



The spring contest is over and it was very interesting to be part of it as the Contest Chairperson, a judge, for my own club, other clubs, and the area contest. Attending the events of any club or area gave me the opportunity to witness the variety of speeches, topics and speakers.

At Toastmasters, we learn to be confident in public speaking and as an English speaking club, to improve are English skills. Both natives and foreigners can be part of a club since each member's got his own goal.

We are lucky to have very cutting edge material at the British Council, because we can improve our presentations with a very useful tactile screen.

You can be involved as a club officer role, contest role, and perform as the Toastmaster of the evening, to improve your leadership in a manner you didn't expect. You've only thought about just improving your public speaking skills in English twice a month with a bunch of friendly people like you.

By being a member, you are linked to the other clubs worldwide and wherever you travel in the world, you can find a club with people very happy to welcome you. Then, for my next vacation I've been asked to evaluate one member of the club I'll visit abroad. I'll speak about it, through this newsletter, when I'm back. I keep the location secret, to hold some suspense...

In few weeks we are going to vote for the members of the board and it's a great opportunity to get more involved in the club and caring about it to make us thrive.

Betty-Fleur, Newsletter Editor

A new member, Agnes, took time to share her Testimony we are happy to publish below:

I'm a new member of the Lyon English Toastmasters Club and would like share my first impressions. I was told by a friend from Orleans about her experience at her French speaking Toastmasters Club and I really liked the concept.

English is my every day working language and I thought it would be great to find such an English speaking Club in Lyon, not a French one. Checking the web, I found the Lyon English Toastmasters. I subscribed as an external guest through their web site and quickly got confirmation that I could come to the next meeting February 2015.

This first meeting has simply been amazing. First, the heartfelt welcome from members who were keen to make me comfortable and at ease.

I didn't feel like an outsider, but was immediately integrated into this team of friendly people. Then I was quickly invited to introduce myself as a guest to the audience.

I must say I was a bit taken by surprise and only understood later during the session that one goal of Toastmasters is to make sure that everybody present has the opportunity to speak regardless if they are members or guests.

As the evening advanced, I came to realize how professional, structured, well managed and mostly fun the experience was. What impressed me the most, is that non native speakers (like myself, I'm French) are gauged at the same level as English native speakers, in regard to their language accuracy and fluency, but also their public speaking skills.

This challenge attracted me like a magnet. As well as the friendly atmosphere, the supportive environment, the well-meaning feedback you get from peers, the benefit of learning from the whole Toastmasters Community both from an English public speaking perspective, but also in terms of leadership skills.

I am now happy to say, I am an official member and am looking forward to get more self-confident along this journey that I'm just starting.

As a Chinese proverb says "Debating if the water in the bowl is cold or hot is useless, the only way to know this is to put your finger in the bowl to test the water".

You need to experience it, to make your own opinion, Agnes