

Rotary YEP 08/09 Switzerland

Hoi Zämme!

The last couple of months have been really busy for me. Switzerland was one of the two host countries for the Europa Meisterschaft which began on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June. It ran until the 29<sup>th</sup>, when Spain and Germany battled it out for the title. ¡Viva España! Bern hosted the three qualifying matches for Holland and for 3 weeks the streets of Bern were literally orange. 300,000 Hollanders



came to Bern to watch the matches here.

Domä - a friend from school – and I, supporting Holland. Hup Holland!

Every night for four weeks I would go into the city to watch the matches in the ‘Fanzone’ with my friends. It was always such a good atmosphere: people dressed up, shouting and cheering and who could forget, “Rigatoni is homo!” Even now, in clubs and on the streets people will start singing it.

Then at the end of June I started Sommer Ferien. I spent 3 weeks in my family’s holiday house on Lake Geneva in the French speaking part of Switzerland. Rachael (on exchange in France) came to the house for a week and it was great to see her and spend time catching up. My family has a boat so we spent a bit of time on the lake and also in Montreux Jazz Festival.

After that, it was time for Gurten Festival. Four days filled with great music, sunshine, very late nights and meeting heaps of new people. Some of the acts I saw were Züri West (possibly Switzerland’s favourite band), N.E.R.D, Ben Harper and Chemical Brothers. Surprisingly enough, two acts from Australia, John Butler Trio and The Beautiful Girls played at Gurten. It was a bit strange hearing them in Switzerland but at the same time it was such a good experience. I was lucky enough

to meet John Butler Trio and have a good chat with them about exchange and Switzerland in general. I taught them a couple of words in Bärndütsch (the dialect used in Bern) but that didn't go too



well.

Gabrielle and I at Gurten Festival

The EM has been one of the highlights of my year so far as it was so much fun and so different from anything I could ever see back home. Throughout the EM I developed a new found love for Soccer (Fußball) and I will definitely miss it when I go home. These first six months here have gone by so fast and it is so strange to think that in less than five months I will be back at home again.

Alles Gueti! Tchuss!