



Navan Toastmasters Newsletter

7th March 2018

ISSUE3 THE CASTLEKNOCK CONTINGENT ENJOYING TALL TALES

The Cliché Peter 'Finnegan

I am putting pen to paper to alert Toastmasters to a matter which threatens us at this moment in time and more and more each year. People may accuse me of having a chip on my shoulder and stepping on people's toes, but I must call a spade a spade. The fact of the matter is that clichés are creeping into each and every Toastmaster meeting and nothing is being done to stem the tide.

At the end of the day, in the final analysis, we must face the facts and stop sweeping this under the carpet. Clichés are now, by and large, part and parcel and par for the course at every meeting. When all is said and done, overused phrases can never be justified in any way shape or form, especially in the current climate. The writing is on the wall so it behoves us to think outside the box and somehow get ourselves back to a level playing field.

To all intents and purposes we are between a rock and a hard place. You might say we are damned if we do and damned if we don't. However we must do something about this problem. It may be an uphill battle but surely we can pull up our socks, put our heads together and our noses to the grindstone in order to clean up our act and put ourselves on the road to recovery.

I propose that we take the plunge and test the waters by appointing a cliché counter at



A pensive Joe Armstrong awaiting the results of the Area Tall Tales Contest

Toastmasters Magazine

Page 21 has an article about When You Are "Topicsmaster"

meetings to keep track. There's more than one way to skin a cat, but this person could be armed with a loud buzzer or siren which would be sounded whenever a set number of clichés is exceeded. This would help to concentrate members' minds on the task in hand.

To make a long story short, only time will tell whether we can resolve a problem which besets us at every hand's turn. We can no longer put this on the back burner, wring our hands and wait with bated breath until a solution is found. Actions speak louder than words. We must stop beating about the bush and take the bull by the horns in order to nip this in the bud. All of us can see which way the wind is blowing and should either shape up or ship out. We must knuckle down, sing from the same hymn sheet and try to put a lid on it. Otherwise I fear that the future is bleak. When push comes to shove, we will have thrown in the towel, cashed in our chips and we'll be left with egg on our faces. Our TM meetings will never again be able to cut the mustard. The ball is in our court and even

though our backs are against the wall, it's time to bite the bullet and do or die.



Michael May, runner up in the Tall Tales

Contest

Words from the Champ **Joe Armstrong**

I'm well chuffed to have won the Area Tall Tales Contest. I think it's the first time I have ever won anything. It was a real team effort. A Navan win. I felt the support of all club members and it was an honour to represent the club. I think I emailed everyone who had been at the club contest for any suggestions they might have and the feedback was really helpful.

I came up with the basic idea of a deaf priest the night that Peter did his speech on how to write a Tall Tale. However, the characters of Gerry and Trump had not come into it yet.

Peter had said to use triads – the rule of three. So, Gerry and Trump were born. I

now had three characters. Deficus repeats "sure why wouldn't you" three times and gives the penance of Three Hail Marys three times. I was on my way. I had to work hard to improve accents and I added props i.e. the tricolor on Gerry's cap, Trump's orange cheeks and the lacy thing that the Pope took from his pocket.

The script went through at least 15 drafts.

Folks I couldn't have done it without you.

Thanks



The Role of the Timer **Kieran O'Sullivan**

One of the lessons to be practiced in speech training is that of expressing a thought within a specific time. Each section of a Toastmaster meeting is timed and the Timer is responsible for keeping track of time. The Timekeeper is responsible for monitoring the time of speeches, the Table topics segment and each evaluation.

At the beginning of the meeting, The Toastmaster will introduce you and ask you to explain your role.

As Timer, your role is to remind speakers of how much time they have for their speeches and how much time they have before they finish their speech. You should explain how the timing lights work

For a 5-7 min speech

5 mins. - green
6 mins. - yellow
7 mins. - red

Topics 1-2

1 min. - green
1.5 mins. - yellow
2 mins. - red

Evaluations 2-3

2 mins. - green
2.5 mins. - yellow
3 mins. - -red



A pensive Joe, waiting for the results of the area Tall Tales Contest.



Guests enjoying the Tall Tales Contest

The Toastmaster Magazine has an article on when You are Toastmaster for the First time. It's worth reading.