

IMCZNEWS



DECEMBER 2008

PRESIDENTIAL DISPATCH

Happy Holidays!

The year 2008 is slowly drawing to a close and this will be the last IMCZ News published before the New Year, so I'd like to take this opportunity wish you and yours a very happy holiday season and a happy New Year! It has been a pleasure getting to know so many of you this year at the Stammtisch and the various IMCZ events. I hope that you can add it to your list of New Year's resolutions to attend an extra Stammtisch (or four) and join us at another IMCZ event or two during 2009.

Annual General Meeting - January 28th, 2009

In this newsletter you will find the formal announcement for the IMCZ's Annual General Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, January 28th at 19:00 (and more importantly, the apéro at 18:30). Please see page 5 for the complete announcement. There were 18 members at the first AGM I attended in January 2007. Changes to the IMCZ Constitution and a proposal to increase membership dues after only 25 years drew a crowd of 32 members to the 2008 AGM. Since the AGM in January, we have had 60 new members

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EDITOR'S SUBTEXT

A Year of IMCZ News Revamped

The IMCZ News revamped itself in 2008, delivering twelve issues of what we hope has become a publication that members look forward to receiving and reading. Delivery of recognizable structure and appealing content in a style which reaches and stirs our membership on a regular publication schedule have been the headline targets over the preceding twelve months. By and large we have met our goals - month in, month out.

Beginning with the special issue prepared for the AGM 2008 of just two pages, the newsletter has grown to a publication which in November reached sixteen pages. Content comprises news about club and associated or otherwise IMCZ-friendly organization events, informative, reflective and entertaining articles, and a slowly growing number of advertisements. Local companies are beginning to recognize the value of a publication that reaches more than 240 professionals and area residents who are active, discerning and internationally oriented. The IMCZ News is a publication which we hope represents our club and its members, a calling card of sorts

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future events

NOVEMBER 20TH – JANUARY 4TH • Galarena Christmas Show

DECEMBER 18TH-21ST: • Venite Christmas Market

DECEMBER 20TH: • Cheese Club Cheese tasting

JANUARY 13TH: • ZIWC Snowshoeing in Wirzweli

JANUARY 19TH: • IMCZ/ZIWC Bowling Challenge

JANUARY 24TH: • Burns' Night

JANUARY 28TH: • IMCZ AGM

JANUARY 30TH: • ZIWC/IMCZ TGIF

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REMEMBER



to attend the Stammtisch
every Thursday evening
18:00 – 20:00.

Join us at the
Park Hotel in Zug.
We are now in the
Walchwilersaal!

IMCZ

Introducing...new members

THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

Adrian Nigam is of British nationality, and besides English speaks German and Chinese.

Adrian is an associate with Preact AG here in Zug. Among his interests he includes snowboarding, tennis and film.

Andrew Dewhurst is also British with typical dry humor. In addition to English he professes to speak American. Andrew is managing director of Medulla Solutions Limited in the UK. He and his partner Katie Herrington have relocated to Lucerne. Music is one of Andrew's primary interests.

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PRESIDENTIAL DISPATCH

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join the IMCZ. For the new members, this will be your first chance to attend. I would especially like to invite the new members, but of course would like to see as many of our 244 IMCZ members as possible at the AGM in January.

All IMCZ members are encouraged to attend the AGM. I would like you to let us know as soon as possible whether or not you are planning to attend, so that we can arrange the venue accordingly. Either way, yea or nay, please send an e-mail to AGM@IMCZ.com.

IMCZ Board 2009

One of the most important items on the AGM agenda is the election of the IMCZ board for 2009. Members from this year's board have been in discussion with various IMCZ members and are pleased to announce the following proposed slate for the board for 2009:

- President **David LeBow**
- Vice President **Andrew DeBoo**
- Secretary **Muthana Kubba**
- Treasurer **John Henry Smith**
- Newsletter Editor **Andrew DeBoo**
- Membership Coordinator **Hal Trufan**
- Webmaster **Hal Trufan**
- Event Coordinator **Karl Hunnisett**
- Board Member **Paulo Arend**

We will have short biographies of the proposed board members in the January *IMCZ News*. These will also be available in the printed agenda at the AGM. In the meantime, I would very much like to thank Andrew, Muthana, John, Hal, Karl and Paulo for volunteering their time to the IMCZ and - AGM willing - look forward to serving with them on the board in 2009.

IMCZ Joins FASC

Earlier this year the board announced that the IMCZ would be applying for membership in the Federation of Anglo-Swiss Clubs, FASC. At their meeting in early October, the FASC Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the IMCZ's application as a full member of the Federation. With that, the IMCZ joins 18 other English-speaking clubs in promoting understanding between the Swiss and English-speaking people throughout Switzerland. Please see the article on page 9 for additional details.

Stammtisch - Bursting at the Seams

It was a bit like an early Christmas present. The first Thursday in December brought a record number of current and prospective IMCZ members - 33 - to the Stammtisch in the Parkhotel. The staff had already extended our table but we still overflowed to other areas of "our half" of the

restaurant. As the group gets larger, I hear more and more comments about having the Stammtisch in a room where you can stand and mingle. We have used the Walchwilersaal for our New Members' Reception and several joint Stammtisch events, but the room rental costs would have been prohibitive for our non-profit organization if we were to hold our Stammtisch there regularly.

In the past, I put out a call to companies who might like to sponsor a Stammtisch. I'm very pleased to announce that - at least for the next six months - we won't be requiring any Stammtisch sponsors. In early December I held a meeting with the management of the Parkhotel concerning the Stammtisch. The first item I need to announce as a result is that the December 11th Stammtisch was quite likely the last Stammtisch to be held in the restaurant of the Parkhotel.

That's right - the Stammtisch is moving from the Parkhotel restaurant... to the Walchwilersaal in the Parkhotel! The Parkhotel has very generously offered us the use of the Walchwilersaal for our Stammtisch *every Thursday night*, starting with December 18th. If they need the Walchwilersaal for an event, we would then move to the "Boulevard" area just outside the Walchwilersaal. If even that area is required, we would then be back in the restaurant for the given Thursday. We'll have a number of Bistro tables ("Stehtische") as well as a pair of tables with chairs for those who prefer to sit.

So, the Stammtisch has a new home: the Walchwilersaal of the Parkhotel!

A Hearty thanks from the IMCZ to the Parkhotel staff and management! We look forward to breaking even more Stammtisch records in January at our new and improved IMCZ Stammtisch!

How Can You Squeeze 250 Men Into a Stocking?

One woman has figured out how. Jenny Schäfer decided that a membership to the IMCZ would be the perfect stocking stuffer for her husband this Christmas. I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to Christian Schäfer and look forward to meeting Christian at an event in January. And for the rest of you - if you know Christian, please don't spoil the surprise: he won't see this newsletter until Christmas morning!

Thanks!

Thanks go, as always, to Andrew DeBoo, Newsletter Editor and to Ron Sumners, Supergenius, for putting together the IMCZ News. Thanks also to the regular contributors. At the beginning of the year I set a goal of sprucing up the IMCZ News somewhat but between Andrew, Ron and the contributing IMCZ members, the IMCZ

News really has exceeded my wildest dreams. Great job, gentlemen.

Thanks to the outgoing board - only two more meetings, guys - for their support this year. Thanks to the incoming board for volunteering (and thanks in advance to the AGM for electing them). We would like to wish you all a joyous holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year!

David LeBow,
IMCZ President

EDITOR'S SUBTEXT

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that is gladly passed on to the next person who might be interested.

The continuous cycle of preparation, production and delivery requires dedicated and coordinated effort, for which a number of members and non-members deserve great thanks. Contributors of content have been many, some with outstanding regularity. David LeBow wrote several presidential dispatches and a number of web insite columns. Remo Jutzeler van Wijlen has contributed topical columns on health and nutrition with particular appeal to men. Membership Coordinator Joseph Dow reviewed the slopes at various ski resorts and with the change of season to warmer weather turned his critical eye to the hiking trails. Steven Butterworth submitted month after month of pin action data straight from the Cherry Bowl lanes, while Board Member John Stuart lined up for several birdies from nearby links. Muthana Kubba has instigated a science and technology column in addition to reporting about excursions. And in a year of financial upheaval, John Henry Smith has addressed the business and finance topic. You've had an unbroken string of book reviews by this Editor, covering critically-acclaimed publications. Other contributors of content have included numerous submissions from Zug International Women's Club members, who graciously appeal to the men to attend events of mutual interest. To all who submitted material for editorial review and publication during 2008 and to any whom I may have inadvertently forgotten, I extend my sincere thanks for your contribution of substance to our newsletter, with encouragement and hope that the success of our publication will inspire you to set your efforts forth in the new year. May others by your example also be so inclined, either to support running efforts by contributing to existing newsletter sections or by carving out a topic niche for themselves and exploring it on a monthly basis.

Editorial material and conceptual structure do not suffice for a publication of the quality to which the IMCZ aspires.



A newsletter needs images, color and an attractive layout to snare and hold readers' attention one page to the next and month after month. For graphic design expertise the Editor and the IMCZ have relied on member Ron Sumners of Sumners Graphics for creative spirit, pizzazz and dedication.

Ron has delivered without fault and added his own brand of wacky inspiration to the *IMCZ News*. He has done this without being remunerated, and despite the clench that sometimes results when I am pushing for publication and his paying customers are screaming down the telephone demanding their contracted deliveries. So we owe Ron great thanks; this guy should be able to leave his wallet at home on every Stammtisch night of 2009: thanks Ron!

A number of members have remarked throughout the year that they perceive the effort that goes into preparation of the newsletter. Members deserve a quality publication, and that doesn't happen all by itself. There's work involved, and as the *IMCZ News* has developed and expanded, the work has increased as well. What a boon it would be if a few members - I'm speaking to you - would volunteer to help with preparation: assembling pages for description of upcoming events, proofreading, or even speaking with potential advertisers. Anyone willing or interested in making a contribution should contact me at Newsletter@IMCZ.com.

We have ambitious targets for 2009. First, we want to match our output of twelve issues. Second, we want to push the quality envelope, improving where we can in terms of breadth of offerings or from a stylistic point of view. Third, while one of this year's major goals was to produce an issue a month, a target for next year would be to narrow the delivery date bandwidth. And finally, a newsletter like ours can attract attention to and promote not only the IMCZ, but companies who are delivering a message, products or services. If we increased our advertising revenue then the Club could subsidize or outright sponsor more events that meet your interests, and we'd be even better known in the community for what we do.

Let me take this opportunity now to thank you for being avid readers. Let me also request your questions, suggestions and blatant criticism. Our publication reflects you, and we strive to do so properly. Let us know where you think we can improve.

I look forward to your continued contributions and response to the *IMCZ News*. I wish all members, their families and loved ones a joyous, uplifting holiday season, with inspired anticipation of a splendid New Year 2009.

Andrew DeBoo
IMCZ Newsletter Editor

Rinspeed Visit More Than Fantasy Cars

contributed by IMCZ Member
Steven Butterworth

You thought this was just for James Bond? Think again. This was an early Christmas present. A visit to Rinspeed AG in Zumikon on 2 December 2008 included a guided tour in English.

We had an entertaining presentation given by Frank M. Rinderknecht in person (Founder and CEO of Rinspeed Inc). Rinspeed is far more than just Porsche tuning and underwater Bond vehicles!

Other aspects of this interesting company are: Classic car renovation, repairs and preparation; "Imagineering" as example Play Box-X for Sony Play Station, Saab 9-3 Inspiration and Audi A6 Titanium R and also X-TRA-LIFT, smart solutions allowing a pick-up to actually pick something up.

All of these and more services can be found on the company web site: - <http://www.rinspeed.ch> and the Porsche tuning services are now under the banner of the Mansory Corporation. (<http://www.mansory.ch>)

Ever since Mr Rinderknecht saw James Bond drive into the sea to escape a villain in "The Spy Who Loved Me", he dreamed of creating his own submarine dream machine. In February 2008 he launched the astonishing result - the sQuba, a vehicle equally at home on land, sea and beneath the surface. Additional photos of this and other fantastic vehicles as well as technical data can be viewed on the company website.



Venite Christmas Market

The Swiss American Society Lucerne in collaboration with the International Women's Club of Lucerne is proud to represent the United States at Lucerne's Annual International Christmas Market. This year's theme: an American Christmas in Lucerne.

For the first time since Venite started five years ago, the United States will be represented at what has become one of Lucerne's most visited events of the year. The main objective of this event is to create a platform to promote exchange and understanding among people of different cultural, religious and societal backgrounds. By highlighting the food and Christmas tradition of different countries, the Market raises the awareness about the many ways of celebrating Christmas worldwide.

Visit the United States's stand and enjoy a variety of baked goods, sing Christmas carols, and meet other Americans living in Lucerne.

Date: Thursday, 18 December - Sunday, 21 December

Time: Thursday, 18 December: 11.00 to 21.00
Friday, 19 December: 11.00 to 21.00
Saturday, 20 December: 10.00 to 21.00
Sunday, 21 December: 10.00 to 19.00

Venue: Kappelplatz, Lucerne

Cost: Attendees makes purchases at their own discretion.

See additional information at www.venite.ch (information only in German). The accompanying cultural program extending from 17 - 21 December features several choirs, bagpipers and other attractions.



Cheese Club Cheese tasting

Exactly one year ago, The Cheese Club started shipping the best quality British Farmhouse cheese to cheese lovers in Switzerland. The Cheese Club imported almost 2 tons of cheese from the UK and converted many Swiss people to the wonder that is British Cheese!

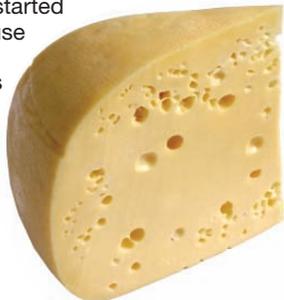
Well-timed for Christmas, The Cheese Club will offer a free tasting of a selection of British cheese alongside wines being offered by the Mövenpick Weinkeller. All offerings for sampling will also be on sale.

Date: Saturday, 20 December 2008

Time: afternoon

Venue: Mövenpick Weinkeller, Zug
Baarerstrasse 141, 6300 Zug
T: 041 766 81 90

Cost: Attendees purchase at their own discretion.



Imagine what you can lay hands on just in time for Christmas - cheddars, stiltons, glouchesters or cheshires! If you would like a special pack made up, you only need ask! Further information under www.cheeseclub.ch.

Galarena Christmas Show

Special Ticket Offer for IMCZ Members Courtesy of UBS Zug
20% discount on tickets for all shows, dates and categories.

Support for the arts has always been an important part of the UBS corporate philosophy. As a cooperating partner of the spectacular Galarena Christmas Show, UBS is offering IMCZ members an opportunity to visit this amazing event at exceptional conditions.

Date: 20th November 2008 to 4th January 2009

Time: Evening shows begin at 19.30 h, matinees at 13.30 h

Location: Risch-Rotkreuz

Cost: see below

RSVP: see below

For evening shows from Wednesdays through Sundays, the ticket price includes an exclusive four-course gala dinner which leaves nothing more to be desired. Mario Niederer, President of the Galarena organizing committee, is convinced: "Galarena will set a new benchmark for entertainment in Switzerland." The imposing pyramid tent alone - nearly 30 meters in height - is an impressive sight. You can look forward to a fascinating show presented by world-class artists.



Discounted Tickets (20% Discount) for IMCZ Members and Guests - Offered by UBS:

UBS is offering IMCZ members and guests a 20% discount for all tickets and categories for all performances of GALARENA - the Fantastic Christmas Show:

Wed. - Sun. Evening Showings (incl. 4-course Gala Dinner)

Category	Regular Price	IMCZ - Price
Cat. 1 or Box Seats	CHF 230.-	CHF 184.-
Cat. 2	CHF 215.-	CHF 172.-
Cat. 3	CHF 195.-	CHF 156.-

Mo., Tue. Evening Shows (without Gala Dinner)

Category	Regular Price	IMCZ - Price
Cat. 1 or Box Seats	CHF 75.-	CHF 60.-
Cat. 2 or 3	CHF 55.-	CHF 44.-

Sat., Sunday Matinee Shows (without Gala Dinner)

Category	Regular Price	IMCZ - Price
Cat. 1 or Box Seats	CHF 65.-	CHF 52.-
Cat. 2 or 3	CHF 45.-	CHF 36.-

IMPORTANT:

These special IMCZ tickets from UBS can only be ordered as follows:

- By telephone to the organizer at: 041 - 740 09 09
- Via Internet at: www.galarena.ch/ubs

Note: this special UBS discount cannot be ordered via TicketCorner or UBS!

Whether ordering by phone or online, you will need to provide your personal ticket code. This code is: ubs1478gala

For all there is to know about GALARENA online: www.galarena.ch

IMCZ

Introducing...new members

THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

Christian Kobmiller hails from Austria, and speaks English in addition to his native German. He and his wife Kara reside with sons Benjamin and Theodor in Affoltern am Albis. Christian is a technology architect with Bearing Point AG in Zurich. Among his interests he includes economics, technology, the arts, literature, travel and history.

Greg Stelzer is American, and speaks English and Spanish. He and his wife Laurie and daughters Audrey and Sara live here in Zug. Laurie is employed with Amgen and Greg keeps operations going at home. Greg is interested in golf, wine and books.

Heinz Schaller is of Swiss origin and a speaker of German and English. Heinz is a goldsmith, jeweler and designer, and operates Choice Design Jewelry in Littau. Heinz, his wife and their three children also live in Littau. Heinz's interests reflect somewhat his occupation: jewelry, gemstones, music from opera to jazz, racing bikes and art.

Leif Petersson originates from Sweden, and speaks English in addition to his native tongue. Leif is chief executive officer and president of ADG Co. Ltd. He and his partner Katarzyna Romankiewicz live here in Zug. Among other things, Leif is interested in food and wine, skiing, cross-country running and sports cars.

Markus Senn demonstrates typical Swiss polyglot talent, speaking German, French, English and some Italian. Markus is head of the business unit Fixing Technology with Egli, Fischer and Co. in Zurich. He and his wife Jacqueline and their two children make their home in Steinhausen. Among his interests Markus counts theatre, sports, the Rigi, chocolate labrador dogs and personal computers.

Robert Bod comes to us from the Netherlands, and besides Dutch speaks English, French and German. Robert owns and operates BODCO GmbH in Cham, where he and his partner Denise Lauchlan and son Nathaniel also live. Robert's free time pursuits include flying, skiing and rowing.

Christian Schäfer has received the gift of IMCZ membership from his wife Jennifer. Christian is German, but also speaks English and French. He works with Infront Sports and Media here in Zug, where he and his wife also reside. Christian counts skiing, snowboarding and sailing among his interests.

IMCZ BOARD MEMBERS

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

PRESIDENT
David LeBow
041 727 1986
President@IMCZ.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Michael Dillhyon
041 727 1984
Vice-President@IMCZ.com

SECRETARY
Gordon Mehrtens
079 408 2773
Secretary@IMCZ.com

TREASURER
Fabian Nicolussi
078 896 1745
Treasurer@IMCZ.com

MEMBERSHIP
Joseph Dow
078 907 8006
Membership@IMCZ.com

NEWSLETTER
Andrew DeBoo
041 760 1180
Newsletter@IMCZ.com

BOARD MEMBER
John Stuart
079 215 6871
Board@IMCZ.com

INTERNET/WEB
David LeBow
041 727 1986
Webmaster@IMCZ.com

WEBMASTER
Hal Trufan
Webmaster@IMCZ.com



IMCZ Annual General Meeting, 2009

The board of the IMCZ wishes to announce the club's Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2009. The AGM will be held as follows:

- Date:** Wednesday, January 28th, 2009
- Time:** Apéro at 18:30 and meeting at 19:00 (expected duration 90 minutes)
- Venue:** Parkhotel, Zug
- Cost:** Dinner can be ordered following the AGM at your own expense.
- RSVP:** Members must confirm their attendance in writing -by post or e-mail - **by January 19th**, 2009 to AGM@IMCZ.com or
International Men's Club of Zug
AGM Committee
Postfach 4241
6304 Zug

Meeting Format: The event will begin at 18:30 with an apéro provided by the club. The meeting will begin at 19:00. For those wishing to stay after the meeting, you may order dinner à la carte at your expense. The meeting is expected to run 60 to 90 minutes, depending upon the number of attendees and extent of discussion.

Meeting Attendees: All honorary members and regular members in good standing are cordially invited to attend the 2009 AGM. In order to arrange seating, members wishing to attend must confirm their intention in writing - either by post or by e-mail - by January 19th, 2008 to the address shown below. Please mention whether you wish to stay afterwards for dinner.

Meeting Agenda: The final Agenda for the meeting will be published in the January Newsletter. Should you wish to request the addition of agenda items, you may do so in writing at the e-mail or postal address shown below by January 5th, 2009. A preliminary agenda, subject to change, is as follows:

1. Approval of the minutes of the AGM 2008. The minutes can be found online at http://www.imcz.com/IMCZ_BBS.asp.
2. President's report for 2008
3. Financial report for 2008
4. Auditor's report for 2008
5. Discharge of the Auditors, 2008
6. Discharge of the Board, 2008
7. Election of the President, 2009.
The Board nominates David LeBow.
8. Election of the Board, 2009.
The Board nominates the following members:
 - Vice-President: Andrew DeBoo
 - Treasurer: John Henry Smith
 - Secretary: Muthana Kubba
 - Newsletter Editor: Andrew DeBoo
 - Membership Coordinator: Hal Trufan
 - Events Coordinator: Karl Hunnisset
 - Board Member: Paulo Arend
 - Webmaster: Hal Trufan
9. Election of Auditors 2009. The Board proposes the following Auditors for 2009:
 - Kari Imholz
 - Peter Sproston
10. Membership dues, 2009. The Board proposes that membership dues remain unchanged at Fr. 75.- per calendar year.
11. Budget Proposal, 2009.
12. Additional Miscellaneous Items (to be announced)

Member Input: The Board welcomes and encourages input from the members. Please address all input concerning the AGM to the Board in writing as described below. Should you wish to have other items added to the agenda, please submit them in writing, as described below.

Correspondence: All communication concerning the AGM must be in writing and may be sent either by e-mail or by post. E-Mail correspondence should be sent to AGM@IMCZ.com and will be confirmed to you by a return e-mail. If you do not receive an e-mail confirmation or should you wish to submit your request and/or attendance confirmation by post, you may do so by sending a letter to:

International Men's Club of Zug
AGM Committee
Postfach 4241
6304 Zug

Input concerning the AGM must be received by January 5th, 2009. Confirmation of attendance must be received by January 18th, 2009.

Best Regards

The Board of the International Men's Club of Zug
David LeBow, President

ZIWC TGIF IMCZ

THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY!

IM HOF

(The gentlemen whistle and clap.)

After a long week, the last Friday of the month and the first month of the new year, let's all get together to have some fun! All ZIWC and IMCZ Members are welcome! Catch up with old friends and make new contacts over a drink or two.

Join us as we start the year as we mean it to continue - with friends!

Date: Friday, January 30, 2009

Time: 18:30

Place: Im Hof; Zeughausgasse 18 Zug

Cost: Attendees purchase their own drinks.

RSVP: Gerie Servi at hospitality@ziwc.ch by January 26 if you would like to stop by. If we know numbers ahead of time we can organize nibbles.



IMCZ Annual Burns' Supper

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns (1759 - 1796)

Date: Saturday, January 24th 2009

Time: 19:00

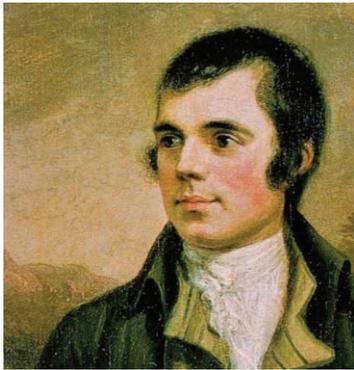
Location: Landhaus Restaurant, Baar

Menu: Apéro upon arrival, a grand 4-course dinner and plenty of whisky at hand for the toasts and general drinking. Drinks during dinner are at your own expense.

Cost: CHF 50.- for members and CHF 65.- for non-members

RSVP: John Stuart, 079 215 6871 or John.Stuart@Homatec.com; online registration at www.imcz.com. Registration required, as guest numbers are limited to 80 persons.

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. IMCZ, together with ZIWC, are celebrating it in traditional fashion.



The evening will be a traditional Scottish Fare with the rousing sound of bagpipes and extracts from the works of Robert Burns from our guest speakers. Quite a few of our members and guests will be dressed in kilts and liberal doses of Uisge'beah (whisky) will keep the evening well oiled. A special consignment of haggis has been ordered from Edinburgh.

The speakers have been told to keep it light and put plenty of jokes into the proceedings and,

if last year is anything to go by, it should be a great evening.

For a whole evening of entertainment and a four course dinner, with some drams of the finest Scottish whisky this evening is a "gie-away," a veritable bargain.

Included in the price will be an apéro when you arrive, a grand 4-course dinner, plenty of whisky at hand for the toasts and general drinking, an excellent bag-piper and an evening of unforgettable entertainment with 4 guest speakers. Drinks during dinner (wine, water, etc.) will be at your own expense.

Please keep the dress of the evening within the traditions of the evening, kilt or your own national costume (or part of it, but not too little of it), dinner jacket, tenue de ville or jacket and tie.

The [IMCZ no-show](#) policy applies for this event.



Join us for a fun snowshoeing afternoon and evening. This event is open to all members and partners of ZIWC and IMCZ (Men's club), we will be shown how to use the equipment and walk for approximately 1 _ hours. This is a scenic and very nice area. We have chosen this date and hope the moon will be out. What a fantastic walk it will be! If it is overcast there will still be enough light from head torches. We will have a Glühwein (hot spicy red wine) stop at the Tipi tent and then proceed to the Alpenrestaurant where we will have the cheese fondue which is served with silver onions, sour cucumbers, bread and fruit.

Date: Tuesday, 13 January 2009

Time: 15:00 meet at Zug Bahnhof to buy train tickets; the train leaves at 15.29 to Luzern and then Dallenwil
16:39 arrive Dallenwil; shuttle bus to Erlebnisluftseilbahn (the gondola)
17:00 gondola to Bergstation (end station of gondola)
17:15 pick up our equipment
17:30 walk with guide for ca 1 1/2 hours including the Glühwein stop in the Tipi tent. If we are more than 10 people we will have 2 guides.
19:30 Cheese Fondue at Alpenrestaurant
21:45 Gondola down again; bus to the train station of Dallenwil
22.12 train to Luzern - Zug
23:30 arrive at Zug Bahnhof.

Venue: Dallenwil

Cost: train T/R with 1/2 tax card Zug-Dallenwil will be CHF 18.20
Bus + gondola + tourguide + snowshoes/poles + glühwein + fondue CHF 55.-. If you have your own equipment it will be CHF 5.- less.
Beverages/coffee and dessert not included.

Contact: Malene Perry on programmebookings@ziwc.ch or Tel: 041 780 1471 or Mobile: 07967 45 91.

Booking deadline: Friday, January 9, 2009, 18:00

You could get to the gondola by car if you wish and you could take your own equipment with you - just let Malene know!

Please dress well! You need good, warm sturdy shoes because the snowshoes will be strapped to your boots. Also have a good windbreaker or thick jacket, mittens and scarf - it is January.

We are looking forward to seeing you! This event is open to all ZIWC and IMCZ (Men's club) members and partners!

www.wirzweli.ch

Normal ZIWC cancellation policy applies!

Sweet and sour, salt n' Pepa...

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

The dedicated reader may remember my statement regarding innate appreciation of sweet taste (in contrast to salty taste) in most mammals. In fact, science differentiates between innate and learned taste preferences and aversions.

With the danger of oversimplifying things, our like of sweetness and our dislike of bitterness respectively are innate in our genes. In our hunter-gatherer times this helped making the right choice between nutritious foods (e.g. honey, fruits) and potentially venomous plants which mostly taste bitter. On the other hand, taste perception is also "learned" to a large extent.

In this respect, humans become beer and olive lovers in despite their rather bitter taste. The same is true for spicy foods, whereas salt preference is partly innate, though we adapt to higher concentrations during adolescence.

How are scientists able to decide what is learned and what is innate?

Highly sophisticated neuro-endocrinal experiments enable isolation of reward effects from innate reactions. One of the early experiments in this respect was undertaken by decerebrating rats. This surgery eliminates higher cerebral functions like reward and learning mechanisms, but the rats are still able to groom, climb and properly choose sweet instead of bitter feed. Another possibility is to add anti-nutritive substances, e.g. bacterial lipopolysaccharides to a preferred feed, which impairs well-being of the tested animals leading to a learned aversion of otherwise healthy and nutritive food.

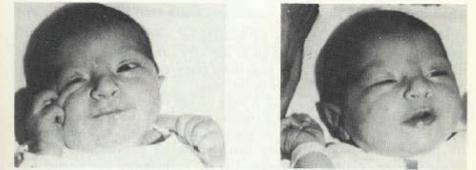
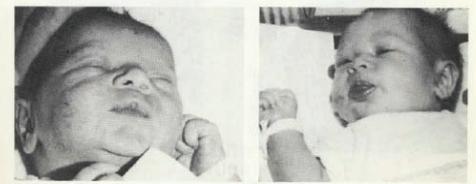
Probably the most famous proof of innate preference for sweet taste is provided by the pictures from Steiner in 1973, where the facial expressions of newborns after intake of sweet, sour and bitter solutions were photographed.

There is another famous documentary experiment with infants of weaning age, i.e. 6-11 months, undertaken by Clara Davis and published 1939 in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. Ms. Davis put a choice of 34 different foods never seen, smelled or tasted before by infants in front of them for free choice. Apparently they had not the faintest sign of "instinct" directed choice, but seemingly they chose randomly, and "their faces showed expres-

sions of surprise, followed by pleasure, indifference or dislike". Patterns of selective appetite were shown to develop after a phase of eagerly tasting the various dishes over several days.

Most interestingly, the energy ratio of the self-chosen diet delivered on average 17% from protein, 35% from fat, and 48% from carbohydrates respectively. Such a ratio constitutes a diet considered to be more accurate to our needs than dietary recommendations of our modern days, if one compares it to the most probable energy profile of hunter-gatherer populations. When it comes to modern dietary recommendations for macronutrient (protein, fat, carbohydrates) as well as for micronutrient (vitamins, minerals) needs it should also be kept in mind that these recommendations are made in order to prevent deficiency, and not with regard to providing optimal health!

Coming back to our beloved salty snacks there seems to be a highly socio-cultural background for a learned preference, as is the case for beer. But seemingly the limit of perceived saltiness is pushed higher and higher by our eating habits over time, and foods have to be saltier and saltier to be liked, if we do not counteract and "learn" to re-like less salty foods.



A
Figure 3-4. The gustofacial responses of normal infants to the administration of (A) sweet (25% sucrose), (B) sour (2.5% citric acid), and (C) bitter (.26% quinine sulfate) solutions. For (B) and (C), see next page. (From Steiner, 1973, with permission of the author.)



B
Figure 3-4.

It is common knowledge that we eat too much salt nowadays. But let me give you some more insight into that topic with the next column. Go ahead and enjoy holiday fare, but don't forget your health entirely!



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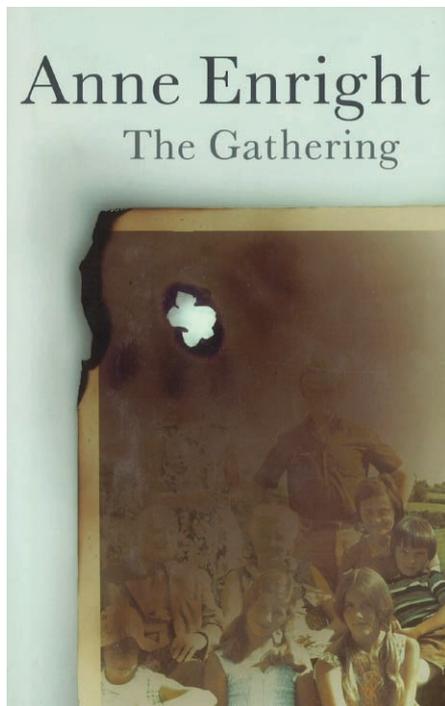
The Gathering; by Anne Enright

by IMCZ News Editor Andrew DeBoo

The Reading Circle debated Anne Enright's *The Gathering* on 20 November in the Dachraum at the Stadt- und Kantonsbibliothek in Zug. Enright's novel was the Man Booker Prize winner in 2007.

Many in the Reading Circle challenged the jury's decision, finding the book potty-mouthed, dissolute and ultimately unsatisfying.

A death has occurred in an Irish family, leaving nine surviving Hegarty children to gather in Dublin to comfort their mother, the same mother who also had seven miscarriages. Veronica journeys from



Ireland to Bristol, England, to claim the body of Liam, the brother closest to her in age and in spirit at least when they were children. Liam committed suicide by drowning.

The manner of death is evocative of the response inspired in Veronica. A maelstrom of memories rises and surges, waves and storms of remembrance. Of her grandmother Ada and grandfather Charlie, and the mysterious but somehow omnipresent Mr. Nugent, who was understood or imagined to be a friend of Charlie's though he also vied for Ada's attentions in younger years, but from whom the couple ended up renting their house after Charlie lost it in a bet on a horse. Mr. Nugent was always around the place, often to be found in the garage out back, where he apparently worked on cars.

In initiating funeral arrangements for Liam before going to fetch his body, Veronica must contact her siblings Bea, Ernest, Ita, Mossie, Kitty, Alice, Ivor and Jem. Midge

died of cancer in her forties and Stevie as an infant. This gathering, then, will be steeped in death, not just that of Liam, but the legacy of all Hegarty relatives who have passed, and even the angelic spirits that never decried the light as infants.

The father of them all is long gone, and what there is to remember of him is mostly their own existence, and the dawning realization of how he must have been at their mother with animal regularity to have sired so many offspring. So sex, or copulation, and other sexual acts, play large. Veronica herself seems to be obsessed with sex. Of middle age and with two young daughters, she thinks a lot about what she used to do with her husband, what they now do sporadically and quickly as if only to release tension, and then about the various lovers she had before she married.

The mishmash of personalities and inter-sibling rivalry that the brothers and sisters represent is a portrait of unresolved conflict, concessions and unspoken agreement to let live now that they are all grown and no longer crammed together in the hallway passage between two parts of their parents' house where their beds were all lined up. Out of that exhausted atmosphere, they do not seek each other's company, though Veronica had kept after Liam over the years as they each moved from place to place, Liam not managing to settle down.

Veronica as narrator hints with repeated coquetry that something happened to Liam one day in their grandmother Ada's house that marked him for life and eventually led him to kill himself. The reader has the impression she is sounding her memory, plunging to grasp at experiences and impressions formed in her child's mind when she was eight and Liam was nine. What at the time was an unclear impression and also immature emerges as vague and diffuse; while through becoming a physically mature adult she can now interpret better what she saw at the time, the exact fixation of occurrences and abiding circumstances has either become worn over time or was never actually possible due precisely to her childlike immaturity when the event took place.

She and Liam were visiting Grandma Ada and Grandpa Charlie. It might have been during school vacation, but Veronica may be confusing that with other visits. Mr. Nugent was as usual somewhere about. Veronica was in one of the rooms with Ada and Charlie (perhaps the kitchen), when for some reason she went to the sitting room and opened the door, where through the gap she saw Mr. Nugent in a chair (or was it a sofa?) with a look of happy relaxation on his face, and Liam kneeling on the floor in front of him with his hand in the man's open trousers. Mr. Nugent, seeing her, made a sharp remark and Veronica left the room.

Veronica shares this with the reader, and would like to share it with her siblings when they assemble at her mother's house where her brother will be waked. But she is not sure if she should do so. She goes round

and round the idea that that eventually led to Liam's suicide, but her dithering produces no plausible argument.

If there is one, the reader must assemble it alone, namely that the child's vision and understanding of events could be laid down in a context of circumstances with duration, meaning that what Veronica the adult remembers also recalls a general condition that was present at that time though she cannot fix it with other events. Given the way her grandparents lived and the fact that Mr. Nugent also as landlord had virtually continuous and arbitrary access to them and their house, it is possible that what the girl Veronica witnessed between Liam and Mr. Nugent may very well have happened on other occasions to which she never opened the door, and possibly too to which Ada might well have been at least circumstantially privy.

There is no argument to assuage the horror of sexual abuse of children or mute consent, but it is nevertheless an inappropriate remedy in dealing with suicide. It displaces the grief that one feels (or perhaps does not, which suggests evidence of a personal emotional vacuum) by tacking it in the form of anger (or even of sadness) to an event for which a causal relationship cannot be-and certainly never will be fully-established.

Enright does not go into this, but stays with Veronica's marital frustration, her insomnia, meandering drives through old neighborhoods at night, drinking habits, and her descriptions of the behavior and habits of her siblings. She leaves the reader wondering what the point has been. Like the question of suicide, the story remains unresolved. She may display a certain virtuosity in turn of phrase, but that alone eventually engenders little more than dissolute frustration.

The Reading Circle for English Language Literature Zug has selected its roster and set its meeting dates for 2009. These are:

- 08.01. The Tenderness of Wolves, Stef Penney
- 05.02. What Was Lost, Catherine O'Flynn
- 05.03. The Kitchen God's Wife, Amy Tan
- 02.04. The Enchantress of Florence, Salman Rushdie
- 07.05. Fieldwork, Mischa Berlinski
- 18.06. The White Tiger, Aravind Adiga
- 27.08. The Garden of Last Days, Andre Dubus III
- 24.09. The Good Terrorist, Doris Lessing
- 29.10. Child 44, Tom Rob Smith
- 03.12. Keeping the World Away, Margaret Forster

For further information on the Reading Circle please contact Andrew DeBoo. The group's next text will be Stef Penney's *The Tenderness of Wolves*, the Costa Prize Winner in 2008, to be debated on Thursday, 8 January 2009 at 19.30 h at the Stadt- und Kantonsbibliothek Zug.



FASC's 19th Member: the IMCZ

by IMCZ President David LeBow

The Federation of Anglo-Swiss Clubs was founded in 1932 and has been promoting contact and understanding between the people of Switzerland and English-speaking people here for 76 years.

FASC is a federation of 19 English-Speaking Clubs in Switzerland:

- English-Speaking Club (Aarau, www.escaarau.ch)
- English-Speaking Club (Baden/Brugg, www.esc-bb.ch)
- Anglo-Swiss Club (Basel, www.asc-basel.ch)
- British Circle (Basel, www.british-circle.ch)
- Swiss-British Society (Bern)
- English Club (Biel)
- International English-Speaking Club (La Chaux-de Fonds)
- Anglo-Swiss Club (Fribourg)
- Anglo-Swiss Club (Geneva)
- English-Speaking and Anglo-Swiss Club (Lausanne, www.esc-lausanne.ch)
- International Club (Lausanne)
- Anglo-Swiss Club (Locarno)
- Anglo-Swiss Club (Lucerne)
- Big Ben Club (Lugano)
- International Women's Club (Lugano, www.iwcl.org)
- Anglo-Swiss Club (Solothurn)
- Anglo-Swiss Circle (St. Gallen)
- English Club (Toggenburg-Wil, www.ectw.org)

And of course, now the International Men's Club of Zug! As announced earlier in the year, the IMCZ has applied to be a member of FASC. Our application was approved at the Autumn meeting of the FASC Executive Council in St. Gallen.

One of the goals set by the board at the beginning of 2008 was to explore ways in which the IMCZ could increase its interaction with other groups. We have had a large number of joint events with the Zug International Women's Club (ZIWC), two joint events with the English Speaking Club of Zurich (ESCZ) and are currently planning joint events with the Swiss American Society of Lucerne (SASL). As a FASC member, we can now more easily interact with 18 other clubs throughout Switzerland. This can open up possible joint events, attendance by IMCZ members at other clubs' events as well as the exchange of event ideas and thoughts on how to improve our respective clubs.

FASC publishes a semi-annual newsletter which is distributed to all members of its member-clubs. You will be receiving the Autumn 2008 edition by e-mail in PDF form in the next few days. We also have paper copies available at the Stammtisch or upon request. In addition, FASC coordinates a number of local (Swiss) and touring international English-speaking speakers. The IMCZ can bring these speakers to Zug at reduced rates as a FASC member and we are looking forward to arranging some of the speakers for you in 2009.

In addition, FASC members receive preferential membership rates to the Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL). As FASC members, we receive a 50% reduction on the joining fee, which would then allow us to use the ROSL Clubhouses in London and Edinburgh as well as a number of reciprocal clubhouses worldwide. Information about the ROSL can be found on their website at www.rosl.org.uk.

In addition, FASC organizes an annual summer event which is open to all of its members. This year's "Federation Weekend" is going to be held in Gstaad in the Berner Oberland from June 18th to the 21st, 2009. Last year's event was held in Kandersteg, details can be found online at www.fasc.ch/data/FASC_Event_1145287575/08_PR_Kandersteg.pdf. Details will be released soon about the weekend in Gstaad.

You can find out more about FASC on the website at www.FASC.ch.



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The Upside of Down Markets or how in recessions the equity markets throw out the baby with the bath water!

— by IMCZ Member John Henry Smith —

Experts believe that the toxic mix of collateralized debt obligations, such as asset-backed securities and credit default swaps that allowed massive off-balance sheet leveraging of junk quality mortgages is responsible for the deep, wrenching financial crisis of global proportions unlike any we've seen since 1930s.

As a consequence of this deepening recession, the stock market began to rapidly cannibalize itself in a vicious maelstrom of deleveraging caused by the abrupt cessation of inter-bank lending. Consequently, the 10,000 hedge funds with more than \$1.7 trillion in assets saw their credit lines being slashed or cash demands made upon them to cover margin calls as stock prices plummeted. This illiquidity further exacerbated equity market stability, when in September alone a \$31 billion tsunami of redemptions forced many hedge funds to dump up to 20% of their holdings, irrespective of quality, causing a further decline in net asset values to meet their obligations (see The Hedge Fund Scorecard below). And this process of "throwing the baby out with the bath water" is likely to continue when quarterly redemptions falling due on 30 November 2008 are expected to set off another fire-sale of assets that will again fuel the downward price spiral.

Hedge Fund Scorecard

Fund	Strategy	Assets ¹	Returns ²
Winners			
Clive Fund	Commodities	\$2.4	+34%
Bluetrend Fund	Financial futures	\$5.7	+31%
Paulson Credit	Distressed	\$5.0	+18%
Brevan Howard	Macro-strategy	\$16.0	+14%
Oceanic Hedge	Stock/commodities	\$1.5	+2%
Losers			
Tosca Fund	Global stocks	\$3.4	-60%
Tremblant Partners	U.S. stocks	\$2.1	-36%
Third Point Offshore	Multi-strategy	\$2.8	-21%
QVT Overseas	Multi-strategy	\$6.0	-21%
Drake Global	Bonds	\$2.6	-17%

Data: BusinessWeek of Nov 3, 08 ¹Billions ²Year-to-date

Despite efforts to stem the problems it is difficult for funds that are down 30% or more to raise new money and persuade investors not to rush to the exits. Charles Biderman, chief executive of TrimTabs Investment Research, estimates that 25% of hedge funds will be out of business by the end of 2009.

So where have all these interlocking 'shenanigans' of Wall Street left investors? Undoubtedly drained and highly insecure! According to Dr. John Rutledge of Rutledge Capital, a private equity firm, last summer the total market capitalization of the U.S. stock markets was calculated at \$19.1 trillion. As of close November 7, 2008, it was estimated that the U.S. market cap is now only \$11.5 trillion, losing a staggering \$7.6 trillion, or 40%, in 14 months!

For patient investors these losses have thrown their investment dreams as far back as early 2003 in the bitter knowledge that in the economic environment of tomorrow, full recovery is likely to take much more than a mere five years since the high leveraging practices of Wall Street will be swept away by the U.S. regulators that will reflect itself in slower economic growth.

On the other hand, for those shrewd enough to get out in time, or those who are simply cash-rich, the situation opens up once-in-a-life-time investment opportunities after the carnage is done, revealing an aftermath of high quality, but significantly depressed stocks that continue to

demonstrate sustainable growth prospects, but at remarkably low price-to-earnings (PE) ratios.

Verily, this is the upside of down markets; it occurs when exaggerated fear and petulance has forced broad market moves that ignore the fundamentals, track record and future prospects of sound companies. The following table shows a selection of stocks that in terms of their earnings growth forecasts belong to the babies that the market dumped.

Symbol	Industry	YTD Nov 26, 08	EPS this Qtr	EPS next Qtr
MTRX	Materials & Construction	-67%	3900%	25%
MEE	Metals & Mining	-53%	1650%	192%
CNX	Metals & Mining	-58%	325%	337%
POT	Chemicals	-57%	229%	116%
MOS	Chemicals	-69%	173%	142%
DO	Energy	-46%	60%	34%
CTV	Telecoms	-77%	55%	39%
BCUY	Manufacturing	-60%	54%	53%
FLS	Manufacturing	-49%	49%	18%
RIMM	Telecoms	-61%	42%	35%

No one knows just how far the stock market will fall, but the combined effects of the financial meltdown, a serious main street recession and the anticipated regulatory curbs on the banks' abilities to leverage 'in the same old way' will continue to take their heavy toll on stocks across the board. Yet it must not be forgotten that today stock prices are so cheap that as an investment class it has prompted Warren Buffet to say that the best time to buy stocks is when the economy tanks because it lets you buy a slice of America at a marked-down price.²

However, even the venerable Mr. Buffet confesses that he can't predict the short-term movements of the stock market, not knowing whether it will be higher or lower in a month or a year from now. If therefore he is unable to gauge when a future turnaround is due, surely it is better to wait until the market itself signals that the economy has started to recover. With this assurance in place informed investors can enjoy the pickings of deeply undervalued stocks such as those shown in the table when the timing is safer.

Warren Buffet believes that early investors will have the unique choice of outstanding companies with very low PEs that he believes are set to make new profit records 5, 10 and 20 years from now. He of course may be right, but when one looks at the start of the current bull market on October 7, 2002 when the SP 500 stood at 785 points and which ran out of steam on October 10, 2007 at 1565 points, we see a bull market cycle that ran not for 20 years but for 5. If, as I suppose, bull markets will probably get shorter with fewer opportunities for excessive returns, investors must learn from recessionary cycles and be prepared to either go short or exit the market in a timely manner to avoid the losses that many a beautiful market baby has suffered this year.

¹A Goldman Sachs index that tracks the top stocks held by hedge funds dropped by 34% over the three weeks ending October 10, a period when managers were frantically selling shares.

²"Buy American. I am," by Warren Buffet, published in The New York Times on October 16, 2008²



Investment Corner

by IMCZ Member John Henry Smith

As there are several categories of investment styles, each month a stock will be analysed by a different category, i.e. Momentum Investor, Value Investor, etc.

Assessments and Analysis based on Nov 26, 2008 close price: \$32.80	
Analysis of:	FUEL SYSTEMS SOLUTIONS, INC (FSYS)
Industry:	Automotive – Auto Parts
Strategy:	Small Cap Growth Investor
YTD Performance:	+130%
SP 500 YTD Performance:	-40%

Almost Family, Inc. (Almost Family), along with its subsidiaries, is a provider of home health services. The Company has service locations in Florida, Kentucky, Ohio, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Alabama, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. The Company has two segments: Visiting Nurse (VN) and Personal Care (PC). The Company's VN segment, which it operates primarily under the trade names Caretenders and Mederi-Caretenders, provides a range of Medicare-certified home health nursing services to patients in need of recuperative care. Its PC segment, which it operates under the trade name Almost Family, provides services in patients' homes on an as-needed, hourly, or live-in basis. On October 26, 2007 it acquired the assets of all the Medicare-certified home health agencies owned and operated by Quality of Life Holdings, Inc. In August 2008, the Company completed the acquisition of Patient Care, Inc.

CATEGORY	CRITERIA OF A SMALL CAP GROWTH INVESTOR	SCORE	REPORT CARD
Profit margin:	12 month after tax profit margin of 7%	7.55%	PASS
Relative strength:	Stock beats 90% of the market	99%	PASS
Comparison of sales and EPS growth to the same period last year:	Sales: 25% EPS: 25%	62% -4%	FAIL
Insider Holdings:	10%+	23%	PASS
Free cash flow from operations:	Cash generation rather than consumption	\$1.32	PASS
Profit margin consistency:	Consistency over the last three years	Current year: 2% Last year: 3% Two years ago: -6%	PASS
Cash and cash equivalents relative to sales:	Approximately 20%	7%	FAIL
Inventory to sales:	Up to a 30% increase	Last year: 26% This year: 26%	PASS
Accounts receivable to sales:	Up to a 30% increase	Last year: 21% This year: 20%	PASS
12 month trailing debt/equity ratio:	At an acceptable level	4%	PASS
Average shares outstanding:	Increase in shares outstanding	No increase in the 16 million shares outstanding	PASS
Sales:	As a small cap company, sales of less than \$500 million	Sales of \$378 million	PASS
Daily dollar volume (DDV):	Less than \$25 million	Exceeds the maximum	FAIL

DISCLAIMER: The above financial data is for informational purposes only, and is explicitly not a recommendation made by IMCZ, which cannot be held liable for its accuracy and that any purchase and/or sale of securities in whatever form based on this information is entirely at the reader's own risk.



Telephony

contributed by IMCZ Member Muthana Kubba

Call back, GSM and Voice over Internet (VOI)

All of us tend to have short memories; it wasn't such a long ago when a phone call to the Middle East cost a fortune at Sfr 7,- a minute. How many still remember the surge of the 'Call Back' system, which prevailed when overseas tariffs in the US were very cheap whilst the Swisscom adamantly stuck to its sky high tariffs?

This article reviews the various systems in use nowadays with a view of future trends. Before the advent of mobile telephony and the Internet, telephony was expensive, very expensive. Telephone bills of International corporations ran into tens of thousand francs every month. However, by the late eighties and early nineties tariffs went down drastically in the USA, and it was ten to twenty times cheaper to call from the US to Switzerland as the other way round. This prompted the emergence of the 'Call Back' system which forced Swisscom to reduce its tariffs, and eventually to the liberalisation of the telephone sector.

Call Back System

In this system a call is initiated from here in Switzerland to a provider in the US. Without answering the provider calls the same number which initiated the call back, hence no charge could be made by Swisscom. With the call back from the provider, a dial tone was given and a call to any destination in the world could be made, e.g. Hong Kong. Once the call was established, the caller then paid his telephone company for two calls, one to Switzerland and one to Hong Kong, but that was still a lot cheaper than making a call directly from Switzerland to Hong Kong. Eventually Swisscom reduced its tariffs, as its revenue dropped drastically especially from its major business customers. A price war ensued which forced the tariffs to move in a downward spiral, until the stage was reached where an overseas call costs a few cents instead of seven francs a minute.

GSM, Global System for Mobile Communication

Mobile telephony went through three generations until the present system prevailed almost everywhere. It is estimated that 82% of the global mobile telephone market uses the GSM Standard (Originally GSM stood for Groupe Spécial Mobile). Even those countries which use other standards are changing them to be compatible with GSM. GSM is used by over 3 billion people in more than 212 countries and territories.

The basic building block of the system is the cell, hence GSM's alternative name: Cellular. The size of the cell depends on the mobile telephones density and can vary from a circle of a few hundred meters in very crowded locations to up to 35 km in rural areas. At the centre of the cells is the base station consisting of an antenna and the communication equipment.

What is fascinating about GSM is its ability to find the called party wherever it might be, as long as it is within GSM range. As soon as a GSM mobile telephone is switched on, it sends

a signal, asking, "where am I?" If it receives an answer from a nearby cell it will then log into that cell provided it is authorised to do so, and the whole world wide network of GSM telephones shall in principle know where this particular telephone is located.

A lesser known reason why GSM has been so successful is its ability to manage the signal strength both at the telephone and at the base station ends. When trying to log in, a GSM telephone will send first a weak signal to locate itself. If it receives no answer then the second time, it will send a stronger signal and so on, until it ends up sending a signal at full available power. The same is true of the base station. It knows from the signal strength received how far away the mobile telephone is, and from which direction the signal has come. It will then reply with the minimum power necessary. If the telephone is far away, it will send a strong signal and vice versa. Additionally the base station has electronically switchable directional antennas and can direct the signals it sends to each telephone separately. The ability of the base station to direct signals of the required strength in the direction of each telephone logged in is most important. Not only does it reduce cross-talk and clatter, it also reduces the size of the transmitters and the total power transmitted considerably. Watch out therefore, if your telephone says, "no service available", then it will send full power signals all the time in anticipation of a reply, the battery will quickly run down, and you may not feel too well with so much electro smog hitting you all the time. It is best to switch off the telephone, and switch on when you are in a different location.

When it comes to tariffs, it gets rather complicated. When the telephone is logged in the home network, then tariff is clear. The tariff for a local or overseas call is set, but what happens when it is logged into a foreign network, say in Tokyo, Japan? A call originating from the home network will pay the local tariff for a local call, and the recipient shall pay the 'roaming' charge, i.e. the cost of a call from the home network to Tokyo. This may sound fair, but it has left the door wide open to the different providers to charge exorbitant amounts for redirecting calls. The problem was compounded by the fact that there was no control mechanism available. The roaming charges were simply added to your telephone bill with no details whatsoever. This has prompted many frequent business travellers to buy a local pre-paid SIM card when they are abroad, rather than use their home SIM card. Since then the EU-commission has intervened to set maximum charges for roaming. It is too early, however, to ascertain whether that had made any significant difference.

Calling Number Identification

What about 'Caller ID' or CID? At the outset of automatic telephony caller identification was not possible. When the telephone rang, there was no way to know who calling except by answering the call. This is why it became the norm that, when taking a call, one identifies himself here in Europe, or the telephone number in the UK.

This changed in the mid nineties when ISDN

(Integrated Services Digital Network) was introduced. For once one could see who is calling before taking the call. This had tremendous advantages, not least of which is that one became mentally prepared to talk to the calling party before taking the call. Calling party identification was then integrated in the GSM system right from the start.

Not known to many, nowadays even the old analogue telephones (POTS = Plain Old Telephone Service) can identify the calling party as well. All that is needed is a suitable telephone with a display.

Of course if the set has the facility to store numbers, or a Telephone Book, then provided the number of the calling party is stored in it, the name of the calling party shall appear on the display as well as the number.



Analogue set with caller identification

Voice over Internet VOI or VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol)

Like picture signals, audio signals can be digitized and converted into a stream of 1's and 0's, and as such can be sent over the Internet like any other file. Hence telephone over Internet has become a reality especially since wide-band connections and fast computer processors have become widely available. As a consequence, the concept that tariff is governed by the duration multiplied by the distance of the call has to be totally scrapped. Neither distance nor duration is relevant any more when the Internet is involved. Hence, we may have an anomaly when a local call made over the Internet to your next door neighbour can cost more than an overseas call to South America. Most are probably familiar with Skype, an excellent program for telephony over the Internet via a computer. It has the additional facility of acting as a 'Video Phone', where the picture of both calling parties is displayed. However, its practicability is limited, since both parties must have their computers switched on and connected to the Internet before a call can be made. Of course the computer must have, in addition to a wideband Internet connection, a microphone and either a loudspeaker or earphones connected, so that a call may be made or an incoming call answered.

The above requirement has limited the use of virtually free telephony for everyday use. People are used to dialling a number on their telephone and speaking to the called party not sitting in front of a computer to do so. As a result a new generation of providers have sprung up. Those providers use VOI for the long haul and existing lines for the local connections, thus enabling a phone-to-phone call as usual. The user does not notice any difference from normal telephony, save for the fact that he or she has to prefix the called number by a certain series of digits. Most prominent of such providers is 10787 (see www.10787.com) which allows overseas tariffs of 2 cents per minute, whereas Swiss local calls cost 3.5 cents. Other providers use a 900 number to make a prepayment and then offer even cheaper tariffs until the prepayment is used up.



FROM THE LANES ... On Strike at the Cherry Bowl

Seventeen bowlers stormed the Cherry Bowl on 17 November to roll high marks and shake hands with the pin boy. The group occupied five full lanes and turned overall one of the better evenings' returns since organizer Steven Butterworth initiated the event.

Of the seventeen bowlers, seven broke the century mark in every game (41%), thirteen (76%) scored more than 100 in at least two games, and sixteen - that's 94% - broke 100 at least once. This represents clear anticipation of the IMCZ/ZIWC Challenge, set to take place in mid-January 2009.

Among the ladies, of whom there were unfortunately only four participants, Katja Ramsay, Janis Meier, Nicole Bühler and Carol Gipson, the evening began disparately. Carol Gipson jumped out to a substantial lead at 140, 21 pins better than Janis Meier.

Over on the men's side, however, Beat Züger and Andrew DeBoo gave each other a contest that was decided 172 to 131 in favor of Andrew DeBoo. Third among the men in this game was Joseph Florio, who rolled a respectable 128.

In the second game Nicole Bühler upped her score by more than 40 pins to 108 and Katja Ramsay dropped hers by an equal amount, while the contest was decided between Janis Meier's with 124 and Carol Gipson at 148.

Among the men, Joseph Florio scored the evening's high game with 176, while Beat Züger finished with 172 and Andrew DeBoo with 170.

In the evening's third game, Carol Gipson finished a splendidly consistent performance with 147, gaining the ladies' evening prize bottle of wine, ahead of Nicole Bühler with 124 and Janis Meier with 123.

Among the men Andrew DeBoo scored 162 and secured the men's prize with an evening's total of 504. Joseph Florio racked up 421 pins and Beat Züger 401.

January 19 2009 will mark the enactment of the **IMCZ/ZIWC Bowling Challenge**, an annual event of good cheer and jolly competition. Members of both clubs, of all bowling stripes, styles and shoe sizes are heartily encouraged to come out and participate firsthand or cheer on their favorite bowler. The ladies hosted the event in 2007, which the men won behind the leadership of current President David LeBow. The ladies were led in scoring by Carol Gipson. The coveted Cup will be contested, and the IMCZ's honor is at stake in defending last year's victory. The event catches up the postponement from 2008.

This time the men assume the organizational tasks, and there are sure to be prizes for leading participants. Many of the rules for participation in this event apply as for the standard routine. Sign up with Steven Butterworth, and a place at the Cherry Bowl lanes is yours. Entry for the Challenge will be CHF 25.00, since the IMCZ will sponsor each participant's first drink and reward winners with prizes.

IMCZ member Stephen Butterworth's enthusiasm and coordination effort is inspiring and magnetic. The IMCZ's regular bowling event for Club members takes place on the **3rd Monday of every month**. Other dates in 2009 are: February 16th = 1 year anniversary • March 16th • April 20th • May 18th • June 15th • July 20th • August 17th • September 21st • October 19th • November 16th • December 21st

Members are encouraged to come out cheer for the bowlers if they do not intend to bowl themselves.

The evening opens at 19:30, **crush of strikes and thrill of spares starts at 20:00**, and the event is open to registered and prospective IMCZ and ZIWC members. Stephen Butterworth has negotiated a splendid 25% discount with the Cherry Bowl (just off the end of the freeway in Sihlbrugg). Early arrival to assure good shoes, a good ball and some liquid calisthenics is encouraged. **Reservations are required**, since the Cherry Bowl must be notified of how many bowlers to expect. Please contact **Steven Butterworth by the preceding Friday** via e-mail or phone, butterworth.sp@gmail.com or **041/790 4172**. If you register to bowl and can't attend, you must let him know by the preceding Friday. The **IMCZ No-Show policy** applies. The cost for an evening is CHF 20.00 for two hours of bowling and shoe rental - a bargain indeed - and concludes at 22:00.

Joe's Ski Tips

Pre-season Outlook



Ok guys, we're about to go into ski season here in Switzerland, truly the Mecca of alpine skiing. Continuing from last year, I will review a Swiss ski resort in each monthly newsletter and share with you some of the tips I've gathered along the way.

First, please, please sign up as a patron with REGA http://www.rega.ch/en/goenner/start_goenner.aspx

As a Swiss resident and for a mere pittance, you are eligible to join and to be covered by this terrific non-profit foundation that handles rescues in Switzerland. Here is a list of a few of the nearby resorts, some of which I will review this season:

Stoos • Hoch-yBrig • Engelberg • Andermatt
Flumserberg • Flims Laax • Falera
Meringen-Hasliberg • Bad Ragaz-Pizol

...with many more slightly further.

For great deals on skiing and transportation, check out the SBB's Snow 'N Rail brochure at the Bahnhof.

For weather forecasts and resort listings, these two Websites are the best I've found:
<http://www.snow-forecast.com/resorts/Flumserberg> &
<http://snow.myswitzerland.com/snowreport?lang=en#>

If you are in need of equipment, I suggest Stoeckli, the Swiss Ski (no, I don't work for them or have any financial interest in their business, but I do love their high-quality skis). Check out their line and drop by the main location in Wolhusen, not far from Luzern, <http://en.stoeckli.ch/main/locations/wolhusen/>. They may still have some deals on last year's models, too. I demo'd their entire line, last season, and can really recommend the Spirit carving and Laser Cross all-mountain models.

Lastly, we are toying with the idea of an **IMCZ ski weekend sometime in March**, but we need to know the interest level to make reservations. So, e-mail me at membership@imcz.com if that sounds like a good idea.

Think snow!

Joe



contributed by IMCZ Members

You think English is easy???

Read to the end . . . a new twist

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present .
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 20) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.

There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?

If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth?
 One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices?
 Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend?
 If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?
 If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?
 Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship?
 Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all.
 That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

Why doesn't 'Buick' rhyme with 'quick'?

You lovers of the English language might enjoy this : -

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is 'UP.'
 It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP ?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP ? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report ? We call UP our friends. And we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver; we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car. At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special. And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP.

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4th of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP . When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP. When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry UP.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so.....it is time to shut UP!

Oh . . . one more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night? U-P

Looking for work

A Japanese doctor said, 'Medicine in my country is so advanced that we can take a kidney out of one man, put it in another, and have him looking for work in six weeks.'

A German doctor said, 'That's nothing, we can take a lung out of one person, put it in another, and have him looking for work in four weeks.'

A British doctor said, 'In my country, medicine is so advanced that we can take half of a heart out of one person, put it in another, and have them both looking for work in two weeks.'

A Texas doctor, not to be outdone said, 'You guys are way behind. We took a man with no brains out of Texas, put him in the White House and now half the country is looking for work.'

On sunny day in January, 2009 an old man approached the White House from across Pennsylvania Avenue, where he'd been sitting on a park bench. He spoke to the U.S. Marine standing guard and said, "I would like to go in and meet with President Bush."

The Marine looked at the man and said, "Sir, Mr. Bush is no longer president and no longer resides here."

The old man said, "Okay", and walked away.

The following day, the same man approached the White House and said to the same Marine, "I would like to go in and meet with President Bush."

The Marine again told the man, "Sir, as I said yesterday, Mr. Bush is no longer president and no longer resides here."

The man thanked him and, again, just walked away.

The third day, the same man approached the White House and spoke to the very same U.S. Marine, saying "I would like to go in and meet with President Bush."

The Marine, understandably agitated at this point, looked at the man and said, "Sir, this is the third day in a row you have been here asking to speak to Mr. Bush. I've told you already that Mr. Bush is no longer the president and no longer resides here. Don't you understand?"

The old man looked at the Marine and said, "Oh, I understand. I just love hearing it."

The Marine snapped to attention, saluted, and said, "See you tomorrow, Sir."



Members' Marketplace

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the roll top roof?

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FOR SALE: gorgeous view of Bay of Biscay with stunning sunsets and high waves. Wee house (12 rooms), dock and yacht included. Call Bill at 041 123 4567.

Farewell... adieu

The **IMCZ** wishes well to:
**To a year of progress for the IMCZ
and the IMCZ News, and**

**Ernie Good • Jeff Forney • Hans Ackeret
... best wishes and Happy New Year!**

Members' Marketplace

FOR SALE: SWITEL Internet Phone IP 700K, VoIP phone for a PC, never used because I wasstupid and forgot I have a Mac. Duh.
sumners@databaar.ch CHF 30.

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FOR SALE: Mountain Bike FS: Specialized HardRock, fully-rigid (non-suspension), 16" frame, Dark Blue, clean-always stored indoors; ext. seat post, fat city slick tires, bar ends, and water bottle holders. CHF 279.
Contact: jjdow@hotmail.com

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