INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 15

2nd July - Week 15 now and this Saturday may be the beginning of the recovery for the wider world though probably not yet for most of us. Life will certainly be different for some time to come with social distancing and frequent handwashing remaining important but, as many have said, even when we get a vaccine the risk of infection may remain. UGLE. MMH and SC will no doubt continue to offer their valuable guidance and I am sure that as and when they say that revised meeting procedures can reduce the risk to what it was before this particular coronavirus struck, then we shall all breathe a sigh of relief.

My golf club will be opening the clubhouse and bar from Saturday and have produced a two-page briefing paper setting out the procedures we must follow to remain safe. Still no handshakes at the end of a round and a careful one metre plus separation at all times but at least the banter over a beer will be back (assuming the cellar cooler air conditioning plant gets fixed! – seems to have lost its gas after 3 months of inactivity). I hope that some normality is returned to your particular pastime soon.

The latest information on what one can and cannot (or should not) do from Saturday 4th July can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do-after-4-july?dm_i=5438,811W,30UOMO,VJPV,1

Not a short document but very useful information.

Last week's answers undoubtedly required a good deal of googling, but Bill Parish and John Stribling did well. I hope you enjoy your researches – I'm certainly not aiming for a pub quiz level of questions, just offering the opportunity to widen knowledge in areas you may not otherwise have looked into. Here are the answers to last week's snorters:

1. When 1 is divided by each of the numbers the first 4 digits behind the decimal point are the same as those of the original (only works if rounding to just 4 "significant figures"). Except I mis-typed 4.2362 – it should be 4.2361).
2. Τ day is a mathematician's delight. The symbol Τ is a Greek letter t called a tau (usually pronounced in English to rhyme with "door" or sometimes to rhyme with "how"). It is designated by some as the "circle constant" because it defines the ratio between the circumference and the radius of a circle. Others use Pi (remember C=2pr?) Tau is therefore equal to twice Pi or, to 3 significant figures, 6.28, hence June 28th.
3. Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit invented his scale in 1714. He had already invented thermometers and now needed to have a reference scale. The coldest he could get anything down to (using unfrozen salted water) he called 0° and the temperature of the human body he called 96° (well

he was close). Unsalted water freezes at 32°F and boils at 212°F. Anders Celsius invented his scale in 1742 using 100° for the freezing point of water and 0° for the boiling point. His scale came to be known as Centigrade when the 0 and 100 were reversed for more sensible use but the EU thought-police now insist on calling it Celsius.

4. Mendelssohn's 4th is the Italian Symphony
5. Kenneth Grahame The Wind in the Willows, and WB Yeats The Wind Among the Reeds.
6. Kemosabe, allegedly from ET Seton's book of 1912 meaning trusty scout or scout runner.
7. Henri Becqerel discovered it and wrote about it during his study of phosphorescence in 1896. Pierre and Marie Curie coined the actual term "radioactivity" in 1901/2. The 1903 Nobel prize for physics was awarded jointly to the three of them.
8. Stars cannot track "backwards" when observed from Earth as they are too far away (our rate of spin over-rides any stars' direction of "orbit" being opposite to ours) but planets can, and most do. It is called retrograde motion
9. Characteristic and mantissa are the two halves of a logarithm or decimal equation such as 1.2345: 1 is the characteristic and .2345 is the mantissa. Very useful in calculating or using logarithms. So, the answer to question 1 could be re-phrased as "each of these numbers and its reciprocal has the same mantissa (to four decimal places)"
10. Cirrus, Cumulus, Nimbus and Stratus are the basic 4 cloud types, but meteorologists now use the words in combination to make 10 "normal" types of cloud plus about 6 or 8 more descriptive terms.

This week's questions:

1. Which aircraft company built the "warthog"
2. Where in the world might you find an angekok?
3. Name 3 groups/artists who have recorded "a Whiter Shade of Pale"
4. Give 3 other words for "sudate".
5. When was the world's oldest still-working astronomical clock built?
6. What is the technical difference between Vobiscum and Tecum?
7. Name two Oscars who have won an Oscar.
8. What is the capital of the country you would hit first when flying due west from Cape Town?
9. Which was the world's last steam-powered turbo-electric passenger ship in service (scrapped 2013).
10. What do The Tempest and Uranus have in common?

Not quite as obscure as last week perhaps but I wish you good hunting.

God Bless, Stay Safe and keep phoning around.

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