

# Newsletter



**Hong Kong Toastmasters Club**

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## Bye to Fear by Bhoova Desikan

If you need proof for the maxim, "By participating in Toastmasters meeting, you can speak without fear", look no further, I'm your proof.

In the past, I had watched many Table Topics sessions without participating. One meeting, I was literally forced, cajoled, and urged to approach the podium. When the clock ticks 7.40 PM, it is normally time for the Table Topics session, which generally could be a nerve-racking yet exciting moment for members and guests. Now, this is no longer the case as I look forward to these sessions.

Now my Toastmaster manual has two white ribbons on the inside cover. Each one of them brings back fond memories. The first one signifies my maiden Table Topics speech award for a talk on 1 November 2004 which was quoted in South China Morning Post the following weekend. When I took the stage and spoke on my feet that evening, I knew then that my fear would only go away by participating persistently rather than by watching. Because of the newspaper exposure referencing my maiden speech award, I was later flooded with phone calls from people congratulating me. It was very evident that Toastmasters not only makes you confident speaker without fear, but also a popular person!

My second white ribbon signifies another Table Topics speech about children. I've mentioned before that I would like to have one more, after narrating the wonderful experience of watching my daughter grow up. It now transpires that during that Christmas week, junior was already 9 weeks. Thus the story of two ribbons.

By the time he or she arrives, I hope to be CTM and possibly add some more white ribbons...

The fear is now gone; butterflies in stomach are moving around in nice choreographed motion – is it because the faces are more familiar to me now? I look forward to testing this in next Table Topics contest.

Meantime can we have meeting with Table Topics only???

## ***Up Coming Events!!!!***

### **Test meeting at Japanese Club on Feb 21, 05 (Monday)**

We have considered to change our regular meeting venue from Regal HK Hotel to other affordable venues. After months of searching, we have identified Japanese Club as our first priority according to our selective criteria from our short-listed venues. We would like to hear our members' opinions about the choice and help us make decision that night. So please come to show your right as a members and let us hear your voices.

Date: Feb 21, 05 ; Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm ; Venue: The Japanese Club at the Hennessy Center (above Mitsukoshi Dept store) in Causeway Bay

### **Divisions Activity - Champions of the Champions**

The divisions H & K will organize an event named "Champions of the Champions" in which lots of champions and experienced speakers will share with us. Details are as follows:

Date: **26 February 2005** ; Time: 2:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. ; Venue: Graduate Hall, HKU (Wang Gungwu Theatre)

Fee: \$50 (\$20 for full time student)

For more information, please visit: [http://hk.geocities.com/div\\_champions05/](http://hk.geocities.com/div_champions05/). For enquiries please contact us: [div\\_champions05@yahoo.com.hk](mailto:div_champions05@yahoo.com.hk),

May Li : 96728359, Dennis Fong : 97159868.

### **20th Anniversary Celebration of Mandarin Toastmasters Club**

Let's form a table to reciprocate their support. Pleases approach President Arthur for tickets @HK\$300

### **Coaching Workshop by Carol Gibb on Mar 7 (Monday) during regular meeting**

Don't know how to help poor-performed staff, naughty kids and depressed family members? If you encounter these problems, please mark your diary on Mar 7 for this special workshop given by our guest speaker. You can find more details about the speaker @ [www.shapeyourlife.com.hk](http://www.shapeyourlife.com.hk)

## *Recent New Members!!!*

### **Carmen Ka Man**

**Chan** – She is an insurance consultant, 25+ and married; interests include watching movies, reading on psychology, and positive thinking. Carmen feels she is now ready to join us to improve her public speaking skills and eventually become a professional speaker.



**Ted Lui** – Ted works in the accounting profession and is married with 2 children. In fact, the young lady in the photo is his daughter. Like our new member Paul, Ted is interested in hiking but he likes to travel as well. The reason for his joining HKTMC is to widen his social network and to improve his speaking skill, particularly on how to prepare a good speech and conduct a successful meeting.





**Howard Chan-** He is a consultant for a local IT company and a part-time student studying Law at HKU SPACE. He is single and is 27 years old. Howard's interests include in traveling, eating, playing basketball, Dragon boating, as well as other water sports. His reason and goal of joining us are because he enjoys meeting people and hopes to improve his presentation skills.

**Paul Breen** – Paul is an investment research and management consultant. His is 40 years old and is married with a son. Paul is interested in the environment, hiking and swimming. He joins us because his volunteer work demands that he speaks in public. His goal is to become a confident and entertaining public speaker.





**Simon Newstead** - Simon is a Sales Manager for Juniper Networks, single and aged 30. He likes basketball, film, music, going out, water sports, skiing, photography, internet and the list goes on. Simon joins us to apply and practice public speaking in a group environment. He also hopes to overcome fear and anxiety in this environment through practice. His goal is to be more confident in ad hoc speeches without using power point.

**Grammar Section: Usage Errors – Misused Words** - Some pairs of words, like "fewer" and "less", are often used incorrectly because the words are assumed to be synonyms, and are therefore thought to be interchangeable. In fact, there is a solid rule that determines which word we should use.

### 1. Fewer/Less



Which of the two following sentences is correct?

1. The company fired no less than fifty employees.
2. The company fired no fewer than fifty employees.

The second sentence is correct. Why? Because we use less when we're talking about things we can't count (less pollution, less violence) but fewer when we're talking about things we can count (fewer pollutants, fewer violent acts).

**2. Number/Amount** - These words follow the same rule as less and fewer. Number is correct when we can count the thing being described (a number of cars, a number of people) and amount is correct when we cannot (amount of love, amount of pain).

**3. Among/Between** - We use between when only two options are available (between the red car and the blue) and among when more than two options are available (among the five answer choices, among the many books).

**4. If/Whether** - Whether is correct when we're discussing two options (whether to get chocolate or strawberry ice cream) and if is correct for more than two options (if she should get ice cream, frozen yogurt, or a cookie).

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