

Dear Friends of the Interchange Programme

Trusting that you all had a safe and joyous holiday season.

As NICs it is now that you enter one of the most challenging parts of the IC programme. As local chapters begin to finalize the details of their Interchange; difficulties may arise that will require your guidance and resourcefulness to solve. I have faith in each of you that you will do your utmost to ensure that all ICs will take place this summer. As I now remind you, please remind your LICs that a solution to each difficulty resides in ONE word - FLEXIBLE.

Wishing you success in your individual endeavors in establishing successful and enjoyable Interchanges - just remember for whom we are doing this - our youth will appreciate all your efforts.

1. ADDRESS LIST UPDATES

→ *Not to be published online*

2. INTERCHANGE WORKSHOP - AUSTRIA IBM2000

Until the IBM, this item will almost be a constant in each IIC Info News. Why, because the whole IIC really wants to meet as many NICs as possible. But a very important reason for wanting you at the workshop is communication and education. We need to talk to each other and discuss items of common interest in the IC Programme - only this way can we make the ICs better and more interesting for the delegates, leaders and parents.

I know that you all want to attend. But, there are two things that you need - time and money. The first thing I can give you plenty of. The second you will have to talk to your individual NAs. Approach them now, before the NA budget is set for the year 2000 - go to your NA and ask " will you PLEASE support me financially to attend the Interchange Workshop in Austria this year - if not me, then can we send another representative - its important to the Interchange Programme in our country".

Do not be shy, ask - ' he / she who hesitates is '

3. OPEN LIST

Attached is the most recent Open List in both MS Excellv7.0 and Plain Text.

4. IC UPDATE

As of this writing we have a total of 54 Short Term and 55 Long Term Interchanges planned to start this summer. My hat goes off the all you NICs who have worked so diligently in setting up new Interchanges.

5. FORMS, FORM, FORMS

In the last IO Update there was a reminder of the missing DPAF Forms that are missing for many Interchanges.

The DPAF form was to be sent in 3 days after your hosting of an Interchange ended. Also, until recently, I was not aware that each chapter is to hand in a Risk Management Form irregardless if there was or was not a RM issue in the IC. In part the IO Update stated the following ".....It is extremely difficult to prepare accurate invoices, comply with insurance contracts, compile essential statistics or perform follow-up work regarding complaints or insurance claims if required data is not received by the IO in a timely manner. We urgently need this information. The total number of outstanding forms is very disappointing"

Please remind your LICs to get this information to either yourself or your NA or directly to IO as soon as possible - tomorrow if possible.

6. IC PENALTIES

Just a reminder to you and your LICs that the critical date to return cancel) Interchanges for ICs starting June / July without penalty is February 28. For Interchanges returned (canceled) between March 1 and April 30 a penalty of 230 Pounds will be assessed to the chapter initiating the cancellation. After May 1 the penalty is 460 British Pounds.

7. RESULTS OF INTERCHANGE CLINICS

At each IBM clinics are held between the IIC and countries that are reported to be delinquent on the rules of conducting an Interchange. Countries that are asked to present themselves to the IIC are based on concerns and information received from other countries regarding that Interchange. Both countries of the Interchange are asked to 'explain their side of the story'.

In some cases concerns arise out of a misunderstanding or a lack of understanding acceptable norms of behavior in that culture. In other cases a country "just wants the IIC to be aware of" ". And in many cases concerns are expressed about the lack of proper training of mainly leaders but quite often improper education of delegates and parents about the expectations of an Interchange.

Now, what is done with this information of concerns about delinquent countries. Well, in the past few years - not much. I want you know that this IIC intends to listen to your concerns and that we take all concerns seriously. Next to the Matchbox, clinics will be a very important part of an IBM. We will keep a record of offending countries / chapters and repeat offenders will most certainly be required to explain their actions and if no remedy is found will be dealt with. We as an IIC are prepared to restrict involvement in the Interchange Programme for non-compliant countries. The IEC will be asked to investigate concerns involving serious Risk Management issues.

Without naming specific countries, what follows is a summary of the clinics held at the last IBM (10 clinics held in Brasil) and other concerns sent in to the IIC. I am sure that you may recognize some of the situations presented. Please do not feel offended by this forum. This is to be an opportunity to share experiences and to learn. An opportunity to see what some find difficult about an Interchange. An opportunity to make changes to our Programmes so that they can be enjoyed trouble free by all involved. If you feel that we can all learn from this presentation, please share it with your LICs

(I) A chapter hosting two ICs had the same leader. The hosting leader totally neglected one leader for the last four days of the IC.

(ii) Three day mini camp canceled without other replacement activities

(iii) A visiting leader was also the mother of a delegate. It was felt that undue attention was given to the daughter. The leader did not properly attend to the travel details of the delegation. Twenty year age difference between the two leaders was a concern.

(iv) A leader was told by the LIC that due to the hard work done during the hosting and the non involvement of the visiting leader in the mini camp, that the return part of the IC was to be considered as a holiday. Some of the hosting delegates were attending other non CISV activities during the IC and the visiting leader was not informed of same. A couple of visiting delegates were asked to sleep on air mattress while the hosting child slept in a bed.

(v) It was found that two of the visiting delegates had head lice and their parents refused the treatment offered.

(vi) Leader was constantly smoking in front of the delegations. It was also felt that the young leader was not trained properly.

(v) A delegate was sent that was bulimic

(vi) A country expressed concern that it had been canceled due to the unusual situations in that country. The country had enough delegates for two interchanges but could not find a country to interchange with.

(vii) A visiting leader was put off by the fact that a parent took a delegate to exchange money. It was felt that a better exchange rate was available to the delegate. The hosting parent was offended.

(viii) A 30 year age difference in leaders presented concerns. Elder leader did not participate in all group activities

(ix) A delegate was billed for use of the telephone and told that it could not wash its clothes as soap was expensive.

(x) Delegate used telephone without knowledge or approval of the host parents

(xi) A visiting delegate felt unsafe and was scared driving with a parent who had consumed alcohol at a party

(xii) A visiting leader showed a disinterest in CISV goals / philosophies and showed no interest in organizing activities. The leader stated that it was only interested in the free travel

(xii) Fewer delegates arrive than was agreed to

(xiii) Initially all Delegate Application forms for matching were written in a language other than English

(xiv) A delegate is informed by its partner that it will no longer

participate in the second leg of the IC. No explanation is given for the withdrawal. It takes more than 2 months to find a replacement delegate during which time there is no communication.

(xv) A hosting programme had 'three' mini camps and no family week

Beginning in 12 hours I will be on holidays until January 26. Talk to you later.

Yours in CISV
Heinz Boehnke - IIC Chair