

## Education Newsletter August 2006

### **Evaluation - the key to success**

We boast, do we not, that the single element of our Association which sets us apart from many others, is Evaluation. Can you remember back to the Evaluation of your first speech? How you were sure that you were going to be torn to shreds after the hours of preparation you had spent on that speech?

Then do you remember the immense feeling of success when you heard the words. 'I am happy to suggest that you move on to your next Assignment'?

How sad therefore that when a speaker reaches that pinnacle of success within the organisation – a place in the National Finals – there is no such Evaluation forthcoming. Great to be told you are first or second or third. But then there is always that niggle that you could have done better and perhaps we should be thinking of ways of ensuring that those who do not come first have some indication of why they didn't win. It might also help towards a very accurate judging process. I have written more about Judging in the Speaker but this will provide you with some food for thought. Please argue with me if you disagree. Letters to the Editor will be welcomed.

### **Buried Treasure**

Have you got a 'hidden treasure' in your club? Someone who always comes up with unusual Topic Sessions or delivers workshops which everyone enjoys and from which everyone learns something? Then let the Education Committee know who they are. Don't let them hide their lights under those bushels any longer – they deserve to be heard by a wider audience. Read more about the Education Hit Teams of which they might become members in the next edition of the Speaker.

### **Have you been certificated – or merely certified?**

During the past year, I have been kept busy signing and despatching Certificates at all levels to clubs all over the country. A full list of recipients will appear in the Speaker.

While not everyone is interested in getting certificates, they are a good indication of how you are progressing through the Speakers Guide.

Without school examinations, however much we loathe them, we would not really be able to gauge the progress of individual children. Similarly, having a written evaluation for a skill assignment makes you aware of both your strengths and your weaknesses. A good evaluator will offer constructive advice, covering all of these.

40 members were awarded Interim Certificates during the year; 26 gained the Ordinary Certificate and 13 'clever clogs' got their Advanced Certificates. 79 members altogether.

However, they came from only 34 clubs out of the whole Association. Is this because the others already have theirs and are waiting for us to introduce our new level of Achievement – After the Advanced? Or do they just never get around to doing anything about it? Come on now. My pen is poised to sign even more certificates next year!! .

One gentleman, now residing overseas, had damaged his Certificate and had a duplicate one shipped out to him so that he could display it in a place of honour on his desk. How's that for taking pride in one's Achievements?

### **Have Powerpoint – will travel!!**

**As ever – your Education Director is willing to travel anywhere to deliver workshops and seminars on Speech Preparation, Evaluation, Chairmanship etc. Just give me a ring – my number is in the National Directory.**

Dilwyn C.J. Scott  
National Education Director