



INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 17



16th July - Sudoku puzzles sorted, most emails answered and time for the weekly missive. Seventeen weeks in now and although the suspension of Craft, Royal Arch and Mark Masons' Hall Orders is being allowed to expire tomorrow, Rose Croix meetings are not yet permitted. Most masonic centres and meeting halls are now preparing their re-opening procedures and if the easing of restrictions continues and there are sufficient members attending it seems likely that some meetings of other Orders will resume from about 1st September (though without festive boards and, in some centres, without a bar service). We in the Rose Croix have a little more of a wait, but we do have an older demographic and I haven't heard any complaints at all about the decision not to start straight away. The chances of catching COVID may be reducing but the effects on the vulnerable can be dreadful so remaining cautious is not unreasonable.

It is annual report time for all Rose Croix Districts and District Recorder Peter has now collated chapters' returns to produce our 30th June statistics. Overall we are down 3 memberships over last year which reverses last year's slight rise but we have only lost 4 members to higher service over the 12 months so we have remained a fairly healthy bunch so far. There is a risk of course that the

extended time away will become something of a push towards resignation from those who found that the absence of meetings was easier to cope with than they had expected. I am hopeful that few of our Rose Croix members will submit to that feeling because many, like me, have always felt that if and when the time came to cut down our masonic memberships, the Rose Croix Chapter(s) would be the last to go. Even if some of us have to remain isolated for sound medical reasons beyond September, let us always remember that whether actively attending meetings or not, we are part of a terrific organisation that does tremendous good for wider society. We should continue, whenever possible, to contribute to our communities as much as we always have and take comfort from the good work our fellow freemasons are able to achieve.

Here are the answers to last week's quiz. Several good entries with Peter Corbett, Bill Parish and John Stribling each getting 8½ points. Thank you to all who keep trying; it makes my research for the questions worthwhile.

1. Because the intestines of cows and pigs were appropriated by the state to manufacture the gas envelopes of zeppelin airships so there was very little offal left for use as sausage skins.
2. Buckingham was the name given to incendiary bullets which were the only way to shoot down hydrogen-filled airships. They contained a pellet of phosphorus which ignited when fired and set fire to the hydrogen; ordinary ball ammunition was not hot enough to ignite the hydrogen but simply passed through the airship envelope and left small and structurally insignificant holes.
3. There are 12 teams in the Premiership – if you thought 20, that is the Premier League not the Premiership (rugby).

4. Viruses are surrounded by a protective protein coat and can only replicate themselves by invading host cells and “re-programming” those cells to make more virus. Bacteria are very small organisms which exist separately and reproduce on their own.
5. Add 40 to the number you want to convert, multiply by 5/9 or 9/5 (whichever is appropriate) and then subtract 40. This works °F to °C or the other way round and I find it easier than remembering to add or subtract 32 before or after the multiplication.
6. Bathsheba was first the wife of Uriah the Hittite and then became a wife of King David.
7. Just one wonder of the ancient world exists largely intact – the Great Pyramids at Giza.
8. The Greek letter Zeta is equivalent to our ‘Z’ (though W was a common guess as it’s the last letter of the Greek script).
9. Latin disappeared from our GLCs in 1964.
10. The present Union Jack dates from 1801 when the red saltire of St Patrick was added to the Flag then in use.

Here are this week’s posers:

1. When and where is the next Ryder Cup to be held?
2. When and where will the next America’s Cup Match be held?
3. Which animal can survive longest without drinking any water?
4. Why were the big-endians and the small-endians at loggerheads?
5. Who wrote that death looms over us all but we should still try to be happy?
6. Who said “children of wealthy people should be given enough money so that they can do anything but not enough so that they can do nothing.”
7. How many popes are there per square mile living in Vatican City?
8. What physiological feature is shared by only 2 mammals (humans and elephants).
9. What are the names of the 4 chemical bases which make up DNA?
10. What is the smallest number which is divisible by all the numbers 1 – 10?

God Bless, Stay Safe and keep phoning around.

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Inspector General

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