



Dear Toastmasters!

Are you aware that the Moscow government evaluated the activity of our Club and decided to invest a sizable amount of money in us? We'll get a new, well-equipped room for our meetings. All fees will be subsidized. As well, the money needed for the trips abroad within the activity of our Club will be provided!!! Isn't it great?!

Just kidding! :) Happy **April Fools' Day!**

Did you believe the joke? You should have witnessed the joke, ingeniously played on us by Nina Tsygankova, AC-B, and Margarita Ryndina, AC-B. Both our dear ladies are good actresses!

1. Isn't it fun at times to shout something loudly in a large room, a cave, in mountains... and listen to the echo of your voice? **Nick Sapozhnikov, CC**, the **Invocation Master**, told us a funny story about an American and a Scot telling each other what was distinct about the echo in places where they lived. Nick concluded his speech telling us that just like all our words, loud or soft, echo back in the mountains, all our actions, good or bad, echo back at us, too. That why it's worth doing good things.

479th meeting, April 1st, 2010

Quote of this issue:

"Make sure you have finished speaking before your audience has finished listening."

— *Dorothy Sarnoff*

2. How many people do you know? What is special about every person you know? It's not so easy to be that specific about many people. Some say it takes a natural talent to be able to distinguish and



remember what is special about different people. Seems like **Margarita Ryndina, AC-B, Toastmaster** of the meeting has that talent. Margarita found relevant compliments to pay to each participant she welcomed to the stage. Always lively and enthusiastic, she shared her energy with the audience making this special meeting very enjoyable.

3. April, 1st is usually the day of many make-believes. But when **Syah Akhtar Mat Ali, CC**, takes a role you'd better believe he'll be very serious about it. The **Word of the Day** was **"believe"**. He told us the meanings of the word and gave us some examples. You could definitely believe your ears in that case.

4. "Strawberry fields forever" sounds nice if you are not a migrant worker." Believe it or not that was it, the rather short and unusual **Joke of the Day** by **Nadezhda Nikiforova**.

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5. Many of us spend long hours at work and home not moving enough. What do you do to compensate the lack of movement in your life? In his **2nd project**, **Alexey Eraskin**



told us about his way of treating the problem. He told us how he started training and decided to participate in a half-marathon event. It was a personal story with vivid details and impressions. And though the story was about Alexey's experience, many of us could relate to it, as it was about setting goals, self-motivation and the joy of overcoming difficulties. It was interesting to listen to, Alexey.

6. Today we live in a global world with different countries closely interrelated to each other. It wasn't exactly the case in the times of the tug of war between the USSR and the USA. Isn't it interesting to compare the USSR epoch and the present times? And what is a better way to do that than through a prism of the life of an individual? **Inessa Goldovskaya's 6th project** was exactly that, an interestingly told story about the interesting life.



We heard about Inessa's childhood; her impressions and memories about the War; the years she spent as a student; first steps in her respected medical profession and the development of her successful career. She took us with her on the journey through her life. Thank you for the story, Inessa.

7. The USSR had the extensive territory no other country could even dream about. But one rather large piece wasn't there. Alaska, once the possession of Russian Empire, long since belongs to the USA. Do you know who sold it to the



USA? When did it happen? What were the details? **Nina Tsygankova, AC-B**, told us about that in her project. Apart from just telling her story in a humorous and captivating way, Nina showed us a nicely prepared presentation.

All in all, Nina's projects are always something to look up to. So it's just natural that with the project Nina made her last step to the **Advanced Communicator Bronze** award.



Congratulations, Nina!



8. **Dmitry Chebotarevsky**, the **General Evaluator**, organized the second part of the meeting in a very business-like manner, showing substantial time-management abilities. He gave feedback to every participant and one can't



aspire to be evaluated better than that. Perfect structure, consistency and useful hints, delivered in a polite manner – all of it characterize Dmitry's evaluation style.

Evaluations:

10. **Ilya Volin**, who has recently started practicing as a **Personal Evaluator**, made a structured analysis of Alexey Eraskin's speech:

- + *the message was clear and easy to understand;*
- + *an inspiration was seen while speaking;*
- *too long an opening;*
- *the absence of strong conclusion;*
- *the articulation wasn't clear.*

11. **Alla Oganova** noted the following details of Inessa Goldovskaya's speech:

- + *all the objectives were met;*
- + *wonderful vocal variety was demonstrated;*
- + *the topic chosen – the speaker's course of life – enabled to demonstrate different voices;*
- + *quality preparation was seen.*

Using this speech as an example, Alla gave us a valuable advice: to spend more time for preparation and rehearsing to get more from the process of public speaking.

12. The evaluation by **Nick Sapozhnikov** was worthy of Nina's speech: the both were equally humorous.

- + *Nina managed to turn the historical event into an interesting story;*
- + *the speech revealed new ideas about Alaska and its owner's history;*
- + *gestures and play of voice were used appropriately;*
- + *the pictures adorned the speech a lot.*

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13. Despite the April Fools' Day, laugh wasn't supported during the whole meeting. The **Table Topics Master, Alexey Kudashev, CC**, proposed a theme, which couldn't have been farther from



jokes: "Recent blasts in the Moscow metro". This event terrified many people, so the discussion didn't start easily. Four days after the horrible act of terrorism, still analyzing what had happened, we could express our feelings and opinions about the reasons, purposes and consequences of the explosions. They say when we are talking fears out, we are getting ourselves rid of them. The discussion helped us to clear up a bit and alleviate panic and depression. Such events are significant, because they permit us to know the surrounding people better. A few of speakers said, the tragedy united people from all over the world. In a cruel way, we were reminded that we have common goals to make peace.

The winners of the discussion were Alla Oganova and Natalia Radaykina. Alexey finished the Table Topics discussion on a positive note, with congratulations that the spring had finally come! That's an unmistakable sign we will smile more often.

Our next meeting is on April, 15th!

This meeting is going to be another feast of diversity. We are going to hear three projects. The evening will be opened up by the second project of a rising star of Moscow Free Speakers – Nadezhda Nikiforova. Syah Akhtar Mat Ali, who is a Competent Communicator in Malay will deliver his first project in English and, finally, become a full member of our club, nearly a year after his first visit. And the pinnacle of the evening is going to be an advanced project by Alla Oganova, CC. Can you afford to miss such a meeting?

See you soon!

Our Birthdays!

OUR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DEAR FELLOW

Lilia Nurutdinova
(March 31st)



Points:

Margarita Ryndina, AC-B (<i>Toastmaster</i>)	8.9
Alexey Eraskin (<i>Speaker 1</i>)	6.5
Inessa Goldovskaya (<i>Speaker 2</i>)	8.9
Nina Tsygankova, AC-B (<i>Speaker 3</i>)	9.6
Ilya Volin (<i>Personal Evaluator 1</i>)	8.0
Alla Oganova, CC (<i>Personal Evaluator 2</i>)	9.1
Nick Sapozhnikov, CC (<i>Personal Evaluator 3</i>)	8.7
Dmitry Chebotarevsky (<i>General Evaluator</i>)	9.7
Alexey Kudashov, CC (<i>Table Topics Master</i>)	8.9
Meeting as a whole	8.8