



Dear Toastmasters!

Our last meeting on December, 3rd was very unusual... which one can consider very usual for our club ☺

We had the 10th project from the Competent Communication manual, delivered by Valentina Salnikova and the 40th project, delivered by Henry Norman, ATM-S. Another thing that set this meeting apart from all other meetings, was the fact that though practically everybody was on time, we still didn't have time for the Table Topics session! Despite this sad occurrence, one could easily see that the meeting as a whole was a success – it was well after 9.30PM, when the last members left the room, having discussed the past meeting and the upcoming **Christmas party!** Stay tuned to refresh the memories of the last meeting or to catch up, if you missed it!

1. **Margarita Ryndina, AC-B** opened the regular agenda with the **Invocation** about her visit of the last Toastmasters International District 59 Fall Conference, which took place in Hamburg in November. Although Margarita went well over the time limit, we could easily see the effect that this trip had on her: Margarita was in the highest spirits, overwhelmed with positive emotions and inspired all of those, who didn't have this sort of experience to consider going to the coming conferences in the Hague in June, 2010 and Barcelona in November, 2010.

Quote of this issue:

"In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins - not through strength but by perseverance".

— *H. Jackson Brown*

2. The role of the **Joke Master** of the meeting was fulfilled by **Alexander Troschenko**. If you are a regular attendee of our meetings or a regular reader of the newsletter, you know that Alexander took a small role for the second time and is definitely on the path to his Ice Breaker. As an attendee, you'll also remember the unique style, which Alexander has in delivering his speeches: although he appears a bit shy, his witty passages and friendly humor has a clear impact on the audience. You can enjoy Alexander's potpourri of jokes at the end of the newsletter.

3. The **Word of the Day** this time was presented by **Victor Babichev**. He chose to speak about the word ... **'ABOUT'** and he showed us the various meanings it has and situations, where it can be utilized. The General Evaluator was about to call for Victor to announce the winner of the contest, when it turned out that Victor was nowhere about!

4. The **Toastmaster** of the meeting, **Irina Chernyaga, CC**, was true to herself with her terse speakers' presentations, not wasting a word.



Moscow Free Speakers Club



5. The main part of the meeting was opened by **Valentina Salnikova**, who delivered her **10th project**. She chose to speak about her passion for the step dance. She



did a good job preparing for the project – each row got a series of photos which she referred to in her speech, she interrupted her speech with the video demonstrations of the masters of dance school, which she attends. She even had something to step on with her bare foot, while she was demonstrating the soles of her shoes with the special taps, which produce the sound, when somebody is dancing step.

Valentina told us that to learn to dance step was an old dream of hers, but she postponed it until last year, until after her jubilee. In the course of the speech, one could see the enjoyment that Valentina derives from learning to dance step. It was very natural that at the end of her speech, Valentina invoked all of us to go and learn this simple, yet elegant dance. Well done, Valentina!

And congratulations with your CC award!

6. The next part of the meeting was a meeting in itself. The **40th project**, which **Henry Norman, ATM-S**, was delivering that evening, was the **5th project** from the



Advanced manual “Technical Presentations”. It demanded of him to organize a team technical presentation. Thus, for the most part of the meeting, Henry was orchestrating the speeches of his team mates for this evening: Ekaterina Sidorenko and Valeria Kholodkova, CC, CL.

And Henry did it with skill and confidence which you can expect from somebody, who is approaching the Advanced Communicator Gold award! He briefly introduced the objectives of his project, which clarified what was going on later and helped the audience to be on the same page with him.

Henry chose to discuss the problem which is always acute – **Finance**. He, Katya and Lera shared with us their view on this topic and, in contrast to most other projects, which one can hear in our Club, the speakers were opened to the questions from the audience. To achieve his Gold Awards Henry now needs to hold two advanced sessions from Club Series manuals and also mentor one new or existing member of our club. Any volunteers? ☺

Moscow Free Speakers Club



7. **Ekaterina Sidorenko** in her **2nd CC project** chose to focus on the attitude to not borrowing money which is prevalent in her family



and on the main expense items. Katya told us that she has a family budget as opposed to an individual one. She also shared with us how it is formed, how it is spent. Katya also told us that they have a custom in her family – always to rely on themselves and never to borrow money neither from their friends or from the banks.

8. **Henry Norman, ATM-S**, took the word over and delivered a non-manual speech on the lessons that he has learnt from his parents. The speech was constructed in such a way that the lessons were presented in the chronological order and let the audience feel the social rules that prevailed at the 1950s.

9. The last speaker to take the stage was **Valeria Kholodkova, CC, CL**, who tried to convince the audience that although money is a serious subject, talking about it, earning it and spending it can be fun!



To prove that, Valeria organized the points of her **1st advanced** speech from the 'Entertaining speaking' manual as a well-known game – “Who wants to be a millionaire?” Clearly, the audience was well entertained: it burst laughing quite a number of times and responded lively to Valeria’s speech. Indeed, money is a serious topic, but you can laugh on it, too!

10. When the last giggles died out, Henry, as the host of this project, summoned his team-mates and drew quite an unexpected conclusion that all three speeches shared at least one common trait, which is the respect to The Ten Commandments! Although it was not evident from any of the speeches, Henry showed us with all possible certainty that implicitly all the speakers follow them, at least, with the respect to Finance.

11. The **General Evaluator** for this meeting was **Ilya Volin**. He made sure that every participant got tiny slips of paper, which they could use to give their small evaluations to the speakers,



and introduced the new (better to say “the old” or “the conventional”) timing device, with the additional green light on it. Thus, seeing the green light, the speaker knows that he or she is now able to finish the speech, having passed the lower time threshold.



Evaluations:

12. **Nick Sapozhnikov, CTM**, took the role of the personal evaluator for Valentina Salnikova's project. Here are his remarks on her speech:

- + *the audience was inspired*
- + *thoroughly prepared speech*
- + *the speech was well illustrated*
- *introduction was not connected with the main part*
- *clumsy organization of the illustrative material*

13. **Elena Filya** fulfilled the role of the personal evaluator for Ekaterina Sidorenko's speech

- + *perfect structure*
- + *confident delivery (for the most part)*
- *weak opening*
- *poor eye contact*

15. **Igor Vinogradov** evaluated Valeria Kholodkova's speech this time

- + *entertaining and humorous speech*
- + *interacted with the audience*
- *the rules of the game were not clear*
- *answered her own questions*

15. **Valentin Novikov** evaluated Henry Norman's project as a whole and gave a really extensive speech himself

- + *speech delivered very well*
- + *good introduction of the project's objectives*
- + *topic very appropriate to the audience*
- + *good summary, which brought the three speeches together*
- *the speeches weren't aligned structurally*
- *the visuals weren't done by one person (as it is stated in the manual)*
- *restricted the ease of using the stage for the team mates by the computer*
- *there was no rehearsal of the project*

Our next meeting is on December 17th!

The theme of the meeting will be the **Leadership Track** and we are going to hear the 3rd project by Igor Vinogradov, the 6th advanced project by Natalia Shershtneva, CTM and the 6th advanced project by Margarita Ryndina, AC-B. Did you know that Toastmasters International presents its members a framework not only to practice their public speaking skills, but also their leadership skills and rewards them with various titles, when certain levels are achieved? If not, Valentin Novikov, our VPE, will tell you that in his 4th motivational "Why become a Competent Leader" speech in the 2nd part of the meeting!

See you soon!



Points:

Irina Chernyaga, CC <i>(Toastmaster)</i>	5.5
Valentina Salnikova <i>(Speaker 1)</i>	8.0
Henry Norman, ATM-S <i>(Speaker 2)</i>	9.1
Ekaterina Sidorenko <i>(Speaker 3)</i>	8.8
Valeria Kholodkova, CC, CL <i>(Speaker 4)</i>	9.6
Nick Sapozhnikov, CTM <i>(Personal Evaluator 1)</i>	8.0
Valentin Novikov <i>(Personal Evaluator 2)</i>	8.8
Elena Filya <i>(Personal Evaluator 3)</i>	9.0
Igor Vinogradov <i>(Personal Evaluator 4)</i>	9.3
Ilya Volin <i>(General Evaluator)</i>	7.6
Meeting as a whole	9.0



*Elena Filya, Henry Norman and Lilia Nurutdinova
toasting the past meeting*

Our Birthdays!

**Our warmest congratulations to our
Dear Fellow: ELENA FILYA! (Dec 6th)**

Joke(s) of the meeting:

Sometimes it is not polite to tell people the truth. For example you talk to someone and it is boring. But you can not just say: "I don't like you, better find someone else!" Instead you say something like: "I'm gonna take some tea" or "I've an urgent phone call". And it's funny to translate such polite phrases to its real meaning.

Here are examples of dating language. When you go out with a girl and she tells you: "It is not you" it means: "It is you!" Or "You such a nice guy" means "I'm gonna date some alcoholics and complain about them to you" Or "I think we should see other people" means "Ha-ha! I already am!"

And here is a funny story about what they ask you during job interview and what they really want from you:

Two guys seat in a restaurant, drink beer and talk about life. One of them is a chief of a big company. His friend asks him: "There is one thing in your business I can't understand. When you hire new employees, you always ask about higher education. There is a lot of good professionals without higher education and the job in your company is very simple. But you insist on this education. Why it is so important for you?" – "Honestly we just have to be sure that this person is able to do stupid uninteresting work for 5 years without money!"

by Alexander Troschenko

