

## **Guide for Poetmaster**

This role was originally devised as a means of providing an easy and less demanding task for new members than would be required in making the more formal and structured Icebreaker. The only requirement is that the speaker go to the lectern and read a short poem of their choice. Time for the whole event, including a very short introduction, should be no more than a couple of minutes. It often amounts to no more than a couple of verses. The time for this role is not recorded and there is no evaluator. However, the General Evaluator customarily does comment on it.

Although this role was, and is, primarily intended for novice speakers it has turned out to have an attraction for the veterans too and there is no shortage of takers when it is available.

### **Before the Meeting**

Select a short poem or extract that you like and are comfortable with. Decide whether you want to read or recite the piece and practice accordingly. It is a good idea to have a chat with your Mentor in advance too.

### **At the Meeting**

Come to the lectern when called on .

Look directly at the Toastmaster and begin: Mr/Madam Toastmaster. Turn back to the audience and carry on: "Fellow Toastmasters, Welcome Guests," or "Ladies and Gentlemen" and commence.

Finish by turning to the Toastmaster and acknowledging them with the words...Mr/Madam Toastmaster.

### **Afterwards**

The General Evaluator will make a very brief comment on the role.

Have a word with your Mentor again and see what they, and you, have noticed that will help with your Icebreaker.

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