



Newsletter 2

Dear Friends,

Since the opening of registration on October 1st we have already had 16 registrations, with a number of old friends among them. Two registrations are from India and South Korea, taking part in the Worlds for the first time; and we have heard that Turkey and China are planning to come. We are accepting only **38 teams altogether**, so if you're still dithering, register rapidly or you'll be left out! The necessary information is printed below in case you still need it (see below, "Registration and Deadlines").

Our **schedule** is gradually taking shape; this newsletter contains the updated version, although nothing is cast in bronze and things may still change.

We have the **venues** tied up – two dozen enthusiastic state schools, not as exciting perhaps as in Soweto or Singapore, but they'll do their best to offer a warm welcome.

We have moved into a new **office**, put at our disposal by Stuttgart City Council (for which we are most grateful, for they are themselves in the middle of a massive refurbishment of the City Hall). When in it, we spend much of our time wondering who else to turn to for sponsorship, for the financing of the World Championships is our biggest problem. Has anyone out there got a money tree?

Having established this central office, we are able to gather all information provided by you. Claudia is responsible for the **online registration** of the teams. Every registration form is being saved on our computer and printed out. It is her task to administrate all incoming data concerning the participating teams and to make sure that the whole registration process is done according to the rules. If you have any questions/wishes/suggestions concerning this, please contact us: worlds2004@stuttgart.de.

Registration and Deadlines

1st October 2003: **Registration opens.** We will accept **up to 38 teams** (in the order of the dates of registration).

20th November 2003: **Final last registration.**

30th November 2003: Full payment of entry fees,
wishes for sightseeing trips in and around Stuttgart
(see below, "Tentative Schedule" and "Sightseeing").

You can **register on-line**, via www.schoolsdebate.de. The entry fees are as follows:

- **Debaters** (3-5 per country), **coaches** and **adjudicators** (1 per country): **300.- €**
- Additional adjudicators: **350.- €**
- Observers: **1.000.- €**

All **payments** can be made electronically. Our bank is the **Landesbank Baden-Württemberg** (LB-BW), **IBAN DE13 6005 0101 0008 2046 64**, Bank Sort Code 60050101, **Swift Code SOLADEST**, and the Debating Society Germany has Account No. **8204664**.

Accommodation and transport

As soon as your plane lands, **you will be met by us** and driven directly to the hotel. If you

choose to fly with **Lufthansa**, you will receive a 10% discount on all tariffs, no matter where you are flying from.

Transport to the venues will be by **public transport**. Of course, this has a slight disadvantage for you in that you may have to walk small stretches from time to time (e.g. 10 minutes from the hotel to the station). Therefore, please remember to bring **warm clothing** and **sturdy shoes**. However, use of public transport has many great advantages. It is the most environmentally-friendly transport option. You will also get to know many different modes of transport (bus, train, suburban train and light railway). The biggest advantage though is: you will receive a **free ticket** for all public transportation in and around Stuttgart for the entire duration of the World Championships. This means that you will be able to discover Stuttgart and its environs for free in your leisure time. For more information have a look at www.stuttgart-tourist.de.

All participants will be accommodated in the **Maritim Hotel**. This is a **4-star hotel** near the centre of Stuttgart. Don't forget your swimming costume and sportswear: the facilities include swimming pool, sauna and fitness areas, which may be used free. Participants will be in **two-bedded rooms** (unless they prefer a single-bedded one, at an **extra charge** of 40 Euros upwards per day). Should you arrive earlier, or wish to leave later, this is possible at a special price of €40 per person per night which we have arranged. Those wishing to know more about the hotel are welcome to visit its websites, www.tagungshotel.com or www.maritim.de.

Tentative Schedule

- Wednesday 11th - Arrival, registration at Maritim Hotel
- Thursday 12th - (morning) - Adjudicators' briefing (compulsory for adjudicators!); debaters will "get physical" (see below)
- (afternoon) - 2 p.m., guided tour of Stuttgart
- 4.30 p.m., Stuttgart City Council reception
- 6 p.m., opening ceremony (Mayor Dr Schuster)
- Friday 13th - (morning) - Round 1 and
- (afternoon) - Round 2 (Stuttgart schools)
- (evening) - concert, or free
- Saturday 14th - Sightseeing (Heidelberg or Tübingen)
- Sunday 15th - (morning) - Rounds 3 & 4 (Stuttgart University)
- (afternoon) - Stuttgart University reception
- (evening) - 5 p.m., ecumenical Christian church service offered in Hospitalkirche
- 9 p.m., show in Stuttgart Planetarium
- Monday 16th - (morning) - Round 5 and
- (afternoon) - Round 6 (various venues in Backnang and Esslingen)
- Tuesday 17th - (morning) - Round 7 and
- (afternoon) - Round 8 (various venues in Tübingen and Schwäbisch Gmünd)
- (evening) - free
- Wednesday 18th - (morning) - Octofinals (various venues in vicinity)
- (afternoon) - Quarterfinals (four venues in Stuttgart, including Wilhelms-Palais and the Stuttgart Parliament, at the invitation of all the political parties represented)
- (evening) - Visit to opera, musical or play
- Thursday 19th - (morning) - Sightseeing in Strasbourg
- (afternoon) - Semi-finals (European Parliament and Town Hall in Strasbourg)

- Friday 20th
- (evening) - Party (carnival, fancy dress party)
 - (morning) - Worlds Council (Maritim Hotel), debaters visit most attractive museums in Stuttgart
 - (afternoon) - 5 p.m., Grand Final (Liederhalle, Mozartsaal)
(Chairman: British Consul General M. Twigg)
 - (evening) - 7 p.m., Final Dinner (Alte Reithalle, with several guests of honour)

Saturday 21st - Departure

Sightseeing and other activities

Ellen, our Cultural Events Manager, has put together a varied programme of activities to fill all that spare time which everybody has in such abundance during debating competitions. There is a lot in store for you:

Since debating is a rather academic and intellectual activity, we invite you to "get physical" on your **first day in Stuttgart** and to meet your fellow debaters from other countries. You will be able to choose from a variety of sports, e.g. learning to dance the tango, going ice-skating, going to one of the spas in Stuttgart, relaxing with yoga and other things. Please be sure to pack a bathing suit, sports wear and indoor sports shoes.

Before the semi-finals we will spend the morning sightseeing in Strasbourg, the seat of the European Parliament. Our two semi-final debates will be held in the afternoon, one actually in the Parliament itself, the other in the Town Hall of Strasbourg. We are very grateful for the invitation to debate at these two prestigious venues.

When the representatives and delegates meet in the morning for their annual **Worlds Council** meeting. For debaters it will be a bit of a lie-in, but later in the day we will take you to the most attractive museums in Stuttgart (they are yours to choose from of course): a museum where Jurassic Park will seem very much like reality, or Stuttgart's spectacular museum of modern art, or the Mercedes museum with beautiful vintage cars.

Those of you who would like a ticket to the opera or to the ballet, please let us know by **November 15th**. During the week that you are here, there will be one ballet - a performance of "Giselle" - and an opera by Mozart, "The Abduction from the Seraglio". Ticket prices vary; the most expensive ones (the front rows in the stalls) are 60 Euros, but there are also cheaper tickets available for approx. 30 Euros. The opera and the ballet tend to be sold out quite quickly, so you have to make up your mind early.

On Saturday 14th February we offer two excursions:

1) Visit to Heidelberg (and Mannheim):

Heidelberg is the oldest university town in Germany (founded in the 14th century), approx. 130 km. from Stuttgart. There will be a guided tour of the ruined castle (which became hugely popular with the writers of the Romantic Movement) and a guided walk through the old town, with its university buildings (among others the students' gaol for unruly or "too-uproarious" students), the Baroque houses and the Old Bridge across the river Neckar. In the afternoon we will visit a museum in Mannheim (approx. 20 km from Heidelberg) with exhibits on the 200 years or so of industrialisation in Germany, e.g. workshops, steam-engines, old cars and much more.

Cost: 30 Euros per person.

2) Visit to Hohenzollern (and Tübingen):

In the morning we will visit the castle of the Hohenzollern dynasty, once emperors of Germany. The oldest parts of this castle go back to the 12th century and contain the oldest stained glass windows in Germany. There is a rather steep 3 km ascent to the castle, so be sure to bring comfortable shoes.

In the afternoon you will be taken on a guided tour of the medieval town of Tübingen, also a very old university town (established in 1477). Famous poets, such as Mörike and Hölderlin, and famous philosophers, such as Hegel and Schelling, once lived here.

Note that although some of the debates will take place in Tübingen on Tuesday, 17th February, there will be very little time for those debaters who are there to explore the place as the schedule will be rather tight.

Cost: 30 Euros per person.

Obviously some people are interested in making **pre and post WSDC trips** to visit some of the famous places in Germany or in Europe. Our special travel agency **DERPART** www.derpart.de is able to offer tailor-made programmes for all groups with more than 15 participants (max. number of participants is 25, three groups) and they will organise these trips for your convenience.

They are offering different tours and programmes such as

- **BERLIN – THE GERMAN CAPITAL:** Visit the German Capital for 4 days. (Rate per person based on a group of 8 participants from €420.00)
- **ROMANTIC GERMANY:** Visit the most important romantic places in southern Germany including Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Munich and the Royal Castles in Bavaria, 6 days 5 nights. (Rate per person based on a group of 8 participants from €620.00)
- **CLASSIC GERMANY:** From Stuttgart via Frankfurt, Weimar and Dresden to Berlin. (Rate per person based on a group of 8 participants from €870.00)
- **EUROPEAN CITIES:** Paris – London – Amsterdam, 5 days – 4 nights. (Rate per person based on a group of 8 participants from €720.00)

Let us know if you have an interest in tours so that we can send you more information and the contact details.

Handbook

Please don't forget to send us the short profiles and photos of your teams, as detailed in the first newsletter, by the end of November.

We are looking forward to seeing you all here in "Old Europe" in February!

With best wishes

Angelika Hoeness and Michael Pates