



INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 36

Week 36 IG Missive – 26th November 2020



We are now looking forward next week to the end of the current lockdown although with Slough in Tier 3 and Oxon, Bucks, Berks & Beds all in Tier 2 it will probably not make too much difference to many of us. Golf clubs will be open (hooray) though the bar will probably stay shut and we'll be limited to 9 holes, restricted tee times and only playing in socially distanced threes - but that is much better than nothing. It was rather annoying that the Petitions Committee managed to dilute the golfers' plea for a Commons debate about reversing the rather silly decision to lock golf down in the first place. The committee mashed several petitions together and mixed golf in with saunas and gymnasiums, so it was no wonder the reversal didn't arrive. Now we shall have to wrestle with the new "World Handicapping System". Its initial introduction was the usual horlicks of IT glitches but at least England Golf have had 4 weeks to sort it out. But getting out to play is more important; I hope most of us will find a useful and legal form of exercise to keep minds and bodies ticking over until we get the vaccines.

Nick Wilson was best this week, but I still managed to fool him with one question.

Here are my answers to last week's questions:

1. The common root is the Latin word "docere" meaning to teach and produces the words doctor, docent and document.
2. Llanwddyn disappeared under Lake Vyrnwy in circa 1888 (though the village was rebuilt further up the valley) and Capel Celyn was drowned in 1965 to produce the Llyn Celin reservoir.
3. Miss Beatrice Shilling invented a washer-shaped restrictor to prevent rich cut-out in Merlins.
4. Privy Counsellors remain standing because no-one may sit while in the Queen's presence if she remains standing. It is thought the custom of the monarch remaining standing began when Queen Victoria wished to ensure meetings were short after Prince Albert died in 1861.
5. The design of Lt Col William T Everall and Major Allan Beckett was chosen for the final construction of mulberry harbours after the 2 competitors ("Swiss Roll" and "Hippo.Crocodile") proved unequal to the likely storms to be faced.
6. The "Manassa Mauler" was the name given to Jack Dempsey, world champion boxer 1919-1926. He was born William Harrison in Manassa, Colorado in 1895 and died aged 87 in 1983.
7. Australian Ken Warby holds the water speed record at 318mph (276kts).
8. Prometheus was said to have given fire to humankind. He was sentenced by Zeus to be tied to a rock and have his liver eaten by an eagle every day and for the liver to grow back every night. He was saved by Heracles who killed the eagle.
9. The play "The Mousetrap" opened on 25th November 1952 but is of course currently closed.
10. Albania and Kiribati are contracted members of ICAO but have not declared a nationality identifier for their aircraft. Vatican City and Tuvalu are non-contracted states which have not declared identifiers.

Here are this week's posers:

1. Why did RAF pilots undergoing decompression training breathe 100% oxygen before entering the decompression chamber?
2. How much did the Philistines charge for sharpening a mattock in 1150 BC and who was paying?
3. Whose name is spelt one way 27 times and another way 10 times in the Book of Jeremiah?
4. What does the toast "May all your Lincolns be toddlers" actually mean?
5. How many Prime Ministers of the 20th century never won a general election?
6. Who is the only person to have held all 4 Great Offices of State in the UK?
7. Which steam locomotive had the most wheels and who built it?
8. What is the difference between its and it's?
9. What is the link between the man who was placed third in fencing at the first modern Olympics, the uncle of the actor who was "Potsie" Weber and the man who coined the word insulin?
10. Which country has GBNRAPCKA on its stamps?

We can now go out in a limited way but: Maintain the mantra - Hands, Face, Space and Keep Phoning Around

Stay Safe

Peter Harborne 33°

Buckinghamshire