

BONN INTERNATIONAL TOASTMASTERS

LEADERSHIP

PUBLIC SPEAKING

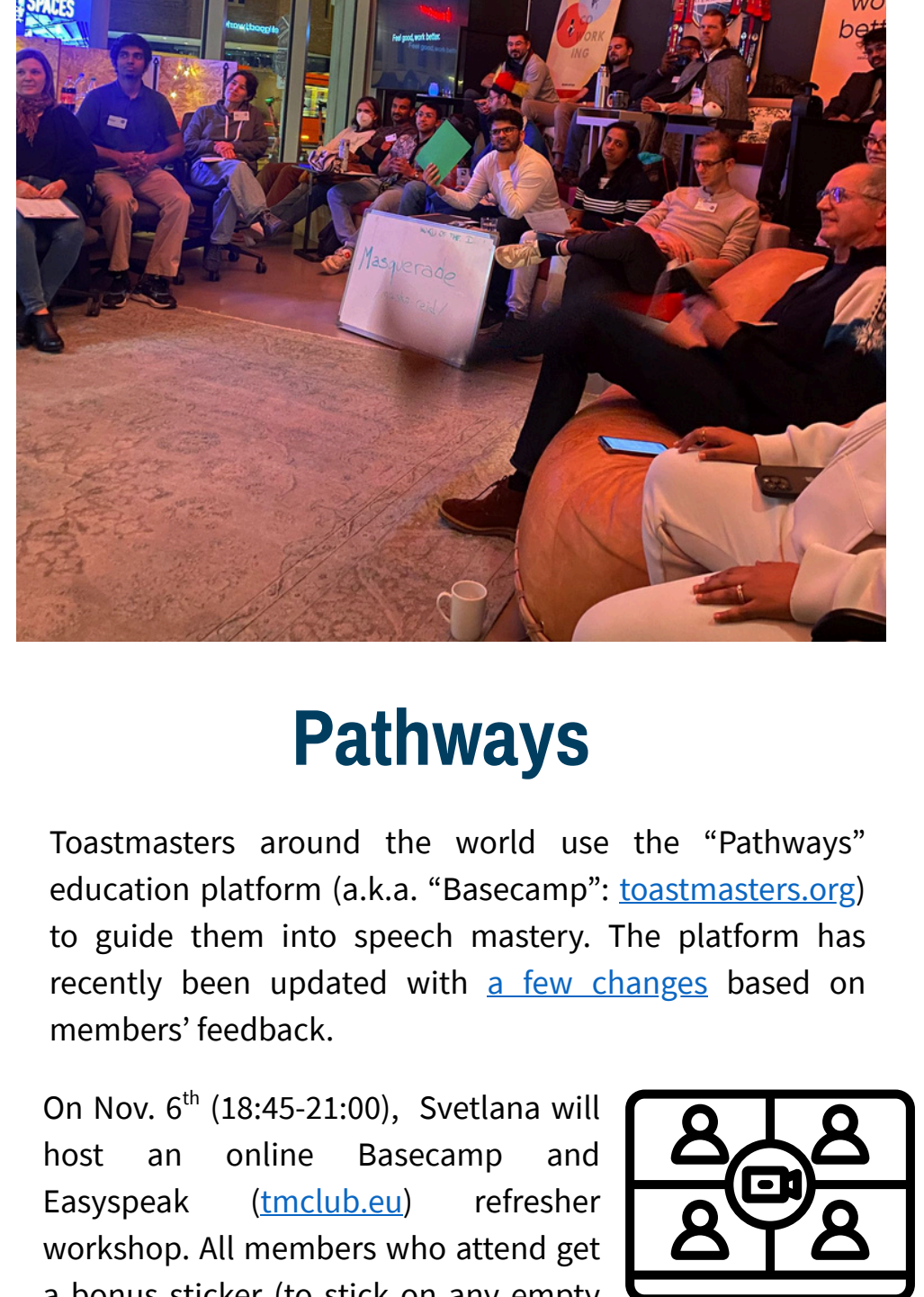
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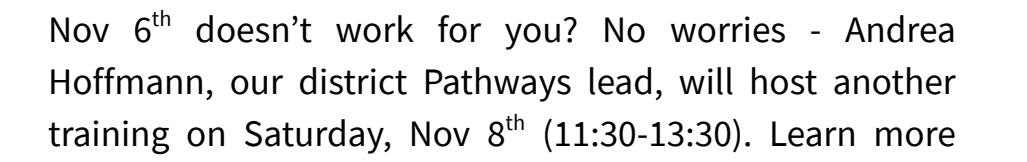
Conquering the Gavel

It started with three Bonn Toastmasters attending an Aachen Toastmasters meeting on September 30th. Then, a month later, six Aachen Toastmasters came to our [“This is not a Halloween-themed meeting”](#) to conquer “back” the gavel. What is the meaning of all this?

Piloted by Bonn International Toastmasters, the “traveling gavel” is designed to encourage exchange and mutual visits between the clubs in the region. It’s a playful challenge trophy that strengthens the club community and creates more opportunities for interaction. The gavel is “conquered” as it moves from club to club. A club can conquer it if at least three of its members jointly attend a regular meeting of another club. Who will conquer the gavel next? Stay tuned.



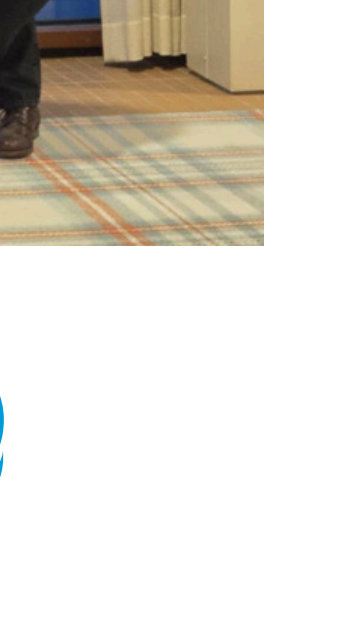
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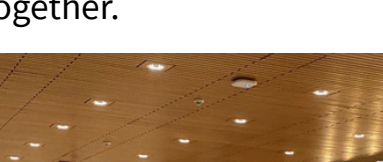
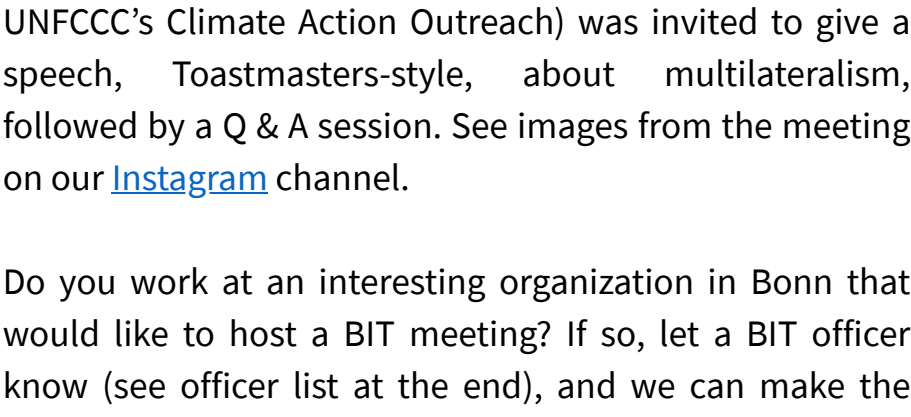
Pathways

Toastmasters around the world use the “Pathways” education platform (a.k.a. “Basecamp”: toastmasters.org) to guide them into speech mastery. The platform has recently been updated with [a few changes](#) based on members’ feedback.

On Nov. 6th (18:45-21:00), Svetlana will host an online Basecamp and Easyspeak (tmclub.eu) refresher workshop. All members who attend get a bonus sticker (to stick on any empty space) for their BIT Bingo card. Sign up [here](#).



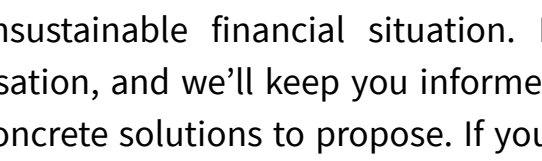
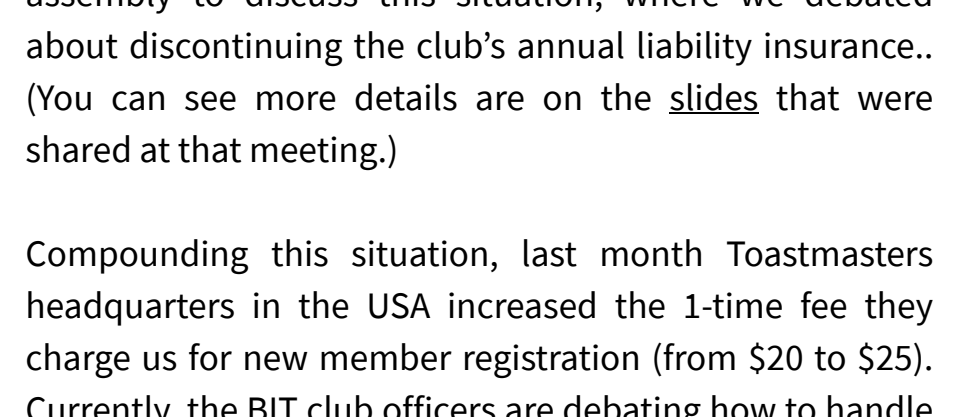
Nov 6th doesn’t work for you? No worries - Andrea Hoffmann, our district Pathways lead, will host another training on Saturday, Nov 8th (11:30-13:30). Learn more [here](#).



Toastmasters is older than the United Nations

At 101 years old, Toastmasters is 21 years older than the United Nations (only 80 years old), but that’s beside the point. Being old is not their only similarity - they both aim to bring people from different countries and cultures together. On October 23rd, [Niclas Svenningsen](#) (manager for UNFCCC’s Climate Action Outreach) was invited to give a speech, Toastmasters-style, about multilateralism, followed by a Q & A session. See images from the meeting on our [Instagram](#) channel.

Do you work at an interesting organization in Bonn that would like to host a BIT meeting? If so, let a BIT officer know (see officer list at the end), and we can make the arrangements together.



Membership fees and donations: what do they pay for, actually?

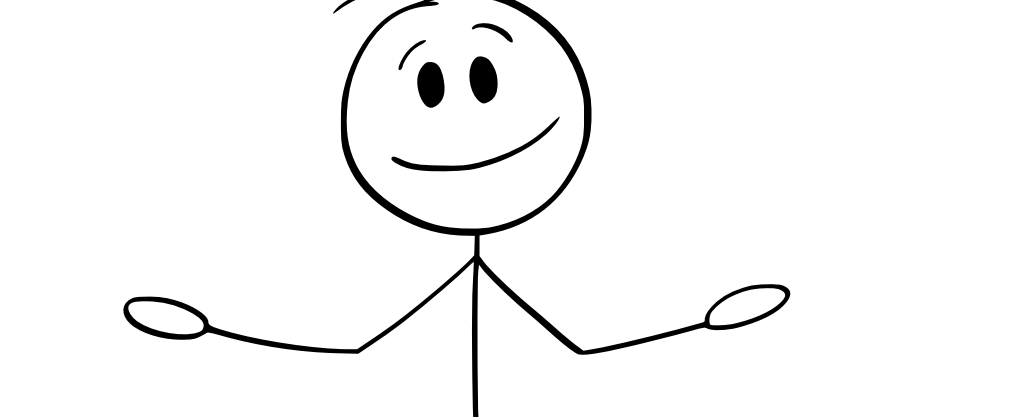
Each member pays a monthly fee, and at every meeting there is also a “Happy Euro donation” box, where members and guests are invited to contribute. We’ve collected 80 Euros in donations since July! But why do we need both? The short answer is: the 14.50€ fee per month per person does not cover our total costs. Last year, we spent about 500€ more than we collected in membership fees. That’s why in September, we had a club general assembly to discuss this situation, where we debated about discontinuing the club’s annual liability insurance.. (You can see more details are on the [slides](#) that were shared at that meeting.)

Compounding this situation, last month Toastmasters headquarters in the USA increased the 1-time fee they charge us for new member registration (from \$20 to \$25). Currently, the BIT club officers are debating how to handle this unsustainable financial situation. It’s an ongoing conversation, and we’ll keep you informed as soon as we have concrete solutions to propose. If you have any ideas to share, please reach out to Jörg or Monica.

“Communication works for those who work at it.” – John Powell

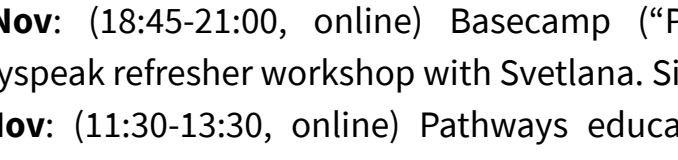
World Champion Toastmaster

Every year, Toastmasters around the world compete for the World Championship of Public Speaking - starting within each club. Club winners advance to compete at the area level. Winners advance to the division level, then the district level, followed by the quarterfinals, semifinals, and ultimately, the world championship. Last year, the world champion was Sabyasachi Sengupta from a club in Amsterdam. Watch his [winning speech](#) when you have a chance. It might inspire you to compete this year. AND... **Sabyasachi will be giving a keynote speech at our very own Area Contest in Bonn** on March 21st. Mark your calendars for this must-see event.



Let’s talk about YOU

What is especially interesting for you about BIT? Are you trying to develop a specific skill? Do you have a particular goal for yourself? Would you like to become more involved in the club? We (the current BIT club officers) are curious because we want to know how we can shape the club to meet the members’ needs. And so, we invite you to take a moment to fill out this [survey](#) and let us know. It takes approximately 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Participation is entirely voluntary, and you’re free to skip any question or exit at any time.



2 new BIT members since September!

A warm welcome to our newest BIT members: Umi and Jonas! We look forward to your upcoming speeches and the opportunity to learn from each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to grow and connect at BIT:

- **6 Nov:** (18:45-21:00, online) Basecamp (“Pathways”) and Easyspeak refresher workshop with Svetlana. Sign up [here](#).
- **8 Nov:** (11:30-13:30, online) Pathways educational platform training with Andrea Hoffmann. Sign up [here](#).
- **12 Nov (Wed):** (18:45, Design Offices) BIT members invited to join regular Redefluss club (German-speaking club in Bonn). Contact Svetlana to register
- **20 Nov:** (18:45, Design Offices) Redefluss members invited to join regular BIT meeting.
- **27 Nov:** (18:45, Design Offices) Speech contest “Dry Run” - to prepare for the real club contest in February.
- **21 Mar** in Bonn: (Time and location to be determined)

BIT Officers 2025-26

Every July, a new team of volunteer BIT officers begins their year-long journey to nurture and grow the club. Are you interested in volunteering next year? Talk to the current officers to learn more.

Current officers (left to right): **Aastha** (VP Public Relations), **Kelly** (Secretary), **Minupa** (Sergeant at Arms), **Monica** (President), **Jörg** (Treasurer), **Patrick** (VP Membership), **Svetlana** (VP Education)

Connect with BIT:

