

Friday 30 January 2015. Wahoos are going to Grenoble and the forecast is for snow. Krishna kindly picks me up in Wettingen and we head the opposite direction into Zürich - Why? Because we didn't listen to Katherine when she told us we should pick her up in Baden. After battling our way back out of Zürich, we are finally on the road to Grenoble. The forecast turns out to be correct; turning what should have been a four-hour drive into a seven-hour ordeal, with us crawling through blizzards for many long stretches.

Eventually we get to Grenoble, and find our hotel - well done Fanny for organizing comfortable and reasonably priced accommodation.

The boys retire early - we have some serious shopping and some not so serious hockey to play tomorrow.

Saturday dawns and Grenoble looks pretty all dusted with snow. Some friendly locals introduce us to the waffle-making machine at breakfast - WIN! Breakfast is a huge success.

Then the team heads off to cash in our Euro bonus and do some serious shopping at Decathlon, followed by food shopping at the nearby hypermarket.

Shopping goals achieved we make our way to the pool, and ease into the tournament with a relatively easy victory against Clermont girls. The next couple of games were not so easy; we lost to Moiran 2 and the Clermont guys, but not by a huge amount.

After a good days hockey thoughts turned to food. Unfortunately, everyone else in Grenoble has the same thoughts - our target Restaurant and every other Restaurant is fully booked. So we decide to head back to the hotel

and order Pizza. But wait, what is that next to our hotel? A steakhouse! Unfortunately fully booked, until we engage the charm of our hotel receptionist who uses her magic to free up a table for us. Poor Zsuzsa has to watch the rest of us eat meat - sorry about that!

Sunday was more successful in the underwater hockey department. We won all our games, including a rather dirty encounter with a young team from Le Puy. We won the game but I lost my temper and was quite rightly invited to spend two minutes cooling off in the sin bin. I got my revenge by swimming from the sin bin to score off a pass from Olivier. However I was very disappointed for my lack of discipline - after so many years of playing hockey and at my advanced age I should know better and keep my cool.

The Moiran ladies team, with help from the referees, time keepers and two large male Moirans managed to score a winning goal in extra time (the only case when extra time was played), off a 2m free puck to beat us 3 - 2. Very frustrating, but we got our revenge beating them 5 - 0 in an «after competition» game.

Somehow the team managed to survive through the tournament despite several team members displaying symptoms of the flu, and incidents of flying sticks when the young testosterone fuelled Moiran team lost their cool and started throwing their toys out of the sand pit/swimming pool.

A pleasantly uneventful and snow free drive saw us back in Switzerland at a reasonable hour - thanks everyone for a great weekend.

Richard