

Kent Speakers Newsletter – September '05

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From the President....

In the latest issue of the Toastmaster (which I'm sure you all read avidly) you will have seen an article all about taking the plunge and trying new experiences. The article discusses why we tend not to try new things and how difficult we find stepping outside our 'comfort zone'. But it then goes on to explain why we *should* take risks and try new things. Apparently, scientists have found that if we keep doing the same things we become incapable of growth and the more we experience through life, the smarter we get. By this argument, it would make sense for us to always be doing new things ... so why don't we? The answer is fear: of failure; of rejection; or of change itself. With competition time upon us, we are all being encouraged to take risks and try new things and anybody who says they have no fear whatsoever is probably not being entirely truthful.

As has been said at the club before 'we're not here for a long time, we're here for a good time.' So, as I pluck up the courage to take part in the Kent Speakers Table Topics competition on 7th September, I encourage everyone (as the Nike adverts say) to 'just do it.'

Club Competition - Peter and Di take the day....

Yet again, Kent Speakers triumphs in its own little way and at the meeting of 31st August, saw a superb speech competition between five of its members. **David Wilson, Adam Eckley, Frankie Gahan, Peter Fox** and **Di Morar** entertained us with their comic tales, tickling our fancy all the way. A huge well done is in order to all of them for plucking up the courage to take part and for making us giggle. The winner and runner up were chosen by the club as a whole in the form of a vote - true democracy in action! **The club chose Di Morar as the runner up and Peter Fox as the winner. Huge congratulations to both of them.** As far as we know, the area competition will take the same form as it has done in previous years and both will go forward to represent us. This will become clearer as the area competition draws closer. We send our very best wishes to Di and Peter and will be helping them refine their speeches during the coming meetings.

Member News....

A very warm welcome to our almost newest member, **Robert Sproats**, who joined in the Kent Speakers meeting on 31st August. Although **Robert** has yet to be properly 'induced,' rarely do we see such enthusiasm in our new members and without doubt we can consider him as already being one of the club. **Robert** is a recovering stammerer and wishes to join Kent Speakers to further his speaking technique. We hope that he will thoroughly enjoy his membership with us.

Upcoming Events....

7th Sept – Club Table Topics Competition

After a very successful club humorous speech competition held on 31st August, on 7th September we will be holding the club table topics competition. Similarly to the speech competition, the winner and runner up will go forward to represent us at the Area competition and perhaps beyond. Could those who wish to take part, let **Peter Fox**, the VP-Ed know as soon as possible.

Area Competition – As yet it is not known where and when the area competition will be taking place, but it will be within the next few weeks and all will be informed as soon as the date is set. Hopefully it will be a good day of fun and competitiveness with our fellow area clubs, **Bromley Speakers** and **Speakers of Croydon**.

15th Oct – Division H Humorous Speech and Table Topics Competition

The division competition will be taking place at Shoreham airport. Hopefully, one of our club members will be competing there! Details can be seen at the Division H events web page:
www.toastmastersd71.org/divcalfiles/divh.html

Contact the President....

Contact the president directly at
kathlizrobert@yahoo.co.uk or 07891 139761.

Club Officers: President - Kat Robertson • VP-Education - Peter Fox • VP-Membership - David Wilson • VP-Public Relations - Adam Eckley • Treasurer - Frankie Gahan • Secretary - Frankie Gahan • Sergeant at Arms - Adam Eckley and Kat Robertson