

Slovenia, December 2005

Lessing-Gymnasium, Winnenden
& Max-Born-Gymnasium, Backnang



At 19.23 on the Wednesday, we – eight female debaters and one male, plus our coach, David – headed off, towards Stuttgart.



From there, we took the IC to Munich, where we waited for an hour, until our connection left for Zidani Most in Slovenia. By this time it was well into the night, but not all of us were that keen on going to sleep! Having arrived in Zidani Most the next morning, we took the train to Ljutomer, our destination. We arrived there at 10.50 and walked straight to the school.

Once there, we received a hearty welcome from our hosts. We then prepared our debate until midday and then went home with our hosts...



The next morning, we needed to be at school at 7 a.m. We continued our preparation during the morning and then we learnt the motion for the impromptu. The motion was "This house believes that privacy is more important than the public right to know."

After we had all found our rooms and also prepared for an hour, the first debate started. Straight after that we continued with our prepared topic: "This house believes that it is unjustified that, in a majority of divorce cases, child custody is awarded to the mother" – which we had to debate twice. Each time was proposition once and opposition once.



At 8.30 in the evening, we went back home with our hosts and went straight to bed, in order to be fit for the events of the next day.



On the Saturday, we had to be at school again at 8.30, to run through our speeches again. Then, the final three debates had to be dealt with – with the same motion again, three times.

During the day, we had lunch in the local old people's home – there was even some time to pay a quick visit to the supermarket.

After our final debate, there was the final. In the World's format debates, the final was between Wales and Ljutomer, whilst Celje and Ormoz battled it out for the title in the Karl Popper debates.



At 18.21, we, along with our luggage and a horde of other debaters, stood at Ljutomer station and waited for the train, which was running late. This was not really a problem, as we had two hours wait anyway in Ljubljana, the Slovenian capital. Some of us went into the city centre, which was very Christmassy and which even had some fireworks (especially for us?).

Then, we travelled back to Munich in our sleeping cars, and almost missed our connection to Stuttgart, due to our train being delayed.



However, our connection had, very kindly, waited for us! When we finally arrived back in Stuttgart after 16 hours travelling, the groups from the different schools split up and everyone went home, tired but happy and with plenty of new debating experience under their belt.

Vivian Schreier, Max-Born-Gymnasium

