

# IMCZ NEWS



FEBRUARY 2015



## EDITORIAL

### Ski Time

The snow was late this year, very late. Up to Christmas Eve there was hardly any snow in most ski resorts. But it did come, and plenty of it, in the New Year to the delight of the winter sport fans and the ski resorts' owners. One of the delights of living in Switzerland is the ease with which one can reach the mountains and ski resorts. The magnificent, breathtaking pristine view from the top of the mountains on a clear day, is an experience no one should miss. The air alone, pure, clean and cold, is a pleasure to breathe.

Yes we are fortunate to have all these at our doorsteps, what is more your club has taken on itself to organise a ski outing every year, with a professional ski instructor to coach beginners, intermediate and skilled skiers. This is a golden opportunity to get out of the city and cherish magnificent nature. So, if you fancy a bit of skiing, bring along your skis, or rent a pair for the day at the resort. Do make a note of the date in your diaries, it is Saturday February 28.

**Muthana Kubba**  
Editor

[newsletter@imcz.com](mailto:newsletter@imcz.com)



## FUTURE EVENTS

- THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5TH **Stammtisch at Garden City Hotel Lobby**
- WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11TH **Bowling at the White Line Bowling Centre, Meierskappel** *Stephen Butterworth*
- THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12TH **Stammtisch at Garden City Hotel Lobby**
- THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19TH **Special Stammtisch at Garden City Hotel** *Presentation by Mr. Pieter Smeets founder of the sports performance company Athletic Performance, entitled "Training Today's Adults"*
- THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26TH **Stammtisch at Garden City Hotel Lobby**
- SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28TH **Ski Weekend in Stoos** *Ian Karran*
- THURSDAY MARCH 5TH **Stammtisch at Garden City Hotel Lobby**
- THURSDAY MARCH 12TH **Stammtisch at Garden City Hotel Lobby**
- WEDNESDAY MARCH 18TH **Bowling at the White Line Bowling Centre, Meierskappel** *Stephen Butterworth*
- THURSDAY MARCH 19TH **Stammtisch at Garden City Hotel Lobby**
- SUNDAY MARCH 22ND **Expat Expo, Lorzen Saal, Cham** *Edward McGaugh*
- THURSDAY MARCH 26TH **Stammtisch at Garden City Hotel Lobby**
- THURSDAY APRIL 2ND **Stammtisch at Garden City Hotel Lobby**

## YOUR NEWSLETTER GOES PUBLIC

The board had decided to make the current Newsletter available to everyone.

Visitors to our site [imcz.com](http://imcz.com) can read the current Newsletter under About Us -> Current Newsletter

## IMCZ

Introducing...New members

THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

### Markus Kaufmann

Markus hails from Stuttgart, Germany, home to Mercedes Benz and Porsche cars as well as several well known fine German products. It has been rumoured that the people there can do everything except speak high German. Markus holds a bachelor degree in Business Administration from the University of Tübingen, and a masters in Economics from the University of Hohenheim. He moved into Switzerland in 2004, lived in Schaffhausen for eight years then moved to Zug two years ago. Markus has more than 15 years of work experience in Supply Chain Management. He has gained deep understanding of global S&OP/IBP (Sales & Operation Planning/Integrated Business Planning) processes by holding various positions with increasing responsibilities in different business environments for either global consumer brands or B2B (Business to Business) companies. At present he is working as Manager S&OP for a chemical company based in Zug, where he is responsible for enhancing the collaboration of key stakeholders across functions, implementation & further integration of global S&OP/IBP systems and processes, and profitability optimization. Markus is married and has three children two boys and one girl. He loves living in Switzerland. His hobbies include sailing, skiing, running, and biking. He also enjoys a good meal, as well as meeting people and listening to classical music and jazz.



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## AGM January 22, 2015

The AGM this year took place at a new venue, the City Garden hotel, just behind the Park Hotel. It started with a pleasant apero with delicious servings of finger foods, and of course drinks, the most popular being beer without alcohol!

After the apero we assembled in the meeting room for the AGM. It was well attended with 41 regular members present. The highlights of the meeting were the President's annual report, the election of the new board and the presentation of awards. Two board members left the board, and three new members were taken on. Awards were given to the departing board members, Max Layherr and Adrian Lüdi, to the organisers of the Burns' Night Dinner, John Stuart and Bastiaan Veenendaal, to the best regular contributors to the Newsletter, Joseph Dow and Remo Jutzeler, as well as to the three most frequent Stammtisch attendees.

### The Presidents Annual Report 2014

The year started as usual with the Burn's Night Dinner which is indeed a fine way to start the year. It was held at a new restaurant but was as great a success as ever, thanks to John Stuart and Bas Veneendaal who have been helping to organise this event since long before I joined the club.

The year has progressed with the usual mix of traditional and new events. The New Member's receptions in Spring and Autumn were, as usual, well attended. The Summer BBQ with the Indian theme was a hit and even included a bit of Indian dancing! But, in addition to this, we also had a visit to the Pilatus Aircraft factory, to the water plant in Baar and to the tunnel in Zurich. So, all in all, a lot of fun was had by everyone. We also added a non-budgeted event to the programme this year: the joint Christmas Gala with the women's club. This was a fantastic evening – for those who did not attend, you missed a great party.

The membership dropped slightly but within the usual fluctuations as a result of new members signing up and resignations as members move away. My standard comment remains the same this year: with so many interesting members, I would love to see more people at the weekly Stammtisch. Turnout is good but only small percentage of members attend regularly and a large proportion are rarely seen at all. I encourage all of you to make an effort to come to the Stammtisch – it's always good to see you.

Financially, the club has over achieved this year after many years of having a focused policy of trying to bring down our surplus funds. This may seem to be a strange policy but, as a club with little expenditure and no regular overheads, we view the surplus cash as being there to give back to the members in the form of subsidised events. We have therefore made a large loss this year. This was more than budgeted due to lower income and higher costs due to a number of large events that were not budgeted for such as the Christmas Gala. This brings the club into the financial situation we were trying to achieve. It also means we now need to shift our focus as a club a little more onto the income side. This means becoming more active in acquiring new members and getting sponsorship for the excellent newsletter and the membership directory. This is a further request to all members.

The Newsletter has continued strongly through 2014 with what I consider to be the highest quality newsletter for any club of our size. Thank you Muthana for your Herculean effort in keeping it going.

Andrew Schofield will also be helping in future – we have many members who have contributed over the year and hope they and others will continue to do so. We have so many interesting members with interesting professions and personal backgrounds that there must be wealth of information sitting in the club and just screaming to be published.

My final thanks go to the members of the board who have, like every year I have been president, performed admirably and made my job as president comfortable and enjoyable. Thanks to:

- Max for keeping a keen and professional eye on the finances.
- Adrian for his dedicated and efficient work as secretary.
- Amit for his continual presence and help at the Stammtisch.
- Danilo for his heavy time investment in organising events.
- Roger for his extensive and intensive commitment to the website and keeping this in order.

I extend giant thank you to you all. I look forward to a prosperous 2015 with fresh faces on the board and a more focused eye on membership and income. 2014 has been a real pleasure and I am sure that 2015 will also be.

Andy Habermacher, President



## IMCZ

Introducing...New members

THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

### Tobias von Monkiewitsch

Tobias hails from the Black Forest in South Germany. He completed his studies in Germany, Austria and the UK, and holds a degree as 'Master of Arts in Tourism Management' from the University of Brighton in the UK. He subsequently worked in this field in several countries including New Zealand, Italy and the UK. He moved to Switzerland in 2000, originally to work in the tourism industry, but changed later into real estate business. At present he is working successfully as a licensed estate agent with RE/MAX.

Tobias has two kids (4 and 8 years old), and considers himself well integrated in the Swiss society. His hobbies include photography and painting, and he enjoys hiking, travelling, diving, sailing and listening to classical music.



### Peter Mandl

Peter grew up and studied Business Administration in Linz, Austria. He came first to Zug in 2000 to be part in an IT project at the Zuger Kantonal Bank. He stayed on working with a Swiss consulting company and later became self-employed handling international projects. After his wedding with Anna, his wife from St. Petersburg, Russia and the birth of Anton in 2008, he thought it would be a good to go back to Vienna. However, he found out some years later that Zug is actually a good place to be in. Peter enjoys playing golf, reading and tinkering with Python (a programming language).



## IMCZ BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member bios are posted under the following link: <a href="http://www.imcz.com/nc/about-us/board-members-2014.html">http://www.imcz.com/nc/about-us/board-members-2014.html</a> . Go ahead and check them out!	<b>PRESIDENT</b> <b>Andy Habermacher</b> 078 815 8837 President@IMCZ.com	<b>SECRETARY</b> <b>Ronald Livius</b> 079 651 8357 Secretary@IMCZ.com	<b>TREASURER</b> <b>Ilham Yüksel</b> 079 955 2287 Treasurer@IMCZ.com	<b>NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR</b> <b>Andrew Schofield</b> 079 338 0477 Newsletter@IMCZ.com
<b>VICE PRESIDENT NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b> <b>Muthana Kubba</b> 079 340 2592 Newsletter@IMCZ.com	<b>STAMMTISCH AND MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR</b> <b>Amit Purohit</b> 078 620 0242 Stammtisch@IMCZ.com Membership@imcz.com	<b>EVENT COORDINATOR</b> <b>Danilo Bertocchi</b> 079 202 4603 Events@IMCZ.com	<b>WEBMASTER</b> <b>Roger Brooks</b> 079 583 9935 webmaster@imcz.com	



## The 19th Burns' Night Supper

Compiled by IMCZ President Andy Habermacher and IMCZ member Andrew Glass

The piper's a piping. Another Burns' Supper has passed with the sweet (some may argue whether bagpipes can be sweet) tunes from Craig Holmquist's pipes. Craig did an excellent job as he has always done for the last three years.

It was good to see many old faces and ex-president's of the club with Ian Park who kicked off the first Burns' supper 20 years ago. We were guided through the evening under the gentle guiding hands of John Stuart a veteran Burns' Supper participant, Master of Ceremonies and Organiser. His jokes were as old as ever and still as funny as ever. For those Burns' Supper virgins it was a feast indeed - shortly after the first rally on the bagpipes and the wine ordered, the Haggis was also brought in with a flurry of piping - Bruce Mathers, whose talents include music and theatre, did yet another masterful performance addressing the Haggis with the theatrics of a professional actor (though for those that don't understand Scottish it may have been a little hard to follow but nonetheless entertaining).

The Haggis freshly devoured, Lindsay Johnston launched into his moving and apt "Immortal Memory" the speech focusing on the life, idiosyncrasies and achievements of Burns. More food and wine followed and a dash of whisky here and there to be followed by Bas Veneendal's Toast to the Lassies. Vicky Stewart did another admirable job with her "Reply to the Laddies" combining humour and a critical and perceptive look at us males.



As is usual with the Burns' Supper the time flew by with such a host of fun and serious speeches, music, Haggis and rituals and not forgetting the socialising with over 60 guests. The evening was closed, as per tradition, with a rendering of Auld Lang Syne and we slowly departed in good spirits for home.

Another Burns' Supper, another fantastic evening and another year to wait till the next one. Special thanks to John Stuart and Bastiaan Veneendal for their never ending energy in organising this great event.

The Cast:  
Master of Ceremonies • **John Stuart** • **Selkirk Grace**  
• **Brenda Veenendaal**  
Address to the Haggis • **Bruce Mathers**  
The Immortal Memory • **Lindsay Johnston**  
Toast to the Lassies • **Bastiaan Veenendaal**  
Reply to the Laddies • **Vicky Stewart**  
Scottish Highland Pipes • **Craig Holmquist**



## Special Stammtisch Presentation

### Training Today's Adults *The Importance of getting stronger and moving faster*

On Thursday February 19th, the founder of the sports performance company, "Athletic Performance", Mr. Pieter Smeets, shall make a presentation on training today's adults. The importance of sport in staying fit cannot be over emphasised, especially in today's over-digitised world, in which is moving no longer required. This applies in particular to the new generation of young men and women whose eyes are glued to their smart phones and thumbs texting incessantly. Come along, enjoy and apero and listen to the professionals



## OBITUARY

The Club regrets to inform that IMCZ Club member **William D. O'Brien** passed away in January. William was a long time loyal member of the club but had not participated much in club activities. We extend our regret and condolences to his family and loved ones.



## IMCZ Ski Day at Stoos 28th Feb 2015



Ian from the IMCZ is organising a ski day at the beautiful ski area of Stoos, just 35 minutes from Zug. Ian qualified in 1997 in Quebec, and has taught in Canada, America, New Zealand and Switzerland. He has spent 13 seasons teaching all ages and levels and also trained future instructors. (Qualifications: CSIA 3, CSCF1, CADS1, and level 1 course conductor).

This ski day is a great opportunity to 'get your ski legs back'. There will be TWO FREE INFORMAL ski sessions, where you can get tips and tricks to help you get the most out of skiing, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. **You only need to turn up in Stoos, and buy a lift pass.**

There are limited spaces available so places are on a first come first served basis. Please read below to see which group you would best fit in, and sign up!

To book your place on either the AM or PM ski session, please email Ian: [info@iankarran.com](mailto:info@iankarran.com)

- **0900/0915 Meeting AT** – in Stoos at the Sesselbahn Fronalpstock 1 (see map on page 2). Please don't be late, and be ready to ski with lift pass (not included).
  - **AM: Lower intermediates** – (0930 till 1230). You must be able to ski blues without effort while being in control and be able to ski reds in control of your line and speed. (Max number of 6 people).
  - **1230 until 1330 Time for lunch:** This will be at the top of Fronalpstock in the self service restaurant.
  - **1315/1330 Meeting** – Just outside the self service restaurant at the top of Fronalpstock.
- If you can't find us just call me 078 800 07 03!
- **PM: Advanced intermediate/advanced** – (1330 till 1530). You must be able to ski reds comfortably while being in control and be able/willing to do blacks in control of your line and speed. (Max number of 6 people).

### Arrival by car at the Schwyz-Stoos funicular:

- The funicular transports 1,000 people per hour
- Take the "Schwyz" motorway exit and follow the signage towards Stoos/Muotathal.
- GPS: 46.992284°N, 8.668764°E

### Arrival by public transport:

Take the train to Schwyz and continue with the direct bus to the bottom station of the Stoos lift. From there you will ride the lift up to car-free Stoos mountain village.

### How to get to Sesselbahn Fronalpstock 1:

When you arrive at the top of the Schwyz-Stoos funicular (marked 'i'), you can ski to the drag lift marked below, or you can walk up through Stoos to the meeting point marked X.

\*NB: These are not ski lessons, purely a member offering to lead an informal ski session, and therefore no responsibility can be taken by Ian Karran for accidents or otherwise. You need to ensure that you are fully insured for any accident or injury.





## Body fat reduction with CLA: another authorities' twist of existing regulations and legal framework

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

EFSA, the European Food Safety Author, responsible for the evaluation of health claims on food submitted by the industry, and the provision of a scientific opinion to the attention of the European Commission, recently rejected a weight management claim on conjugated linoleic acid (CLA). It is again an example of how authorities twist and bend regulatory directives and guidelines in order to attain or maintain politically desired results.

EFSA wrote in its opinion: "The Panel considers that the information provided does not establish that a reduction in body fat mass, when accompanied by an increase in markers of lipid peroxidation and inflammation, is a beneficial [...] effect." Notably, the "reduction in body fat mass" per se is not questioned! It is the side effects, which provoke the denial of a qualification as "beneficial effect". At first glance this seems reasonable, of course. But at a closer look several general and particular concerns over the proper handling of EFSA under the EU's strict health claim laws show up.

First of all, the disputed increase in "inflammation and lipid peroxidation markers" was sub-clinical and only found in a minority of studies, only with single-isomer supplementation of CLA, and never with the submitted double-isomer form of CLA.

Second, in 2010 the safety of the proposed use of CLA for up to six months had been evaluated by the same EFSA, and reaffirmed in 2012, even if possible negative side effects were suspected during this same time frame.



Third, the way in which the claim had been rejected is unprecedented, and explicitly is unforeseen since EFSA in all its scientific opinions on health claims disclaims the assessment of the safety of use. Safety assessments have to be undertaken separately – as it has also been the case and mentioned above with CLA.

Fourth, in the approval of novel foods and health claims there already exist the possibility to precondition legal requirements with regard to appropriate label warnings, restrictions and conditions of use, e.g. warnings for certain consumer groups. Such conditions of use apply e.g. for betaine regarding blood cholesterol levels.

Fifth, and most ironically, CLA is still approved (based on the above mentioned safety assessments of EFSA) and free for use in foods and supplements – just without the health claim!

The political decision behind this health claim rejection is also not in line, but rather in direct contrast, with the ban of a health claim for glucose by the European Commission (EC), in spite of five (!) health claims approved by EFSA back in 2012. In the case of the

food decisions consumers are considered upon by politicians. Even though there is indeed more or less a consensus about the health risks of excess sugar consumption, namely diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and overweight/obesity; the crucial fact is that these are just about the potential



claim denial for glucose the EC argued with its consumer health policy "due to concerns over what a claim would say to consumers about sugar consumption" and that these claims were inconsistent with "generally accepted nutrition and health principles". Implicitly, this argumentation opens the door to another political discussion about how self-responsible and educated in nutrition and

health benefits of a "reduction in body fat mass" which may be achieved with the supplementation of CLA!

Can claims not be restricted to avoid encouraging excessive use? In its decision, the EC said that even if the health claims were to be authorised with specific conditions of use or accompanied by additional warnings, "it would not be sufficient to alleviate the confusion of the consumer, and consequently the claim should not be authorised." Understood, you dummy?



## The End of Humanity

Contributed by IMCZ member and Newsletter co-editor Andrew Schofield

It is difficult to imagine a more attention grabbing title than this one. The idea for this article arose while reviewing the "What happened to the Turing Test?" article on artificial intelligence by Muthana Kubba in last month's IMCZ Newsletter.

It all started when Ray Kurzweil published his sixth book in 2005 entitled, "The Singularity is Near" (IMCZ Newsletter of March 2010) in which he very convincingly argues that by 2029 machines will match humans in intelligence and by 2045 they will far exceed them. He calls this date a singularity, a term borrowed from mathematics meaning a sudden and complete change of all parameters. Kurzweil anticipated sudden and total disruption in human society, but not necessarily the annihilation of mankind.



Ray Kurzweil

### Stephen Hawking

In December last year, the theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking warned that: "the development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race.". In particular, he warned that we should take the risk seriously before it is too late. Earlier in the year, the technology entrepreneur Elon Musk (CEO/CTO of SpaceX and Tesla Motors among other things) also expressed grave concerns:

"I don't think anyone realizes how quickly artificial intelligence is advancing. Particularly if [the machine is] involved in recursive self-improvement ... and its utility function is something that's detrimental to humanity, then it will have a very bad effect."



Stephen Hawking

Perhaps the stimulus for this interest in the risks of artificial intelligence was a book published earlier in 2014: "Superintelligence: Paths, Dangers, Strategies" by Oxford philosopher Nick Bostrom.

In this book he concludes that, if we fail to meet this challenge, malevolent or indifferent Artificial Intelligence will likely destroy us all.

These warnings are alarming even considering today's tendency to attract attention by over-sensationalizing. So is this dismal end to our species really going to happen? Every year technology and computing capacity advances at an exponential rate (Moore's law: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moore's\\_law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moore's_law)).

### Software versus Hardware

As a software engineer, I know that it takes a few years for software to catch up with the latest hardware advances, but at some point

it does. Perhaps hardware has already developed sufficiently to run such Artificial Intelligence and we are just waiting for the software to catch up. Human evolution, on the other hand, is pitifully slow. If you set aside technology, we do not seem to be very different beings to those that founded our civilization thousands of years ago. So surely machine development must catch up with and then finally overtake human development. It is just a matter of time. Stephen Hawking and others say that this is imminent but, even if they are wrong, then it can only be about the timing and not the likelihood of it happening.

An interesting alternative way to assess the probability of something occurring is to look instead at the probability of it **not** occurring. So what could happen that will prevent the predictions from being fulfilled?

Well first of all, the assumption that technology will advance at its current giddy pace may be wrong. There is always a tendency to assume that future events can be predicted by extrapolating the progress made in our own lifetimes. The brevity of human life gives us a very poor perspective on long term progress. This is exemplified by the "Great Horse Manure Crisis of 1894" when the Times reported:

"In 50 years, every street in London will be buried under nine feet of manure."

Although no one at the time could see how this could be avoided, it did not happen. So what could curtail the current steam roller of technical advance? Apart from a movie-style apocalypse, we could just get bored with this area of technology. Many great empires (and family firms) fade because there eventually comes a generation with different ideals and aspirations to the founders. If you think this is unlikely, consider space exploration. Of course, we are still exploring space but not



with anything like the passion or appeal to the general public that was evident during the "space race" and subsequent moon landings.

### Governed by Benign Artificial Intelligence

Another possibility is that we are able to direct the research in a way that will always benefit mankind instead of displacing it. This is the thrust of "The Future of Life Institute (FLI), of which Stephen Hawking, Elon Musk and Nick Bostrom (among numerous other scientific and industry leaders) are members. Last year they published an open letter on the "Research Priorities for Robust and Beneficial Artificial Intelligence". They requested that:

"our Artificial Intelligence systems must do what we want them to do."

Another scenario is that we simply adapt to the new situation that mankind is no longer the sole, or even the most powerful, source of intelligence on Earth. If you look back at history, the majority of people were always controlled by an elite few and usually not for the majority's benefit. A benign machine could perhaps be more beneficial to mankind than a malign ruling class. Each generation despairs at their children's dependence on the latest technology but the children themselves are not concerned in the slightest. If Artificial Intelligence does not develop too quickly then our descendants may be content with the new order even though it would horrify us.

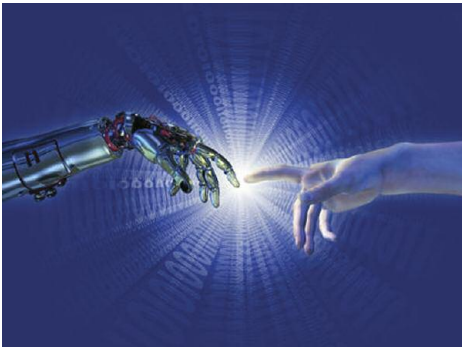
### Putting the Genie back into the Bottle



Now the big question, if it does go wrong, and Artificial Intelligence is no longer benefiting mankind, will we be able to put the genie back in the bottle? Whichever company or country has the most advanced Artificial



Intelligence will have a huge advantage so the tendency will be to develop Artificial Intelligence at any cost irrespective of the dangers. A counter argument to this is the current situation with nuclear weapons. It is now 70 years since a nuclear weapon was actively used in a war. There has been brinkmanship and wars fought about nuclear weapons but the weapons themselves have not been used during that time. Mankind has



effectively driven the nuclear weapons genie back into the bottle, even though we have to continuously and vigilantly monitor the cork. This is quite an achievement and contradicts

many predictions. There is no reason why we could not achieve the same feat with Artificial Intelligence that has run amok.

Many claim that if Artificial Intelligence starts to develop in a threatening direction then we can simply pull the plug. But is this really true? As an analogy consider the internet. We have some influence over how it develops and how our governments regulate it but what if we do not like the result? Even today, unplugging is not an option for most of us. For example,

online flight check-in has changed from being optional to being obligatory for some airlines. The ability to disconnect diminishes daily. Similarly, Artificial Intelligence which starts off being merely useful could quickly become a necessity.

In my opinion it is only a matter of time before there is a human created intelligence greater than our own. Let us just hope our non-human successor finds us either useful or amusing!

## Further Reading

“Superintelligence: Paths, Dangers, Strategies” by Nick Bostrom  
ISBN-13: 978-0199678112

Short BBC video explaining Artificial Intelligence  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-30296999>

The Future of Life Institute (FLI)  
<http://futureoflife.org/who>  
You can sign their open letter here:  
[http://futureoflife.org/misc/open\\_letter](http://futureoflife.org/misc/open_letter)

The Great Horse Manure Crisis of 1894  
<http://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Great-Horse-Manure-Crisis-of-1894/>



**REMEMBER THE STAMMTISCH**

Every Thursday from 18:00–20:30  
At the City Garden Hotel, just behind Park Hotel. More ambience, better service and free parking.

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## Greater Miami (Part 1) or Life's a Beach!

Contributed by IMCZ board member and Webmaster Roger Brooks with photos courtesy of ZIWC member Margareta Pfander

Having resolved to grant ourselves a respite from the cold, and especially from the short days, each winter, we took advantage of my soon-to-expire frequent flyer miles to fly to our former home of South Florida and board a cruise of the Eastern Caribbean.

### Miami, Florida (Friday – Thursday)

Although our cruise departed from Ft. Lauderdale, we chose to fly to Miami and spend a few days there sightseeing and recovering from jetlag before shipping out. The trip started on a slightly sour note, as I already realized on the way to the train station, that I had forgotten to pack the power

1. The bad news is that despite the overall improvement in economic statistics from the U.S., South Florida is having a slow tourist season this year.

2. The good news is that S. Florida has built up the infrastructure to cope with the increasing traffic. In particular there are now dedicated express lanes and exclusive flyovers allowing the traffic to bypass neuralgic interchanges, as well as elevated highway sections, which make it easier to cross between the eastern corridor served by I-95 and the western one served by the Florida Turnpike and the Palmetto Expressway.

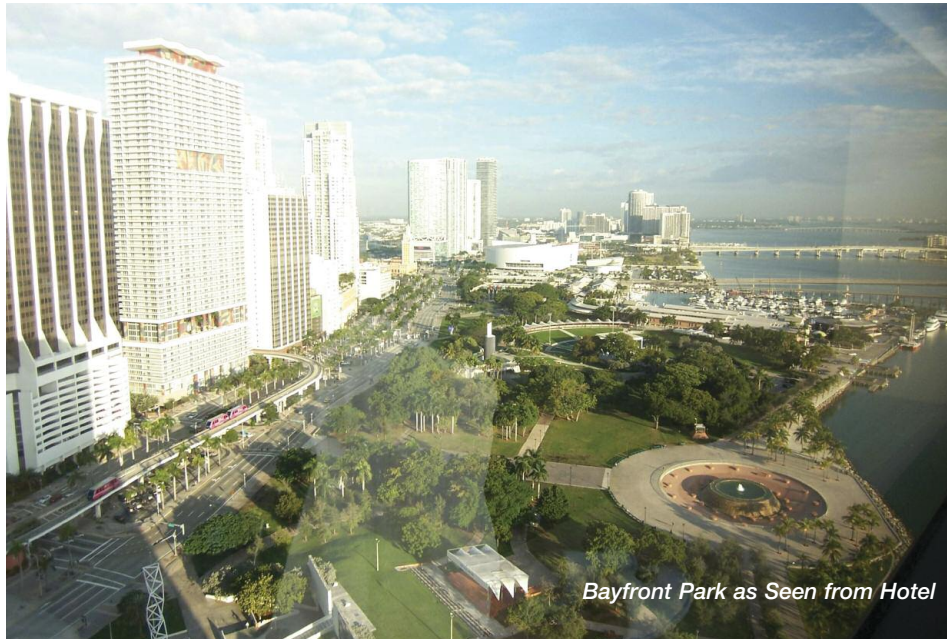
then proceeded up the road to Best Buy and purchased a power supply "guaranteed" to be compatible with my laptop.

As you may already have guessed, the power supply turned out not to include the correct adapter for my laptop model. A phone call to the manufacturer's hotline revealed that, in fact, they didn't even have a model compatible with my laptop. However, Best Buy assured me that they had another model which would serve, so we resolved to visit them when we went back to the mall for the trousers to my suit.

### Zoo Miami (Sunday)

Although we had originally planned to visit the zoo on Monday, and were worried that it might be crowded on a Sunday, we needed something relaxing to do after our shopping trials and tribulations and therefore moved it up in our schedule. The [Miami Zoo](#) was demolished by hurricane Andrew in August, 1992, just 2 weeks before we left S. Florida to move to Switzerland. The rebuilt zoo occupies roughly half of the nearly 300 hectares at its disposal, and provides large islands surrounded by moats for most of the large animals, to avoid caging them. It is the only tropical zoo in the continental U.S., and easily the most impressive zoo that I have seen to date.

We toured the zoo in the clockwise direction, which is opposite from what is intended, in order to be sure to see apes and monkeys, even if we didn't manage to see the whole zoo in our visit. We started with the Birds of Asia, an aviary housing hundreds of birds, which is large enough to encompass a sizable water park, and then moved along to visit the exhibits of Australian and Malaysian wildlife, the orangutans, the gibbons and the "Monkey Meadow". The zoo is roughly divided into quadrants encompassing Australia, Tropical America (emphasizing the Amazon basin), Africa and Asia. The exhibits are distributed around two lakes, the larger of which also offers kayak and pedal boat rentals as well as



Bayfront Park as Seen from Hotel

supply for my laptop. No problem, I thought, I can easily find a replacement in the U.S.

On arriving in Miami, we were greeted by a remarkably easy immigration process, compared with our most recent trips to the U.S., which touched down in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, CA, respectively. Miami has apparently increased their capacity and streamlined their process to handle the flood of sun-seeking tourists. That was perhaps the least radical of the changes since our last visit almost 20 years ago. As the taxi delivered us to our hotel near Bayfront Park on Biscayne Bay, we hardly recognized the place. Many of the former, aging, office buildings and hotels had been replaced by new, taller, high-rises, housing luxury condominiums as well as hotels and offices.

### Getting Mailed (Saturday)

On the day after our arrival, we rented a car, as it can be hard to get around in the U.S. without one. As we drove north to the Aventura Mall, the traffic was not as bad as I had expected. There are two explanations for this:

We had a fairly short shopping list of things we wanted to get before shipping out. Tops on my list were the replacement power supply and a black suit for formal nights on the cruise, as I had "outgrown" my previous one. Unfortunately, I had a hard time finding suitable articles at the Aventura mall. Although the mall was not too crowded in the morning, it filled up quickly in the afternoon, and many businesses were simply too understaffed to handle the onslaught. Although we were promptly and effectively served at Macy's long queues formed at the counters at Sears, particularly in the electronics department, where I went to look for a power supply and to buy a cheap SIM card for local telephone calls. Finally, as our patience ways wearing thin, I found a suitable suit, for which, however, the trousers were not in stock in black in my size, and needed to be brought in from another store location. Against Margareta's advice, I paid for the jacket, trusting the shopkeeper's assurance that the trousers would be there on Monday. We



Lowland Gorilla Inspecting the Humans





rides in what look like large Plexiglas bubbles. Roughly 2/3 of the way through our visit, after having circumnavigated the larger lake, we had a light lunch at the Oasis Grill at the south end of the lake.

It took us the better part of the day (roughly 6 hours) to take in the entire zoo, although one could easily spend more time there. Its reputation is well-deserved; the only thing that disturbed us was the background music playing everywhere. While one is long since accustomed to this in shopping centers, in elevators and in telephone queues, it was our first exposure to it in what purports to be a natural outdoor setting. We had an interesting conversation about this with one of the zookeepers, whom we met at the river otter exhibit. She said that the animals have become accustomed to the music, among the many other noises and disturbances

were in fact damaged, whereupon we returned the previously purchased jacket, and returned, disheartened and frustrated, to our hotel. The moral of the story is: the wife is always right!

At this point, we had had enough of driving around, and opted to return our rental car early. As it turns out, Miami now has relatively good public transportation for such a recently founded American city, but more about that later. We then forgot about our tribulations over an aperitif at the Bayfront Marina before returning to the hotel.

### South Miami Beach (Tuesday)

We had already made a date to have dinner with a Swiss friend and former colleague of Margareta's (and his significant other), who were just ending their vacation on S. Miami Beach as we were beginning ours. We took

us from our landing place to Lincoln Road, most of which is closed to motor vehicles to form a large pedestrian mall. Having searched in vain for bookstores in the shopping centers we had already visited, we had asked a concierge at the hotel where to find one. To our amazement, she replied that there was none within reasonable distance on the mainland, and that S. Miami Beach offered the nearest bookstore, Books & Books, on Lincoln Road. As it turns out, there is another Books & Books in Coral Gables. Still it is sobering to see how much more retail bookshops here have suffered from the Internet competition than is the case in Switzerland. The collection was fairly large by Swiss standards, but quite modest by U.S. standards, and they did not have the book Margareta was looking for, even though it was a best seller. Nonetheless, she did find something worth buying, after which we were off to lunch.



Downtown Miami as Seen from Biscayne Bay

emanating from the humans who maintain the zoo, care for the animals or just come to look at them, but that she suffers from hearing the same soundtrack for 6 years now.

### Malled Again (Monday)

Exchanging my power supply for one that fit my computer turned out to be more difficult than expected. First of all, I forgot to take my computer with me to verify compatibility, secondly, there was a long line at the service counter to complete the exchange and thirdly, the Best Buy employees were under strict instruction not to allow any of the packaging of any article to be opened until it was paid for. Nonetheless, I did eventually get what I needed, so it was back to the mall to pick up my trousers.

This proved to be more difficult. Instead of the black trousers requested, the other store had sent dark blue ones. The store manager, who had brought the trousers from the other store, telephoned them to clarify the mix-up, and promised to fetch the correct pair and return again in a few hours. So it was that we once again lunched at the Aventura Mall food court. Returning to the store at the appointed hour, we were told that the black trousers

advantage of the opportunity to get to know South Beach (SoBE) a little better by spending the day there. We opted to go there by water taxi, departing from the aforementioned Bayfront Marina, just a short walk from our hotel. This provided several advantages. First of all, the view of Miami from Biscayne Bay is spectacular and one of the better ways to appreciate how the city has literally "sprung up" to unprecedented heights in the last 20 years.

Another was the brief glimpse we got en route of some of the abodes of the rich & famous on Fisher Island in Biscayne Bay. The island is artificial, resulting from dredging which took place in Biscayne Bay in the early 20th century. It occupies less than 1 km<sup>2</sup>, is only accessible by sea or by air, and once belonged to the Vanderbilt family. Now it is home to a number of wealthy celebrities, and is said to have the highest per capita income of an U.S. community. One of the most famous of these residents is Oprah Winfrey, one of the most notorious is Boris Becker.

Once on the larger island of Miami Beach, our first priority was to find a bookstore. A public bus costing a mere US\$0.25 apiece brought

Another attraction of SoBe was Segway tours, something I had always wanted to do. I had done some research on possible activities the previous night and found a promising tour company, and managed to convince Margareta to take an afternoon "Art Deco" tour of SoBe by Segway. Margareta had already been on a Segway in Vienna, but this was my first Segway experience. After we donned our helmets, our tour guide, Daniel, gave us a brief training / test session on the sidewalk and led us out into the streets. The Segway is easy and intuitive to operate. Nonetheless, the rental units are limited by a governor to a maximum speed of about 8 mph (13 kph) as a precaution against overconfidence. Speed is controlled by shifting one's weight forward or backward, and one can turn by moving the handlebar left or right.



Daniel took us south along Ocean Dr. to the South Pointe Park & Pier, which, once again, affords an excellent view of Fisher Island. We paused there briefly for photos and to hear Daniel explain how Madonna would fly back and forth between Fisher Island and the helipad atop a nearby condo high-rise under

her ownership when she felt like shopping in SoBe. Afterwards we rode back up the western side of the island to the Miami Beach Marina where the water taxi had deposited us.

After another brief pause at the Miami Beach Marina to admire the downtown Miami skyline, we proceeded back inland and northward along the aptly named central artery, Meridian Avenue, to Flamingo Park. On the way we saw

many examples of the Art Deco buildings for which the area is famous. In the park we had some fun just making playful turns, an exercise which we repeated in an empty lot further north, on our way to our next point of interest, the [Holocaust Memorial](#).

The Holocaust Memorial was built in the late 1980s on city-owned land by a non-profit organization founded by survivors as a tribute

to those who lost their lives in the Nazi pogroms. When it was first proposed in the early 1980s, many thought Miami Beach, favorite destination of fun-seeking tourists, an incongruous place for such a grisly monument. However, S. Florida is home to one of the largest communities of holocaust survivors in the U.S. and the coincidence that the street numbers corresponding to the chosen location, 1933-1945, corresponded to the years of Nazi rule, convinced many that this was fated to be. The monument is composed of rings, with a pond separating the inner ring from the outer ring. To access the center ring, one first passes through a gallery encompassing the rear half of the outer ring, in which photos and documents from the death camps are shown and the names of the camps are inscribed in the stone. The gallery is connected to the inner ring by a tunnel. In the center of the inner ring stands the statue of an arm tattooed with an Auschwitz serial number, reaching toward heaven. Surrounding and merging into the arm are the statues of countless human figures depicting both the physical and emotional suffering of the victims. Additional statues are situated at the ends of the gallery. The inner walls do not afford enough space for the names of 6 million victims, so most of the names on the walls represent families or whole communities which were lost in the pogroms. Neither these words nor the photo here can convey how moving it is.

To lighten up a bit after visiting the Holocaust Memorial, we then rolled over to the nearby botanical gardens, a small but lovely display of plants with a Japanese-themed corner and a pavilion with event room, which has undoubtedly been the site of many weddings and receptions. We then rolled back over to Collins Park on the ocean side of the island and proceeded south through the park and then along Ocean Drive to the Versace Mansion, more traditionally known as Casa Casuarina and notorious as the site of Gianni Versace's murder in July, 1997. The mansion is now known as [The Villa by Barton G.](#) and is one of many lovingly restored buildings along Ocean drive which now serve as hotels. The building is of Mediterranean Revival style rather than the Modernist style associated with Art Deco, which is more common along Ocean Drive. Just around the corner was the starting point of our tour, where we returned our helmets and Segways. We had just enough time for a leisurely walk through Lummus Park down to the South of 5th (SoFi) district, where we met Margareta's friends for a lovely seafood dinner. After dinner, we walked back up Ocean Dr. and found a nice bar for a digestive, after which we took a taxi back to our hotel.

*Statues at the center of the Holocaust Memorial*



# The English Theatre Group of Zug

Presents Stephen Sondheim's Musical



## AUDITIONS

FEBRUARY 22 AND MARCH 1, 2014 AT THE  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ZUG AND LUZERN  
WALTERSWIL /BAAR / ZUG [www.iszl.ch](http://www.iszl.ch)

## INFORMATION EVENING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 FROM 17:00 TO 19:00  
CHOLLERHALLE/ZUG [www.chollerhalle.ch](http://www.chollerhalle.ch)

## PERFORMANCES

SEPTEMBER 6-16, 2015

CHOLLERHALLE IN ZUG

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION **CONTACT**

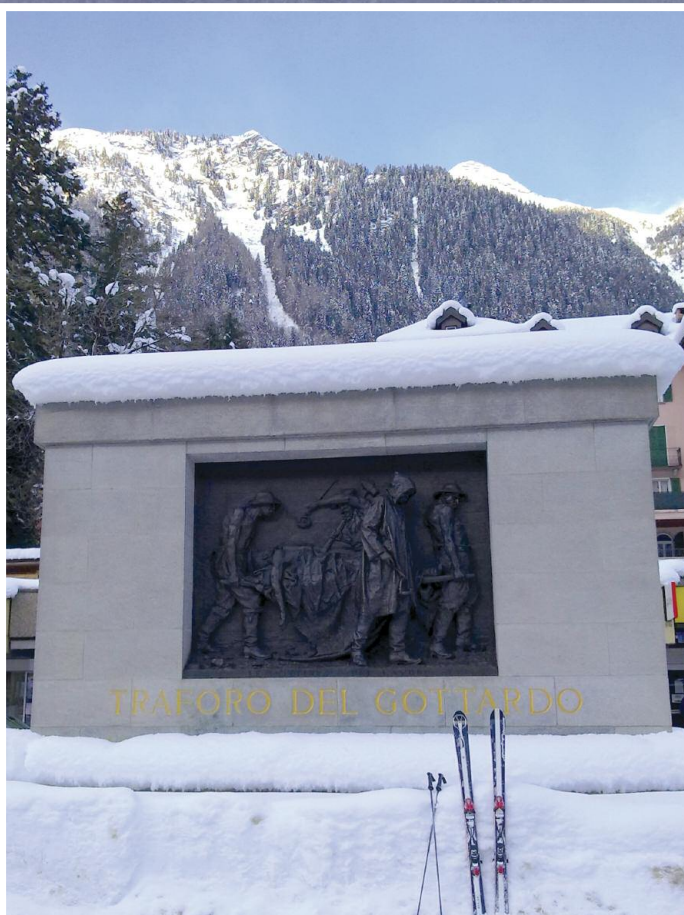
[zoellner@bluewin.ch](mailto:zoellner@bluewin.ch)

OR VISIT THE ETGZ WEBSITE [www.etgz.ch](http://www.etgz.ch)



## Back to the Other Side: *Skiing Airolo-Pesciüm*

*Contributed by IMCZ sports' editor Joseph Dow*



Finally, good skiing has arrived with some new snowfall in our region. Unknown to some, there has been decent snow cover in Airolo, the Tunneldorf on the Ticino end of the Gotthard Tunnel, for some time. Airolo is probably not the first ski area that comes to mind for people living in Zug. However, it is surprisingly close and accessible, and despite its small size, the main ski area, known as Airolo-Pesciüm, is a secret pleasure. Similar to Andermatt on our side of the Gotthard, Airolo always seems to have snow when other areas are thin. Airolo has plenty of interesting skiing and challenge, and it would also be my first choice for novice skiers.



### Location / Travel

**Go by Train** – It's so easy with the SBB . . .

The trip takes 1½ hours from Zug to Airolo, via Arth-Goldau. At certain times, there are trains that go directly between Zug and Airolo. By car, the trip takes about 70 minutes.

For the past two years, the SBB has had a special Snow'n'Rail deal in January with a 50% discount off a ski day pass at the Pesciüm area. With a GA rail pass, the ski ticket was only 22.60 CHF!!!

The town of Airolo is situated directly at the Ticino entrance to the Gotthard Tunnel.

The main ski area at Pesciüm can be seen from the Bahnhof. A free shuttle bus with a friendly driver transports skiers on the short ride between the rail station and the tram station every half hour throughout the day.

## Ski Area Details

### Sectors

**Pesciüm** – At the heart of the area is a small bowl with a large novice area served by a long “magic carpet” lift and a button lift. There is wide open slope to the left of the button lift and a gentle winding run to the right. Especially early in the season, the area is always in the shade, which keeps the snow good, at least. Over the years, I have not noticed any extreme cold weather on the many days I have skied there.

**Comascnè** – A lengthy t-bar takes skiers from Pesciüm up to Comascnè. The long, wide, rolling red run #9 is the jewel of this ski area. It’s one of the best runs around and swooping down over the little hills and ridges is a blast.

**Sasso della Boggia/ Cassinello** – Access to this area is served by the second stage of the Seilbahn up to Sasso della Boggia and a button lift brings you back up to Cassinello for subsequent runs. The challenging red runs down to Ravina have interesting contours and turns.

**Varozzei** – The black runs off the Varozzei Sesselbahn are quite steep, but usually have good snow conditions and great views.

### Valley Runs

**From Pesciüm:** a black run takes you back down to the base area

**From Ravina:** This very nice red run takes you down to the base area, passing through the tiny village of Nante. Unlike the usual valley run with nothing more than switchbacks, this run is more interesting and has stunning views.

### Statistics

**Pisted Area:** 30km

**Vertical Drop:** 1’079m (from 2’256m at Varozzei down to 1’175m at the base station)

Most of the skiing takes place above 1’745m

### Lifts

Besides the two stages of the Luftseilbahn, most of the lifts are surface lifts, which can be tiring for the feet. This is the biggest weakness of this ski area, and the only chairlift, up to Varozzei, serves exclusively black-level runs.

### Freeride Possibilities?

I noticed a lot of freeriders heading off to the area under the big peaks from the Varozzei chair. It looks pretty awesome. There might also be some stashes off to the right side of and below the Comascnè T-bar.

### Food on the mountain

Ristorante Pesciüm is the large restaurant, in the main base lodge at the Pesciüm sector, which serves decent self-served cafeteria food, including daily specials for around 18 CHF.

### Scenery

The scenery is quite beautiful with postcard views of the Saint-Gotthard Massif from Cassinello and especially on the valley run from Ravina around the village of Nante.



### Additional Information:

- **Airolo-Pesciüm:**  
<http://airolo.ch/en/cableway/winter/home.html>
- **SBB Snow’n’Rail:**  
[www.sbb.ch/en/leisure-holidays/day-trips/snownrail.angebotdetail.tagesausfluege-snownrail-tessin-airolo.html](http://www.sbb.ch/en/leisure-holidays/day-trips/snownrail.angebotdetail.tagesausfluege-snownrail-tessin-airolo.html)
- **Ticketcorner:**  
<http://ski.ticketcorner.ch/eventstore/control/dateSelect?said=142>
- **Leventina Tourism:**  
[www.leventinaturismo.ch](http://www.leventinaturismo.ch)



# Disco Bowling Night

Organised and compiled by IMCZ member Stephen Butterworth

The regular bowling timetable went awry this month. Our venue was reserved by someone else on the third Wednesday of the month and the next free day clashed with the date for the AGM, so it had to be Friday which happens to be the weekly disco night in Meierskappel.

Altogether 14 enthusiasts turned up out of the 16 who had signed up. The two cancellations were due to colds and flu, a pity because we would otherwise have been four full lanes. The older folk among us

were rather disorientated by the disco music and lighting. Many couldn't see the markings on the floor, hence the poor scores but the younger folk claimed that this was a poor excuse.

Despite this, we had lots of fun, and Otto Steuri got the wine for the best bowler, and Wendy Mazenauer won it for the ladies scoring 6 pins higher than Gail Brenton. Well done to both of you and to Roger Dixon for his consistency: one pin difference on the first game compared to the following two.

HANDICAP RESULTS											
First Name	Surname	Game1	Game2	Game3	total	this months avg	overall_avg	handicap	STRIKES	SPARES	Split
Mike	Brown	143	112	111	618	122	94	84	4	10	2
Beat	Züger	118	107	139	610	151	136	52	1	11	5
Otto	Steuri	160	161	154	607	158	145	44	8	14	1
Ian	Brenton	133	147	119	603	133	115	68	6	7	2
Erich	Mazenauer	81	113	142	588	112	59	84	5	8	1
Hans-Peter	Schobert	113	135	120	569	122	117	67	6	6	2
Roger	Dixon	115	114	114	547	114	116	68	5	7	2
Sergiy	Shtangey	131	97	98	530	108	115	68	2	8	1
Wendy	Mazenauer	75	116	69	512	86	75	84	3	4	2
Gail	Brenton	66	100	88	506	84	83	84		4	3
Phil	Woodford	91	97	102	485	96	119	65	2	5	3
Jo	Brown	66	75	82	475	74	52	84		2	7
Stephen	Butterworth	91	112	73	474	92	118	66	2	5	1
Angelina	Parfenova	75	65	66	458	68	71	84	4	2	

BOWLED RESULTS											
First Name	Surname	Game1	Game2	Game3	total	this months avg	overall_avg	handicap	STRIKES	SPARES	Split
Otto	Steuri	160	161	154	475	158	145	44	8	14	1
Beat	Züger	118	107	139	454	151	136	52	1	11	5
Ian	Brenton	133	147	119	399	133	115	68	6	7	2
Hans-Peter	Schobert	113	135	120	368	122	117	67	6	6	2
Mike	Brown	143	112	111	366	122	94	84	4	10	2
Roger	Dixon	115	114	114	343	114	116	68	5	7	2
Erich	Mazenauer	81	113	142	336	112	59	84	5	8	1
Sergiy	Shtangey	131	97	98	326	108	115	68	2	8	1
Phil	Woodford	91	97	102	290	96	119	65	2	5	3
Stephen	Butterworth	91	112	73	276	92	118	66	2	5	1
Wendy	Mazenauer	75	116	69	260	86	75	84	3	4	2
Gail	Brenton	66	100	88	254	84	83	84		4	3
Jo	Brown	66	75	82	223	74	52	84		2	7
Angelina	Parfenova	75	65	66	206	68	71	84	4	2	



## Serious Patient

A well-respected surgeon was relaxing on his sofa one evening just after arriving home from work. As he was tuning into the evening news, the phone rang. The doctor calmly answered it, and heard the familiar voice of a colleague on the other end of the line. "We need a fourth for poker," said the friend. "I'll be right over," whispered the doctor. As he was putting on his coat, his wife asked, "Is it serious?" "Oh yes, quite serious," said the doctor gravely. "In fact, three doctors are there already!"



## Deaf Bookkeeper

A Mafia Godfather finds out that his bookkeeper has cheated him out of ten million bucks. His bookkeeper is deaf. That was the reason he got the job in the first place. It was assumed that a deaf bookkeeper would not hear anything that he might have to testify about in court. When the Godfather goes to confront the bookkeeper about his missing \$10 million, he brings along his attorney, who knows sign language.



The Godfather tells the lawyer, "Ask him where the 10 million bucks he embezzled from me is."

The attorney, using sign language, asks the bookkeeper where the money is.

The bookkeeper signs back: "I don't know what you are talking about." The attorney tells the Godfather: "He says he doesn't know what you're talking about."

The Godfather pulls out a pistol, puts it to the bookkeeper's temple and says, "Ask him again!"

The attorney signs to the bookkeeper: "He'll kill you if you don't tell him!"

The bookkeeper signs back: "Ok! You win! The money is in a brown briefcase, buried behind the shed in my cousin Enzo's backyard in Queens!"

The Godfather asks the attorney: "Well, what'd he say?"

The attorney replies: "He says you don't have the balls to pull the trigger."

Don't you simply love lawyers?

## Life after death

**Boss:** Do you believe in life after death?

**Employee:** No sir I don't. No one has ever come back as far as I know

**Boss:** Well, there is now. After you left early yesterday to go to your uncle's funeral, he came here looking for you!

## Human Body Parts

The sixth grade science teacher, Mrs. Parks, asked her class, "Which human body part increases to ten times its size when suitably stimulated?"

No one answered until little Mary stood up, angry, and said, "You should not be asking sixth-graders a question like that. I'm going to tell my parents, and they will go and tell the principal, who will then fire you." With a sneer on her face, she then sat back down.

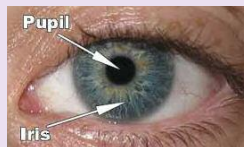
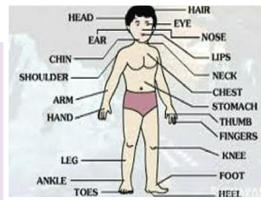
Mrs. Parks ignored her and asked the question again, "Which body part increases to 10 times its size when stimulated?"

Little Mary's mouth fell open; then she said to those around her, "Boy, is she going to get in big trouble!"

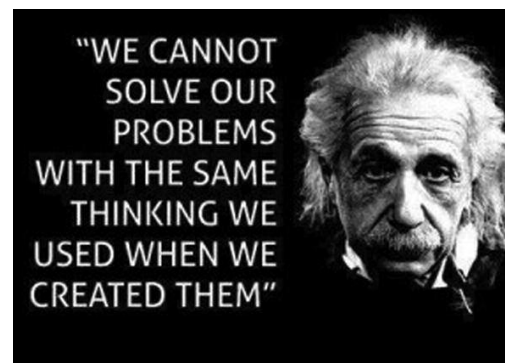
The teacher continued to ignore her and said to the class, "Anybody?" Finally, Billy stood up, looked around nervously, and said, "The body part that increases 10 times its size when stimulated is the pupil of the eye."

Mrs. Parks said, "Very good, Billy," then turned to Mary and continued, "As for you, young lady, I have three things to say to you:

- One, you have a dirty mind,
- Two, you didn't read your homework,
- and three, one day you are going to be very, very disappointed."



- Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be Happy. so when they grow up they will know the value of things not the price
- Eat your food as your medicines. Otherwise you have to eat medicines as your food
- There is a lot of difference between a human being and being human!
- The one who loves you truly will never leave you because even if there are 100 reasons to give up he will always find one reason to hold on
- You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between you have to somehow manage.!
- If you want to walk fast, walk alone, but if you want to walk far, then better walk together.
- If you see the moon ..... You see the beauty of God. and if you see the Sun ..... You see the power of God. and if you stand in front of a mirror ..... You see the best Creation GOD has made .... So Believe in yourself.
- Every morning when you wake up, remember that you shall never be as young as you are today. Today is the youngest day for the rest of your life, so get up and do something useful.
- As you get older, remember that if you don't move, you won't move.





## Members' Marketplace

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 A gorgeous view of the Bay of Biscay,  
 with a little bit of house attached?  
 Or are you **cashing in** the half of your stamp  
 collection that is finally worth something?  
 Perhaps you're **looking** for all of these things?

### Then ADVERTISE here, in the IMCZ News;

The Members' Marketplace is reserved for unformatted advertisements of 150 characters (approx. 3 lines) of text. These are free of charge to IMCZ members. Advertisements must be submitted as illustrated below. Longer advertisements cost CHF 30.-

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The ExpatExpo this year shall take place  
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 hours  
 The IMCZ shall have stand. All are  
 welcome



**ZÜRICH**  
 Sept. 1st

**GENEVA**  
 Oct. 6th

**ZUG**  
 March 9th

**TICINO**  
 March 30th

**BASEL**  
 June 15th

