



Dear Toastmasters!

1. What is the 21st of July famous for? This day is thought to be the day of birth of Alexander the Great! Could it be that this helped us to make our 515th meeting a really nice and almost great one?:) We had a wonderful “captain” Maxim Tsvetov who organized a “flight” through the first part of the meeting, Alexandra Borissova who showed us a marvelous performance about the bull fighting, Mary Beketova who reminded us to value Nature and Evgenia Maseeva who told us three curios stories about wine. And for the second part we had a Table Topics championship: the participants had to work hard to win, as they had to oppose several people in a row and “win” each of the matches to get the title of the winner. Interested who the winner was? Read on to learn the details and make sure that you come the next time!

2. Do you know where the state Macedonia is? Have you ever heard about Philip II of Macedon?

You may have or you may have not, but it's unlikely that you haven't heard about Alexander III of Macedon, commonly known as Alexander the Great.

Think about it, Alexander the Great died in 323 BC, which was 2 334 years ago! And yet many people still know of him!

Impressive? **Yana Gorfan**, the **Invocation master**, was also impressed, that was why on the presumable day of his birth she devoted her mini-speech to Alexander the Great. Yana suggested that the reason Alexander achieved his historical immortality was his energy and

516th meeting, July 21st, 2011

Quote of this issue:

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak;
courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.

-- Winston Churchill

dedication and she urged us to imitate Alexander in his attitude.

Thank you for the inspiration, Yana!

3. Perhaps not all of the members of our club are as zealous and consumed as Alexander the Great was, but still many of us work hard to organize interesting meetings. This meeting was a good example in that it



was not an ordinary one. In fact we made an “airflight” in the first part of it! **Maxim Tsvetov**, the **Toastmaster**, ensured that we made a safe and entertaining trip, preparing his crew

before the meeting and providing us with food and humorous comments and taking us safely through the program at the meeting.

Great job, Maxim! Thank you for making the meeting so interesting and pleasurable!

Moscow Free Speakers Club



4. We got the creeps as some members of our “flight crew” weren't around and the “flight” itself was endangered. Luckily, people in our club aren't creeps by any means and it's possible to find help when needed. And we were twice lucky, because just when we were ready to start searching for a substitute for the **Word Master**, **Alexey Eraskin** crept into the room :). The word Alexey brought with him was “**creep**”.

5. After all the crew members were on board, we prepared to take off. But before that we had to attune ourselves to the trip, and a good way to do that was to relax and get in a good mood. This time an active newcomer **Ekaterina Nelovko**, the **Joke Master**, helped us with that. You can find her joke about Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson at the end of the Newsletter.

6. Bull fights or *corrida de toros* in Spanish is a very specific spectacle to witness!



Some find it repulsive: killing a bull and making a show out of it!?

Others, like Ernest Hemingway, find it poetic and

heroic. The question rises in the latter case though, “who is the hero there?”

Some can probably argue that the bulls are the heroes, but it's unlikely that many people think that way.

Toreadors are the evident answer! There have been movies, books, songs and even operas dedicated or at least paying much attention to them! Toreadors are the people who, risking their lives and health, face the fighting bulls in attempt to kill the mighty animals with their swords! But while toreadors are praised, they don't fight the bulls all by themselves. The fight starts with picadors, horsemen who jab the bull with lances to weaken its neck and shoulder muscles. Then it is the turn of banderilleros, who come out and, while on the run, plant banderillas (short barbed sticks) on the withers of the bull. And only then come toreadors to make a kill.

Alexandra Borissova in her **fifth project “Banderillero: dark knight of bullfighting”** told us about the details of bull fights and argued that it was the banderillero who was the main hero, not the toreador. She didn't just tell us about it, but made quite an impressive performance, with a lot of vivid body language and unusual support material! Just look at the photo of her in the Newsletter to catch a glimpse of what you missed, if you weren't with us!

Great job, Alexandra!

Moscow Free Speakers Club



7. The whole idea of bull fighting might make your flesh creep. Especially if you value life of animals highly and



love Nature in general. and if you do love Nature, chances are that you're concerned about the inconsiderate attitude of many people towards it even more than

about bull fights.

One of the ways people abuse Nature is creating and propagating trash around them. Does the problem worry you? It definitely worries **Mary Beketova**, who dedicated her **fifth project "Green life"** to it. Mary told us about some reasons garbage is so abundant and getting more so around us and gave us some simple rules to follow. Did you know that garbage attracts garbage? You throw a wrapper on the ground and the next person finds it morally easier to add some litter to your "investment". Do you think that someone will come and dispose of the trash you left? Well, think twice! Better take you trash with you to designated places, where trash disposal services will take care of it. And produce less garbage – one way of doing it is not to use disposable plastic cups, but rather to use your ceramic cup and wash it regularly..!

Sounds like hard work? Well, Mary asked us to imagine water so clean it's transparent, air so fresh it's a bit difficult to breathe it, emerald green grass you can enjoy walking on with your bare feet. Picture it, listen in your mind's ear to sounds of it, imagine the feel of it!

So, after all, is it worth making and keeping Nature around us unpolluted?

Thank you for a humanitarian lesson, Mary!

8. Clean Nature is a joy in itself. And, incidentally, the



cleaner Nature around us, the better and healthier food we can enjoy. And wine! Do you like wine? But have you ever wondered about the history of the drink or do you know any curious stories, facts

about it?

Evgenia Maseeva, a member who often tries to show us interesting facets of common things, shed some light on wine and its history through her personal and two captivating stories. In her **sixth project "Three wine stories"**, Evgenia told us about her conversation with an Italian friend of hers and how the conversation launched her research in the topic.

Moscow Free Speakers Club



Do you know that vinegar is something you can turn wine into unless you keep wine under certain conditions? Well, in a story told us by Evgenia Christopher Forbes paid more than 105 000 Euros to learn the lesson! And have you ever thought why a little of wine makes one “sing like a bird”, a little more – “strong as a lion” and further efforts along the way turn one into a... “donkey”?

According to a legend, these effects are the result of the way young God of wine Bacchus cultivated grape and produced the drink for the first time.

Luckily, Evgenia agreed to share the video of her speech, so you can enjoy it firsthand using [the link](#).



9. **General Evaluator** of the meeting **Simon Scotting** opened the second part of the meeting by giving short positive comments for each participant of the first part.

He mentioned

several things:

- ✓ Invocation made by Yana Gorfan was very well prepared.
- ✓ Word master Alexey Eraskin presented a very useful word and it seemed that he'd made a research before the meeting.

- ✓ Joke presented by Ekaterina Nelovko was a good one and time-tested.
- ✓ Toastmaster's way of conducting the meeting was fun.

Simon was very positive, confident and did his job excellently. Thank you Simon!

Evaluations:

10. **Alexey Kravtsun** gave evaluation to the project presented by Alexandra Borissova. He admired her project and mentioned many strong points of her speech:

- + Very good topic selection.
- + Great usage of gestures, face expressions, body movements.
- + Confidence in presenting the project.
- + Speech was well structured.

Also he advised for the next project to concentrate on eye contact with the audience.

11. **Oleg Petrov** started evaluating Mary Beketova's speech by mentioning her strong points:

- + Good topic selection.
- + Inspirational speech.
- + Easy to follow.
- + Met all goals of the project.
- + Good eye contact.

As a drawback Oleg mentioned that Mary could had used more gestures and body movement.

Moscow Free Speakers Club



12. **Valeria Kholodkova, CC, AL-B**, personal evaluator of Evgenia Maseeva's project, mentioned strong points of her speech:

- + Entertaining and at the same time informative speech.
- + Good eye contact.
- + Good gestures and body movement.

Also Valeria noticed that the beginning was a little bit too long and the third story should have had more vocal colors.

11. **Table Topic Master**, and by the way our current president, **Denis Schevchuk, CC** proposed a very unusual



way of Table Topic Discussion. It was a Speech Contest or even a Speech Battle. Denis selected 8 volunteers and divided them into 4 pairs. Then the members of each

pair had to answer the same question (which each time was chosen randomly) without preparation, with time limit of 45 seconds.

There were 4 quarter, 2 semi-finals and the final. It was like a sports event!

The participants competed answering such questions as: "What is the most popular Russian food?", "What was your best Birthday celebration?", "Have you ever laughed to tears?", "Which person from the past you

would like to bring back to life?" and others.

Alexandra Borissova won the Speech Battle In a fierce struggle.

Thank you Denis for such a great way of Table Topic Discussion and congratulations to Alexandra!





Joke of the day:

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine they lay down for the night, and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend awake: "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see". Watson replied: "I see millions and millions of stars". "What does that tell you?" Holmes questioned. Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?" Holmes was silent for a minute, then he said: "Watson, you are a retard. It tells me that some bastard has stolen our tent!"

By Ekaterina Nelovko

Points:

Maxim Tsvetov <i>(Toastmaster)</i>	4.7
Yana Gorfan <i>(Invocation Master)</i>	4.1
Alexey Eraskin <i>(Word Master)</i>	3.2
Ekaterina Nelovko <i>(Joke Master)</i>	2.7
Alexandra Borissova <i>(Speaker 1)</i>	4.6
Mary Beketova <i>(Speaker 2)</i>	4.4
Evgenia Maseeva <i>(Speaker 3)</i>	4.3
Alexey Kravtsun <i>(Personal Evaluator 1)</i>	4.2
Oleg Petrov <i>(Personal Evaluator 2)</i>	3.6
Valeria Kholodkova, CC, AL-B <i>(Personal Evaluator 3)</i>	4.8
Simon Scotting <i>(General Evaluator)</i>	4.3
Denis Shevchuk, CC <i>(Table Topics Master)</i>	4.4
Meeting as a whole	4.7



Our Birthdays!

OUR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DEAR FELLOWS

Chernyahovskaya Varvara
(July, 22nd)

Smirnova Daria
(July, 30th)

Pomelova Anna
(August, 1st)

Simon Scotting
(August, 4th)



Our next meeting is on August, 4th!

See you soon!

We will hear 6th project by Ekaterina Sidorenko, 7th speech by Alexey Kravtsun and the project from the Advanced Manual by Valeria Kholodkova, CC, AL-B!