

IMCZNEWS



AUGUST 2016



EDITORIAL Summertime

With bad weather, storms and rain, yes, even snow haunting us right up to the middle of July, we finally got a taste of the long-awaited summer. In the latitudes in which we live, summer is a special time of the year. It is when we can forget the endless dark clouds filling up the skies and the long winter nights. This year has been a particularly wet and hard one, so when, at last, we could see blue cloudless skies with the thermometer in the high twenties, even thirties, it was a great relief. Our last two weekly Stammtische were held outside in the gardens of the City Garden Hotel. Of course it is also the time of the year when most of us catch up with our annual holidays, visit faraway places or look up loved ones. To all of you we wish you pleasant and safe times, and hope you will be able to tank up to face another long year.



Your club is celebrating summer as well. The annual barbecue this year, on Sunday August 21st, promises to be an especially good one. We hope to see many of you there. Come along with your spouses, kids, friends or relatives. Enjoy the food, drinks, ambience, games, raffles etc. We promise an unforgettably lovely outing.

Muthana Kubba
Editor

FUTURE EVENTS

- **SATURDAY 6TH AUGUST • Tesla visit and test drive.**
9:00 am to 11:30 am, location Lorzenparkstr. 12 in Cham
Ram Ramphal
- **THURSDAY 11TH AUGUST • Zug Jazz Nights** 6:00-20:00 at the City Garden Hotel.
A presentation by IMCZ member Dr. Rainer Riek; *Ram Ramphal*
- **SUNDAY 21ST AUGUST • Annual Barbecue** at the Siehbachsaal, 6300 Zug 11:30-16:00 hours *Ram Ramphal*
- **SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST • Hike down the Engelberger Aa Gorge.** 10:00-17:00 hours.
Meet at the Engelberg Railway station at 10:00 am. *Muthana Kubba*
- **THURSDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER • Whisky tasting** 19:00-21:00 hours at the City Garden Hotel *Ram Ramphal*
- **THURSDAY 27TH OCTOBER • Ski Presentation** 18:30-20:00 hours at the City Garden Hotel *Joseph Dow*
- **THURSDAY 10TH NOVEMBER • Autumn New Members' Reception,** at the Im Hof Restaurant in Zeughausgasse 12, 6300 Zug *Ram Ramphal*
- **FRIDAY 25TH NOVEMBER • Visit Gotthard Base Tunnel.** Meet the Alptransit Info Center in Erstfeld at 13:30 hours.
Roger Brooks

IMCZ

Introducing...New members

THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

Adrian Hara

Adrian hails from the Transylvania region of Romania and relocated to Switzerland in 2010 with his wife Andreea. As a software engineer and having had extensive experience in the software industry he joined a local software company where he was involved in the end-to-end development of a SAAS cloud solution used globally. In addition, he led various teams, helped shape the agile methodology in use by the company, as well as used his market knowledge to establish and grow a nearshoring subsidiary in Transylvania's city of Cluj-Napoca, known as the Silicon Valley of Eastern Europe. In late 2015 Adrian decided to take the entrepreneurial route and founded his own software company, which he's focusing on at the moment. Having recently moved to Kanton Zug, Adrian looks forward to meeting new people and, through his company, explore new professional opportunities to help customers grow their business using agile, smart software solutions. His hobbies include traveling and discovering new places in the beautiful swiss countryside, hiking, snowboarding, mountain biking, badminton, football and sci-fi in any form. Adrian is happy to be a member of IMCZ and looks forward to saying hi in person at the Stammtisch meetings and events.



continued on page 2...

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1

- Editorial
- Future Events
- New Members

EVENT NEWS P.2

- **Special Stammtisch**
Persuasive Communication
Ms Stefanie Egger

HEALTH P.3

- Sports drink consumption often "socially" driven

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY P.4

- Virtual Reality

TRAVEL AND LEISURE P.6

- Cruising the Canaries, Part 6

CURRENT AFFAIRS P.11

- Brexit - What is it all about? - Part I

SPORTS P.12

- Snow's in the Forecast

HUMOUR P.15

TIDBITS P.16

- Member's Marketplace
- IMCZ Rates
- Corporate Space

YOUR NEWSLETTER GOES PUBLIC

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

Visitors to our site imcz.com can read the current Newsletter under About Us -> Current Newsletter

Don't forget our Annual Barbecue

This year's theme: German

When: **Sunday August 21. Starting at 11:30 o'clock**

Where: **Siebbachsaal, Chamerstr 33, 6300 Zug** next to the Zug marina
Everyone is invited with spouse, kids and friends.

Prices: **Members SFr. 45.00, Guests SFr. 50.00**
Children under 12 years, free.





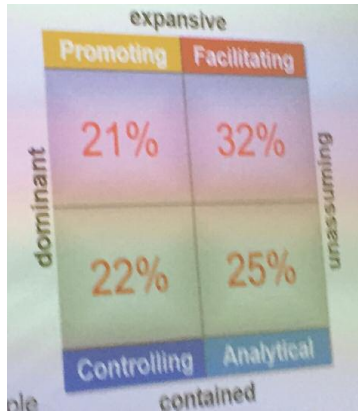
Special Stammtisch

July 14, 2016

Persuasive Communication Ms Stefanie Egger

More than 22 IMCZ members and a host of guests mostly from our sister club the ZIWC gathered at the City Garden hotel to listen to Stefanie's presentation. Stefanie started by actively involving all the audience to participate and identify their styles in communicating with others. She introduced the concept of the four communication styles "Promoting, Facilitating, Controlling and Analytical". These four styles are identified within the communication matrix based on "Dominant to Unassuming" communication enriched with "Expansive to Contained" emotions. She went on to illustrate each of these styles emphasising that this is not how we are, but how we come across when communicating in specific circumstances. A show of hands categorised the audience in which of the four squares they fit. The results seemed to tie up with the average styles in Switzerland, with most being the facilitating type – meaning communicating in an expansive and unassuming manner.

There was lively discussion afterwards and the evening was capped with tapas and drinks. It was an entertaining great evening, many thanks to Stefanie and Ram for organising it.



IMCZ

Introducing...New members

THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

Peter Senna Tschudin



Peter is a dual Swiss/Brazilian citizen. He grew up in Brasilia where he did his Bachelor in Computer Science, and where he started to chase one of his dreams: to become a pilot. He moved with his wife to Paris in 2013 for starting his PhD at INRIA in the field of operating systems, more specifically to study Linux device drivers. Before starting his PhD, Peter accumulated more than 10 years of industrial experience, working with technical and political aspects of the use of Linux and Open Source Software for Brazilian government and education. Peter had his first, only, and failed startup in 2003, but the startup spark is still there, just waiting for the next exciting thing. Currently he works from home for Collabora, as a principal software engineer, dealing with topics he consider interesting such as the Linux Kernel and mentoring. Peter arrived in Zug a few weeks ago, and he, with his wife decided stay on, as they considered Zug to be the best place on Earth for their family.

Peter Szokolczai



Peter hails from Hungary; he studied at the Corvinus University of Budapest graduating with an MSc in business administration. During his studies he worked both as commodity and currency trader. After graduation he worked, among others, as project manager at the Financial Department of the EU Office, Ministry of Labour in Budapest. He moved to Switzerland in 2008 and worked for MAF Zurich Consulting Group AG, and AMICORP Switzerland AG. Currently he is between jobs and is looking for new job opportunity with a fiduciary service provider. Peter is married and has three children. Whenever possible, he likes to spend active time with his family and in his spare time he is keen on running and swimming. His ultimate hobby is playing chess. As club player he reached Master level and has played often in tournaments and team matches.



Meet and Greet

Our second get together with our sister club, the ZIWC, was another great success. On July 21st, seventeen members and one guest met with six ladies from the ZIWC and one guest. It was a very interesting and lively evening with lots of discussions, drinks and good laughs. Everyone agreed that we should keep up this tradition.

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Sports drink consumption often "socially" driven

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

Sports drinks are formulated as carbohydrate-electrolyte solutions to compensate sweat losses and supply energy for prolonged physical activities. However, for many years, ready-to-drink sports drinks have been found at almost any sales point, where other food and beverages are available. In fact, a market survey some years ago indicated that, in Switzerland, about 80% of ready-to-drink sports drinks were sold in gas stations. The omnipresence of Coca Cola and Gatorade plus the sporty and healthy image of athletes with those drinks may do the trick. Presumably, car drivers also appreciate the expected "energy" and performance boost of a sports drink.

Often, these drinks are intentionally used on a daily basis as a supposed "healthier" choice, rather than for their particular function in sports activities. Containing between 50-80 g of carbohydrates per litre, sports drinks do not contain as much energy as fruit juices or sodas such as Coca Cola, both of which contain about 120 g of sugars per litre. Nevertheless, whenever a sports drink is consumed for the sole purpose of being "healthier" or less energy-rich than the alternative, it cannot be considered to be a "flavoured water".

A recent study in the UK also showed that about 50% of teenagers consume sports drink "socially" for the nice taste, not for the intended functional purpose. Even though it is contentious to conclude that their behaviour "increases their risk of obesity and tooth erosion" where the alternatives are sodas or fruit juices, it is clear that plain water would probably be more meaningful in most cases in a recreational, non-sporting context. Needless to say, fruit juices, apart from their high sugar content, also provide healthful nutrients such as vitamins, fibres, and for example, antioxidant phytonutrients.

But if the popularity of sports drinks among teenagers grows further, the nutritional implications should be kept in focus. Similar to all sugary drinks and fruit juices, and in combination with generally insufficient physical activity, sports drinks will impact calorific intake and may impair dental health. In this respect, it is certainly justified to regard the rise of sports drinks as just another soft drink option among children and as cause for concern. There are clear indications that sports nutrition products have become mainstream and many of them are no longer used only by elite athletes, but also by the general population. Nevertheless, a counter-trend has already been established as well. Nowadays, more and more sports drinks with reduced sugar content or even completely carb-free are available, in response to the growing awareness of consumers regarding carbohydrates and performance, and the recognition that carbohydrates are linked to calories. Trends like low-carb and high-protein show that people are not just dumb



consumers. They are able to recognize that, where burning calories and losing weight is the primary goal of physical activity, not performance, low or no carbs are needed. The indiscriminate use of sugary sports drinks in a non-sporting environment is not something unique to the category, nor the result of a misleading industry, but is linked to our social behaviour like the consumption of other sugary drinks.



STAMMTISCH

Every Thursday
from 18:00-20:30
At the City Garden Hotel





Virtual Reality

Contributed by IMCZ honorary member and Newsletter Editor Muthana Kubba

Unknown to many, we are now on the threshold of a breakthrough in technology. It is practically on our doorsteps. Those, who have only heard about it, might dismiss it as a 'make believe' world suited for game-playing kids. However, its applications and influence go far beyond gaming.

Virtual Reality (VR) starts with the special goggles or headset one puts on to enter the world of VR. These goggles or headsets are constructed to project a three dimensional, high definition colour image of a certain environment. The crucial part, however, is not the goggles, but the software (computer programs), which are developed to project the images to be seen. The software is designed so that when the person wearing the goggles moves his or her head, the projected images move as well, thus simulating a real world. When one turns his/her head left, right, up or down, the images move exactly as they would in real life. After a short while one forgets that it is a virtual world, and begins to enjoy what one sees.

The Goggles or the Headset

The central piece of VR (Virtual Reality) or AR (Augmented Reality) is the headset. In its simplest form, it consists of two displays, one for each eye with a set of lenses, so that the displayed images can be viewed clearly and stay in focus for each eye. These lenses focus and reshape the picture for each eye and create a stereoscopic 3D image by angling the two 2D images to mimic how each of our two eyes views the world, ever-so-slightly, differently.



Such goggles are also referred to as HMD's or Head Mounted Displays. They contain, in addition to the displays, sensors which monitor and report the exact position of the head at all times. Such sensors are also referred to as head trackers. The goal of such hardware is to relay the head position to the computer, which in turn moves the displayed image such as to create what appears to be a life size, 3D virtual environment without the boundaries we usually associate with TV or computer screens. So whichever way one

looks, the images displayed by the headsets appear to follow one's face. Furthermore, in order to achieve total immersion, headphones are added to emit sounds that mimic the sounds of the environment being displayed. Sometimes even hand trackers are added to convey the exact position of the hands.

Head tracking means that when one wears a VR headset, the picture in front shifts as one looks up, down and side to side or angles the head. This system is called 6DoF (six degrees of freedom) which plots the position of the head in the x, y and z axis and measures the head movements forward and backwards, side to side and shoulder to shoulder, otherwise known as pitch, yaw and roll. This information is used to shift and move the displayed images correspondingly so as to mimic reality. The time lag between a head movement and the corresponding image display must be under 50 milliseconds (1/20th of a second), in order for it not be perceived as unreal by the person using the headset.

Headsets are connected to the computer via HDMI cables or alternatively smart phones are embedded in them.

Why VR?

One might rightly ask what is the point of going into all the enormous trouble and expense of making the headsets, writing the highly complex programs needed, just to create the illusion of reality. Apart from pleasing some game freaks and the obvious appeal of porno, is it worth it? The answer could be found in the vista of endless applications which it potentially has. Here are but a few of them.

VR in the News

Imagine you're standing on a busy street corner in Aleppo, Syria. People are going about their business and somewhere a young girl is singing when without warning a rocket strike hits, sending dust and debris flying everywhere. The scene dissolves and you find yourself in a refugee camp where thousands of people affected by the conflict are trying to get on with their lives.

Luckily, returning to the safety of your real life is as simple as removing the virtual reality headset through which you've been experiencing the sights and sounds of war and its aftermath. Unlike watching similar scenes on television however, the emotions you're feeling are likely to be more intense and stay with you much longer.

This is known as immersive journalism, a technique using virtual reality to put the public in the middle of the scene as news unfolds. It is hoped that this could transform the way we witness events around the world. In this particular case, a



project was commissioned by the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2014, called 'Project Syria'. This form of immersive journalism was aimed to try and put the audience on the scene and evoke the feeling of being there. The hope was that it would encourage world leaders to act and do more about ending the war and the plight of helpless civilians there.

The role of VR in wars and conflict areas can't be overemphasized. It might even hold the key in future for avoiding them altogether. To get a feel for the tragedy and how it is perceived, watch [this video](#).

VR in Buildings

Viewing and choosing property becomes vastly easier with Virtual Reality as it equips architects, developers, estate agents and house hunters with all the tools they need to design, market and purchase a property before ever setting foot inside it. Furthermore using a program called 'Prop Tech', it will let you do everything - from fitting out the kitchen to picking up the wallpaper - without having to leave the design studio or showroom. Clients can download an app and view every floor plan in 3D. You can even position furniture in each room. This will provide a much better feel for a property than previously possible.

There are huge cost savings if VR is adopted by architects as well as developers Virtual Walkthrough is a specialist business that puts



whole virtual properties online, on social media, mobile devices and over email, reaching potential purchasers in their sitting rooms. VR is set to redefine the house-hunting process, but it will never completely replace physical inspection.

Medicine and Health Care

The value and impact of VR on medicine can't be overstated. Hundreds of medical students can watch live the trickiest operations performed by top surgeons and gather valuable experience. In fact, training of young doctors to become skilful surgeons has been greatly accelerated using VR.

Soldiers returning from war zones and suffering from post-traumatic syndromes can be effectively treated by VR. It is called exposure therapy. Since 2005, the US Army has used exposure therapy and virtual reality simulations to help treat those returning from conflict areas. Soldiers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder were transported back to a virtual war zone to re-experience combat. By reliving their experience and confronting their fears using accurately rendered surroundings, which effectively allow the soldiers to travel back in time, they could be healed from their trauma.

VR has also proved to be a great asset in helping victims of childhood sexual abuse. Working with trained psychologists, Scenarios from their past were reconstructed, which allowed the victims to re-contextualise their experience and begin to confront those difficult memories. The power of such traumatic memories can then be defused.

Even those suffering from common social phobias can be helped using VR. A typical example is making a presentation or delivering a speech to a large audience. Immersed in the VR world, participants can deliver their talk, with the controller able to change the parameters and stretch the participant, for example to make the audience appear interested or bored. The results can be incredible and make a real difference to the lives of those patients.

Racial Issues

One of the most fascinating applications of VR is in what is known as "*Out-of-body-experience*". Imagine what happens when someone wearing the headsets, looks down at his own body, or looks at him/herself in a mirror. Of course the answer is that it is in the hands of the programmer or the software engineer who feeds the images into the VR environment. Obviously a 'virtual body' can be programmed so that when you look down through the headset you will see the virtual body instead of your own. By doing this, the mind can be tricked, creating a perception that the virtual body is your own.

This technique was used to illustrate how our perception of ourselves can be challenged.



The team put participants in white, black and purple bodies in one experiment, during which the participants observed their new bodies, viewed themselves in a mirror and watched as some people walked by. As a result, it was established that the implicit bias against black people decreases.

It may sound like fun, but the research was about challenging self-perception and understanding how the view we hold of ourselves can be manipulated, and the resulting influence - positive or negative - it can have on our actions.

The list of possible applications of VR is long, very long. Here are a few headlines, meant to help you perceive some of the vast new possibilities it offers.

VR into the PAST. Introducing VR in museums would be a revolution. Imagine visiting the Louvre in Paris, or seeing the Terracotta Army in Xian, China from the comfort of your room.

VR around the WORLD. Needless to say, VR will play an increasingly important role in travel and the tourist industry. For one, it can help the would-be traveller to preview his intended destination, the accommodation he expects, the sightseeing places and even the restaurants in which he might be eating. Check <https://www.virtualltourist.com/>

VR in ART. Museums and galleries are beginning to take VR more seriously and introducing it in stages in order to offer would-be visitors a preview and taste of what they would be seeing. The Dali Museum in Florida, USA was a pioneer in introducing VR in museums. Using VR technology created a unique experience. Visitors can put themselves into a fully immersive 3D environment and explore Dali's 1935 paintings. It feels as if you are in the mind of the master himself. Watch the 360-degree video here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1eLelocAcU

VR at the CRIME SCENE. If taking the jury to the scene of a crime becomes mandatory, then it could change the court system and the way evidence is presented. Lawyers spend hours during trials describing in meticulous detail what occurred during a crime, in the hope of painting a favourable picture in the heads of a judge or jury. To this end, they allocate a lot of time preparing testimonies, photographs, video footage and other documents. What if virtual reality could take those people, on whose judgement fates are decided, back to the crime scene? This technology was already used in Switzerland to help the judges and the jury to take decisions in a shooting crime. (Lars C. Ebert from the Institute of Forensic Medicine, Zurich).



VR at the CONCERT HALL For music lovers, VR is the ideal way to enjoy music to the full. Advances in the aural reproduction of sounds have advanced at least as fast as the visual ones, resulting in an almost perfect immersion sensation of being physically in a concert hall. Imagine sitting in the front row of the KKL, listening to Daniel Barenboim playing the piano right next to you, while a terrible blizzard is blowing outside. You will only realise that you are at home in front of the fireplace when you take off the headset.



There isn't enough space to cover all the different disciplines which could be radically transformed by VR. Think of architecture, sport, space, war, factories and manufacturing, etc. etc. It will revolutionise our perception and the way we do things in the future.

Further reading
<http://eandt.theiet.org/magazine/2016/03/>



Cruising the Canaries, Part 6

Gran Canaria Contributed by IMCZ President Roger Brooks with photos courtesy of ZIWC member Margareta Pfander

Las Palmas

The AIDA Sol returned to Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, early Sunday morning, where we disembarked shortly after breakfast. We had already planned to spend an extra day on Gran Canaria after the cruise and were fortunately able to check into our hotel, the AC Gran Canaria, early.

We had already inquired about worthy destinations for excursions during our brief stay in Las Palmas before the start of our cruise and had decided to visit the nearby towns of Teror and Arucas on the northern end of the island. These are easily reached by guagua, as the local buses are called. Having deposited our luggage in our hotel room, we made our way to Santa Catalina Park, which features several bus stops.



Basilica Nuestra Señora del Pino, Teror



Sunday Worship inside the Basilica

The church was originally built in the 16th century to accommodate the growing population and numerous pilgrims visiting the site of the holy apparition. However, the church suffered destruction more than once, and the current structure dates from the 18th century. A statue representing the Virgin as she appeared to the shepherds stands in a niche behind the altar, but is only visible as a bright silhouette in the accompanying photo. Behind the church is the Palacio Episcopal, which was built at the same time.

We walked from the bus station into the old town, which is a pedestrian zone and explored it thoroughly. On Sundays there is a lively market on the plaza by the church, and along the surrounding streets, especially the Calle real de la plaza. The market offered a tremendous variety of goods, mostly local food items, such as fruits, nuts and vegetables.

We had intended to catch a municipal bus (guagua municipal) to the larger bus depot at San Telmo near the south end of Las Palmas. However, as it turned out, there were no buses running from Santa Catalina to San Telmo on Sunday. We therefore walked a short distance to the nearest bus stop serving San Telmo, but found the wait for the next bus excessive, and instead took a taxi to San Telmo. At San Telmo, we took the number 229 bus to Teror.

Teror

Teror is a picturesque town with a well-preserved old town center. Its main claim to fame is the Basilica Nuestra Señora del Pino, a beautiful church built to honor the Virgin Mary, whom shepherds had seen on a Canarian pine tree near the end of the 15th century, when the area was only sparsely populated. The pine where the Virgin is said to have appeared fell in a 17th century gale.



Market Stands in the Calle Real de la Plaza, Teror

I found the local almonds particularly interesting. They are more slender than the California almonds which dominate the North American and northern European markets.

Arucas

After exploring Teror, we paused briefly for a midday snack and then boarded the bus number 215 to Arucas, another scenic town a little further north, which lies on the flank of the mountain of the same name. Arucas is much larger than Teror; it is said to be the third or fourth largest settlement on Gran Canaria.

The town was known to the aboriginal Guanche as Arehucas. It was a center of Guanche resistance and was almost completely destroyed in the last battles of the Spanish conquest at the end of the 15th century. In the early 16th century it was renamed and quickly rebuilt by the Spaniards and has since prospered as a commercial center. One of the first exports was cochineal, a cactus beetle used to make carmine, a red dye. As sugar cultivation grew, it was replaced by sugar and then rum, which is still being exported. After the previously mentioned migration of sugar production to the Caribbean, bananas became prevalent. However, banana cultivation is now giving way to the growing of other fruits, flowers and vegetables.

Walking toward the old town center from the bus station, the first point of interest we encountered was the seat of the regional water management, Heredad de Aguas de Arucas y Firgas. The Spanish understood from the beginning the importance of managing the water, especially for irrigation, and already established regulations in the 16th century. The organization in its present form was founded in the 19th century, but did not have its own offices until this building, designed by Fernando Navarro, was constructed in the early 20th century.

Across the street we found the municipal park, part of an estate donated to the town by the family of Francisco Gourie. At its far end is the Constitution Plaza, which is the site of the Casa Consistorial (City Hall) and the Mercado (market). Both were constructed in the late 19th century.

The architectural pièce de resistance of Arucas is (what else?) a church. The **Iglesia de San Juan Bautista** was built in the early 20th century to replace its 16th century predecessor. It was designed by the Catalan architect Juan Vega March, who was a student of Gaudi. It is built out of basalt and boasts a 60m tower, the highest in the Canaries. Funding for its construction was provided by the previously mentioned Gourie family.

The interior of the church featured yet another creche, as well as a famous sculpture of Jesus in a recumbent position.



Heredad de Aguas de Arucas y Firgas



Municipal Park of Arucas

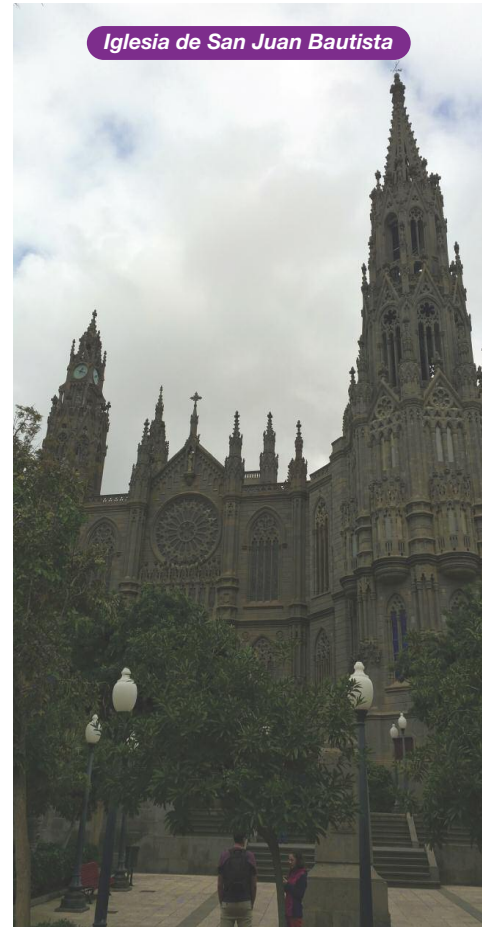


Casa Consistorial de Arucas

Mercado de Arucas



Iglesia de San Juan Bautista



Calle Triana

We made a quick turn by the famous Arehucas Rum factory, which however, was closed. We then went back to the bus station to return to San Telmo, as we wanted to do some additional sightseeing in the older districts of Las Palmas. Unfortunately, in our haste to return there, we missed another major attraction of Arucas, the **Jardín de la Marquesa**, also called **Jardín de Hespérides**, a famous botanical garden featuring many unusual species of palms and dragon trees.

Triana & La Vegueta

The bus number 210 brought us back to the San Telmo bus station. Behind the station is San Telmo Park, which is located at the northern edge of the older parts of Las Palmas, Triana & Vegueta. Maps for foreign tourists often refer to the entire area between San Telmo Park and the Plaza de Santo Domingo as Vegueta, whereas Spanish sources generally refer to the part north of Calle Fuente as Triana, a name borrowed from the similar neighborhood in Seville.

Walking through San Telmo Park from the bus station, we found the Calle Mayor Triana (or

simply Calle Triana) on the other side of the park. Calle Triana is a pedestrian zone, and one of the oldest streets in Las Palmas, dating to the early 16th century. Since the weather was still nice, we opted for another brief walking tour instead of visiting any of the numerous museums on offer.

The entrance to the pedestrian zone is graced by the giant sculpture “La Espiral del Viento” (visible in the background of the photo), one of four sculptures by Martin Chirino which are on display along the Calle Triana.

Not having had much to eat, our first order of business in Triana was lunch at one of the numerous charming sidewalk cafes in the pedestrian zone. Fortified with beer and tapas, we moved on to our first landmark, the bust of Christopher Columbus, which stands in front of the Parroquia de San Francisco de Asis. Destroyed during an attack on Las Palmas by Dutch pirates at the end of the 16th century, the church was rebuilt in the 17th century.

Nearby on the Plaza Caraisco stands the Gabinete Literario, which was designed for the



Bust of Christopher Columbus

cultural society in the 19th century by Fernando Navarro and Rafael Massanet to replace its original seat in the Teatro Caraisco at the same site.

We next visited the main square of Vegueta (formerly the center of Las Palmas), the Plaza Mayor de Santa Ana. The square features the eponymous Cathedral of Santa Ana at one end, facing the former City Hall (Casas Consistoriales) at the other. The 19th century Casas Consistoriales now serve as an art museum; the municipal administration having moved to more modern quarters. A nice 360 degree panorama of the plaza can be found [here](#), and [here](#) is one of the interior of the cathedral. The cathedral was built over a span of 400 years, starting from the Spanish conquest of the Canaries, and therefore contains a mixture of architectural styles: Gothic, Renaissance, Classic and Canarian.

A few hundred meters to the north is the Casa de Colon, on the Plaza del Pilar Nuevo. This is a museum, not the actual house of Christopher Columbus, although it is built around the former house of the first governor, whom Columbus visited on his way to the New World in 1492.

Another few hundred meters north, on the border between Vegueta and Triana, we found the Teatro Pérez Galdós. It was originally built in the late 19th century to replace the previously mentioned Teatro Caraisco, but was almost completely destroyed in a fire in the early 20th century. It has since been renovated several times, and is named for a famous Canarian poet, whose nearby home now serves as a museum.

Back in Vegueta, we found the **Ermita de San Antonio Abad**. It is an 18th century reconstruction of the oldest church in Las Palmas, at which Columbus is said to have prayed before undertaking his first voyage to the New World.

The last architectural landmark we visited was the Teatro Guinguada. It was built in 1938 by the architect Antonio Cardona Aragón as a multi-functional theater for both cinema and performing arts and reopened in 2011 after 10



years of disuse and a renovation costing over 3 million Euros. It is a large building, including space for offices, stores and apartments in addition to the theater. It is almost impossible to see in its entirety due to the proximity of the surrounding buildings.

After returning by taxi to our hotel, we had time for a leisurely stroll and dinner at the

beach, Playa de las Canteras, where we found yet another sand sculpture, portraying baroque musicians, as well as an iron sculpture depicting competing swimmers.

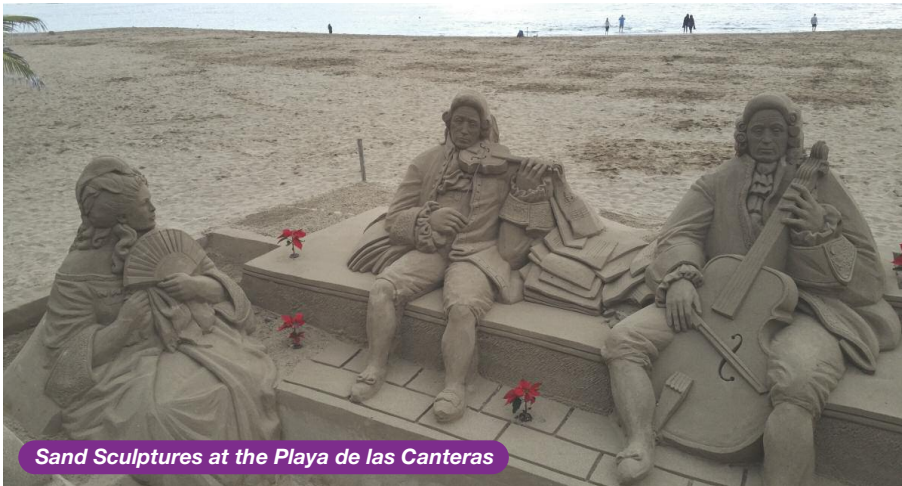
On Monday, the following morning, we enjoyed the sunrise over the harbor from the hotel restaurant, before departing for the airport for our flight back to Switzerland.



Teatro Pérez Galdós



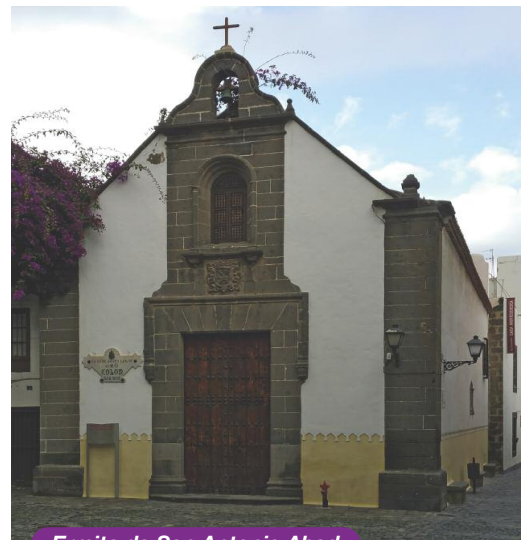
Teatro Guiniguada



Sand Sculptures at the Playa de las Canteras



Sculpture of Swimmers at the Playa de las Canteras



Ermita de San Antonio Abad



Sunrise over the Port

Brexit - What is it all about? - Part I

Brexit is a somewhat derisory nickname, coined by the Remain campaigners, for the withdrawal from the European Union by the United Kingdom. As a UK citizen resident abroad for many years, I could not vote in the referendum, but nevertheless took a keen interest in proceedings. I will attempt to shed some light on the major issues at stake and offer some pragmatic views on the issues that led me to favour the UK leaving the EU. These views are of course, as in any sensible society, open to discussion, either in writing or at a Stammtisch.

The four main themes in the debate seem to have been:

- Economics
- Security
- Immigration
- Sovereignty

The nature of the EU itself and the way it operates were also intrinsic to the debate.

In this first article, I shall present observations on the first two themes.

Economics

On the economic front, all of the usual big players, such as the IMF, the ECB (European Central Bank), the Bank of England, global banks etc. were forecasting gloom and doom. It is debatable as to how accurate their analyses might eventually turn out to be, but none of them have a particularly good track record in prediction. Since the vote to leave, apart from the usual stock exchange knee jerks, there does not seem to have been anything like the predicted meltdown. Mario Draghi, the president of the ECB, has urged people to take warnings of a severe economic slowdown with a "grain of caution" adding "What is clear is that financial markets and the banking sector have reacted in a fairly resilient fashion to the event. We haven't observed any disruption either in financial markets or the banking sector". This follows a regional survey by the Bank of England that found that it was "business as usual" for two thirds of UK companies. Even George Osborne, the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer and Remain campaigner has now declared himself a Brexit optimist.

The EU, after the UK secession, will have ca. 440 million inhabitants, representing roughly 6% of the global population, which is between 7 & 8 billion. Of course, the world community includes many low GDP (Gross Domestic



Contributed by IMCZ Member and Newsletter Co-editor Roger Dixon



Product) countries, but there is still a significantly greater marketplace worldwide than in Europe alone. The EU still has no trading agreements with China, India, Australia etc. The UK has century-old trading relationships with many parts of the world.

After Brexit, China has apparently stated that it would like much more trade with the UK and that it has become frustrated in its efforts to close a deal with EU. In fact, the UK's new Chancellor of the Exchequer is (at the time of writing) already in China discussing trade. Australia is looking to close a free trade deal with the UK. Boeing has announced that it is creating 2000 new jobs in the UK. A Japanese company has made a generous offer for ARM (the world's largest chip-maker), promising to double the number of employees in the UK, based on predictions for the development of the Internet Of Things. These are just some of the developments on a global scale. Looking at EU-internal trade, the EU exports more to the UK than vice-versa, so any hike in tariffs will probably be worse for the EU. From a pragmatic standpoint, it is highly unlikely that customers who have been purchasing goods from the UK will suddenly just stop, because of a change in the political landscape. They are buying the goods because they want to, not because the politicians say so. There will still be the usual freedom to do cross-border business. That is the nature of commerce. Of course, the major multi-national companies (predominantly from the US), love the EU, because they can move their operations around, as on a Monopoly board, to lower their taxation costs. However, the majority of business is done by SMEs (Small and Medium-size Enterprises) and many of these are being strangled to death by EU red tape. Not for much longer. I see a bright future for the UK on the economic front, after being freed from the shackles of the EU. I may, of course, be proven completely wrong!!

Security

With regard to national security, I am at a loss to understand how the UK would be safer in the EU, as was claimed by the "remainers". Recently two of the founder members of the EU highlighted a complete lack of effective co-operation on this front. In November 2015,

a terrorist cell in the Molenbeek suburb of Brussels, which would appear to have been undetected, crossed the border into France and committed several attacks in Paris. Only one of the terrorists survived and he promptly absconded. It wasn't until March 2016 that he was arrested, back in Molenbeek, in the same apartment in which he had been living before the Paris attacks! A couple of days later, there was a further terrorist attack at Brussels Zaventem airport. If this as an example of how EU security works, then it raises serious questions.

The scale of refugee migration into Europe from the Middle East and North Africa and the fact that it has been largely out of control raises other serious questions. The EU has been close to inept in dealing with the crisis and no one can say how many of the so-called refugees are, in fact, not refugees but I.S. activists. Others amongst those fleeing may in time become radicalised.

At the time of writing, several events have recently occurred in Germany & France to highlight the difficulties being encountered in this area. The UK has in the past also had its problems, some of which will be mentioned in the "Immigration" section in the next instalment. In recent years, however, there have fortunately been no large-scale events, the last one being the London bombings in July 2005. It might be posited that this is due, in no small measure, to the efficacy of the UK security services. What is clear from the Brussels/Paris scenario is that relying on the EU security machinery would represent a massive risk.

One of the mainstays of security is an effective espionage service. Apart from perhaps Mossad, the best in the world, I believe, are the GCHQ in Cheltenham, UK and the CIA, who coincidentally work very closely together, as well as with other countries, such as Australia & Canada. What more does the UK need?

As for military defence, NATO has existed longer than the EU, has a far greater sphere of influence across the globe and has proven itself to be quite adequate. So why would we need the patchwork EU army, another inane idea, that has been proposed in some quarters? Yes, the UK is better off out of all that!!



Snow's in the Forecast: The Second IMCZ Ski Evening (Coming October)

Contributed by
IMCZ Sports' editor
Joseph Dow



Back in 2013, we had the first IMCZ ski show with great guest speakers from the Swiss winter sports industry: AK Skis, Mountain Force Skiwear and Stoos Ski Area (see the November 2013 newsletter in the archives). The night was well-attended and enjoyed by all. So, by popular demand, we've scheduled another extravaganza with all new presenters to kick off the 2016/17 Winter Season!

Here's a preview of our invited speakers ...

RTC Skis, rtc-skis.ch

This small Swiss company from Wallis makes the most fantastic handmade carving skis on the planet. They are my personal favorites and I'm delighted that they have agreed to come and tell us all about their interesting history and philosophy of ski design and construction.



KJUS Skiwear, kjus.com

Many of you probably remember Lasse Kjus, the great Norwegian alpine skier and Olympic champion after whom this high-end skiwear maker is named. However, you may not know that Kjus is and always has been a Swiss

company. Located nearby in Hünenberg, the Kjus team will join our snow night and reveal the latest fashions, trends and innovations in high-tech skiwear.



Alpine Sports Andermatt (Peter Widdup, director), alpinesportsanderlatt.com

Peter, one of our new club members, runs this international ski school based in Andermatt. His operation is more than your average ski school and he offers custom-tailored personalized ski programs, guiding services, and other year-round activities in the Andermatt region.



Bootfitting Explained (Andreas Koebl, master bootfitter at Stöckli Cham), stoeckli.ch/ch-de/stores/storename/cham

No one I've ever met knows more about fitting a fat flat foot like mine into a ski boot and

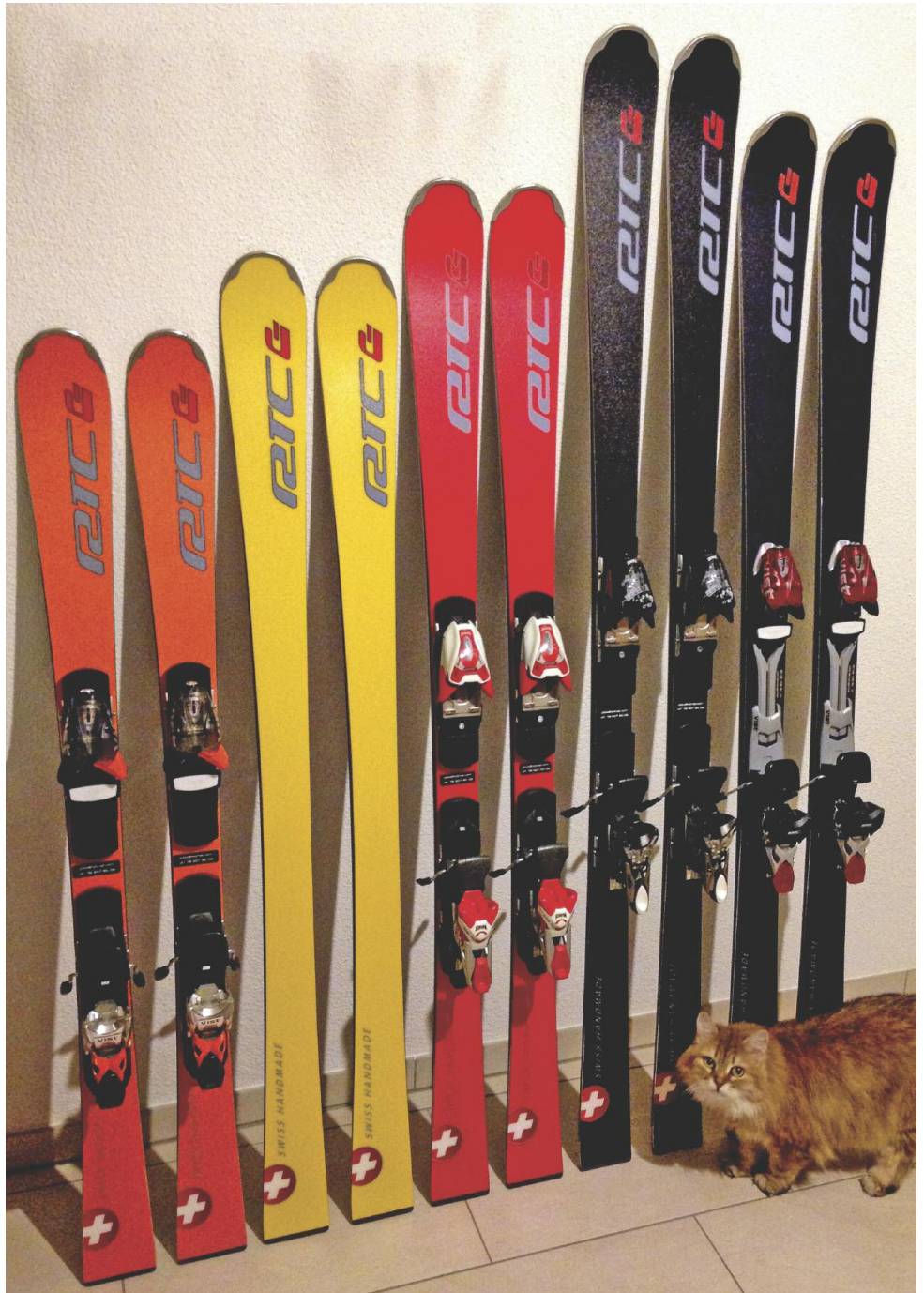


practices the alchemy that produces a comfortable, pain-free fit without sacrificing a speck of performance. I just had Andreas fit my new boots and managed to squeeze in two last days at Engelberg to try them out. All I can say is "Wow, the man is a true artist!"



Mark your calendars . . .
IMCZ SKI EVENING 2016
Date: 27.10.2016
Time: 18:30
Location: Garden Room,
City Garden Hotel, Zug

July is the worst time of year for ski fanatics like you and me, but now we have something for which to look forward.
"Think Snow!"



From the LANES...

The White Line venue was closed in July. We will keep you apprised of future bowling plans.



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www.etgz.ch

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Mothers should be Young

With all the new technology regarding fertility recently, a 65-year-old friend of mine was able to give birth. When she was discharged from the hospital and went home, I went to visit.

'May I see the new baby?' I asked.

'Not yet,' she said. 'I'll make coffee and we can talk for a while first.'

Thirty minutes had passed, and I asked, 'May I see the new baby now?'

'No, not yet,' she said.

After another few minutes had elapsed, I asked again, 'May I see the baby now?'

'No, not yet,' replied my friend.

Growing very impatient, I asked, 'Well, when can I see the baby?'

'When he cries!' she told me.

'When he cries??' I demanded. 'Why do I have to wait until he cries?'

'Because I forgot where I put him, ok?'



Playing Golf

A couple were golfing one day on a very exclusive golf course, lined with million-dollar houses. On the third tee the husband said "Honey, be very careful when you drive the ball. Don't knock out any windows. It'll cost us a fortune to fix!"

The wife teed up and it was a very powerful shot, taking it right through the window of the biggest house on the course with a crash. The husband cringed and said "I told you to watch out for the houses! All right, let's go up there, apologize and see how much this is going to cost."

They walked up, knocked on the door and heard a voice say "Come on in." They opened the door and saw glass all over the floor and a broken bottle lying on its side in the foyer. A man on the couch said "Are you the people that broke my window?"

"Uh, yeah. Sorry about that." the husband replied.

"No, actually, I want to thank you. I'm a genie that was trapped for a thousand years in that bottle. You've released me! I'm allowed to grant three wishes, and I'll give you each one wish and keep the last one for myself."

"Wow, great!" the husband said. "I want a million dollars a year for the rest of my life!"

"No problem. It's the least I could do. And you, what do you want?" the genie said, looking at the wife. "I want a house in every country of the world!" she said.

"Consider it done!" the genie replied.

"And what's your wish genie, now that you're finally free?" asked the husband.

"Well, since I've been trapped in that bottle, I haven't had sex with a woman in a thousand years. My wish is to sleep with your wife."

The husband looked at the wife and said "Well, we did get a lot of money and all those houses honey. I guess I don't care." The genie took the wife upstairs and ravished her for two hours. Afterwards, the genie rolled over, looked at the wife, and said "How old is your husband anyway?"

"38." she replied.

"And he still believes in genies? That's amazing!"



Barbie Doll

One day a father gets out of work, and on his way home he suddenly remembers that it's his daughter's birthday.

He dashes over to a toy shop and asks the sales person: "How much for one of those Barbies in the display window?"

The salesperson returns: "Which one do you mean, Sir?"



We have Workout Barbie for \$19.95, Shopping Barbie for \$19.95, Beach Barbie for \$19.95, Disco Barbie for \$19.95, Ballerina Barbie for \$19.95, Astronaut Barbie for \$19.95, Skater Barbie for \$19.95, and Divorced Barbie for \$199.95."

The amazed father asks: "how much?! Why is the divorced Barbie \$199.95 and the others only \$19.95?"

The annoyed salesperson rolls her eyes, sighs, and answers: "Sir, the other Barbies only come with an outfit. Divorced Barbies come with: Ken's car, Ken's house, Ken's boat, Ken's furniture, Ken's computer and one of Ken's best friends."

Two Old Ladies

Two little old ladies, Connie and Evelyn, were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress.

The short one, Connie, leaned over and said: "Life is so boring. We never have any fun anymore. For \$10, I'd take my clothes off and streak through that stupid, boring flower show!"

"You're on!" said Evelyn, holding up a \$10 bill.

So Connie slowly fumbled her way out of her clothes. She grabbed a dried flower from a nearby display and held it between her teeth. Then, completely naked, she streaked through the front door.

Her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause and shrill whistling. Finally, the smiling Connie came through the exit door surrounded by a cheering, clapping crowd.

"What happened?" asked Evelyn.

"I won \$1,000 as first prize for 'Best Dried Arrangement'..."



On Politics and Politicians

The word 'politics' is derived from the word 'poly' which means 'many' and the word 'ticks' which means 'blood sucking parasites'

Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other.

A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country.

Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks.

I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians.

We hang petty thieves and appoint the bigger thieves to public office.

Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber.

Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river.

When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become PM; I'm beginning to believe it.

Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel.

What happens if a politician drowns in a river? That is pollution.

What happens if all of them drown? That is a solution!!!



Members' Marketplace

Are you **selling** your yacht (harboured in Piraeus)?
 Your Aston-Martin old-timer with the roll top roof?
 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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 Ideal for transposing tapes to DVD.
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 Call Roger at 079 377 2385.

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 IMCZ Members receive a 20% discount on advertisement costs.

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