

Moscow Free Speakers Club



Dear Toastmasters!

Have you ever dreamed about becoming a dancer? Do you strive to be successful? Are you a photographer? These questions aren't a set of random thoughts – they were a part of 469th meeting of our Club, on November, 5th.

During this meeting one could clearly sense that although we are such a diverse group, there is certainly something that binds us closely together – our willingness to progress on the road of self-development, our keen interest in the world around us and our yearning to help others to succeed. We heard three very different speeches, our traditional evaluations (that, probably, no other club has) and participated in a very lively Table Topics discussion. If you missed the meeting or want to dive into it once again – stay tuned for more!

1. The tone for the meeting was set by **Margarita Ryndina's Invocation**. Advanced Communicator Bronze, Margarita called upon us to realize our full potential and to leave a trace in the world with our lives. She vividly described the drastic difference between a rose bush which blossomed during the summer and died in autumn, and the other one, which never bloomed, but... died anyway. Which rose bush are you?

469th meeting, November 5th, 2009

Quote of this issue:

"We aim above the mark to hit the mark."

— *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

2. The **Joke Master** this time was **Ilya Volin**. He exhibited a considerable amount of self-irony and made us grin at his habit of being late every time and everywhere.

3. We lacked our scheduled **Word Master** this time, but **Yuri Voropaev** filled the role on the spot and refreshed our knowledge of expressions with the verb "**to put**". Although it might seem a very common word, the winner of the day, Igor Vinogradov, managed to use it only twice!

4. **Irina Chernyaga, CC**, led the first part of the meeting, fulfilling the role of the Toastmaster. She introduced her team briefly and proceeded with the speakers in the same curt style. On the



one hand, it didn't help the speakers by setting the stage for them, yet, on the other – it didn't distract them either!

Moscow Free Speakers Club



5. Our first speaker for the evening was **Valeria Kulnevskaya** with the **project #2**. She chose dances as her subject and masterfully developed it from all possible angles,



touching upon the possible origins of this phenomenon, the skills that it helps to acquire and other benefits (like making your life more fulfilling) that it can bring to anyone. Indeed, have you ever seen a depressed dancer?! Dance is a way of communication, a means to lighten up your spirits and make you healthier – all at the same time!

Valeria made a very good point in her conclusion: you can say that you can't dance, because you didn't learn it, but if you are not dancing, you are... wasting your legs!

6. **Ilya Volin** took the floor for the second time during this meeting and chose “Success vs failure” as the subject of his speech. Indeed, what is the difference



between success and failure? How can you know whether you are successful or not? Ilya argued that the answer lies deeply in our own beliefs and it's your prejudices and laziness that you have to tackle, if you want to achieve your goals.

Besides actually delivering the speech, he also went one step further and distributed the handouts among the audience. With this simple tool, Ilya called us to action, making us take the first step to move forward. He asked us to write down the things that we've been yearning for a long time and, yet, never actually moved towards. One may have brilliant thoughts and ideas, but never materialize them, if he or she doesn't take actions. Ilya urged us to act and to live with passion!

7. **Olga Filimonova**

delivered her **4th project**, called “The Art of Taking Really Awful Pictures”. She described how she learned this ancient art and offered her tips for novices. Olga boiled her



own vast experience down to three major points: take the picture, thinking that you are a pro, don't mind any garbage in the shot – Photoshop can fix it later and, finally, take really boring pictures with no idea in them! Now, having mastered this complicated craft, Olga is transitioning to another one: taking not-so-awful pictures. Pictures that tell a story, that wake up emotions or bring back the memories. Despite the differences between these two skills, there is at least one common feature between them: don't forget to take your lens cap off!

Moscow Free Speakers Club



8. **Igor Vinogradov** took the role of the **General Evaluator** this time. He opened up the second part of the meeting by reminding us that it is essential to get feedback, when



you are learning something and this is why we have the evaluation part. Igor used his time on stage to enforce to the order on the meeting by using the newly accepted penalties system in our club.

Evaluations:

9. **Alla Oganova, CC**, took on the role of the Personal Evaluator for the 4th time in a row! This time, she offered her advice to Valeria Kulnevskaya.

- + emotional delivery in line with the topic*
- + strong conclusion*
- complicated language constructions*
- lack of supporting materials*
- message of the talk wasn't clear*

10. **Evgenia Ganina** was the Personal Evaluator for Ilya Volin's project:

- + good opening*
- + rich voice*
- weak structure*
- overuse of vocal variety*

11. **Valeria Kholodkova, CC, CL**, evaluated Olga's project:

- + speech was easy to follow*
- + personal experience*
- + good opening and conclusion*
- should have shown the pictures better*
- unpredictable pauses*

12. The **Table Topics** this time was led by **John**



Kolpikov, who asked the audience to share the moments of their lives, that they could define as the 'turning points'. It turned out, that many different things can change one's life

completely. It can be a book, it can be the people one meets, it can be our Club or it can be a strong motivation to learn. John did his job very well by summarizing the speakers' thoughts and offering his own experiences. Alla Oganova, CC, won this contest with the story of meeting her husband.

Our next meeting is on November 19th!

It's going to be the **Ice-Breaking feast!** Denis Timko, Alexey Eraskin and John Kolpikov are going to join the Club by delivering their first projects.

Good luck, boys!

Moscow Free Speakers Club



News!

Dear fellow Toastmasters,

We hope you do like our bi-weekly newsletter and read it every time you receive it in your email box. Because if you do, you might have noticed that it became a little bigger in volume, almost every issue is now about 4 pages length and each page is worth reading!

Apart from the obvious advantages that it brings, this fact also makes your executive committee work a bit more for every coming issue. That is why we now open a vacancy for a **'Moscow Free Speakers Club Newsletter SUB-EDITOR'**!

It's an interesting role that any member can take! The only two requirements for the candidate are:

- to be attentive to the meeting participants and to the whole meeting in order to note interesting facts and details that are worth mentioning in our newsletter;
- be able to write about your observations for the upcoming issue.

What will you get if you claim for this role?

First, you will get very close to the **inner processes** in our Club – which is very good for your management skills development. You will also understand the **'know-how'** of writing, editing and PR processes that we are doing now to make our Club more interesting and attractive for our members and guests.

And by taking this role you will also meet one of essential goals for the **Competent Leadership** manual (see Project #10 – Team Building)! :)

Now if you are ready to apply for this position, write to us at toastmasters_ru@yahoo.com!

Do not wait and hesitate! Write to us right now!

Points:

Irina Chernyaga, CC <i>(Toastmaster)</i>	6.4
Valeria Kulnevskaya <i>(Speaker 1)</i>	7.3
Ilya Volin <i>(Speaker 2)</i>	6.5
Olga Filimonova <i>(Speaker 3)</i>	9.0
Alla Oganova, CC <i>(Personal Evaluator 1)</i>	9.1
Evgenia Ganina <i>(Personal Evaluator 2)</i>	8.8
Valeria Kholodkova, CC, CL <i>(Personal Evaluator 2)</i>	9.3
Igor Vinogradov <i>(General Evaluator)</i>	9.5
John Kolpikov <i>(Table Topic Master)</i>	9.2

Our Birthdays!

**OUR WARMEST
CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR DEAR FELLOWS:**



EVGENIA GANINA -(November 12)
and
SERGEY KUZIN (November 17)