

Institute of Physics – London & South East Branch – Retired Members Section

Visit to CERN, Geneva 21/22 Sept 2019

This is an *advance flyer* for a visit being organised by Stewart Coulter.

DEADLINE 20 JUNE FOR HOTEL BOOKING

BACKGROUND

The organiser has taken 100s of visitors on more than a dozen trips to CERN since 2007. These visits were initially for Sixth Form Physics students. Since retirement he has taken a UCL alumnus group 7 or 8 times and most recently 40 REMS members and guests in 2016, the same year he organised Eton College's first visit. The LHC is currently in the long shut-down for an upgrade, the very best time for a return visit since underground visits are only possible during shut-downs when the helium is removed from the ring.



2016: The REMS party outside the ATLAS detector.

ADVANCE FLYER

The visit is still in the planning stages but an underground visit to the CMS on the Saturday afternoon was booked just a few days before this flyer was written *guaranteeing a visit*. A visit to the Anti-Matter Factory is likely on the Sunday. Other visits will follow to give us a full 2-day trip. This outdoes the standard 3h visit significantly. As the visit requires maximum notice for prospective participants this advance flyer has been produced. Later versions or perhaps just updates will follow but there is enough outline detail here for now.

ACCOMMODATION

Once you arrive in Geneva *under your own arrangements* we intend to stay at the on-site ho(s)tel. Booking opens for our dates on 21 June, we need to be ready. Rooms: doubles £55 per room per night, singles £40 (2016 prices). Staying at the hotel gives us access to the CERN restaurant. Forget the intranet, this is the CERN networking hub - the first sketch of the ATLAS detector was on a paper napkin, carefully preserved and R4 once described the restaurant as the *Olympic Village of the Mind*. If the hotel is not possible there are reasonable hotel nearby but that has yet to happen. It is hoped we can stay Fri to Mon, 3 nights.

COST AND RESERVING - **DEADLINE 20 JUNE FOR HOTEL BOOKING**

Cost: Visit is *completely free*. You PAYG your living expenses, including the hotel. No advance payments.

Reserving and organisation: This visit will be independent of the IOP and REMS once your interest is registered. Until the hotel is booked you are free to drop out but you are committed and subject to the hotel's cancellation policies after 21 June. If you do reserve provisionally please consider your position quickly and cancel if the visit is not possible as I will have to deal with a reserve list who need max notice. Last time 1 in 3.

AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The standard group visit lasts 3h. However I have the good fortune to know the former, now retired Head of Visits Mick Storr and in the past he has given my groups a full day tour, 9 – 5 with only a half hour break for lunch. In 2016 I arranged the REMS 2-day visit myself yet Mick filled the 3rd morning making it 5 or 6 times the duration of normal tours. But things changed in 2016 and organising a visit became *very difficult* unless giving up on the hotel which does not interest me. Following an invitation to speak at the Particle Physics *At Home* in July, Mick offered to assist with any visit and has been able to book us a visit *more than 3 months in advance*. That should overcome the difficulties the 2016 changes made. REMS deserves more than a 3h visit and I am grateful to Mick for this.



Mick Storr addressing some of the group at the anti-matter ring in 2016

CELEBRATION

A celebratory fondue is a sociable highlight of the visit. It is at the extremely convivial Edelweiss restaurant in town, accompanied by yodelling, the Alpine horn, the saw (yes!), cow bells and other rustic delights – great fun! This will be on the Saturday evening as some participants may be returning on the Sunday evening.

ACTION

There is a lot more information to come but enough here for you to decide, if only provisionally.

If positive, please email cern.rems.2019@gmail.com with names of prospective participants. *No more no less*, except that you have questions that *do* need answering *now*; other questions can be answered in due time. With a dedicated email address it is easiest to acknowledge in batches, a week at a time perhaps so please be patient. Places will be allocated in order of receipt. I will keep participants up to date with arrangements (bcc:) and in time provide a travel pack with practical details such as where to find the free ticket to get you from GVA to CERN and advice about what is worth doing if you wanted to extend your stay. Should participants less interested in the Physics wish to spend time in town, *that is fine*, the travel pack includes ideas.

FINAL WORD: That said, it is often the *non-Physicists* who are the most struck by the phenomenal human and engineering achievement *which is CERN*. *Physicists?* Even if we expect it, we feel the same.