

## Basel International Speakers Club News and Events

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District 59  
Division I, Area 12

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### Basel International Speakers 2015

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#### Participating in the BIS committee as a relatively new member

by Manu Gupta

There are few things I regret in life and not joining toastmasters when I came to Basel is one of them. I joined BIS club in January 2015 and since then it has been a fantastic journey. The members of the club were very welcoming and I met people from various cultural and professional backgrounds who bring in very good mix. It also helps me to ease up the work worries and gets me totally in the Toastmasters atmosphere which is way to relax too. The club committee was also very encouraging, it was my first time after years to join a leadership role outside work and it was a sense of freshness and new ideas, new ways to learn and deal with problems and agenda items. I am very content to be in the club and grateful to all the members to make the club an exciting place to be every alternate Wednesday.



## BIS - Impressions of a New Member

by Shireen Uppal

I tagged along with a friend one Wednesday evening not expecting too much but hoping to expand my circle of friends beyond the work environment. By the time I left Toastmaster BIS that night, I was actually looking forward to the next meeting and once again, seeing all the funny but most of all welcoming individuals!

I had my first attempt at Table Topics last week and although, while standing up in front of my fellow toastmasters, my brain lost all thinking capacity, I felt no nerves!! The support and encouragement was evident!

My impressions? It really is the people and the environment which they create that makes BIS stand out from the rest!



Andre-Pierre De Craan's NEW YEARS VOW : "I will be a mild evaluator throughout 2016"

Terms, conditions and more details at the end of the Newsletter



Edward at his first committee meeting as president

## Interview with BIS President Edward Zeh CC

Johannes: Hi Edward, glad to meet you here in this cosy little bar in Kleinbasel. After five months as the president of BIS, how do things feel?

Edward: I feel very proud and good. Being a president is easier than one might think and it is something I can recommend to everyone!

j: You mentioned that your presidential ambitions were an important drive for your toastmaster activities. I dare-say that fortunately achieving that position does not seem to make you less committed. What are your toastmaster goals for the future?

Edward: I hope to finish the CL booklet at some point in the future.

j: In the last meetings topic *peoples goals in toastmasters*, several members stated that they don't want to become president or even vice-president. What is your view?

Edward: I'm surprised to hear that. Being president is much easier than many think and offers a unique opportunity in terms of management and leadership, which could be beneficial in professional life as well!

j: Talking about future plans and ambitions, one very experienced member mentioned the pleasure he takes in challenging presidents. Do you want to comment on that?

Edward: Why not, being challenged in a friendly manner could bring excitement to the club atmosphere.

j: What is the outstanding club achievement in the time you held the office?

Edward: 6 people went to the district conference in Amsterdam and enjoyed themselves very much.

j: What are your most important impressions about district conference 59 ?

Edward:

- \* workshop: marketing for shy people

- \* workshop: having better workshops by asking better questions!

- \* I'm amazed to see the amount of voluntary work, which was spent on organizing the district conference 59.

- \* During the district council meeting motions were tracked with states. I liked this approach very much.

\* some stats about D59: <http://www.district59.org/about-toastmasters/member-demographics>

j: Looking back to the calendar year 2015, what were the outstanding events for you personally?

Edward: Beginning of February I decided to start learning Salsa, which was recommended by two of my friends.

In addition I took on Spanish and spent a lot of time memorizing Spanish words and grammar.

j: Would you mind telling us a bit more about these hobbies?

Edward: Both (learning Spanish and dancing Salsa) belong to my plan B, which I envisioned as my new year resolution for 2015. Plan B is my approach to stay happy and fulfilled should I ever run out of work.

Also it is good to practice in young years what could become very important after retirement.

Even if Salsa and languages are awesome things, my main hobby is being an active toastmaster.

[To be continued in the next edition of the newsletter](#)



Dr. Constantina Haefliger, hostess and driving force of committee meetings

## BIS - Highlights 2015

by Johannes Kuessner

The toastmaster educational program - is it performance-driven? I guess the answer is yes. So I dismiss my idea of talking about emotionally charged moments in our regular meetings and go straight to the higher level competitions, where two members performed extraordinarily well.

On the leadership side our club member and highly respected IPP, area director, advanced communicator and advanced leader Nina Carrasco was in charge of the spring area contest and also organised the fall division contest.

For me the memory of the spring contest is more vivid as Nina also served as contest chairperson. It happened to be the last area contest between all Basel clubs. Nina stuck out as a person who connected amazingly well with all contestants and role-takers. Directing everybody smoothly through an evening of great excitement was a role she mastered well and in her personal style.

No wonder that people were only too happy to delegate the organisation of the next conference one level further up, the division fall contest, to whom? Nina Carrasco of course. On that occasion she moved us up from the humble university auditorium to a far classier venue, the Euro Airport of Basel Mulhouse. Again she provided a perfect environment to make the day memorable for contestants and the audience - not to forget the various well-instructed role-takers, some of them members of our club.

Moving on to the communication site the person to talk about is Nina's best enemy, Markus Seppälä.



Markus @ area contest

Markus has roughly the same track record at toastmasters like Nina, being her predecessor in the roles as our president and as area governor / director and if I am not mistaken on the same advance levels in the toastmaster paths, just made silver in advanced leadership. On top of these credentials he became division level champion in the humorous speech fall contest 2015, securing his second participation in a district conference, the European toastmaster level.

My first impression of his speech was already on the area level on the Novartis campus. His performance there was rock-solid. Only to be topped by his stellar performance in the higher event

on the Euro Airport. Every word was perfectly placed, awesome stage presence, anything one wishes to achieve as a toastmaster.

And what was Markus talking about? Basically about things one would like to have added in the art installation (photo underneath) in case of various needs.



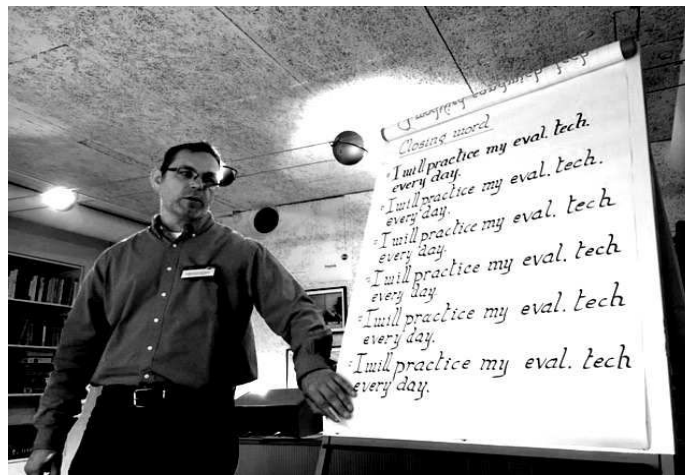
Committee working on problem solving capabilities



Area spring contest 2015 - Edward: I still remember how Nina helped to prepare my speech, which I gave as test speaker in the area spring contest. This is why so many people congratulated me on my speech "Cycles of Life" during the break, which boosted my confidence dramatically.



Editor of this newsletter in his routine 'non-verbal aspects of communication'



## **My TM New-Year Resolution 2016.**

by Andre-Pierre De Craan

A New-Year resolution is a promise that you make to yourself to start doing something good or stop doing something bad on the first day of the New Year.

In my case I decide to become a nice, smooth, gracious, speech evaluator. In fact what I want to avoid in the future is that the TM peer has a bad self-esteem after receiving my evaluation. That he walks to a bridge over the Rein, look down, see the peaceful water flowing down and think to ... quid TM BIS, worse to stop his career as public speaker and starts a career as castanets dancer or in the worst case to become a sad public statue performer.

To take a New-Year resolution is the easiest part of the whole New-year resolution journey (to drop it is also easy). To bring it to a good end, that is the challenge.

To do so I suggest using the well know project management SMART methodology.

SMART is the acronym for: Specific Measurable Achievable Realistic and Timebound.

**Specific:** *The objective must be clear and quantifiable.*

I want to be a well-respected loved speech evaluator. In average no more than one TM peer may suffer from my evaluation pro quarter.

**Measurable:** *Here I have to measure the progress that I did.*

The best way to do so is to make statistics. Each time that I gave an evaluation the audience has to give me an approval rating. I have to achieve at least 65% pro evaluation, at the end of the year I must attain the 82,3%.

**Achievable:** *Do I have the necessary skills, budget, infrastructure and people to support my New-Year resolution.*

I have everything, just need some..... winnie pigs, unfortunate volunteers or risk takers.

**Realistic:** *Is my New-Year resolution really something that I'm willing and able to work on it?*

One of the most important reason why New-Year resolution does not work is because our New-Year resolutions that we have chosen are all about what we think we should do and not what we want to do. Honestly I start to think about another New-year resolution.

**Timebound:** *A goal should be grounded within a time frame. It must have a start date as well as an end date.*

In my case I will start the 1 January 2016 and end it the 31 December 2016.

If after this period of hard labor I did not reach my goal, at least I'm in the right time to make a new New-Year resolution for 2017. Of course during 2016 there will be always to possibility to receive from me a normal, direct, mercy less Speech Evaluation, it will be on demand only and on your own risk.

Happy New-Year

André-Pierre

Andre-Pierre De Craan

Responsible for this edition: Johannes Kuessner, Sirnitzstr. 1 D 74591 Lörrach

<http://bis-tm.org/>



#### **Club meeting location**

The Basel International Speakers Toastmasters Club meets at QuBa, Quartierzentrum Bachletten. Bachlettenstrasse 12, 4054 Basel.

#### **Our next meeting**

The Basel International Speakers Toastmasters club meetings take place every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Our meetings start at 18:45 and last about two hours.