

DENTAL CENTRE
MANSERGH BARRACKS
VERLER STRASSE 127K
GUETERSLOH

STADTDIREKTOR
GUETERSLOH

8th MAI 1979

Z. A. A.

Dear Dr Winkler

Anglo-German-Club

W 126

Posing as the Devil's Advocate, I asked the question, "Do we really need an Anglo-German Club in Guetersloh?"

- Reasons against having a club:
1. If there had been any real ~~xxxx~~ feeling, or need, for such a club, perhaps the old Miele Club would not have died so completely-but have been replaced by something else more democratic. After all the British have been in Guetersloh in fairly large numbers for the last 30 years!
 2. There are already a reasonable number of contacts with the local German population eg., ~~xxxx~~ there are quite a few soldiers married to local girls, the Sergeant's Mess have a fair number of functions to which local people are invited, & who invite them back, certain numbers of young soldiers & pupils of King's School already play for local football teams. None of these are members of the Anglo-German Club, or feel the need to be so.
 3. There are official links with the Stadt between the Commanding Officers of the Army & Royal Air Force. Members of the Stadtverwaltung are invited to official functions, such as Dinner Nights, Receptions, & Cocktail Parties. Most of the people involved in these invitations are not members of the A-G Club, or if they are they are never seen supporting any of the Club events or meetings throughout the rest of the year.
 4. The Stadt already has a healthy Twinning organisation for Broxtowe, which has nothing to do at all with the A-G Club.

Reasons for having a club;

- I. With about 6000 British members of the Forces & their dependents living in the Guetersloh area it is unwise not to have a positive link between the two communities at an unofficial level. With the coming of the Common Market & NATO defence policies, peoples must begin to know each other better in order to work together more easily.

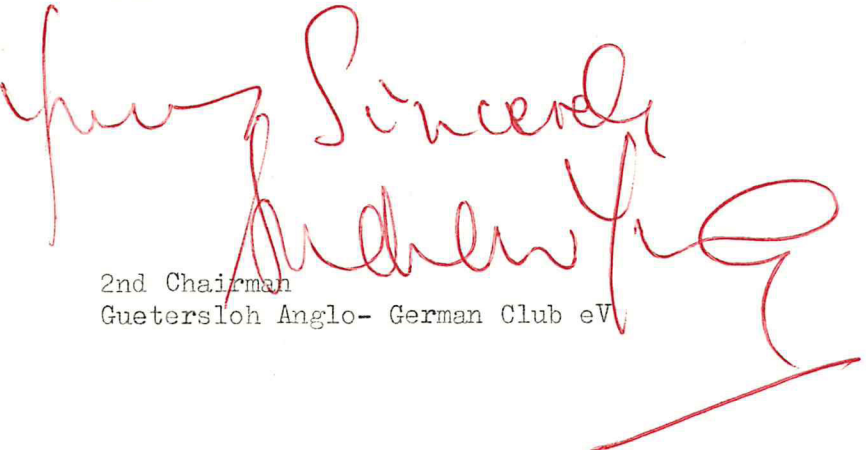
Suggestions for helping the club:

- I. The Stadt must be seen to participate in a much more obvious way in the Club, such as supporting at least some of the events. This will, perhaps encourage others to join in.
- II. There must be a set meeting place in the Stadt- not always having to use any old gastette on the town boundary.
3. There are no young middle class Germans in the club. These are the people with education & young families who are, in the main, unconnected with the Stadtverwaltung, & thus are, in a sense, freer agents.
4. The club should be used more as a ~~xxxxxxx~~ meeting place, where contacts can be made & then followed up privately. To give a contact the best chance of deepening into an acquaintanceship, & perhaps later, into a friendship, people must meet people of the same sort of education, age & background. In England we do not force people together in their free time. By doing this it is all too easy to breed resentment.

5. The club should have more official status within the Stadt so that it could make arrangements for the differing wishes of the broad range of members that it is intended to accomodate. eg. Sports for the soldiers & their friends, a ballet evening for others, & perhaps a yearly dance for everyone. As has been proved by the gross non attendace over the past year, an all-ranks club insn't going to work without a much greater degree of flexibility.

These observations are my own, and no one else's, which I have gathered by talking to members, non-members, both British & German, & by reading your local paper almost every day. As a result I feel that I have perhaps, a broader & deeper picture than most of my British acquaintances.

I hhope that you will not find this aide-memoire too forthright, but I do feel that if the Club is to survive at all it must not be founded on false premises.

Yours Sincerely

2nd Chairman
Guetersloh Anglo- German Club eV