time with nearly 4 minutes!

In the second session we allowed speakers to choose English or German, though Graham was the only one to attempt German. The topic was: *Should media try to persuade, or just inform. Sollen Medien versuchen zu überreden oder nur zu informieren.* Special awards go to guests Amy and Beatrice who volunteered take part. The placings were Rodrigo 1, Graham 2, Stefan 3.

We had a few more topics ready for those who had not yet participated. *Is autonomy necessary for the quality of life?* Polina saw freedom to decide for oneself as a basic right, rather than as something necessary. Being able to refuse to serve in the military is a good example. Other topics included *Does being independent make us anti-social? Is globalization the opposite of independence?* But now, all present had spoken. And we were running out of time.

German Humorous Speeches

We had no offers of a humorous speech in German, so that this year there is no Area award or representative selected for the Division contest. A pity, as Graham won the District contest last fall at the contest in the Czech Republic with his speech *Tennis: psychologisch gewinnen!*

The Origin of Words – Rachel Rohrer

Rachel spoke on the origins of words: how she used knowledge of Latin and Greek to help learn and understand meanings. She presented examples of how different words derived from common origins and how meanings have changed over time.

Workshop – Rodrigo Guerra

Today is auto-free in the center of Berne, and this has made people think. Rodrigo's workshop presented the problem "*The city is overcrowded with automobiles*". He then described the workshop procedure: definition, analysis, determination of solution criteria, and finding solutions.

Stefan described the problems from the view of a pedestrian and cyclist - there was no room in the city for living, if autos take over as before. Graham appealed for more parking spaces and a solution for those who must carry their purchases home. Angus supported car sharing park-and-ride systems but they must be convenient, while Marianne suggested a delivery service. Marion pointed out how the car industry stimulates the economy while others saw long-term costs of roads and pollution for instance damage to health. Barbara proposed that public transport should be free but saw that all alternatives cost something to the city.

Graham, as note-taker, listed the alternatives (bus, park and ride, cycle, free bus, delivery, smaller cars, shared autos, rental cars, and public transport). Rodrigo led us to define criteria such as cost, pollution, convenience, speed, carrying capacity, independence, and availability.

In the evaluation phase we drew a table and compared the criteria for each solution, marking on a scale of -- - 0 + ++ . Some factors, such as the convenience of public transport or the independence of a bicycle, had to be answered with a ? meaning "it depends".

Finding solutions was difficult as a mix of alternatives was seen as best: private car when needed, but public transport or cycle as often as possible. We voted on four proposals:

1. raise the price of benzine
2. make park and ride attractiver and advertise better
3. invest in public transport and motivate people more
4. raise awareness of the problems

The consensus we reached was a combination of 2 and 3.

Division Event 11 October

The first Division meeting is hosted by Stuttgart on Saturday 11 October at the Generationenhaus, Heschlach. 0700 Pickup near Berne Bahnhof

- 1230 Lunch together before the conference
- 1400 Conference (see special programme)
- 1730 German workshops
- 1830 End of conference
- 1930 Visit to the Stuttgart Oktoberfest
<http://www.cannstatter-volksfest.de>
- Overnight accomodation – hotel or billeted
- 0930 Morning relaxation in a thermal pool
<http://www.stuttgart.de/baeder/xml/xsl/stat149.html>
- 1230 lunch together, Wienerwald
- 1900: arrive back in Berne

Attendees are invited to each bring a resource in the area of rhetoric or management skills – bring 20 copies of one to two pages. Individual attendees and clubs can then take copies for their inventory and further distribution. Perhaps some mentoring tips, voice exercises, table topics questions, newsletters, meeting guidelines, form templates, etc. Include only material which has no copyright restrictions - preferable resources you have written yourself. Put author, title and date clearly on it (for later reference).

Please tell us if you can come – you will enjoy and learn!
Details: <http://www.toastmasters-stuttgart.de/divcon.html>
or get the forms from Graham.