

Moscow Free Speakers Club



Dear Toastmasters!

Congratulations on the **85th Anniversary of Toastmasters International!** It's hard to imagine that 85 years ago, people on the other side of the globe set around a table for the first time and decided to start what would later become an international non-profit movement. Clubs around the world are now commemorating **Ralph Smedley**, the founder of Toastmasters International, for his vision, passion and drive to promote the cause of the Toastmasters to the farthest corners of the world.

We, **Moscow Free Speakers**, decided to pay our dues to this noble man on our last meeting. Normally, we meet every first and third Wednesdays of the month, but October had fifth Thursday as well so it was criminal to waste such an opportunity! Besides, this time we had two guests from the US: Svetlana Kushnareva, ACB, CL, Governor of Toastmasters Founder's District Area B4 and Blake Landau, President of the New York Toastmasters.

And we had a ton of fun!

1. Our normal agenda was opened by **Alexey Eraskin's invocation**, in which he reminded us to follow the goals, which led us to the club. Indeed, every person seeks one's own goals, when joining and it's very important to maintain this focus, when preparing for each meeting. Good job, Alexey! Now you are all set for your Ice Breaker!

468th meeting, October 29th, 2009

Quote of this issue:

"The first result of speech training is self-discovery."

— *Ralph Smedley*

2. The **Joke of the Day** was delivered by **John Kolpikov**, who was the backup for this role. Per Alexey Eraskin's whim a couple of meetings ago, it becomes a tradition to deliver two jokes at once! You can check both of them at the end of the newsletter. John, you are also striding confidently towards your Ice Breaker, keep the pace up!

3. The **Word of the Day** was **bird** and **Hamza Davletov** killed two birds with one stone. He enriched our vocabulary with the new expressions and set his foot on the path of learning the public speaking skills. Congratulations, Hamza!

4. **Alla Oganova, CC**, took on the responsibilities of the **Toastmaster** for this meeting and showed the less experienced members a very good way to prepare and



conduct the meeting. She introduced the role masters and speakers with skill and easiness and softened whatever tension they had with the pearls of wisdom from Ralph Smedley. All reminded us that *"We learn best in the moments of enjoyment"*. And one could see that people, who were taking this floor that evening, did have one of their best learning experiences!

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5. Our first speaker, **Ekaterina Sidorenko** admitted that she was a bit nervous (and isn't, when delivering the Ice Breaker??), but that didn't prevent her from



giving a well-prepared and sincere speech about her background. Ekaterina told us that at the age of 6 she moved to Mexico and since then, many years after she returned back to Russia, she is still closely bound with Latin America culture and happens to meet Latin Americans even in Moscow

6. **Denis Shevchuk** delivered his Ice Breaker, too, and it raised a bit on controversy at the evaluations part of the meeting. Some of the



members thought that Denis went too far from the original intent of the Ice Breaker with his speech. Contrary to the majority of the members, who generally talk about their background or views in the Ice Breaker, Denis chose to talk about a book he recently read. "Predictably Irrational" by Dan Ariely discusses the two modes of interaction between people: the market mode and the social mode and what can happen if you try to mix them.

Check our LiveJournal community - http://community.livejournal.com/toastmasters_ru/ - for a link of Dan speaking and you will understand, what made Denis choose this writer's book as the subject of his speech.

7. **Henry Norman, AC-S**, the most decorated Toastmaster of our Club, repeated his speech 5 years old speech in honor of the 80th Anniversary of Toastmasters



International, which didn't lose its value since then. Henry opened some unknown pages for the members: he told us that the first Toastmasters club was opened back in 1903, but didn't survive its founder's departure and that Toastmasters officially became International, when only 5 clubs were open in Santa Ana, a small town of 30 thousand people. Henry also offered us a number of lessons from the history of Toastmasters International, the most significant of which is "Be persistent": it took 21 years of trials and errors of Ralph Smedley to teach his brainchild to live and bloom without constant supervision.

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7. The second part of our meeting was led by **Lilia Nurutdinova**, who managed to fulfill the role of the **General Evaluator** with confidence, despite that she was doing this for



the first time in her Toastmasters career. Among other things, Lilia reminded us about the penalty system, which was recently introduced in our club, and reproached the members, who were late and those, who didn't turn off their cell phones.

Evaluations:

8. **Ilya Volin**, the Personal Evaluator of Ekaterina Sidorenko's speech noted the following:

- + *good emotional contact with the audience*
- + *good use of intonations*
- *limited body language*
- *rigid posture*

9. **Alla Oganova, CC**, as the Personal Evaluator of Denis Shevchuk's speech offered the following comments:

- + *confident delivery*
- *unusual topic failed to discover the speaker's personality*
- *excessive body language*
- *insufficient preparation in terms of language and structure*

10. The **Table Topics** discussion this time was led by our guest from Los Angeles, **Svetlana Kushnareva, ACB, CL**, and the topic, naturally, was the 85th Anniversary of the Toastmasters International.



Svetlana opened up the discussion with a concise description of the rules and encouraging remarks to the members. However, her first Table Topic visibly shattered the audience: Svetlana asked a volunteer to toast the Toastmasters on such a



significant occasion. Quite a few moments passed, before **Ilya Volin** raised his glass with a brief, but energetic speech to the health of Toastmasters International. Seeing the

shyness in the members, our Table Topics master started calling people from their places. And to involve more people at once, Svetlana asked a newcomer, **Irina Khizhnyak** to interview **Margarita Ryndina, AC-B**, about whatever there is interesting in the Club.

This idea was very well received and Svetlana called **Denis Timko**, a prospective member to conduct a similar interview with our guest from New York, **Blake Landau**.

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Clearly, both participants enjoyed their time on stage. The next joker up the Table Topics Master's sleeve was the round-robin congratulation on behalf of Ralph Smedley.

She started the toast and asked **Igor Vinogradov** to continue it in mid-flight. Having congratulated the audience with the 85th Anniversary of our movement and 20th Anniversary of the Club, Igor passed the word on to **John Kolpikov** with a question: *"Why this movement survived for 85 year and is going to survive at least 85 year more?"*



John picked up the baton and delivered a self-sufficient speech about the role of improvement in each person's life and the role that clubs like ours play in bringing the like-minded people together. Though John finished his speech and didn't pass the word on to somebody from the audience, as it was supposed, the Table Topic master recovered easily, reminding us that we are probably the only educational organization, that functions without teachers. With that Svetlana called her namesake, **Svetlana Solovyova**, to tell us about a lesson that she's learnt while in the Club. Despite her initial reluctance to talk, Svetlana managed to deliver a well organized speech and share with us the positive influence that the club has on her. Namely, she acquired confidence and the ability to structure her thinking – skills that she can apply not only in public speaking, but in professional as well as personal spheres of her life.

Just as Svetlana, our Table Topics Master, was wrapping up, **Henry Norman, AC-S**, propelled himself on the stage to deliver a toast, praising women in Toastmasters International, in general, and in Moscow Free Speakers Club, in particular. Henry noted that he can't imagine our Club without women referring to the fact that our organization was *"for men only" until 1973!* Henry's sly, yet sincere toast couldn't help breaking women's hearts and he reaped the title of the **"Best Table Topics Speaker"** of this meeting.

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Our next meeting is on November 5th!

We will hear two 2nd project speeches by Ilya Volin and Valeria Kulnevskaya and the 4th project by Olga Filimonova!

Don't miss it!

Jokes of the meeting:

#1. An old English gentleman is sitting in his country house beside the fire. He is drinking his tea and suddenly the wall near him breaks down and he sees a sports car. He stays calm and ask friendly:

- Sir, where are you going?
- I'm driving to Manchester, sir!
- Then, I guess you'd better break through my kitchen, sir.

#2. In a toilet 2 gentlemen spend their needs. After that one of them goes to wash his hands and the other moves to the door. Then the first one asks him:

- Sir, when I studied in Cambridge, we were taught to wash our hands!
- Sir, when I studied in Oxford, we were taught to keep our hands dry!

By John Kolpikov

Points:

Alla Oganova, CC (Toastmaster)	9.4
Ekaterina Sidorenko (Speaker 1)	8.4
Denis Shevchuk (Speaker 2)	7.8
Henry Norman, ACS (Speaker 3)	8,5
Ilya Volin (Personal Evaluator 1)	7.7
Alla Oganova, CC (Personal Evaluator 2)	9.0
Lilia Nurutdinova (General Evaluator)	8.8
Svetlana Kushnareva, ACB, CL (Table Topic Master)	9.5

News!

#1. Welcome **our latest video** on the youtube.com – **“Toastmasters for me is...”!** There you will see our members talking about what they specially like about our wonderful Moscow Free Speakers Club! As well as a number of wonderful pictures, both old and new!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gvvBbBdw2s>

Many special thanx to our **Film Master** – **Olga Filimonova!** Watch and enjoy!

#2. And congratulations with meeting **one more goal** in our DCP program! **Valeria Kholodkova, CC,** has received her **Competent Leader** award. Good job!