

Moscow Free Speakers Club



Dear Toastmasters!

If you are Russian, the phrase “the May holidays” must mean something to you. For some it is a good opportunity to get away from the city, when the first truly warm days come. Other people take the opportunity to spend this time with their friends and family. What do you do in the beginning of May? And do you remember why we have so many holidays at this time?

The meeting on **April 29th** reminded all of us about the origins of the first holiday – **May, 1st**.

If you don't know the background and missed the meeting, catch up with us by reading this newsletter!

1. **Evgenia Maseeva** was the **Invocation Master** of this meeting. She told us about the history of May 1st celebration in a very educative manner. May day was officially founded in 1886 during Chicago strike for eight-hour workday, the American Federation of Labor delegate to the International Labor Congress in Paris proposed May 1 as international Labor Day. Evgenia, good job!

481st meeting, April 29th, 2010

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*

2. The **Toastmaster** of the meeting **Valeria Kulnevskaya** introduced the participants and briefly reminded the rules of the club. Valeria skillfully overcame all the glitches, which arose at the meeting and ensured that it ran smoothly.



3. **Ann-Sofie Nyman** has prepared for the **Word Master** role very carefully. She described the different meanings of the word '**strike**' and gave us a variety of examples where the word can be used as a noun, a verb or a part of an expression.

4. Sometimes zero is more than one. Indeed, since our scheduled **Joke Master** didn't show up, two of our fellow members presented their jokes spontaneously. **Nick Sapozhnikov** told us about conversation between a husband and a wife. When the wife complained about herself being fool when she married her husband, he replied that he was in love and didn't notice it. You can find and enjoy the second joke by **Valeria Kulnevskaya** at the end of our newsletter.

Moscow Free Speakers Club



5. The first speaker of the meeting **Denis Schevchuk** presented his **project #3** “Organize your speech”. In the speech entitled “Cogito ergo sum”, he shared with us his ideas on how



to digest the ideas in the best possible ways. Using pictures to vividly illustrate his ideas, Denis identified three effective ways to process the ideas: using mind maps, discussing them with somebody and ... preparing a project in a Toastmasters club!

6. Our second speaker **Natalia Sherstneva, CTM**, had prepared her **project #2** from the **advanced** manual “Specialist speeches”. She named her project “Two heroes in my life” and perfectly combined



a very personal and touching story about her father with a story about a well-known Nobel Prize winner Mother Teresa. Natalia’s father protected our Motherland and future generations all over the globe from fascism while Mother Theresa visited more than 120 countries fighting with poverty, diseases and illiteracy. Both of these people influenced Natalia deeply and formed her as a person. Thanks for the project, Natalia!

7. Do you now that 80% of our clubmates prefer evading and ignoring when it comes to rumors? Or rather they had preferred to behave exactly so, until **Serge Kuzin, AC-B**, gave them a panacea for rumors!



His **12th advanced speech** with the capacious title “Kill the gossip. Don’t let gossip kill you” was an excellent guidance on the best ways to react on rumors. They say you were implicated in shady business? Don’t panic, but analyze the situation at first. Citing examples of world-famous and club’s local tittle-tattles Serge detected the two main criteria, which should be used to assess rumors: their importance and the level of uncertainty, which surround them. Once you’ve estimated them, your next step is to work out a strategy to drastically reduce the prevailing factor.

The final step is applying this strategy without typical mistakes like ignoring, denying or attacking. With that knowledge at hand, you’ll be able to kill the gossip in no time at all!

Those of you who have missed Serge’s speech but still want to watch and comment – welcome on youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KN3Hrqjhlk>



8. **Valentin Novikov** not only acted as a host of the meeting, but also as the **General Evaluator**.

And who could explain all the clubs purposes better than VP Education? Through



Valentin's preamble newcomers got acquainted with the structure of the meetings, and the long-time members were reminded the main objectives of different parts. Not only did Valentin lead his part smoothly, but he also noted peculiarities of every speech and gave valuable comments as well.

Evaluations:

10. **Lilia Nurutdinova**, who becomes more and more popular as a **Personal Evaluator**, gave the following comments on the speech of Denis:

- + captivating topic;*
- + well-structured body of the speech;*
- + relaxed way of delivery;*
- + strong, striking introduction;*
- the introduction was more promising than the project itself;*
- the main idea of the speech wasn't clear;*
- conclusion was crumpled.*

11. **Nina Tsygankova, AC-B**, the **Personal Evaluator** for Natalia's speech, stressed on the following points:

- + good delivery;*
- + good preparation was seen;*
- body language and vocal variety could be improved to express inspirational content;*
- the main objective – to inspire the audience, not yourself- wasn't met;*
- the connection between two stories was loose.*

12. **Serge's** project gave rise to a few comments in addition to the personal evaluation by **Ilya Volin**:

- + clear structure, major points were made;*
- + logical evidence of the ideas helped the audience to catch them;*
- + excellent diction, articulation and vocal variety;*
- a little bit too educational delivery;*
- the dialog with the listeners was left in an unfinished state.*



13. Non-trivial and ambiguous topic for the discussion was proposed by **Alla Oganova, CC**, the **Table Topics Master**. “Leadership, careerism or combination of them?” that’s the question.



As we learned from Alla’s words, Hodorkovsky, a well-known entrepreneur and public figure, has always had aspiration for leadership. That put up the question, what leadership is? Nowadays people don’t dream about reaching high aims, but about taking a higher place. Would you like to be a careerist? Would you like your children to be taken away for the sake of career? What about being punished for initiative? This subject clearly exceeded the limits of a 20-minute talk. But Labor day is just the right occasion to think about such questions.

Our next meeting is on May, 6th!

We are going to see three projects: advanced project #4 by Irina Chernyaga, advanced project #4 by Margarita Ryndina, AC-B, and a project from “*The Successful Club Series*” by Valeria Kholodkova, CC, CL. Can you afford to miss it?

See you soon!

Points:

Valeria Kulnevskaya <i>(Toastmaster)</i>	8.2
Denis Shevchuk <i>(Speaker 1)</i>	7.5
Natalia Sherstneva, CTM <i>(Speaker 2)</i>	8.3
Serge Kuzin, AC-B <i>(Speaker 3)</i>	9.3
Lilia Nurutdinova <i>(Personal Evaluator 1)</i>	8.3
Nina Tsygankova, CC <i>(Personal Evaluator 2)</i>	8.9
Ilya Volin <i>(Personal Evaluator 3)</i>	7.5
Valentin Novikov <i>(General Evaluator)</i>	9.1
Alla Oganova, CC <i>(Table Topics Master)</i>	9.3
Meeting as a whole	8.8

Joke of the meeting:

Is a Soviet engineer satisfied with his work? Surely! When he goes to work in the morning, he enjoys looking at beautiful women. When he goes back home after working day, he doesn't look at women anymore. It means that he's absolutely satisfied with his work!

by Valeria Kulnevskaya