

# IMCZNEWS



JUNE 2012

## EDITORIAL The Olympic Spirit

I guess not so many of you know that a member of our Club shall be 'a London Ambassador' for the 2012 summer Olympics and Paralympics in London. Yes, Mike Bentley shall be this ambassador. He writes about his duties in this issue and invites us to make it to London next month.

The Olympic Games started in the town of Olympia in Greece as a sporting event and were held from 776 to 393 BC. The idea was resurrected in 1894 when the International Olympics Committee was founded by Baron Pierre de Coubertin. Since then the Olympics have evolved into a major event where 205 nations participate in 26 sports. Held once every four years, except during the war years, London shall host for the third time the 30th Olympic Games next month. The fundamental principles and spirit of the Olympics are anchored in its charter.

Articles 2 of the charter states, "The mission of the IOC is to promote Olympism throughout the world and to lead the Olympic Movement. This includes upholding ethics in sports, encouraging participation in sports, ensuring the Olympic Games take place on a regular schedule, protecting the Olympic Movement, and encouraging and supporting the development of sport."

And article 6, says, "The Olympic Games are competitions between athletes in individual or team events and not between countries."

Let us therefore keep up the spirit of Olympia, and enjoy the upcoming spectacle in London.

**Muthana Kubba**  
Newsletter Editor • newsletter@imcz.com



## FUTURE EVENTS

- THURSDAY JUNE 14, **Joint Stammtisch with the ZIWC**
- WEDNESDAY JUNE 20, **Bowling**, Center White Line, Meierskappel
- THURSDAY, JUNE 21, **Presentation by Thomas Barthelt**, CFO, Lucerne Verkehrshaus / Transportation House of Switzerland.
- SUNDAY, JUNE 24, **Visit to the Lucerne Transportation House of Switzerland / Verkehrshaus**. Special guided tour and afternoon program for IMCZ members. Meet 13.15 at the entrance.
- THURSDAY, JULY 5, **Presentation by Jojo Ellensohn** Founder & Project Manager "For Africa's Children" will have just returned from Africa and will present Highlights from her trip.
- SUNDAY AUGUST 26, **Annual summer barbecue** at Siehbachsaal, Zug. This year's theme: USA
- THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 6, **Ian Scarr-Hall** presentation on the Highlights of Amhuinnisuidhe Castle in the Isle of Harris, Scotland

## IMCZ

Introducing...new members

THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

### Maurice Corten

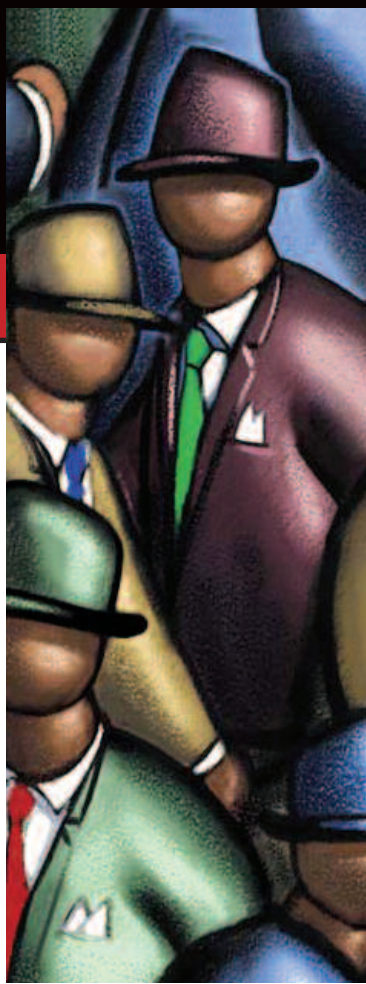
Maurice hails from the Netherlands, was born in Maastricht in 1961 and studied at the Eindhoven University of Technology, graduating with an MSc in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science. He moved into Switzerland in 1993 and works for a Dutch-Swiss company with offices both in Zug and Holland specialising in patents. He is a qualified Dutch and European Patent Attorney. Maurice is married with three children. He lives in Baar and is interested in music and movies from the sixties, and enjoys a cold beer on weekends.

### Jerome Relly

Jerome hails from France. He discovered Zug during his internship as marketing assistant with an International corporation. He returned to Zug eight years ago and is supporting work on pan European projects with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, commonly called Deloitte Switzerland. He finds life in Zug fascinating; it combines a blend of entrepreneurship and a unique lifestyle. It was an easy choice for him and his family to make. He likes swimming, mountain biking and fitness training and is planning to participate in the company triathlon in July in Zurich. He is also interested in photography and finds the landscape here ideally suited to make good pictures.

### Stephen Robinson

Stephen was born in the UK but educated in South Africa. He is a chartered accountant and financial director. He relocated to Cham from South Africa when his employer opened an office in Zug in 2008. He is married and has one daughter. He is an accomplished runner having done the Zurich Marathon, the Zuger and Säuliamt Trophy as well as a number of the ZKB runs. He also follows motor sports, especially the Formula one.



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## Seleger Moor Event

Four couples and two kids, ten in all, showed up at the entrance of Seleger Moor on Saturday May 19. Everyone enjoyed a nice stroll through the gardens. Not having a guide turned out to be a blessing: it allowed everyone to interact and get to know each other.

For those who couldn't make it, you missed a wonderful opportunity to see rhododendrons in full blossom, breathe the spring air with all the fascinating scents of the myriads of flowers. As they say in German 'Natur pur' pure nature. Here are some of the pictures of that unique park, to put you in the right mood to go there next year.



### IMCZ BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member bios are posted under the following link: <http://www.imcz.com/Board.asp>. Go ahead and check them out!

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## EU bans claim that water can prevent dehydration

Contributed by IMCZ member Remo P. Jutzeler van Wijlen, Head R&D Sponsor Sports Food Ing. Appl Food Sciences, MAS Nutrition & Health ETHZ

You might think that in this month's column, I have resorted to satire, but what follows is a real example of EU bureaucracy. Following a three-year investigation, EU officials have concluded that there is no evidence to substantiate the previously undisputed fact that "water can prevent dehydration." Brussels bureaucrats are being ridiculed after banning drink manufacturers from using this health claim. It is now forbidden by law to make this claim on bottled water. Critics claim that the EU is at odds with both science and common sense. Comments from the industry are clear: "This is stupidity writ large"; "The euro is burning, the EU is falling apart and yet here they are: highly-paid, highly-pensioned officials worrying about the obvious qualities of water and trying to deny us the right to say what is patently true"; "If ever there were an episode which demonstrates the folly of the great European project then this is it." And "the ruling made the bendy banana law look positively sane."



International health guidelines state clearly that drinking water helps avoid dehydration. German professors Dr. Andreas Hahn (of the Institute for Food Science and Human Nutrition at Hanover Leibniz University)

and Dr. Moritz Hagenmeyer, both attorneys specialised in food law, submitted the claim for approval. They assumed it was an uncontroversial statement and applied for the right to state that "regular consumption of significant amounts of water can reduce the risk of the development of dehydration," as well as preventing a decrease in performance. Last February, however, the European Food Standards Authority (EFSA) refused to approve the statement. A meeting of 21 scientists concluded that reduced water content in the body was a symptom of dehydration and not something that drinking water could subsequently control. Now the EFSA verdict has been turned into an EU directive.

EU regulations, which aim to harmonise food standards across member states, are frequently criticised. Rules banning bent bananas and curved cucumbers were scrapped in 2008 after attracting international ridicule. Prof. Hahn says that the European Commission has made another mistake with its latest ruling. Yet, a week later, EU scientists approved two claims that, in many consumers' eyes, will amount to the same thing. EFSA decided that there is



sufficient evidence to show that drinking water "is good for normal physical and cognitive functions and for normal thermoregulation". Noticeably, this wording is compulsory, one is not allowed to use different formulations such as, "drinking water helps to regulate body's temperature and carry out its normal physical and cognitive functions.", or for that matter, that "drinking water helps rehydrate." The question is whether clear and easy-to-understand wording – even if it is not completely in line with underlying science – is really worse than so-called consumer protection that results in overly scientific language on food labels.

The trend to legal and technical pignickiness in the wording of health claims is a threat not only to the industry, but also to consumers. They will certainly blame the industry for incomprehensible claims, not EFSA or the politicians in Brussels! To stress this point, let me finish with another real example from Unilever. Claim rejected by the authorities: "One glass of X contains the same amount of calcium as a glass of milk." Approved claim after changing the wording: "One glass of X contains twice the amount of calcium in half a glass of milk!"

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## Can Geoengineering save our Planet?

Contributed by IMCZ honorary member Muthana Kubba

The issue of climate change has been and remains very controversial. The majority of scientists acknowledge that it is taking place, with potentially catastrophic outcome for the planet. The arguments of why it is taking place are, however, not resolved. Human activity is certainly a factor, but it is not the only one. More important, and more pressing, is not the why, rather what can be done about it? There is of course an assertive drive to limit the volume of greenhouse gases that are emitted into the atmosphere but the consensus of opinion indicates that this alone is not enough to reverse the climate change. Furthermore, globally seen, the progress on emission reduction is alarmingly slow.

### Why Greenhouse anyway?

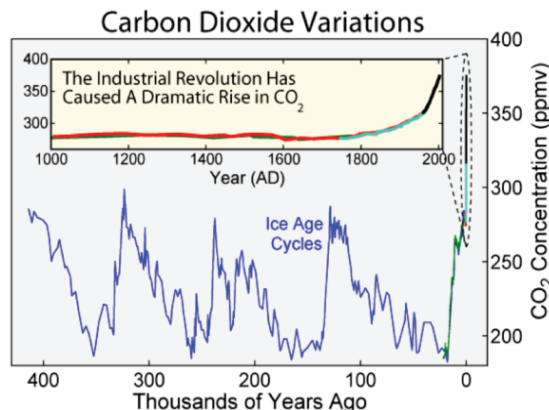
Although most of you, I am almost certain, know what the greenhouse is and what causes it, it does help however to go over the facts once more. Of course we all know it has something to do with carbon dioxide CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. One cubic meter of dry air at sea level weighs 1200 gm, out of which 906 gm is Nitrogen, 278 gm Oxygen, but only 0,55 gram of CO<sub>2</sub>. The balance of 15.45 gm consists of inert gases, mostly Argon. We, members of the animal kingdom on the planet are privileged, we need oxygen to survive and there is plenty of it around. The plant kingdom, on the other hand, is not so privileged, they need CO<sub>2</sub> to grow and survive and it is very scarce. The increase of the level of CO<sub>2</sub> from before the industrial revolution till now is only from 270 to 380 parts per million or in our example, cubic meter of dry air at sea level used to have 0,4 gm instead of 0,55 gm of Carbon Dioxide. I am sure the plant kingdom welcomes this slight increase, as it makes life for them just a little bit easier. So what is all the fuss about?

Well, the answer lies in the air trapped in ice. Scientists have dug deep into glaciers, especially in the Antarctic, and have analysed the air bubbles trapped into it. It is not only possible to find out the composition of the atmosphere going back 400 thousand years, but also the average temperature at the time it was trapped. It is due to the results of such analysis that alarm was raised. A look at the graph below shows that the level of CO<sub>2</sub> over the last 400'000 years has never exceeded 290 ppm (parts per million), and during ice ages it fell down to 100 ppm. Obviously the average temperature of the planet is very sensitive indeed to the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. The reason for the ice ages becomes also clear. Plants use up CO<sub>2</sub> and deplete it from the atmosphere, temperatures drop until glaciers cover up most of the plants, thus stopping the depletion of CO<sub>2</sub>. With not enough plants to use it, its concentration starts to rise again, due to the animals and the decaying of the dead plants. As the

temperature rises, the density of plants increases until there are so many plants that the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> drops. The cycle from one ice age to the next takes anything between 120 to 160 thousand years.

What causes the alarm sirens to wail is the fact that an increase in the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> from 100 to 290 ppm makes all the difference between an ice desert and an inhabitable planet. We simply do not know what will happen by the present increase to 380 ppm or when it rises even further. According to the statistics for the past thousands of years we should be at the start of a new ice age, but the reverse is happening. One school of thought postulates a scenario where the increase shall stimulate plants' growth so much that further increase would be halted and eventually reversed, i.e. negative feedback. The other, and predominant, school of thought states that this increase shall raise the temperature so much that more CO<sub>2</sub> would be emitted by decay and greater use of fossil fuels to offset the high temperature, resulting in even faster rise, until we shall have a runaway rise and end up like our sister planet Venus with a surface temperature of 400 deg C, by which time life would have long ceased to exist. It is disastrous case of positive feedback.

What is the mechanism through which a tiny change in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration can have such a vast effect on the planet's temperature? A good question. The answer can be found in your winter terraced garden. Glass has the property of letting in heat if it is coming from a luminous source, but block it when it is from a non-luminous source. In other words the heat can come in but can't go out. Such materials which let in heat but block it going out are called greenhouse materials. Glass is the best known, but is my no means the only one. Methane and carbon dioxide as well as water vapour are also good greenhouse gases.



In point of fact, if it were not for the greenhouse effect of CO<sub>2</sub>, the average temperature of our planet would be a freezing minus 20 deg C. Yes, CO<sub>2</sub> is serving a very

useful purpose, but too much of it might be counter productive and even destructive.

With so much at stake, the wise council would be to stop playing God and give mother Earth a chance, which is where geoengineering comes in.

### Geoengineering

What is very badly needed therefore is a solution that will reverse the effects of climate-change. Attempts to find such a solution are referred to as 'geoengineering'. The task of geoengineers is not an easy one; to start with humanity pumps 10 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every single year. Not only is the concentration of greenhouse gases has increased and is causing the planet to warm up, the increased level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere causes additionally ocean acidification which has very adverse effects on the ocean flora and depletion of species. The amount of carbon dioxide has increased by one third since the pre industrial levels.

Furthermore, humanity has affected our environment in other ways which are less publicised. The mass use of artificial fertilisers needed to feed the rising populations, has actually doubled the production of terrestrial nitrogen whose long term effects on the environment are not known yet. Even the colour of the skies has changes due to the aerosols emitted by the thousands of high flying jets criss-crossing the skies all over the globe.

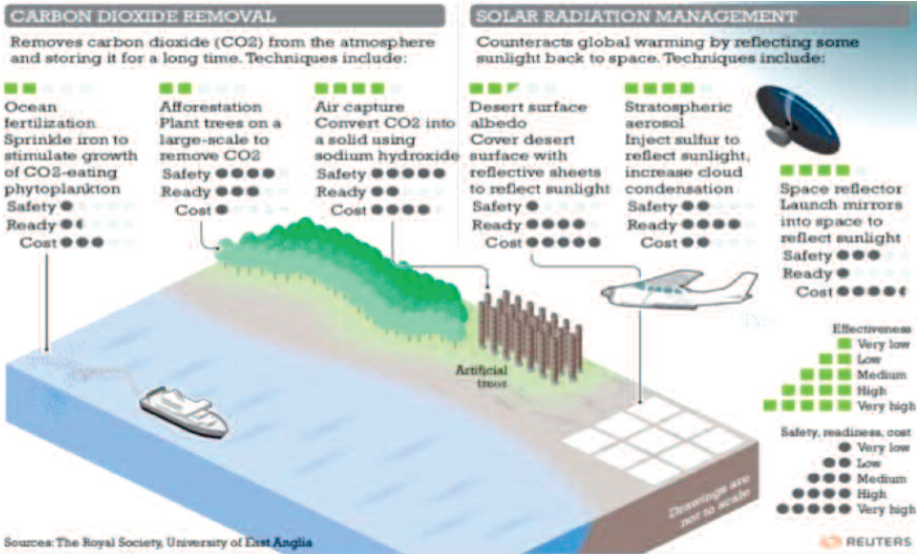
### Volcanoes

The areas in which geoengineering is concentrating its efforts are largely in how to reduce the amount of solar radiation reaching the surface of the Earth. They took stock of the effects of the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in Sumatra in 1991. This huge eruption released very large amounts of sulphate aerosols into the stratosphere that the temperature of our Planet was reduced by half a degree for the following two years. This event can be viewed as geoengineering performed by nature. It is, of course, not possible to extrapolate and inject the stratosphere with aerosols and hope the temperature shall drop. Playing God with unproven techniques can be highly dangerous.

### Carbon Dioxide Removal CDR

There is an approach which appears to hold the best prospects of success is to increase the rate at which carbon dioxide is absorbed by the oceans. It is estimated that 25% of the oceans surface has no plankton due to lack of nutrients. The idea would be to





remedies. In Figure 2 above, geoengineering techniques are divided into two categories, carbon dioxide removal and solar radiation management. In other words, rather than reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere which is a slow long term process, immediate results might be expected from reducing the amount of solar radiation reaching the earth.

In the right hand side of the above figure, three different methods for reducing the amount of solar radiation are shown. The comparative cost, readiness and safety of each method are also indicated:

- Covering the vast deserts with reflective sheets to reflect sunlight back into space
- Inject the stratosphere with sulphur aerosols to reflect sunlight and increase cloud condensation.
- Putting large reflector mirror into space to reflect the sunlight away from the Earth

## Conclusions

None of the above methods, save forestation, is conclusive or indeed feasible on a vast industrial scale. A lot more research is needed, but time is running out and the global dangers associated with this phenomenon can't be ignored any longer. Personally, I think we are leaving a heavy burden to our children and grandchildren, which they may not be able to tackle or resolve.

sprinkle iron dust in the form of ferrous sulphate. This dust seems to enhance the growth of plankton and thus increase the rate of CO<sub>2</sub> absorption from the atmosphere. Field trials on small scales have not been conclusive but research is going on at to try and establish the feasibility of such a method.

The other methods on the table are increasing forestation, plant trees on a large scale. Unfortunately the Amazon rain forest is being depleted instead of maintained and enlarged.

Finally, carbon dioxide could be removed chemically from the atmosphere by using sodium hydroxide, which reacts with the atmospheric carbon dioxide to produce sodium carbonate Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> which is a solid at ambient temperatures.

## Other Innovative Methods

Even if carbon dioxide removal were possible on an industrial scale, its impact on climate change is likely to be very slow and long term. Needed are other more effective and quick



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## Iraq before the Wars

Contributed by IMCZ member Jean-Pierre Lamaudiere

In the early eighties I spent three years in Iraq, as Deputy Project Manager for a huge Irrigation Project and was based in the oil town of Kirkuk, some 250 km north of Baghdad. I moved there with my family, where we joined several other expatriate families complete with wives and children. After a while we moved to live in a private house within the city of Kirkuk next to Iraqi families. We had no problem getting the approval of the management because the safety conditions were totally met for any foreigner.

### Kirkuk Irrigation Project

The project I worked for was worth several billions US dollars and had two major objectives:

- to encourage Iraqi Arabs to move in order to tip the balance in favour of the Arabs in a mixed Arab-Kurdish area and
- to enhance food production so contribute Iraq's self-sufficiency in food.

It involved the development of some 250'000 hectares of barren rolling hills into agricultural land, and was thus one of the biggest irrigation schemes in the world. Water was to be diverted from the Lower Zab river (one of five tributaries of the Tigris River within Iraq) into the area.

The design included large canals with a water flow of up to 250 cubic metres per second (The Reus at Sins discharges about 150 cubic metres per second), covering a distance of several hundred km. Some of the canals were concreted and then lined with EPDM (a type of synthetic rubber), others were basic earth canals.

Additionally, some 60 pumping stations were to be built. Their sizes ranged from medium to large, the largest was 50 MW installed capacity. (the electrical consumption of

around 17000 homes). Additionally, several hundred kilometres of piping were installed. They range from 25 cm to 2.2 metres in diameters, and were constructed from pre-stressed concrete, reinforced concrete, ductile iron or asbestos.

The project was a true 'turn key' one, with all the ancillary infrastructure required which includes a complete road network, electrical substations and power lines, housing for workers and staff complete with nurseries, schools, a hospital and shopping centres.

For the farmers who would exploit this vast farmland additional facilities were added which include storage buildings, poultry farms, workshops etc. On top, and in order to expedite and facilitate start kick the project, all necessary agricultural machinery, transportation buses, pickups etc were also included.

The project involved awarding altogether 60 different contracts to various international corporations from all over Europe (Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, ex Yugoslavia, Romania, Russia, Portugal, UK), as well as from Asia and the Far East (South Korea, India, Japan), and from Middle East (Lebanon, Turkey). The unskilled manpower was mainly from Pakistan, India and the Philippines.

The engineering design, including detailed construction drawings, supervision and implementation of this vast project, were carried out by KIPA: Kirkuk Irrigation Project Administration, an Iraqi state entity specially created for this project. It was getting support from a French consultancy firm.

Unlike in other Arab countries, there were many women in high positions working there. In fact there were females at the heads of several departments in KIPA. Even the soil testing laboratory in Baghdad was headed by a woman. We had close cooperation with this laboratory for the purpose of continued testing of soil samples.

### Hidden Agenda

Of course, we were aware that there was a hidden agenda in this huge project. It was not only to make Iraq the breadbasket of the region, but also to shift the balance of ethnic population in the area in favour of Arabs. The Kirkuk area is famous for its vast and well developed oil reserves. It was inhabited by Kurds, Arabs and Turkomans. The latter were remnants from the Ottoman occupation of Iraq. The Arabs did not form a majority which was deemed a long term deficit. This project was aimed at altering this deficit which was reflected in our employment policy: we were not encouraged to hire Kurds in key positions. The Kurds we employed were in lower functions such as watchmen, housekeepers, and helpers etc.



A Kirkuk Irrigation Project Canal

### Catapult into a modern nation

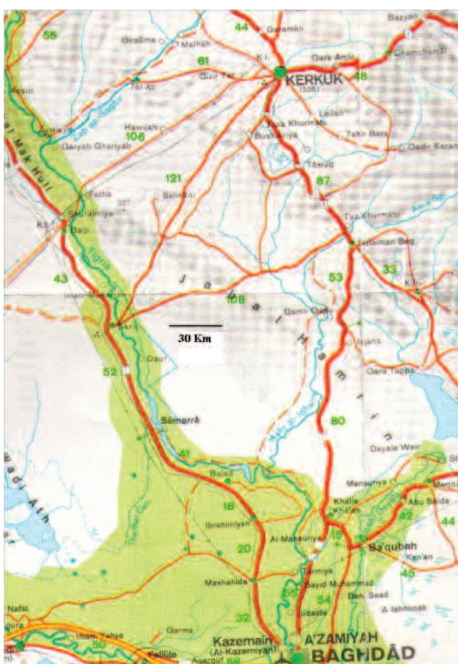
Vast as our project was, it was not the only one going on at the time. There were several other projects of the same magnitude and scope taking place at the same time. All these projects were meant to boost the economy and catapult Iraq into the legion of developed nations. There were projects for highways (autobahns crisscrossing the whole country), high speed trains, airports, water distribution, rainwater drainage, sewage treatment, potable water supply, electrification including OHTL (Overhead Transmission Lines), and substations, industrial buildings, hospitals, universities and thousands of housing projects. The contractors who were implementing these projects were literally from all over the world except Israel. Iraq was heavily investing in building and developing the country to enter the XXth century using the latest available know-how and technology. In that it was well ahead of other Arab countries, which invested very little in their own countries.

Apart from heavy investment in the purchase of weapons of all sorts by all by all the rich oil producing Arab countries, they invested their additional billions of US\$ in the USA or to a lesser extent in Europe but hardly in their own countries. Iraq was an exception. The only one at the time.

### Shehrezade and one thousand and nights

Our life at the time was very much European style. We were driving cars from any origin we chose, our children were visiting international schools, we dined out in excellent restaurants, we joined Iraqis over weekends in 'caravanserais' like excursions: a kind of a night restaurant accompanied by music and dance and we truly imagined that were we enjoying one thousand and one night ambience. We also visited many archaeological sites, and enjoyed picnicking in the Kurdish mountains. Most important, medical care was first class, with very well equipped facilities and highly competent doctors and surgeons.

With so many expats of different nationalities around, we organised soccer matches, car rallies, tennis challenges between them. We truly had our mini Olympics there. Outside





activities were not limited to matches and challenges, we had carnival masquerades, went cannoning in small streams near Kirkuk. Life was altogether very pleasant. What made even more pleasant was that we were able to import, tax free, all the fine foods which we couldn't find on the local market: oysters, goose-duck liver, pork, champagne and good wines. Some hunting enthusiasts among us, rented out Kalashnikovs from the military to hunt wild boars!

We were able to do all this because the country was extremely safe. Of course we knew that this safety had come at a price. The security forces, military, police, civil defence and secret service was heavily present all over the place. Each and every one of us was closely watched and monitored. As long as we didn't cross a red line, we were able to enjoy the extensive freedom we had. What or where was this invisible red line? Yes you guessed correctly, keep out of politics and do not criticise the government.

During summer vacations, we used to make the 3000 km drive back home to France regularly. The journey through north Iraq, Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia, Italy and finally France was always an enjoyable ride with many interesting places to see on the way. The crowning pleasure of the journey was that we were allowed to keep our Arabic orange car registration plates, so that we were able to park anywhere with impunity. The traffic wardens and police were unable to read Arabic and no parking tickets could be issued.

## Cuneiform Clay Tablets to France

The authorities were very meticulous about protecting Iraq's past and had very strict regulations regarding all artefacts. It was forbidden to export any piece of antiquity. The penalty for unauthorised attempts to smuggle them were draconic: heavy fines, prison and even death sentence. They wanted to avoid a repeat of what happened in Greece, Egypt, South America, Indonesia and Cambodia etc.

During the execution of the project and digging of canals, we had often come across mounds with treasure troves of artefacts,

which we have to immediately report to the authorities. On one occasion, we came across a mound which was particularly rich with old tablets of cuneiform scriptures. One of the engineers working for me was very fond of Iraq history. He had worked for 10 years in Iraq and was about to leave and return to France. He begged me to find a way to enable him to take one tablet with him as a souvenir of his long experience in Iraq. As I was in charge of all earthworks of the project, I needed to send soil samples now and again for specific laboratory analysis abroad. I decided therefore to change the shape of one tablet into a cylindrical form, so that it appeared as a borehole sample. Wrapped in cloth, filled with paraffin and sealed, with a label saying, "Very Fragile, Sample of Saddam Hussein Project, Sample do not disturb" it passed undisturbed all check points and customs and ended up in my friends home. Who know, he may even have put my name on it.

## The new Nebuchadnezzar

Unfortunately the drive to improve the lot of the Iraqi people and develop the infra-structure of the country had the aim of making Iraq a militarily very powerful country which would dominate the oil rich gulf area as well as the whole Arab world. Saddam Hussein's dream was to become the new Nebuchadnezzar in the Middle East.

It was sad to see how most western countries, US and Russia were enthusiastic about selling their weapons, warplanes, and warships to rich Iraq. Yet at the same time they were doing the same to supply Iran and the surrounding Arab countries with the latest and most sophisticated weapon systems.

After my three years sojourn in Iraq in the early eighties, I returned twice to it. The first time was in 1990 after the end of the Iraq-Iran 8 years crippling war. I was there as an expert on a BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) project. The project in question was a multi purpose hydroelectric power plant in Hindiya on the Euphrates River. The investors were the Chinese State Construction Engineering Corp (CSCEC). Iraq was one of the first countries to use BOT for infrastructure development. It was

a precursor to what was called PPP (Private Public Partnership). It is still a useful tool for investment in Western countries.

Under the Oil for Food program, I returned there in the year 2000 after the first Gulf War over Kuwait. In spite of the crippling sanctions for the previous 10 years, the Iraqis I met were optimistic looking forward for a better future and proud for belonging to a modern nation. Of course they were unhappy about the way Saddam was ruling the country. There were simply too many unnecessary conflicts and coffers were completely empty as a result. Eight years Iraq-Iran war with one million casualties on each side, Kuwait invasion with the second Gulf war, spending billions of US\$ with zero result or benefit to the country, and finally the crippling sanctions. The allegation of possession of non-existent weapons of mass destruction had finally brought the country to its knees.

In spite of all that, I found the people of Iraq had remained open minded, totally secular, the women were completely free to work, drive, wear European dress, smoke, drink, dance and marry Europeans etc. Even during the seventies, women could be found at positions of high responsibility in both public and private sectors.

Personally, I can't help wondering why the path to modernity, to the installation of a real laic state in that region, was stopped so abruptly? Was it only due to Saddam's mad dreams of expansionist policy, or were the powers that be, deliberately undermining this successful trend in that hot bed part of the world, in order to take over control of the vast natural resources, foremost of which the oil? I was told once by an expert, that the last barrel of oil on planet Earth would come from Iraq!

## Further reading:

[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurkuk](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurkuk)  
[www.virtualmuseumiraq.cnr.it](http://www.virtualmuseumiraq.cnr.it)  
[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesopotamia](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesopotamia)  
[www.fineartregistry.com/articles/durrani\\_anayat/iraqs\\_modern\\_art.php](http://www.fineartregistry.com/articles/durrani_anayat/iraqs_modern_art.php)  
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## The XXX Olympiad in London

Contributed by IMCZ member Mike Bentley

London will host the 30th Olympiad of the Modern Age from July 27, 2012. For the foreseeable future London will be unique in being the only city to have hosted the Games three times. Even that is somewhat due to fate - the first time the Games were held in London in 1908 the Games had been scheduled to be held in Rome, but, due to the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 1906, the Italian Government decided to divert the funds to the restorations needed in Naples and London stepped in. London was awarded the games in 1944 which were cancelled due to World War II, but agreed to host the games in 1948, known as the Austerity Games because no new location was built and every event was hosted in an existing facility.

be Live Screens in Hyde Park and Victoria Park and for the Paralympics in Trafalgar Square which will offer great opportunities to soak up some of the atmosphere.

Many of the competing nations will be hosting Hospitality Houses where there will be concerts, exhibitions, parties and a chance to meet some of the athletes. Glaziers Hall near Borough Market will host the House of Switzerland, which will also spill over into the nearby Mug House Bar and Southwark Cathedral's Refectory and Millennium Courtyard. An outdoor public area will be used for cultural events, performances and medal ceremonies for Swiss athletes.

10th – hopefully many of the athletes will be able to show their various medals.

Back to the Games themselves, there are bound to some surprises and even controversies but hopefully the six weeks will pass in a spirit of goodwill and in keeping with Pierre de Coubertin's stated intentions "L'important dans la vie ce n'est point le triomphe, mais le combat, l'essentiel ce n'est pas d'avoir vaincu mais de s'être bien battu" Personally, as an old Jamaican resident, I am looking forward to seeing Blake, Bolt and Powell finish 1,2 & 3 in the 100 metres, although not necessarily in that order!



Furthermore there will be a continuous stream of special events – one to be aware of if you are in London (in fact UK) on July 27th is the All the Bells ceremony, when for three minutes there will be a cacophony of bells from 8.00am. Every conceivable bell will be rung - Church bells, doorbells, school bells, bicycle bells – you have been warned, [www.allthebells.com](http://www.allthebells.com) .

*The author of this article, Michael Bentley, has volunteered to be a London Ambassador for the Games – a grand title for what is effectively a visitors' information guide. There will be 8000 Ambassadors deployed during the Games throughout London and the London airports – instantly recognizable due to their distinctive purple and pink uniforms. This select group who are all volunteers, totally without any privileges, was selected from an original group of 32,000. As it has involved three separate trips to London for training as well as the trip for the actual Games, it is not without some personal expense; however many other of the Ambassadors are also from far distant places too – including France, Germany, Wales and Scotland. As we all agree, the Games are unlikely to pass by London again in our lifetimes. Do come and say hello to Michael who will be at the Hyde Park Live Site from August 1st to August 6th (8 am to 2pm)*

London was a good second favourite to Paris to host the 2012 Games – if in doubt look at the scenes when the announcement was made in Singapore in 2005 – only two photographers were positioned in front of the British delegation – within a minute hundreds had arrived from the other side of the hall.

The Olympic flame is already on its way to the UK; the relay will start at Land's End on May 19th; Ben Ainslie, triple sailing gold medalist will be the first torchbearer and will pass it on to another 7,999 persons as its route will take it near to 95% of the British population – from July 21–27 the Flame will be in London and visit every London borough during this time.

Full details of what is happening and where to find it is available at <http://www.visitlondon.com/london2012>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAPU51QTK4&feature=related>

There is general agreement that the first Olympic Games were held in 776 BC and consisted of one event- a sprint. In the 2012 games there will be 205 nations, 26 sports with 302 events in the Olympic Games and 503 events in the Paralympics. The Paralympics had their origins in 1948 when games for disabled athletes were held at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in UK, a world renowned rehabilitation center. The Paralympics (meaning the Parallel Olympics) became official in 1960 and there is now a formal contract that they will be hosted in the same city as the Olympic Games each four years.

The River Thames of course, features large this summer – starting with the Queen's Jubilee which will be celebrated during the first week of June and which will include a pageant on the River on Sunday June 3rd involving 1000 boats (and the Queen and Duke!). Other events more directly related to the Games are the Olympic Rings which will adorn Tower Bridge, the floodlighting of the main London bridges, the River of Music weekend (July 21–22) when there will be free concerts for the stretch of the River from Battersea to Greenwich (free but advanced tickets required) – not to be confused with the River Thames festival which will be held on September 8–9th – in fact there will be overall more than 12,000 cultural events from June 21 to September 9th – a full program can be downloaded free:

Do have a look at the site – it is fascinating.



Boris in the uniform but not with Michael Bentley!

If you do not already have tickets for the Games in London, you are probably too late – nonetheless you can still see some events for free, including the Marathon, 20km and 50km Walking and the cycle road races. There will

<http://festival.london2012.com/brochure/> – fill your paper tray first – it is 140 pages. The last official event will be the Parade of (British) athletes in London on September





## From the LANES... **Thin Attendance, two new players**

Contributed by  
IMCZ Member  
Steve Butterworth

So we had 7 brave souls for the bowling tonight, ignoring the football, the dreary cold weather and the holiday days off this week! It was another fun evening out with one very clear winner, playing above his average! Yes well done Otto Steuri and very well done to our new Dutch player Maurice Corton, try as I may I could not keep up and my middle game let me down.

Nice to see 2 new players out of 7!

That's it for another month, where do they all go. June 20th is next event date.

### HANDICAPPED TOTALS

FirstName	Surname	Game1	Game2	Game3	Handicapped	overall_avg	handicap	STRIKES	SPARES
Otto	Steuri	161	152	187	632	145	44	10	9
Maurice	Corton	111	82	148	584	99	81	4	6
Stephen	Butterworth	153	103	131	573	123	62	5	10
Janis	Meier	138	121	120	568	122	63	5	8
Beat	Züger	101	135	147	536	137	51	4	10
Phil	Woodford	88	163	96	533	123	62	5	5
Christian	Münger	85	96	68	492	99	81	2	6



### Anecdotes

- If your father is a poor man it is your fate but, if your father-in-law is a poor man it's your fault.
- I was born intelligent - education ruined me.
- Practice makes perfect... But nobody's perfect... So why practice?
- If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?
- Since light travels faster than sound, people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- Behind every successful man, there is a woman. And behind every unsuccessful man, there are two.
- Every man should marry. After all, happiness is not the only thing in life.
- The wise never marry. And when they marry they become otherwise.
- Success is a relative term. It brings so many relatives.
- Never put off the work till tomorrow what you can put off today.
- 'Your future depends on your dreams, so go to sleep.
- There should be a better way to start a day than waking up every morning
- Hard work never killed anybody, but why take the risk
- Work fascinates me I can look at it for hours.
- God made relatives; thank God we can choose our friends.
- The more you learn, the more you know. The more you know, the more you forget. The more you forget, the less you know. So.. why learn anyway?
- A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.... What more can I say?



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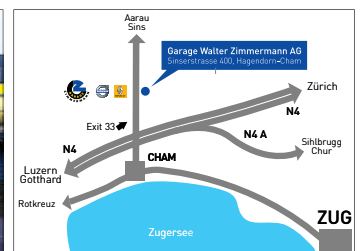
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# WWW.SELECTIONS

by IMCZ member David Harris

All web sites included in this series are offered in an unbiased way and do not always reflect my personal views; the reasons for bringing them to your attention are that I found them interesting, perhaps offering another point of view and definitely worthy of note.



## FLYING CARS

[www.roadabletimes.com](http://www.roadabletimes.com)

This website offers images & descriptions of flying cars and roadable aircraft, past and present. Over one hundred designs plus other reports are to be found here.



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[www.leviaducdemillau.com](http://www.leviaducdemillau.com)

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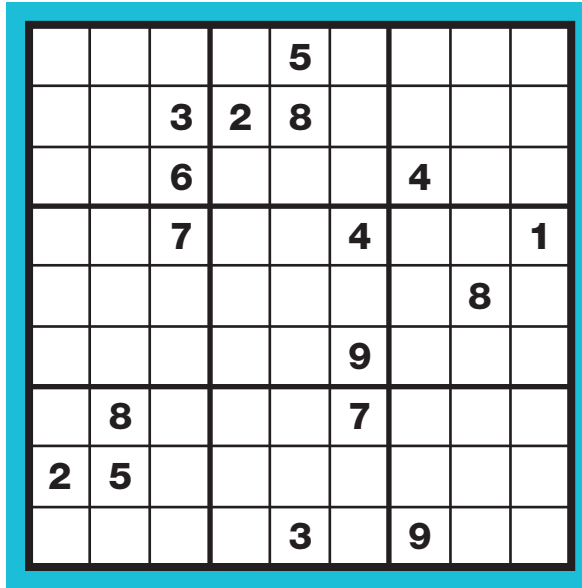


## Sudoku

The response to last month's Sudoku was not great, so I am making this month's puzzle more difficult, but still fairly straight forward with no guessing whatsoever. The Einsteins of the Club are being challenged. They have to prove that their grey cells are still in order.

The winner shall be drawn from the pool of correct solutions received. His drinks during the next Stammtisch he attends shall be on the house. Please simply tell the waitress it is on the house, she will find her way to the Zahlmeiser, that is yours truly or Max.

According to the hat, the winner of the May puzzle is none other than our Sudoku master, Holger Infeldt. Congratulations Holger, your drinks during the next Stammtisch you attend shall be on the house. The easiest form, in which the solution is sent, is nine rows of nine numbers in a Word document, Excel or email. In every Sudoku, every digit between 1 and 9 occurs exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 square. Please send your answers to [muthana@trasco.ch](mailto:muthana@trasco.ch), on or before the last day of the current month.



### Solution May 2012 Puzzle

7	2	1	9	6	3	8	4	5
5	3	9	1	4	8	6	2	7
4	8	6	2	5	7	1	3	9
3	5	8	7	2	9	1	1	6
2	1	4	8	9	6	5	7	3
6	9	7	5	3	1	4	8	2
9	6	3	4	1	2	7	5	8
1	7	5	3	8	9	2	6	4
8	4	2	6	7	5	3	9	1



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