

IMCZNEWS



SEPTEMBER 2016

EDITORIAL

Gorgeous Summer

Even with August nearing its last days, the beautiful sunshine, almost cloudless skies and temperatures in the high twenties are still accompanying us. We haven't been so lucky with the summer weather for many, many years. During the well attended hike down the Engelberger Aa gorge on the last Sunday of this month, most participants turned up wearing short trousers and short-sleeve shirts; what is more they even felt warm in that attire. This is the time of the year to tank up with all the outdoor activities available at your doorstep and enjoy nature and the sun. The Club's board wishes all members enjoyable and safe times and look forward to more active participation in the Club's activities.

Muthana Kubba
Editor



IMCZ

Introducing...New members

THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

Sean O'Sullivan

Sean hails from London in the UK and is a qualified barrister-at-law. He lived and worked in Brussels for five years as Head of Section at the European Commission. He later joined Glencore in London managing regulatory challenges. He relocated to Switzerland in September 2015, where he together with his partner Susan, created their own company in Zug, working with clients on European regulatory issues and Brussels-based EU stakeholder engagement which also means constant travel between Zug and Brussels. Being a relatively recent arrival to Canton Zug, Sean is looking forward to exploring his new home with Susan, meeting new people and experiencing the delights that Switzerland has to offer. Sean speaks fluent German, French and also Spanish. His hobbies include travelling, hiking - especially enjoying Switzerland's impressive system of 'Wanderwege' - reading current affairs, occasional summertime swimming in the lake and (outside Switzerland) appreciating good food and wine in nice restaurants.



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FUTURE EVENTS

- THURSDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2016 • Whisky tasting 19:00-21:00 hours at the City Garden Hotel Ram Ramphal
- THURSDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2016 • Ski Presentation 18:30-20:00 hours at the City Garden Hotel Joseph Dow
- THURSDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2016 • Autumn New Members' Reception, at the Im Hof Restaurant in Zeughausgasse 12, 6300 Zug Ram Ramphal
- FRIDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2016 • Visit Gotthard Base Tunnel. Meet Zug Railway Station at 13:30 hours. Roger Brooks



STAMMTISCH

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



0 to 100 kilometres per hour in ridiculous!

That is the catch phrase of the local Tesla team in Cham who kindly hosted the IMCZ for a Tesla test drive event on the morning of Saturday 6th August. Some 20 IMCZ members and guests met at the Tesla showrooms on Lorzenparkstrasse in Cham and began the day with coffee and Gipfeli, courtesy of Tesla. The showrooms included exhibits of the different Tesla models which range from the original Tesla roadster through to the Tesla S and finally the recently launched Tesla X. There is also a Tesla 3 coming next year. There followed a presentation by the Tesla sales team explaining the very appealing company concept of providing a complete service offering following the car purchase which includes free charging across Europe at through a network of "super charger" stations which can deliver a complete charge in approximately half an hour. At home the customer can elect for either a standard charger which plugs into the domestic mains and takes about 10 hours to charge or a fast charger which requires a 10 Amp connection and takes around 5 hours to charge, ie. overnight.

The presentation was followed by a questions and answers session. Then came the moment everyone had been waiting for, it was time to hit the road for some test driving and to experience the legendary performance of the Tesla cars. We split up into groups of 3 with each group accompanied by a Tesla guide and set about putting the Tesla S and Tesla X models through their paces. There was plenty of head banging going on during the test drives, not because of the heavy metal music playing, but due to the "ridiculous" acceleration forcing back the heads of drivers and passengers. The top of the range Tesla S boasts an acceleration of 0 to 100km per hour in 3 seconds which is approaching the acceleration of a Formula 1 car! The Tesla has a range of around 500km when being driven sensibly (which we were definitely not doing!). Another highlight of driving Teslas is the famous auto pilot feature which automatically keeps the car centered in its lane on the motorway, maintains a safe programmable distance from the car in front adapting the speed as required and even safely changes lane automatically when the left or right indicator is activated. For safety reasons hands must be kept on the steering wheel for this feature to work and of course at all other times as well. The Tesla boasts 12 different sensors around the car which are continuously monitoring the white lines and surrounding vehicles. A huge color touch screen adorns the center console of the Tesla providing full internet access and graphical information about the cars performance and energy consumption. The navigation system also knows the locations of the free charging stations across Europe so that long journeys can be planned.

Tesla features 4 wheel drive using 2 separate motors, one for the rear wheels and a second for the front making it fully at home in the snow. The Tesla weighs approximately two tonnes which includes about 400kg of Lithium Ion batteries.



Just as some IMCZ members were lifting out their cheque books the question of price was discussed. Depending on the model and options a new Tesla will set you back anywhere from 80'000 SFr. to 180'000 SFr. The cheque books quietly slipped away again back into our pockets. It was suggested we should perhaps try out some Porsches first before deciding. That would be another IMCZ test drive outing at a later date.

The IMCZ is greatly indebted to ex IMCZ board member Danilo Bertocchi who is the boss of Tesla in Zug. Without his help the visit would not have been possible. Thanks are also due to our active Events' organiser, Ram Ramphal for his follow up and organisation.

IMCZ BOARD MEMBERS Thumbnail biographies of board members can be found on our website www.imcz.club under 'About Us' section	PRESIDENT Roger Brooks 079 583 9935 President@IMCZ.com	VICE PRESIDENT NEWSLETTER EDITOR Muthana Kubba 079 340 2592 Newsletter@IMCZ.com	SECRETARY Bill Lichtensteiger 079 378 6326 Secretary@IMCZ.com	TREASURER Ilham Yüksel 079 955 2287 Treasurer@IMCZ.com
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The streets and squares of Zug were filled with the sound of Jazz

ZUG – Thursday & Friday 25-26 August from 19:00.

Jazz Night Zug is a two day music festival that takes place in the old town of Zug. This is the festival where the audience would say: "At last Jazz, which can be heard," explains Rainer Riek, IMCZ member and President of the Jazz Night organizing committee. But the festival is more than just audible Jazz. This year the 25th anniversary was celebrated in bright sunshine, the perfect conditions for 2 successful evenings.

Although the Jazz Night has established itself over the past years, says Rainer: "Jazz Night Zug is rather the working title of the past, when Jazz was still cool, also for younger people." Actually "Music Night" would also fit quite well. Not only classical jazz is played there, but also related music, mainly played live, he says. "of course for die-hard jazzmen, it could always be jazzier."

The audience seems to like it, with 10,000 visitors expected this year. That so many visitors follow the Jazz Night was not always the case. From a rather improvised stage show on the *Landsgemeindeplatz*, Jazz Night has developed over the years into a professionally organized and conducted Jazz Festival in the old town.

Rainer Riek, reports positive results over the last 25 years. "The festival has evolved steadily", from a 'one' day to a 'two' days festival with five large stages. There are also two jam sessions. "That is simply part of a jazz festival" according to Rainer.

"We set the limits with hard rock or rock, *Schlager* and classical music," says Rainer. But in between there is a lot of space. "The Jazz should be played in all its facets." The organisation promises, amongst others, Electric-, Afro-, Troubadour- and Pop- or Old Time Jazz. For example, the group *Discosaster* which brings live dance music back into the here and now: an explosive mix of soul, funk and current pop music. Disco music of today! Dancing is a must!

"Furthermore, the festival is for the general public and not for a select group of intellectual jazz lovers," says Rainer.

Also, the local musicians are not neglected, especially not at the anniversary edition this year, which was celebrated with a melody, developed by the Zuger clarinetist and composer Mathias Landtwing. He arranged it for the Big Band of the Music School Zug.

21 bands from both Switzerland and abroad provided a great musical atmosphere with sounds from all possible directions of Jazz on 5 different stages: *Landsgemeindeplatz*, *Gerbipplatz*, *Fischmarkt*, *Schwanenplatz* and the *Bar zum Felsenkeller*.

It was the *Big Band Musikschule Stadt Zug* which had the honor of kicking off the 25th Jazz Night on the main stage at the *Landsgemeindeplatz*. 31 young musicians, directed by Roland Dahinden, played a collection of the *Real Book* standards such as 'Caravan' or 'Feeling good', much to the delight of the numerous assembled audience.

At the same time, and just a few meters away, Veronika's Ndiigo was playing on the *Gerbipplatz* stage.

Her quiet tones, cautiously accompanied by her band, perfectly fitted to this hot Thursday night. Next to the stage there were cool drinks and pasta. Actually, the perfect ingredients to enjoy one of the last summer evenings this year.

The solo guitar artist, Simon Wahl, now known internationally for his virtuoso guitar playing technique, brought clever elaborated arrangements of known pieces and original compositions with humorous moderation announcements.

After 9pm, the number of jazz lovers slowly reached its limit. *Schiffsteg*, *Ufer*, *Mauern und Kiesplatz*, are all filled with standing concertgoers. At the *Landsgemeindeplatz* we noticed that the 10 meters between the stage and the hard benches slowly filled with head-bobbing dancers. On stage the Hot8



Rainer Riek playing the trumpet with the City Council Band at the Landsgemeindeplatz



Konstantin Wecker at the Landsgemeindeplatz

Brass Band from New Orleans, one of the few non-Swiss formations that evening, played, followed by *Discoaster*.

The party continued on Friday night with an introductory concert by members of the Zug City Council, assisted by a few able sidemen and soloists, one of whom was Rainer Riek on trumpet. He delivered swinging solos on both of the two pieces played, both compositions by Landtwing. *Woodoism* and *Le Rex* played at the *Fischmarkt* and *Heavytones* and *Konstantin Wecker* followed at the *Landsgemeindeplatz*.

At midnight, the Jazz Night Zug festival concluded with a Jazz jam session at Restaurant *Schiff*.

We all look forward to the 2017 edition!



Hike down the Engelberger Aa, Sunday August 28

On this bright, cloudless and hot Sunday morning, 12 IMCZ members, seven of them with their spouses, plus two guests, a total of 21, showed up at the Engelberg railway station on the 9:53 train from Luzern. They were met there by Engelberg veteran and hike organiser Muthana Kubba, who duly took them to a nearby lovely coffee shop.

With everyone fully awake and eager after the excellent coffee, the hike started at 10:45 with a long walk northwards along the main and only road leading into Engelberg. On the outskirts of the village we passed a small lake (Eugensee), used for pumped water power storage, on the right the gorge proper started. Even if the waters flowing down the gorge were not as massive as they were on July 2, when Muthana made the walk solo, they were still very scenic and impressive. The first resting place appeared after about 20 minutes walk down the gorge. The ladies promptly occupied the swings and rested while admiring the water flow on the rocks in front of them. Shortly afterwards we crossed the first of seven bridges, and twenty minutes later we came across a well signposted 45 kW turbine power station, powered by waters from the water treatment plant of Engelberg. Soon afterwards we stopped at a well appointed rest place with cutlery, grilling place, benches and, yes, even turbines which actually turn. It is a great opportunity for future engineers to appreciate water energy. We walked on, crossing more bridges, two of them were suspension bridges, which required



considerable skill and balance to cross, as they swung considerably with some of us not breaking step. Finally, after more than 90 minutes descent we arrived at the Obermatt Hydroelectric Power station. After another 3 km walk along the Aa when scenic waterfalls in the distance coming down almost vertical walls, we finally arrived at Grafenort, a tiny settlement at the foot of the Engelberg mountain, consisting of a railway station, a small church, a large pension house and a restaurant. It is to this restaurant, Gasthaus Grafenort that we headed, where an excellent Indian buffet lunch was waiting for us.

After lunch we said our goodbyes and headed home, taking with us wonderful memories of an unforgettable walk with perfect weather and great company.



ERLEBNISWEG AASCHLUCHT

Die Hochwasserereignisse vom August 2005 und Oktober 2011 haben den Wanderweg zwischen Engelberg und Grafenort zu grossen Teilen massiv zerstört. Unter der Führung von Revierförster Sepp Hurschter (Hasenmatt Sepp), organisierte sich 2007 eine Interessensgruppe mit dem Ziel, den stark beschädigten Fussweg, ohne Mittel der Öffentlichkeit, als Erlebnisweg wieder instand zu stellen.

Die Wegsanierung wurde sorgfältig geplant und zusätzliche Anlageteile wie Hängebrücken, Rastplätze usw. wurden zur Steigerung der Attraktivität in das Projekt aufgenommen. Heute führt der Erlebnisweg über sieben Brücken, davon drei Hängebrücken. Die Instandstellungsarbeiten wurden mit vielen freiwilligen Helfern durchgeführt. Die Erste Etappe konnte 2008 abgeschlossen werden, die Fertigstellung der gesamten Wegstrecke erfolgte im Jahr 2011.

An dieser Stellen danken wir allen Sponsoren, Gönnern, allen freiwilligen Helferinnen und Helfern sowie dem massgeblichen Einsatz finanzieller Mittel der Fritz Carl Wilhelm Stiftung. In Erinnerung an Dr. Fritz Kausch, Gast im Hotel Hess, Engelberg.

Gönnen Sie sich ein einmaliges Erlebnis und geniessen Sie mit allen Sinnen die Begehung des Erlebnisweges.

IG Erlebnisweg Aaschlucht





Annual Barbecue

Warm and rather uncertain weather greeted us on the morning of Sunday August 21st, however, it did not deter the several members who turned up early to set up the Siehbachsaal in Zug for the jewel of our annual activities, the **summer barbecue**.

It is easy to oversee the amount of work put in to make this event a success. Carrying and setting up the all the foldable tables and benches from the cellar to the garden, setting up, getting the two club banners and fixing them against the wind, making sure the sound system works, checking up on the caterer to see all is well etc etc. Thankfully it all worked out quite well, everyone carried out his allocated task(s) diligently and quickly and by the time of the official start at 11:30, everything was in place and ready.

In spite of at least one heavy shower, we all had a fabulous time. The new caterer recommended by our Events organiser Ram, turned out to be a professional caterer who served excellent food with delicious dessert and plenty of drinks.

Our PR manager Andy showed up just after lunch with a bunch of raffle prizes, as well as a challenging quiz on the theme of this year's BBQ, Germany. Believe it or not, even some Germans did not know the number of States in the Federal Republic of Germany. By the time the quiz had finished, the sun was shining again, so we moved to the garden to enjoy the ice cream dessert, have a lively chat and buy some raffle tickets.

With the raffle winners beaming with joy, the games started. Some played badminton, others participated in the group board-ski competition, and others simply sat enjoying the sunshine and the beautiful scenery with the gleaming waters of the lake of Zug adding to the beauty of the occasion.

All in all, it was another unforgettable event where everyone had a great time.



Salt and rehydration in sports

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

Salt has the reputation of being a very important ingredient in sports drinks. In contrast, public health campaigns encourage us to reduce salt consumption in our diet. The question arises as to whether the addition of salt (sodium chloride) in sports drinks is necessary, uncritical, or even useless.

With respect to the biochemical function of sodium, the aim of adding it is to improve fluid and energy absorption. The absorption of glucose from the intestines into the blood stream is dependent upon sodium. But it is still controversial, as to whether external sodium addition is necessary in a sports drink. However, the ingestion of a sodium solution prior to effort (pre-hydration) clearly appears to increase blood plasma volume compared to plain water (*Mora-Rodriguez und Hamouti, Med Sport Sci, 2012*). The blood becomes more diluted so to speak. Such an increased fluidity may improve performance, because it optimizes blood flow and concomitant oxygen and nutrient transport into the body's system. One can conclude that pre-hydration with a beverage containing sodium may lead to a performance benefit during the following physical effort.

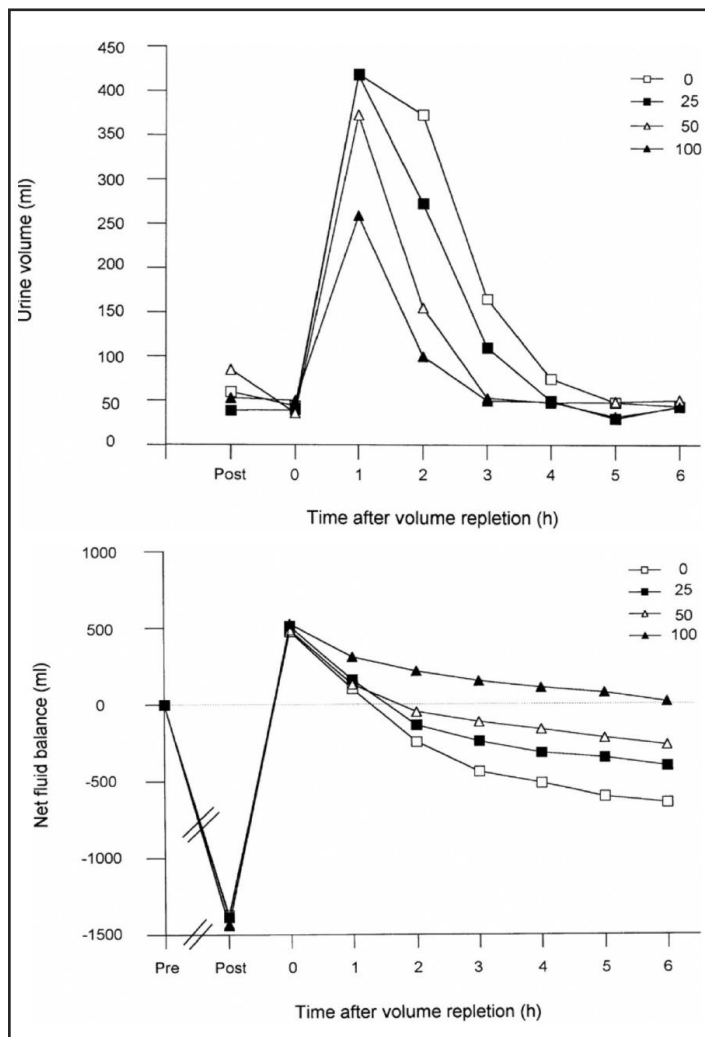
Sports drinks with sodium, taken prior to and during exercise, support the quickest and most complete rehydration possible due to its influence on the feeling of thirst, as it does not suppress it prematurely. The feeling of thirst is correlated to the ratio of water and sodium. If in a state of dehydration, one drinks only plain water, the concentration of sodium in our body fluids becomes reduced and the feeling of thirst is stopped before complete rehydration is achieved.



Plain water also causes a greater diuretic effect than drink solutions with sodium, due to its lowering effect on the release of the hormone vasopressin. This results in increased urine volume, and subsequently, more time and fluid is needed until complete rehydration and recovery. The two graphs from *Shirreffs and Maughan (Am J Physiol, 1998)* demonstrate this effect very nicely (0-100 mmol sodium per litre). No or low sodium fluids result in a higher urine volume and a balanced (euhydrated) fluid state in the body cannot be effectively maintained.

Furthermore, a lack of sodium in sports drinks, as well as inadequate fluid intake *per se*, promote the occurrence of muscle cramp. Consequently, athletes prone to muscle cramping should consider a soda loading during 4 to 5 days prior to long-lasting endurance activities, i.e. exceeding 3 to 4 hours, particularly in the heat.

In summary, whenever efficient rehydration or fast recovery is desired, one's drinking routine should consist of a beverage containing at least 500 to 1000 mg of sodium per litre. It is important to stress, however, that the maximum stomach emptying rate of a sports drinks - or other fluids for that matter - is indicated as 1200 ml per hour and therefore the drinking volume should not exceed this limit! Fruit juices are not ideal for hydration due to their hypertonic concentration and lack of sodium. Diluted fruit juices with added sodium may be suitable, though the ideal solutions are sodium-enriched, hypotonic sports drinks.



Are we alone?

Contributed by IMCZ honorary member and Newsletter Editor Muthana Kubba

Ever since Giovanni Schiaparelli pointed his telescope at planet Mars and thought he had detected huge watering canals (he called them Canali) there, the imagination of mankind was fired up. Could there be life, intelligent or otherwise, outside our planet Earth? The question has been a burning issue ever since, not least because it has enormously deep psychological, ethical, religious and above all scientific implications.

The Mars canali were later shown to be an optical illusion. Landing on the moon in 1969 had confirmed that it is totally bone dry with no trace of life, so mankind looked towards Mars as a possible candidate and started to send robotic landing missions there. Wikipedia lists no less than 55 missions, 27 of which were failures. Mars proved to be particularly tricky to land on. The first successful landing on its surface was achieved on December 4, 1996 by the 'Mars Pathfinder'. All the previous successful missions were merely orbiters, to observe and survey Mars' surface from above. Since the landing of the Mars Pathfinder, there have been several successful landings, with one major mission en route. In spite of all the diligence, know-how and persistence, no sign of life has so far been found, not even primitive life. The final verdict will be delivered by the missions en route, which are expected to arrive there in 2021.

Within our solar system, apart from Mars, the only other candidates which could possibly support some form of life are Europa the sixth moon of Jupiter and Enceladus, again the sixth moon of the planet Saturn. Europa is also the sixth largest moon in the solar system. It has a water-ice crust and a tenuous

atmosphere composed mostly of oxygen. It is thought that beneath the ice crust some form of extraterrestrial life might exist. The tidal forces of its enormous parent planet would generate enough internal heat to support life. This is, of course, still a far-fetched theory. The other candidate is Enceladus, a moon of planet Saturn. It is much smaller than our own moon, its diameter being only 500 Km. Earth's moon has a diameter of 3474 Km, making it 335 times larger in volume. Enceladus is the only moon in the solar system that has geysers, which are types of volcanoes consisting of water and steam. Its geological activity is thought to be caused by tidal forces within it, driven by its parent planet. The presence of salt water, heat and the discovery that the geysers contain some organic compounds like methane, acetylene and formaldehyde has raised speculations that some form of life might be supported on it.

The burning question as to whether any form of life exists outside planet Earth, has therefore remained, up till now, unanswered. Are we alone and unique in the whole universe, or are we just one out of many other civilizations which have evolved in other worlds?

SETI: Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence

In the fifties, someone asked the question, "If there are other advanced civilizations why haven't they tried to contact us?" This led to the famous SETI program, Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence. Antennas all over the world were pointed to the sky and terabytes of data were gathered daily. Even home computers were recruited to analyse the astronomical amount of data gathered in

trying to find a pattern which might point to intelligent life. Four decades of intensive search have yielded nothing whatsoever.

Exo Planets

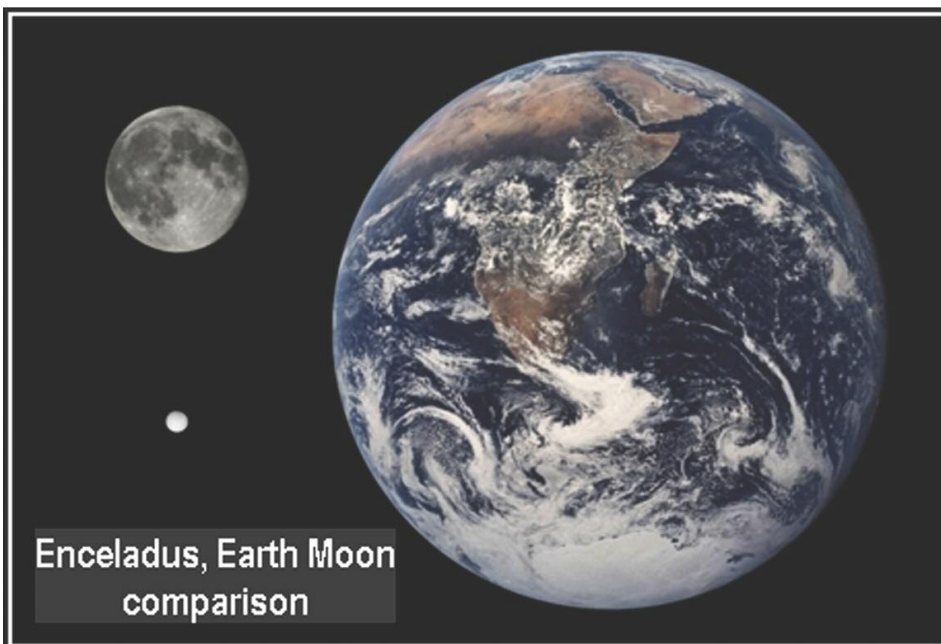
Wise guys suggested modifying the SETI program, to look for signs of intelligent life only in worlds that are likely to support life. In the meantime, telescope technology had advanced considerably, especially for telescopes placed outside the Earth's atmosphere like the Hubble Telescope and James Webb Space Telescope, which will soon to be launched and will hover at the L2 Lagrange point, 1.5 million Km from the Earth (three times further away than our moon). Using such powerful telescopes, astronomers were able to detect slight wobbles or dimming of the light intensity of several faraway stars. From these slight, but periodic variations they surmise that they are caused by planets circulating around them. Such planets are called exoplanets.

So far around 5000 exoplanets have been discovered. Most of them are either too close to the star around which they orbit or too far away. A few are Earth-like; fewer still orbit their star at the right distance to make them habitable.

By a stroke of luck, an exoplanet was recently discovered orbiting the nearest star to us, Proxima Centauri. What is more, it is Earth-like and orbits its star at the inhabitable distance. Although its year is only 12 days long, i.e. it is orbiting its sun much more closely than our Earth, at only 7.5 million Km (ours is at 150 million Km). Its star is reaching the end of its life cycle (astronomically speaking) and its luminosity is much lower than that of our sun, resulting in the right temperature on the planet's surface. However, even being the closest star to us, it is still 4.2 light years away: a mighty distance of 40'000 billion kilometres.

How alone are we?

Looking at the night sky with its billions of twinkling stars, and admiring the Milky Way, which marks our own home galaxy, it is easy to forget just how lonely our solar system is in the cosmos. As mentioned above, the nearest star to us is Alpha Centauri at 4.2 light years away (light takes only 8 minutes to reach us from the sun). To gain a sense of magnitude of how far away it is, take a Sfr. 5 coin; imagine that the centre of the coin is the sun and the circumference the orbit of the Earth around it. At this scale (31mm = 300 million Km), Alpha Centauri would be 4 kilometres away! Even if a rocket were to travel at 300'000 km per hour towards it, it would take 15000 years to get there. Higher velocities would bring in relativistic aspects which will become

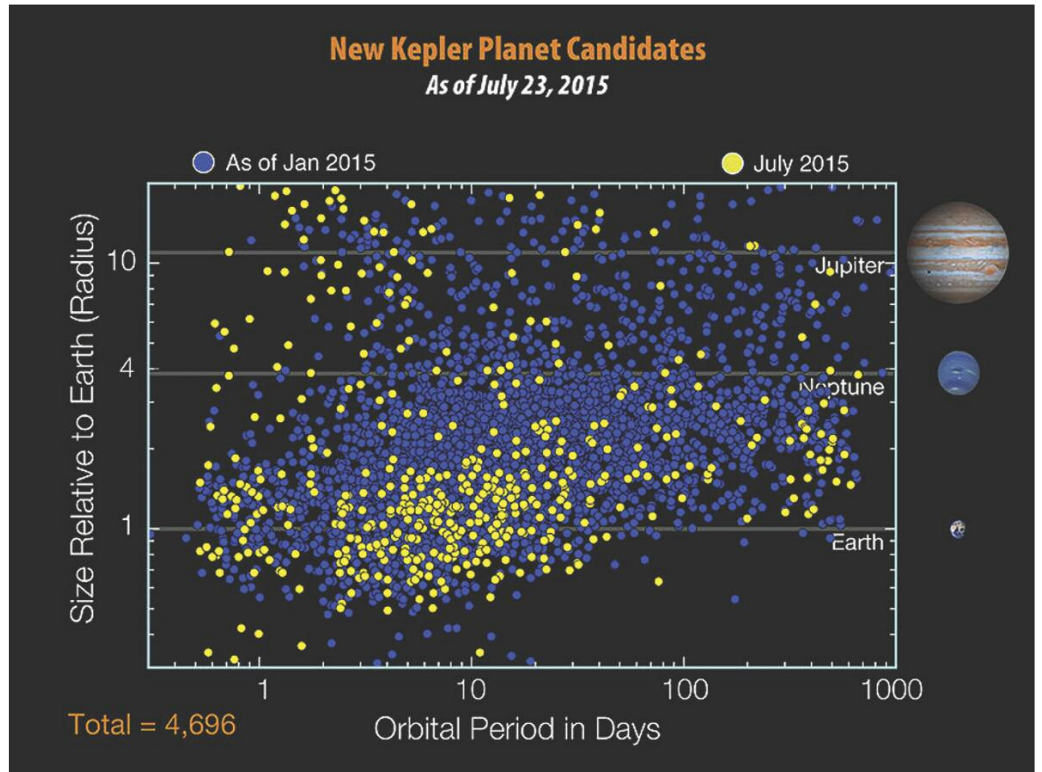




significant, e.g. time dilation etc., not to mention the enormous amount of energy which would be needed to attain a higher velocity.

Our only chance to find out is to send a strong radio signal directed towards it, and then listen carefully for a reply eight and a half years later. This assumes of course that there is highly developed intelligent life there. This is a tall order at the best of times.

Of course due to the tremendous number of galaxies and stars in the cosmos, somewhere at sometime intelligent life might have evolved. However, we shall never know, and even if we knew by a freak chance of picking up a signal, we shall never be able to communicate with it, due to the basic physical limitation that nothing can move faster than the speed of light.



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SOCIAL MUSIC NETWORK

Brexit - What is it all about? - Part II

Contributed by IMCZ Member and Newsletter Co-editor Roger Dixon



countries of the ex-Communist bloc, with their fledgling economies. They will, of course, head for the high-GDP countries with extensive social welfare networks, e.g. Germany, the UK, Sweden, and the Netherlands. That is human

In Part I of my article, I referred to the topics of economics and security. In this part, I shall look at immigration and sovereignty. Of course the four topics are not totally unrelated to each other.

Immigration

Immigration is always an emotional issue and not just in the UK. I do not believe that the majority of the UK citizens are opposed to immigration, but of course, there are the usual groups of people with extreme views. They do not, however, represent the majority. The issue at stake is how immigration is managed, or indeed, whether it is managed at all. All high-GDP countries have benefitted from qualified immigration. In recent times however, immigration in Europe has undergone a number of transformations. One immigration issue, particularly amongst the indigenous unskilled workers, is job security. Many countries, such as Canada and Australia have immigration policies that take into account the skills of the prospective immigrants. Where immigration applicants have no significant skills, they will clearly be in competition with unskilled locals and typically be willing to accept lower pay, as this may still give them a better standard of living than wherever they came from, especially if they come from countries whose social infrastructures are relatively underdeveloped. This can also create social unrest, as the unskilled indigenous population are not able to come to terms with their changed circumstances and blame the new immigrants for this. This may well have played a role in the way people voted in the UK on Brexit.

In the area of EU internal migration, there are inherent difficulties due to the economic and political disparity across this artificially created "union". Clearly, the stronger economies in western and northern Europe are an enticing prospect to many citizens from the former Communist countries in the east, for example. Then there is the massive influx of "refugees" from Africa and the Middle East, which has brought uncontrolled chaos. Schengen, which is an impractical white-tower project, is coming apart at the seams. It is clear that many of the "refugees" are not refugees in the truest sense of the word. They will certainly not remain in the Mediterranean countries, which have been gone into economic decline with the assistance of the EU, nor in the

nature at work. Many will make a valuable contribution to their host countries, but many will end up doing exactly the opposite. Europe, whilst having a philanthropic duty, cannot be the dumping ground for the fall-out from the despotic, corrupt and economically incompetent "leadership" prevalent in many of the aforementioned geographies. The EU seems powerless to do anything meaningful to counter this. I accept that the UK has made its fair share of mistakes in foreign policy in recent times, particularly in Iraq & Afghanistan, but the intent was to do something about the despots and the resultant mess is also due in no small measure to the self-serving stance of countries like Saudi Arabia, to name but one. The UK population's main issue with immigration is in ensuring that the economic situation remains in balance and it did not perceive that continuing to be part of the EU was conducive to this end.

Sovereignty

In my opinion, the sovereignty issue was probably the most important factor behind the Brexit vote. The UK has a sovereign parliament that makes laws for the country, but has also signed up for the majority of international legal frameworks. However, the British were not happy with the stance taken by the EU with respect to their right to administer "the law of the land" internally with respect to matters that affected the UK alone. For example, there were two known Islamic radicalisers, Abu Hamza and Abu Qatada. The former was abusing the religious freedom offered to him by using Finsbury Park mosque in London to radicalise young Muslims behind closed doors, as well as preaching hate on the streets of London. The US had an arrest warrant for him. The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) blocked Abu Hamza's extradition to the United States to face terrorism charges until the court was satisfied that he would not be treated inhumanely and said there should be further legal argument on whether life without parole would be a breach of human rights. One might ask whether the human rights of any possible victims would be so benignly protected.

Interestingly, Hamza himself has been quoted as describing Britain as "a paradise, where you could do anything you wanted."

In the case of Abu Qatada, who was wanted in his home country of Jordan on terrorism



charges, he would, according to the EU Court of Human Rights, not get a fair trial in Jordan. The Home Secretary (now Prime Minister) Theresa May, managed, through very active diplomacy, to get them both deported. Abu Qatada, not only got a fair trial, but was also acquitted on the terrorism charges. Abu Hamza is serving life without parole in Colorado.

It is this type of meddling in such sovereign issues that the British are not willing to accept. These matters were nothing to do with any other country in the EU or indeed Europe, although Abu Hamza had apparently fought in the Bosnian war under an assumed name.

As well as such emotive issues, there are also numerous other areas in which the EU tries to dictate terms at a ridiculous level, not only in the UK, also but in other member states. One example that springs to mind is the ban on curvature in cucumbers. Mind-boggling! Red tape of this type would appear to be the *raison d'être* of many bureaucrats in Brussels. However, most people couldn't care less whether a cucumber is straight or circular as long as it taste all right.



Nigel Farage, the leader of the UK Independence Party, who spent 17 years striving to get the UK out of the EU, said after the Brexit vote, "I've got my country back". I believe, that the issue of sovereignty was the biggest driver in his campaign and it certainly didn't fall on deaf ears in the UK.

The Trials and Tribulations of Trying to Become a Catering Entrepreneur in Switzerland: (Part 1)

Contributed by
IMCZ member Ian Stansfield

Many of you are aware of my project and have been wondering why it is taking so long. So here is a brief explanation.

In 2013 I decided that, now my children were grown up, I would leave the rat race. I had several attempts that led to dead ends. One of these ideas was to take over a pizza courier business in Cham. The equipment was ancient and the business nowhere to be seen. I couldn't make the figures work on paper so declined to take it on. Shortly afterwards it folded! After that, I landed a lucrative project with a bank which gave me 6 months to consolidate my ideas. On finishing with the bank, I was ready to start my business as a "Fish & Chip" entrepreneur. Amongst my relatives, friends and acquaintances, response to my proposal was mixed. Some thought it a good idea, others were sceptical.

I did have experience as a silver service waiter (age 16-18), trainee restaurant manager (age 18-19) and restaurant owner (2005), so the catering business was not new to me. "Fish and Chips" is a specialist business so, to get up to speed quickly, I went on a 3 day training course with the NFFF (<http://www.federationoffishfriers.co.uk>). On 01.09.2015, I joined 9 other students in Leeds, West Yorkshire, keen to be initiated into the secret handshakes, passwords, grips and signs of the fish frying world. The course was fast paced and extremely informative.



Fish and Chips

Fully qualified and ready to go, I set about finding a "Fish & chip" catering van". Second-hand vans were risky to import because of the Swiss MFK (road worthiness test). Many do not have the CE conformity marking, so I designed my own and contacted manufacturers. There was an incredible number of catering trailer builders. With the aid of my solicitor (American: Attorney at Law) we contacted the Swiss authorities (Strassenverkehrsamt Zug, Amt für

Verbraucherschutz, Polizeiamt Stadt Zug, Volkswirtschaftsdirektion des Kantons Zug, Lebensmittelinspektorat Kanton Zürich, Lebensmittelinspektorat Stadt Zürich, Amt für Baubewilligungen Stadt Zürich, Kreisarchitektin für Hardbrücke). What a lot of official bodies! We had green lights right the way through until the last one, the "Kreisarchitektin" (District architect). This was a stop light that would never change colour. Who wants a lot of temporary catering vans making the place look ugly! I had to reflect and agree with district architects decision. Switzerland just isn't ready for street food.

A quick investigation of catering at fairs and events showed me that they were oversubscribed. So... I started looking for premises. Premises are risky because of the long leases, high rents and extortionate inventory that has to be taken over from the previous owner. It's now the middle of October and I registered a limited company "Fish und Chips GmbH". It soon became clear that I would need funding as well. I wrote out a detailed business case only to be refused a loan by 6 different banks. I started offering 20% investment from my own funds and 80% borrowed and ended offering 80% investment from my own funds. Apparently, start-up catering businesses in Switzerland are such high risk that the banks will not support any catering project no matter how good it is on paper.

Simultaneously I had been in negotiations to take over the lease of a small take-away in Baar. There were a number of issues with taking on the premises. Alcoholic residential neighbours, unfriendly business neighbours, uncertainty about building permissions, the landlord wanted to greatly increase the rent, staff were related to the business owner and would leave on handing over the business, etc etc. The failure to obtain external funding was the last straw so I decided to start afresh.

With a less ambitious model, I searched for premises that would not require external funding. I was almost at the point of despair and then at the beginning of November, I saw an advertisement for a very small take-away shop in the town of Schwyz within a stone's throw of the main square. The rent was low, the space was 25sq meters. Against this I would have to buy a lot of inventory that I did not need, the asking price was far in excess of the value but nothing like my previous experience of small catering establishment inventories of 250,000 SFr. that other places were asking. Still, I had my doubts. I did the maths and came



up with some very good figures. The running cost indicates that the business would need a very low turnover to make a profit. But... what would I do for custom. The Swiss are very keen on Egli Knusperli (Small pieces of Perch battered and deep-fried), so fried battered fish is not a new concept. Many of my Swiss friends and acquaintances related how they had been on language courses in England and had lived almost solely on "Fish & Chips". I had a lot of very positive feedback. Within 100 meters of the shop are a busy night club with capacity for 600, a theatre, cinema, busy fitness centre, backpacker hotel, local government offices and many other local businesses. A little bit further away is the factory of the famous Swiss army knife manufacturer and several other well-known Swiss brands, the new Rotenflue gondola lift, a secondary school, Stoos ski resort and many other villages and towns. The centre of Schwyz town has only two other fast food outlets, a kebab shop and pizza take away. Both seem to be doing an excellent trade.

Others had been interested in the premises, but I surmised the cost of taking over the inventory was so high compared with its worth, that they would be put off. After a few weeks delay the business owner agreed to take the shop off the market whilst I applied for the necessary planning permission for signage and an extraction exhaust duct for the frying range. I contacted 3 architects for a price and took the one that made an offer 2/5ths the price of the others. I had already prepared some scale drawing of the intended work so we saved a lot of time and cost. The planning permission was granted in mid february. At least 8 different local government departments (Amts) had been involved in the decision.

During January I had been negotiating to buy a second hand electric frying range. There are only a very few fish and chip ranges outside Britain, so that is where I searched. Normally frying ranges are gas fired. Annoyingly there had until recently been a gas connection to the building. This was to supply the old bakery. To

reconnect it would mean investing 12,000 SFr (Twelve Thousand!). Hence the electric range. Electric ranges are rare but I tracked one down in Fort William, Scotland. There was only one. So how would you go about buying a frying range in the frozen North of Britain and getting it to Switzerland?

The range had been advertised several times on an auction site but had not sold. My solution was to find the seller directly, then agree a discounted price on condition that it met my expectations before handing over the hard earned cash. The person selling the range sounded friendly and honest so I decided to take a chance. First I wrote out a receipt and sent it to the seller. The form was very simple; just the description from the auction site, a serial number, a price, date and place and signature line for both of us. The seller agreed the receipt.

The logistics took some careful planning. Do I have to pay duty and/or VAT? What papers do I need? First I contacted the British Embassy in Bern. They were very helpful but from the UK VAT and customs point of view it was just a black hole. I surfed UK government websites, called telephone numbers, wrote emails, by clandestine means obtained telephone numbers direct to the customs officers at the ports but was told I had to call the official number that would never be answered. The Embassy did give me a Swiss contact, complete with name, email address and telephone number, to the (Eidgenössisches Finanzdepartement EFD / Eidgenössische Zollverwaltung EZV). The difference was amazing. He told me exactly which documents and forms were needed for import into Switzerland; how to find the import tariffs (www.tares.ch), online import declaration form (<https://e-dec-web.ezv.admin.ch/webdec/main.xhtml?rvn=3>) – it works in a similar way to the etax for canton Zug; opening times of the customs offices at the border crossing; advice about free-trade agreement with Europe. An important piece of information that I learned was that the duty tariffs are based on the weight of the goods.

So I was ready to buy the fryer. Which do you do first? 1) Arrange flight to Glasgow. 2) Arrange hire of 3.5 tonne (Luton van) 3) Arrange P&O Ferries North Sea (Freight) from Hull to Zeebrugge and return via Calais Dover 4) Arrange to meet shipping agent at Hull to collect the form once I know the weight of the frying range 5) Find a public weighbridge near to Glasgow, I will need to weigh the van before loading the frying range and again afterwards. 6) Find some budget accommodation in Fort William.

I followed this sequence and then came to step 5, find a public Weighbridge. All the



weighbridges either don't open on Saturday or close at noon. Easyjet only did Swiss flights from Geneva to Glasgow on Saturdays. These flights arrived in the afternoon so they were too late for the weighbridges. Needless to say I did not get a refund from Easyjet. So I flew with British Airways, a far more civilised experience. The only problem was getting to Geneva early enough for the flight. No problem, I travelled on a late train on Friday evening and slept in front of the departures gates.

Glasgow and Fort William

The airport cleaning staff were obliging and quietly vacuumed around me in the morning before I woke up. I arrived in Glasgow via London City airport at 10:10. Although I had arranged to meet the van hire company as soon as I could, they were nowhere to be seen and there was no official desk. The van booking had been subcontracted. I had to buy a new UK pay as you go phone card; the old one had expired after a year of not using it. I had tested it before starting by sending a text message. This worked perfectly in Switzerland but failed to function in the UK. This all took some time and I finally got the van at 11:15. The fuel tank was empty. I arrived at the weighbridge at 11:45. They were closing the gates just as I arrived, 15 minutes early! After some initial protest they weighed the van. It weighed in empty at 2.52 Metric tonnes. The next part of the adventure was to arrange to collect cash to purchase the fryer. Electronic transfer would not do as I needed to see the fryer first. The day I would be able to see the fryer was on was Sunday. Banks don't open on Sunday. Although I had painstakingly arranged to take out a 5 figure amount in £50 notes, it still took over an hour to prise their fingers off my notes. I had parked the van outside the centre of Glasgow and taken the bus. I wandered about through various malls

and department stores to make sure I wasn't being followed and then took the bus the half hour ride back to the van. I'd parked the van in a supermarket car park with video surveillance and was relieved to find it still had wheels on it.

I set off for Fort William. There were massive pot holes in the roads, roads that were awash to axle depth, narrow roads that followed the winding contour of the lake, some places too narrow for a coach and a van to pass; torrential rain, fog and snow.

I had arranged to stay at the Ben Nevis Inn and bunkhouse (<http://www.ben-nevis-inn.co.uk/>) just at the foot of Britain's tallest mountain. I generally stay overnight for 50 CHF or less. There doesn't seem any point in forking out a fortune for a fancy room when all you are going to do is sleep in it. Even though it was off season in Fort William and most guest houses and hotels were empty, no one would offer me a room for less than £60. I couldn't even arrange for a cooked breakfast to be included in the price. Luckily I had found the bunk house for only £15.50 a night.

On arrival it did not seem such a good idea. Strong winds and sheets of rain were pouring down. The high side of the van was catching the full blast. Getting out of the van was difficult I had to brace myself against the door to stop it being ripped off when I opened it.

It was 9 pm when I got inside the inn, it was an old stone barn converted in to a hostel and restaurant. The warmth and atmosphere were a complete contrast to the world outside. I found a place at the long trestle table shared with the other guests. Quids in over the accommodation, I ordered Haggis to start and Steak with pepper sauce and chips to follow. This was accompanied with red wine.

I retired to my bunk just as some climbers returned from climbing Ben Nevis. We talked as they relieved themselves of ice axes and crampons. They were unfamiliar with snow shoes but though it might be possible to use them to climb Ben Nevis.

I slept through the night with my concealed 5 figure wad in an open bunk room.

After showering I met the fryer salesman. The fryer was far bigger than I imagined. With a fork lift truck and a lot of Scottish vernacular cussing we got the van loaded. Some parts were missing but we managed to locate them. By this time it was mid-afternoon. I handed over the notes and after the first wad he didn't want to count any more. I insisted and the job was done properly. The range is 5 years old and I bought it for less than a quarter of its original price. The make is considered to be the Rolls-Royce of frying ranges. We were both winners and parted friends.

I hadn't booked any accommodation for Sunday evening as I was unsure how the day would progress and where I would be in the evening. I called my mother and whilst I drove the tortuous two and a half hour route back towards Glasgow she found me a hotel on the outskirts of Glasgow with own on-suit and breakfast included for the incredible price of £35 a night. Competition for guests is fierce in Glasgow. The hotel had a secure car park with video surveillance.

Overweight

The following morning I went to see my old friends at the weighbridge. We now weighed 3.4 tonnes. This was a disaster as I had ordered and paid for Fish & Chips Shop supplies at a local wholesaler. All that I would need to open and run the shop for 2 months. These weighed 0.58 tonnes, 380 kg over my allowed axle weight. The fryer weighed 880 Kg!

I had to call and ask the wholesaler to hold on to the pallets until I could arrange a shipping firm to collect them.

I called the ferry agent to bring my booking forwards only to discover that I should have sailed the previous week. They were very good and rearranged my crossing without further cost. I had plenty of time to get to Hull and dropped in to visit my Great Auntie at Carlisle who I hadn't seen in many years. We had a great couple of hours together and hoped to see each other sooner than previously. Not all her guests turn up with an 880 kg fryer.

At Hull the traffic was dense and slow moving. I met the freight agent, she was standing outside the office with the form, it was like a pit stop, and I then went through the freight gates at Hull port. They knew that I was a



freight novice and I had to go back round through the gates 3 times before I got it right. Everyone was very friendly. I felt like an imposter with my little van. Everyone else had an articulated lorry. There were about 10 of us. Food was basic and there was no bar. We were not a happy ship.

We arrived at 8:45am at Zeebrugge on 10.02.2016. With all possible haste I headed for the Mulhouse customs post, 680 km away. The cross winds on the motorway in the Belgium/Luxembourg area were so fierce that they blew over an articulated lorry and the motorway was covered in wind-blown debris. Branches of trees were ripped off. Each time I saw the trees moving I prayed and turned the van slightly in to the wind. The van felt very unstable. I arrived at the border at 17:20. 20 minutes too late to complete the customs procedure.

There was someone behind the counter but I was too late. When I asked what I should do the response was that I should find somewhere to park and wait until the morning. It seems like a good idea that large noisy freight vehicles should not be crossing Switzerland at night. From Mulhouse in France to Chiasso on the



Italian border it takes about three and a half hours, so there should be no international trucks on Swiss motorways after 9pm.

Back into Switzerland

I parked in the EuroAirport car park on the French side of the border. There were security cameras and bright lights. Who would steal an 880kg fryer anyway?

I walked through the airport customs to the Swiss side showed my passport and caught the free airport bus to the Basel Main Railway station and returned to Zug by train. After showering and dining I slept comfortable and cheaply in my own bed complete with wife.

The following morning I filled in the customs declaration online and printed it off; retraced my steps to the van and completed the customs clearance. I hadn't filled the form in properly and so it had not registered at the customs office. I was able to use a computer at the counter and with some help got it completed. They were very friendly and helpful.

My neighbours the farmers were very intrigued by my load. After the milking was finished they helped me unload the fryer into the garage with the tractor. I then rearranged my return ferry and headed straight back to Zeebrugge. I had got to know the girls at the Ferry freight company very well over the phone, they were very friendly. I got as far as the border between Luxembourg and Belgium and slept in the van. I did not want to stop on the Belgium side, it's a different world.

End of Part 1



SUPer-Duper

Contributed by IMCZ President Roger Brooks

“Gehen wir suppen?”

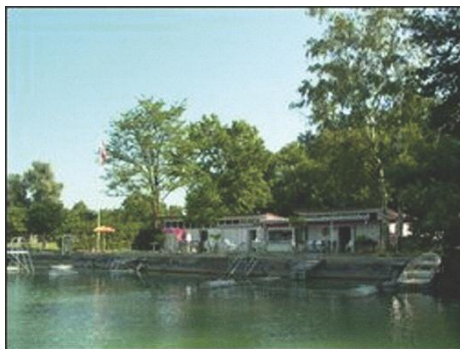
asked my godchild, as we met him and his family at the Hirsgarten Seebad in Cham on a warm Sunday in August. “What do you mean?” I responded, having neither the intention of making nor of eating any soup.

At a barbecue at their place the previous evening, we had told them about our plans to take our first stab at stand-up paddling the following day. Little did I know that the acronym SUP had already found its way into the German language as a verb! The properly German term is “stehpaddeln”.

We had observed the pioneers at this sport on the Zugersee for a couple of years and had finally gotten up the courage to try it ourselves. It turns out to be something, which like cross-country skiing or Nordic walking, can be performed at almost any fitness level, although it places somewhat higher demands on one’s sense of balance.

Hirsgarten, Cham

The six of us (4 adults and 2 children) rented all 5 of the paddleboards available from the **kiosk** for an hour, just to get our feet wet (both figuratively and literally). We had a great time, trading off with the kids (ages 8 & 10), who sometimes paddled themselves and sometimes rode as passengers. We managed to avoid hitting any swimmers or getting hit by the Zugersee Schifffahrt boats, which dock nearby, but there were of course the inevitable immersions, some voluntary, some involuntary.



Beginners’ Course

Having piqued our interest, Margareta and I decided to learn how it **should** be done, and signed up for a beginner’s courseⁱⁱ at **Andy’s SUP-Station am Brüggli in Zug** on the following Sunday. We arrived by S-Bahn, knowing how difficult it would be to find parking there on a sunny Sunday afternoon. Andy has a much larger inventory of paddleboards, and enough English to even give bilingual instruction to a mixed group of about 10 students. We learned a lot, even if we

couldn’t quite master it all, starting with which way to hold the paddle and ending with how to make “pivot turns”. After the promised 90 minutes of instruction, Andy even let us paddle around for half an hour on our own.

This afforded us the opportunity to try out a few different boards. The boards, which at first glance seem quite rigid, are actually inflatable, and show considerable differences in buoyancy, handling, rigidity and stability. We had started out on **Fanatic** Fly Air Touring boards (the same kind we had rented in Cham) but ended up on racier double-layer boards: Ray Air Premium and Falcon Air. The double-layer boards are a bit heavier and much more rigid, which also improves stability, but the narrower profile, which makes them faster, also requires a better sense of balance.

Extended Trials

Emboldened by our new-found know-how, we returned to the Brüggli a week later on Monday to rent boards for another 2 hours. We arrived a little before noon and were surprised to find 2 staff people already there, since the website said that they opened at noon. However, Andy (a different Andy from the proprietor, who had instructed us in the beginners’ course) explained that he had been there since 10:00.



Andy has a good deal for those who want to try out several boards for short periods of time (max. 20 min.) but we were content to pay the regular price for the privilege of staying out a little longer on each board. Margareta started out with the previously mentioned Ray Air Premium, while I tried out a couple of racing boards. Finding them a little too tippy, I soon moved on to boards from **Mistral**, a brand with which Margareta was already familiar from her long-past wind-surfing days.

We ended up on Mistral’s UltraLight Equipe models: 10’ 5” for Margareta and 12’ 6” for me. They are only single-layer, but are remarkably stiff, due to a special internal construction. These were our favorites by far, weighing far less than the others we tried, easy to paddle and remarkably stable. We also

learned that there are significant differences between paddles. Andy (2) gave us a lot of literature to take home for further study.

Of course, there are also solid boards, but since the Swiss generally don’t have U.S.-size station wagons, garages and parking spaces, the inflatable boards are all we have seen here. There is also a Swiss board manufacturer, **Nidecker**, but even their boards have dimensions standardized in feet and inches for the U.S. market.

We are not in a hurry to buy our own boards. At SFr 400-4000, one can pay for a lot of rentals, before reaching the price of a board. Furthermore, Andy offers to deduct courses and rentals paid from the cost of a board, if you wind up buying from him. However, the attraction of having your own board is the freedom to go wherever you want, whenever you want.

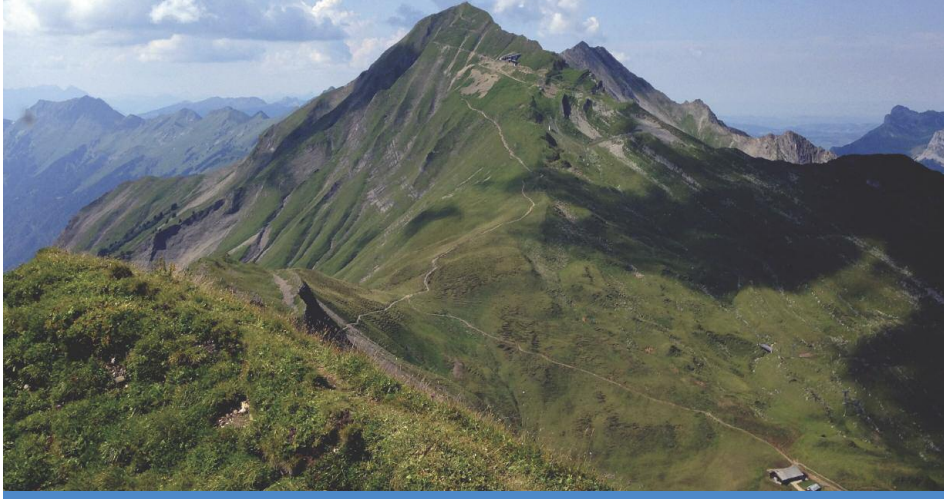
Andy has a competitor right next door, the **SUP-Piraten**. However, they were conspicuous by their absence when we were there. Those from the eastern shore of Lake Zug may want to check out **SUP Center Zug** in Oberwil.

No matter what board you take, SUP is great exercise in a lovely environment. Again like cross-country skiing and Nordic walking, SUP is good exercise for a large number of muscles and particularly for the fine core muscles, which are often neglected unless you do yoga, or better yet, Pilates. For those who have better balance than we do, Andy offers yoga classes on paddleboards. We are content to just putter around the lake. Happy paddling!

i <http://www.seelounge.ch/stand-up-paddling.html>
ii <http://sup-kurse.ch/sup-kurse/>

Looks Green to me

Hiking on the Brienzler Rothorn



As I discovered when first arriving here, it's easy to find yourself in difficult, even dangerous, situations "hiking" in Switzerland, if unfamiliar with the locations and terrain. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the club's recent hike near Engelberg but thought some newly enthusiastic hikers would appreciate knowing about another non-technical hike.

Years ago, I hiked on the Brienzler Rothorn above the Brienzensee, near Sörenberg, and recently returned to hike there and enjoy its spectacular scenery once again. As long as the weather is cooperating, I view it as one of the best hikes for those interested in some significant hiking without the need for special training and undue risk taking.



Brienzler Rothorn, 2'350 m ü.M

• Hiking

Recreational hikers can enjoy the Brienzler Rothorn by taking the steam train from Brienz to the summit and hiking up and down a number of hills over to Schönbühl above the town of Lungern. An aerial tram (previously, a chairlift, which is currently under repair, was used) brings you back down to the valley and a train ride back to Brienz is included in the roundtrip mountain transportation ticket.

This hike is much easier than the Eigerwand Trail and not as grueling as the Schynige Platte hike to First, which are other options in this general area of Switzerland. The route we took from the Kulm, up to the nearby summit, and over four or five large hills lasted about 4 hours at a leisurely pace. There is some travel over paths strewn with small rocks, which requires attention but no special skills. I used a pair of heavy-duty hiking boots, but my friend managed the hike quite well using the new On

Contributed by
IMCZ Sports' editor
Joseph Dow

commanding view of the lake with gorgeous views of the Jungfrau group, including the mystical Silberhorn, above the other side of the lake. Enjoy the accompanying photos taken on my last trip.

• Food on the mountain

Bergrestaurant Rothorn Kulm – Usually the main restaurants at the top of these tourist attractions are not your best option, but I knew there wasn't much choice on the route we were taking. So, we sat out on the terrace and took in the marvelous views. The quality of food was a pleasant surprise and we managed to beat the lunch crowd. Having a full stomach might not have been the optimum condition in which to start the hike, but we managed without too much trouble.

• Travel

How to get there: By SBB train, Zug – Luzern – Brienz. Just over 2 hours.

Brienz Rothorn Bahn (BRB): From just above the Brienz station, you take the historic Brienz-Rothorn rack railway for a scenic 7.6km ride up to the Kulm. The steam-powered train is the fourth highest railway in Switzerland and began operations in 1892.

Our route: cog railway ride up to the top of the Brienzler Rothorn, hike to Schönbühl, tram ride down to Lungern in the valley, SBB train ride back to Brienz.

Cloudventure mid-top trail running shoes (I hope to write a review of the new waterproof version in the next few months). The route is a nice workout, but won't leave you entirely exhausted.

• Scenery and views

The Brienzensee is a beautiful lake below the Brienzler Rothorn and where you start your journey. The train ride provides some great views on the way up. At the Kulm, there is a



Additional information:

Brienzler Rothorn:

www.myswitzerland.com/en-ch/brienzler-rothorn-with-steam-power-to-the-summit.html

Brienz Rothorn Bahn: www.brienz-rothorn-bahn.ch/en/welcome.html

Weather at the Brienzler Rothorn: www.srf.ch/meteo/lokalprognose?id=417277392

Bergrestaurant Rothorn Kulm: www.brienz-rothorn-bahn.ch/de/geniessen/restaurant.html

Skiing on the Brienzler Rothorn (winter only): www.soerenberg.ch/de/sport-wandern/wintersport/skigebiete/gebietrothorn

Next Month: *Get Ready!!! Ski season is coming. Think snow!*



Message to the citizens of the United States of America from Her Britannic Majesty's Government

In light of your failure to nominate competent candidates for President of the USA and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective immediately. (You should look up 'revocation' in the Oxford English Dictionary.)

Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths, and territories (except North Dakota, which she does not fancy).

Your new Prime Minister, Theresa May, will appoint a Governor for America without the need for further elections.

Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire may be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.



To aid in the transition to a British Crown dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:

1. The letter 'U' will be reinstated in words such as 'colour,' 'favour,' 'labour' and 'neighbour.' Likewise, you will learn to spell 'doughnut' without skipping half the letters, and the suffix '-ize' will be replaced by the suffix '-ise.' Generally, you will be expected to raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels. (look up 'vocabulary').
2. Using the same twenty-seven words interspersed with filler noises such as 'like' and 'you know' is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication. There is no such thing as U.S. English. We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take into account the reinstated letter 'u' and the elimination of '-ize.'
3. July 4th will no longer be celebrated as a holiday.
4. You will learn to resolve personal issues without using guns, lawyers, or therapists. The fact that you need so many lawyers and therapists shows that you're not quite ready to be independent. Guns should only be used for shooting grouse. If you can't sort things out without suing someone or speaking to a therapist, then you're not ready to shoot grouse.
5. Therefore, you will no longer be allowed to own or carry anything more dangerous than a vegetable peeler. Although a permit will be required if you wish to carry a vegetable peeler in public.
6. All intersections will be replaced with roundabouts, and you will start driving on the left side with immediate effect. At the same time, you will go metric with immediate effect and without the benefit of conversion tables. Both roundabouts and metrication will help you understand the British sense of humour.
7. The former USA will adopt UK prices on petrol (which you have been calling gasoline) of roughly \$10/US gallon. Get used to it.
8. You will learn to make real chips. Those things you call French Fries are not real chips, and those things you insist on calling potato chips are properly called crisps. Real chips are thick cut, fried in animal fat, and dressed not with catsup, but with vinegar.
9. The cold, tasteless stuff you insist on calling beer is not actually beer at all. Henceforth, only proper British Bitter will be referred to as beer, and European brews of known and accepted provenance will be referred to as Lager. South African beer is also acceptable, as they are pound for pound the greatest sporting nation on earth and it can only be due to the beer. They are also part of the British Commonwealth - see what it did for them.
10. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as good guys. Hollywood will also be required to cast English actors to play English characters. Watching Andie Macdowell attempt English dialect in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* was an experience akin to having one's ears removed with a cheese grater.
11. You will cease playing American football. There is only one kind of proper football; you call it soccer. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which has some similarities to American football, but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full Kevlar body armour like a bunch of nancies).
12. Further, you will stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the World Series for a game which is not played outside of America. Since only 2.1% of you are aware there is a world beyond your borders, your error is understandable. You will learn cricket, and we will let you face the South Africans first to take the sting out of their deliveries.
13. You must tell us who killed JFK. It's been driving us mad.
14. An internal revenue agent (i.e. tax collector) from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all monies due (backdated to 1776).
15. Daily Tea Time begins promptly at 4 p.m. with proper cups, with saucers, and never mugs, with high quality biscuits (cookies) and cakes; plus strawberries (with cream) when in season.

God Save the Queen!

Fooling around

One Sunday morning Michael burst into the living room and said, "Dad! Mom! I have some great news for you! I am getting married to the most beautiful girl in town. She lives a block away and her name is Susan."

After dinner, Michael's dad took him aside, "Son, I have to talk to you. Look at your mother, Michael. She and I have been married 30 years, she's a wonderful wife and mother, but, she has never offered much excitement in the bedroom, so I used to fool around with women a lot. I'm afraid Susan is the result of one such affair. She is actually your half sister, and I'm afraid you can't marry her."

Michael was broken hearted. He broke up with Susan the next day.

After eight months he eventually started dating girls again. A year later he came home and very proudly announced, "Diane said yes! We're getting married in June." Again his father insisted on another private conversation and broke the sad news. "Diane is your half sister too, Michael. I'm awfully sorry about this."

Michael was livid! He broke up with Diane that same day, leaving her in tears. He finally decided to go to his mother with the news his father had shared and tell her about his father's secret.

"Dad has done so much harm. I guess I'm never going to get married," he complained. "Every time I fall in love, Dad tells me the girl is my half sister."

"Oh," his mother shook her head, "What are you listening to him for? He's not even your real father."

Nuns and Preachers



A preacher wanted to raise money for his church, and, on being told that there was a fortune in horse racing, decided to purchase a horse and enter it in the races. However, the going price for horses was so high that he ended up buying a donkey instead. He figured he might as well go ahead and enter it in the races. And, to his surprise, the donkey came in third!

The next day the local paper carried this headline: *Preacher's Ass Shows*

The preacher was so pleased with the donkey that he entered it in the race again, and this time it won. The paper read: *Preacher's Ass out in Front.*

The Bishop, however, was so upset with this kind of publicity that he ordered the preacher not to enter the donkey in any more races. The paper headline read: *Bishop scratches Preacher's Ass.*

This was too much for the Bishop, so he ordered the preacher to get rid of the donkey. The preacher decided to give it to a nun in a nearby convent. The paper headline the next day read: *Nun has best Ass in Town.*

The Bishop fainted in shock. When he came to, he informed the nun that she would have to get rid of the donkey, so she sold it to a farmer for \$10.00.

The next day the headline read: *Nun sells Ass for \$10.00.*

And this was too much for the Bishop, so he ordered the nun to buy back the donkey, lead it to the plains, and let it go.

Next day, the headline in the paper read: *Nun announces her Ass is wild and free*

The Bishop was buried the next day.



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Vocal Emotions

Vocal Emotions is looking (or listening) for a few good men! The mixed chorus has about 50 active members, but too few who sing bass or tenor. If you like to sing, drop by for a rehearsal!

The repertory covers a wide spectrum, including gospel, jazz and pop. Most of the lyrics are in English. Rehearsals are conducted in Swiss German, usually on Tuesday evenings from 20:00 to 22:00 at the Reformiertes Kirchgemeindehaus Baar.

For further information, please consult the Vocal Emotions website, write to info@vocal-emotions.ch or talk to Roger Brooks.

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