

Moscow Free Speakers Club



Dear Toastmasters!

Do you remember your first experience delivering a project in front of the Club? Was it frightful? Was it joyous? I bet, it wasn't just another everyday experience, but, definitely, something to remember! Delivering the Ice Breaker is the sign of entering our Club as a member, not as a guest. Last year, we had a number of experiences, when a person came to the club, went all the way to the Ice Breaker, only to deliver it and vanish! I'm sure that three young men, who became the members of our club on November, 19th came here to stay. Not only to stay, but to come to the meeting, enjoy the atmosphere and be the ones, who build it! Let's remember, how it happened.

1. Our night was opened by the **Invocation**, delivered by **Alexander Troschenko**. In his short, yet, thoroughly thought out speech, Alexander draw a parallel between starting to roller skate and starting to speak in front of an audience. He compared these two skills and rightfully noticed that to progress in either of the two, all you have to do is... practice! Alexander, well done! And good luck with acquiring both skills!

2. **Nikolay Filin** played the role of the **Joke Master** this time, acting like a backup. We definitely didn't regret that it was Nikolay, who filled this role – he did it in such a lively and professional manner, that the audience couldn't help but laugh. Didn't catch Nikolay's joke on the meeting? Enjoy it at the end of this newsletter!

470th meeting, November 19th, 2009

Quote of this issue:

"To avoid criticism say nothing, do nothing, be nothing."

— Aristotle

3. The **Word of the Day** was presented by **Alla Oganova, CC**. She chose a very common word 'ear', but prepared the presentation so well that we were all ears listening to her. Alla showed us that there are a lot of expression with this simple word, that can enrich our vocabulary. **Henry Norman, ATM-S**, traditionally won this competition. Looks like nobody in our Club can challenge him in this field. I have long ears to hear the answer!

4. The **Toastmaster** of our 470th meeting, **Valeria Kulnevskaya**, showed all of the attendees an example of preparation and creativity in this role. In the beginning of the



meeting, she briefly introduced all the participants with a couple of welcoming words. We had a lot of ice to break (three Ice Breakers on one meeting!) and Valeria did all she could, to make this ice as soft as possible for the speakers.

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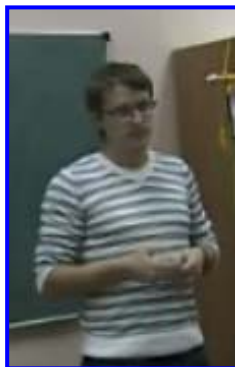


5. The first speaker of the evening was **Denis Timko**, who told us a story of his childhood by the Black sea and how he came to get bored by it. Denis conveyed how he left home at the age



of 17 in search of a better life and how he came to love the sea again and his hometown, too, only 5 years later! Instead of **breaking the ice**, Denis melted it completely! One interesting thing went unnoticed at the meeting – Denis got only 5 minutes from our timer, instead of 6, but he was able to adapt to this circumstance and showed us all the wonderful example of being able to wrap up the speech, without ruining it. Good job, Denis, welcome to the club!

6. The second **Ice Breaker** was delivered by **Alexey Eraskin**. He, too, chose to speak about his childhood and through his memories showed us his personality. Alexey confessed that he has always been shy and calm in public. This had



an imprint on his experiences at the early age and Alexey told us a funny story that arose from this part of his character. The “cheese” story happened to him, when he just entered the school and a teacher wanted him to smile to the camera (to no avail!).

Alexey, your way of telling funny things with a straight face is definitely admirable! We are very glad that you’ve decided to join the Club! Welcome!

7. Our last, but not the least, **Ice Breaker** was **John Kolpikov**, who left no chance to the ice!



He shared the secret that he is not really “John”, and told us that he likes to change and that now he can’t recognize the person he was 5 months ago. John is definitely a person, who is open to change. Do you remember that he had a broken arm, when he came to the Club for the first time? Well, that was because of his new passion – paracour and acrobatics. Unfortunately, as you can imagine, this flame has passed and now John found yet something new – yoga lessons! John touched upon many interesting subjects and it’s quite evident that he is a very lively person. John, we are very glad to have you in our Club!

8. **Evgenia Ganina** led the second part of the meeting, fulfilling the role of the **General Evaluator**. Guess what, she did it for the first time! However, her self-reliance didn’t let us believe



this fact. Evgenia opened up her part of the meeting reminding us that punctuality should be an essential part of everyone in our Club.

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Many people are late at the part of the meeting, when newcomers are introducing themselves and the murmur from the back of the room can make this experience really frustrating. This remark was met by applause of the attendees, which raises a question: if everybody shares Evgenia's opinion, why do we have so many people, who are late each time?

Evaluations:

9. **Valentin Novikov** took the role of the personal evaluator for the Ice Breaker of Denis Timko. Here are his insights for the project

- + natural gestures*
- + excellent speech rate*
- + good structure with smooth transitions*
- + no notes used*
- could speak louder*
- could restrain mimics, when forgot the words*
- could add some emotions to the speech*

10. **Alla Oganova, CC**, is definitely breaking some records of the Club's history! Fifth personal evaluation in a row – that's an admirable achievement! We have more than 30 members in the club, yet, for the 5th time in a row the speakers choose to ask Alla for an evaluation. This is definitely a sign of appreciation of Alla's mastery!

Here are her thoughts about Alexey Eraskin's Ice Breaker.

- + all objectives met*
- + no notes used*
- + presented his background through his memories*
- excessive gestures*
- visible shyness*

11. **Elena Filya**, our Madame Immediate Past President is also a person, who's evaluations are sought for. This time, John Kolpikov's Ice Breaker got her usual friendly, yet, astute evaluation.

- + naturally confident way of speaking*
- + positive*
- + humorous*
- + the speech had a message for the audience in the conclusion*

12. The **Table Topics** was lead by **Lilia Nurutdinova**, who (surprise-surprise!) did it for the first time! Despite it, she did her job exceptionally well! Lilia explained the rules of the Table Topics in the



beginning, which definitely helped to refresh the memory of the members and, what's more important, let the newcomers understand, what is going to happen.

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Apart from that, Lilia chose a very hot topic of Forecasts and, specifically, what is going to happen in 20 years. This issue raised some debate between members: indeed, how can a man and a woman agree on what, for example, shopping will be like in 20 years?!

Lilia moderated discussion very well and offered new and unexpected questions to the audience: what is going to happen with the environment? What will happen with advertising? What will happen with the institute of family? How will people communicate in 20 years? Will the civilization cease to exist in 20 years? These and many other questions were raised and answered during this Table Topics discussion, most of them – on the spot. And all the participants did a great job in forecasting the unpredictable.

However, **Henry Norman, ATM-S**, won this competition, too, with a passage that nothing can really be predicted with any level of certainty, because 20 years ago nobody knew about Internet or cell phones, which are integral parts of our everyday life now.

Our next meeting is on December 3rd!

The theme of the meeting will be **Finance** and we are going to hear the **10th project** by Valentina Salnikova and **40th project** by Henry Norman, ATM-S, who will be supported by Valeria Kholodkova, CC, CL and Ekaterina Sidorenko! This is definitely not a meeting to miss, so mark your calendars and see you on December, 3rd!

See you soon!

Points:

Valeria Kulnevskaya <i>(Toastmaster)</i>	8.6
Denis Timko <i>(Speaker 1)</i>	8.1
Alexey Eraskin <i>(Speaker 2)</i>	7.9
John Kolpikov <i>(Speaker 3)</i>	8.6
Valentin Novikov <i>(Personal Evaluator 1)</i>	8.9
Alla Oganova, CC <i>(Personal Evaluator 2)</i>	9.1
Elena Filya <i>(Personal Evaluator 3)</i>	8.8
Evgenia Ganina <i>(General Evaluator)</i>	8.4
Lilia Nurutdinova <i>(Table Topic Master)</i>	8.9
Meeting as a whole	9.0



Joke of the meeting:

One businessman went almost completely bankrupt, only 10 000 dollars left out of 7 digits. And he decided to go to a fortune teller and ask for a magic number. She told fortunes by cards, did palm reading, lines of luck, money, fate and so on. Finally, she came up with a number 6.

Happy businessman rushed back home, and on the 6th of June he woke up at 6 in the morning. Went to the bathroom, washed and brushed his teeth 6 times; went to the kitchen, and drank 6 cups of coffee; put on his clothes, went outside, let pass 5 taxis and caught the 6th. Arrived to the horse race, put at stake 6 666 dollars on a horse number 6... And it came 6th!

by Nikolay Filin

News!

Dear fellow Toastmasters and guests!

We are happy to remind you that Christmas is coming soon and we are throwing a traditional

Christmas party!

On the very day! Right on the Christmas Eve -

December 24th!

Come to our big Christmas party and enjoy toasts and contests, food and drinks, presents and awards! And of course lots of fun, joy and happy people!

We invite all our members and guests!

Please let our executive committee know that you are going to attend this wonderful party when we see you next time!

Do not delay! Book the best seats! ☺

P.S. The entrance fee is 250 rubles per person

