

Catalyzer 22/07

International Chemistry Olympiad, Zurich, Switzerland

22 July 2023
Today's Weather



25°C

Schedule

Students

07:00 - 22:15 Excursion to Valais, Lonza and Bern, by train

Mentors and observers

08:00 - 18:00 Corrections, Crowne Plaza
20:00 - 24:00 Jury Meeting 3, Crowne Plaza

Excursion Barometer



Students



Mentors

Happy Birthday



Nobody's birthday at IChO today, but: Happy International Hammok Day!



What a Day!

Yesterday was a very busy day: the second exam took place and with it the academic competition of the IChO ended. The mentors visited Eastern Switzerland and in the evening the great reunion happened.

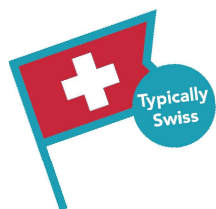
The theoretical exam also lasted 5 hours and especially the time management seemed to be a challenge for the students: "The exam actually went by so quickly, I can't even explain it! Time flies when you are so concentrated. I started the exam, then raised my head to look at the clock and two and a half hours were already gone. The time limit is one of the main challenges at IChO. Unfortunately, I didn't manage it correctly", said Andrea from Georgia. The Vietnam team found the exam very difficult and was very tired afterwards: "We did our best, but we are not exactly happy with how it went. No matter what, the exam was still fun and we are glad that we were able to participate." For Tomás from Argentina the practical exam was more tiring than the theoretical one: "The exam

met my expectations. However, I don't know what results to expect, mainly because I don't know how the rest of the students did. I just know that I did my best and the outcome will reflect what I know."

Now the hard part is over and the students are waiting for the results. However, the long wait is shortened by a very varied programme, e.g. the Reunion Party, which took place last night and at which mentors and students met again for the first time since Monday. Finally, the stress of the exams could be put aside.

While the students had to work hard and think a lot, the mentors visited Eastern Switzerland. The programme included an excursion to Mount Säntis and a visit to Metrohm, an IChO Partner and an international active Swiss manufacturer of precision instruments for chemical analysis, especially for ion analysis. (*lh/sa*)

Schwingen



Schwingen, also known as Swiss Wrestling, is a traditional sport that originated in Switzerland. It is a style of folk wrestling that has been practiced for centuries.

The "Schwinger" compete on a circular sawdust-covered platform and wear short pants made of jute over their clothes which allow for easy grappling. They hold each other by these pants and try to throw

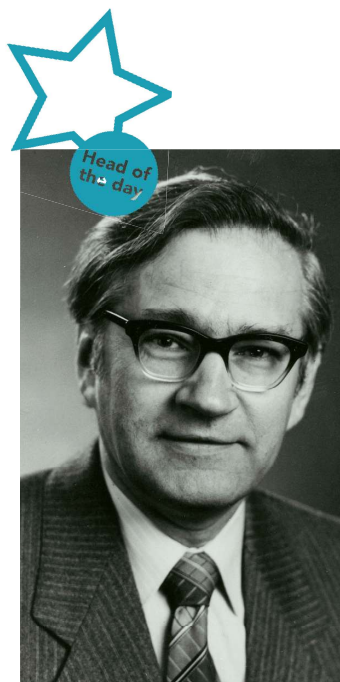
the opponent onto their back with both shoulders touching the ground. Unlike other wrestling styles, there are no points in Schwingen. The match is judged by three referees, one of whom stands in the ring. There are no weight classes nor any other categories. Usually, though,



"Schwinger" are big men, over 180 cm tall and weighing in excess of 100 kg. "Schwingen" places a strong emphasis on fair play and sportsmanship. It is deeply rooted in Swiss culture and tradition and is a popular attraction at regional festivals and events. (al)

Richard Ernst - Toolmaker, Musician, Researcher

Richard Ernst (1933-2021) received the Nobel prize for chemistry in 1991 for his contributions to the development of the methodology of high resolution nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy.



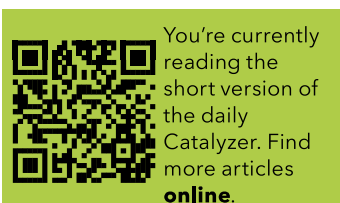
He was born in Winterthur, Switzerland, and studied chemistry at ETH. After his PhD he joined a company in the US that worked on commercialising NMR. In 1968 he returned to ETH, where he soon started to focus on the development of multi-dimensional spectroscopy. Prof. Ernst was a member of various committees, editor for numerous journals and continued to lecture on many topics all over the world after his retirement in 1991. (Eva Vandaele)

Question of the Day:

Which chemistry Nobel prize winner was on the betting sheet of the Simpsons in 2010?

A. Ben Feringa B. Richard Zare C. Omar Yaghi D. Ada Yonath

Yesterday's solution: C: Stephanie Kwolek discovered poly-paraphenylene terephthalamide fibers while working at DuPont. She won multiple awards for her work in polymer chemistry.



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Yesterday in Pictures

