



# Talking Point

## Toastmasters Club of Berne Newsletter



[http://tritt.bizland.com/tc\\_berne](http://tritt.bizland.com/tc_berne)

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

Volume 11, Issue 18  
March 22, 2004

District 59 Division E Area 4  
Toastmasters Club of Berne #3436  
President: [Rodrigo Guerra](#) 078 823 0422  
Editor: [Graham Tritt](#) 031 829 3479

### Meeting

Rodrigo opened the meeting, welcomed us and introduced one guest on her second visit: Denise Gordon-Kind from Switzerland and the U.K. Denise leads an organisation for health and wellness products, and members are welcome to attend her weekly presentations.

Carmen told us of her experiences during Berne's Museum Night. She recommends a visit to the Antiquities Museum, the City Archives, and the National Theater Museum.. Graham also recommends the Alpine Museum which has a special show on the environment - he and Vicko are speaking on Global Warming at a meeting on Thursday 26th.

Carmen as Toastmaster described the procedure of the evening and Allan as General Evaluator presented his team. Emil's speech would be evaluated by Marianne, Stefan's by Emil, and Vicko's by Pamela. Angela had the role of Timer, Pat was Ah Counter, and Graham was Grammarian.

### Club Business

Treasurer / VP Membership Hans Struck is away in the south of France during the pollen season but the semi-annual reports have been taken care of already. We have officially ? members. The new management and service at the Galaxy has grown used to us and all are very friendly.

Public Relations officer Stefan announced the coming Demonstration Meeting for EDA, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Also, Emil has also done a great job of promoting our organisation to those responsible for training at EDA.

### Committee List

President Rodrigo Guerra 078 823 0422 Strassweidweg 79  
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Secretary Toni Weitz has not renewed his membership  
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### Assignments

Role	March 22	April 5	April 15
Toastmaster	Carmen	TM Pamela	Stefan
Speaker 1	Emil	Angus (2)	Marianne
Speaker 2	Stefan	Pat (3)	
Speaker 3	Vicko	Vicko	
Speaker 4		Graham	
Speaker 5		Emil (5)	
Table Topics	Angus	Carmen	Carmen
Gen. Eval.	Allan	Stefan	Graham
Evaluator 1	Marianne		Pat
Evaluator 2	Emil		
Evaluator 3	Pamela		
Evaluator 4			
Timer	Marianne J		
Grammarian	Graham		
Ah Counter	Pat		
Facilitator	Pat / Vicko	Pat	

Call Allan 031 324 31 07 for an assignment  
or email [allan\\_hart@hotmail.com](mailto:allan_hart@hotmail.com)

### Coming Events

**Monday March 22 at 1845:** club meeting including Speech Contest in English or German if necessary

**Saturday March 27 at EPFL: Area E4 Conference** with English language contests.

**Saturday April 5: committee and normal meeting.** Note this is the first Monday of the month, as our usual meeting day is Easter Monday we moved the date forward.

**Thursday April 15 at 1200: demonstration meeting** at SECO, location yet to be notified.

**Saturday April 24 from 1700-2300 Division Contest** in Wiesbaden <http://www.word-weavers.de/d-e-conference.htm>

**Monday April 26 1845-2130: normal meeting.**

**Fri-Sunday May 7-9, 2004:** The *Spring District Contest* in Freising near Munich: <http://conference.district59.org/>

**Monday May 10: committee and normal meeting.**

**Monday May 24: normal meeting,** elections of committee

**Monday June 8: committee and normal meeting.**

**Monday June 23: normal meeting.**

**Saturday July 3: Summer Party.**

## Speeches

The first speaker was Emil and his speech "Success" was evaluated by Marianne. He began with some words of bad advice: *Second place is first loser!* on posters which he tore up, and then gave us his own definition of the path to success, a road less travelled, in expressive and vivid terms

Second speaker was Stefan, who lit a candle to attract attention at the beginning of his speech on "Beeswax". He described the optimal hexagonal structure of honeycombs, and the medical and physical properties, which have been recognised for instance by painters and sculptors for centuries.

Third speaker was Vicko, an informative presentation on the topic "Global Warming". If the sea rises by five meters, a lot of land will vanish and millions will die. Mankind can tolerate only a narrow range of temperature change, and a drop or rise is catastrophic. We must seize the historical chance to shape our destiny now!

## Table Topics

Table Topics was presented by Angus who asked us to imagine the meanings of some unusual English place names.

- Saffron Walden - a yellow flower growing on a pine tree
- Grimsby - a lump of undefinable gristle meat
- Dunbar - the cash taken at a tollgate - from Carmen
- Uswald Twistle – a style of whistling shown by Emil
- Chipping Unger – how Stefan prepares fried potatoes
- Toronto - Manrienne described it as a gushing waterfall of words like ketchup from a bottle
- Massachusetts - Monika told us the word derives from the Indian for a sneeze and is now used for a nose spray.
- Ramsgate - Graham described how imported French sheep were led to attack an English town, leading to the terms battering rams and the word for a rotating door which always turns against you.
- Exeter was named for the number of ex-husbands and ex-wives whose marriages had expired and settled there
- Yarmouth - always saying yes to a question, said Allan, derived from the German Ja.
- Dorchester - a town where there was a lot of dust causing coughing and a low percentage of Toastmasters.

## Evaluations

Marianne evaluated Emil, remarking on his good use of terms, phrases, and quotations - perhaps as appropriate for the project "Working with Words" as well as "Show what you mean". Emil evaluated Stefan, noting his strong voice and good use of his wax props. He could use his hands more and the transparencies were not very legible, a problem that also occurred with Vicko's. Pamela evaluated Vicko, thanking him for a well-organised speech on an interesting topic - we must not take nature for granted. A

pointer would have been useful with the projector.

Pat was Ah Counter, and reported that the winner was Stefan followed by Allan, Angus and Monika. Marianne J was timer, remarking that most were on time but Table Topics ranged from 45 seconds to three minutes. Graham was Grammarian, he commented on the difference between title, topic and subject and recommended that we should have a thesaurus at hand, for instance Roget's, to give us a wider choice of words. Precipitation, for instance, would be more easily understood as rain, and as well as the term scenarios we could use alternatives and choices and situations. Interesting phrases were from Pamela "guard our mother Earth", Emil "the toastmaster shuffle", "Pre-prepared" from Angus. General Evaluator Allan asked us to write short introductions to ourselves and give these to the Toastmaster of the Evening. The introduction should be written new for each speech as we usually want to mention different things about ourselves depending on the topic.

## The Area E4 Conference Saturday March 27 EPFL, Renens/VD

At the Area Conference, the four clubs of Berne, Lausanne, Geneva, and EPFL meet and their representatives compete in English-language contests. The draft program is as follows:

- 1200 informal time: snacks for lunch, allocation of roles
- **1300 opening, Area Council meeting**
- **1330 keynote speech on an educational topic**
- **1350 Evaluation Contest (test speech + 8 evaluators)**
- **1430 keynote speech on a management topic**
- **1450 International Speech contest (up to 8 speeches)**
- **1550 keynote speech on a motivational topic**
- **1610 general discussion**
- **1630 closing** and cleanup of the remaining snacks

We leave on the 10.22 train from Berne through Lausanne, and change at Renens to the local Metro, arriving shortly before 12 at EPFL. Signs will lead to the meeting room in building BM room 5.202. Return train leaves after 5pm.

## Club Representatives

Our *two evaluators taking part in the Area Contest* are Pat Champion and Emil Wyss. Our *two speakers* for the Speech Competition are Stefan Bogdanov and Allan Hart. Rodrigo is Contest Master for the Evaluation contest. Other attendees are Beatrice, Pamela, and Philip Ebalu.

## The Division Contest

On April 24 the Spring Division Conference will be held in Wiesbaden. Attendees may include Amy, Pat, Allan, Graham, Marianne, Emil and Stefan. We take a train at about 9 am (perhaps joined by other toastmasters from Lausanne and Geneva) and return on Sunday afternoon.

For details: <http://www.word-weavers.de/d-e->

[conference.htm](#)

## **The District Contest**

Friday 7 to Sunday 9 May, Freising by Munich. Possibly Stefan (German Speech contest) and Emil (German Evaluation Contest) may attend.

For details see <http://conference.district59.org/>