

## UK Workshop at Lancaster Gate gave opportunity to practice speaking in public

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### **B. Hodgson:**

On Saturday 18th August as part of the run-up to WFWP Speech Competition, Mr David Rennie held a workshop in the Kent room at Lancaster Gate for 6 participants. The workshop was designed to give contestants the opportunity to practice speaking in public.

David Rennie began the afternoon on an introductory talk on how to conduct oneself in front of an audience, how to be confident, voice projection, dress code, convincing the audience that you are sincere in what you're saying, making sure your speech has a beginning, middle and final conclusion, how to avoid 'ums and "errs" when speaking, and lots more.

David's introduction was very helpful, informative and a very good aid to anyone who needs help as a public speaker.

The attendees for the workshop were then given the task of preparing their own speech on a charity of their choice, and giving a speech that would convince people to join their charity.

After each contestant had spoken David gave a kind critique to help the contestant in whatever area he felt could be improved upon.

It was a very enjoyable and informative afternoon with lots of positive approaches and outcomes.

### **T. Davies:**

I enjoy speaking in public, I have done it many times over the years to small and large audiences. However, sometimes I finished speaking not knowing for sure whether I was successful. I would be left with an uneasy feeling that I could have done a lot better but not knowing exactly what I needed to improve. I needed some help to gain clarity!

David Rennie who presented "I Can Speak in Public" is a master orator, speaker and storyteller who has been educating and entertaining for more than 30 years. He demonstrated his skills and distilled all that experience into the seminar— we were entertained and educated.

The theory is based on a universal spiritual philosophy which is easy to understand, remember and practice. We discussed preparation, being specific about the desired outcome and method. We discovered that delivery isn't just about external technique but the internal content is of primary importance. For example, the foundation of a successful speech is to be kind, truthful and respectful and the external method of delivery complements that.

We concluded the session with each participant preparing and delivering a two-minute speech and then receiving very supportive feedback from Mr. Rennie and from other participants.

Overall, the seminar was great fun and both beginners and more experienced speakers gained many useful insights and much advice that will enable us to develop our speaking talents. Personally, I now have the understanding and clarity I need to evaluate and improve my own presentations.