



INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 21



Week 21 of this rather depressing emergency and no end in sight. Not even a middle in sight really. I normally thrive on numbers but even I have given up on trying to understand the implications of false negatives and false positives in the testing protocol. There is apparently a considerable statistical likelihood that with the current level of testing, there will still be hundreds of us diagnosed (and possibly thousands thereby forced to isolate) even when no-one actually has the virus. A vaccine would obviously be an ideal answer, but statisticians will point out that most vaccines still have a failure rate, albeit usually quite small. The medics are getting better at treating Covid though and helping sufferers to recover but the best course of action at the moment is still to avoid catching it. Not easy to guarantee and I might be stating the blooming obvious yet again but washing hands, being careful and avoiding close contact with others is still a very good idea. That said, I play golf very regularly (in a socially distanced environment) and despite getting thoroughly soaked in yesterday's huge thunderstorm, I believe getting out for exercise can boost one's immunity to other, more routine, complaints.

Some very good sets of answers again last week. Stephen Knight was best of a very good bunch and it was a pleasant surprise to find a surgeon who knew that airships are aircraft too. As usual, each entrant will get a personal email with his scores but even after 20 weeks I haven't yet saved up enough for the prizes that the entrants deserve. I hope the research required makes your time pass more equably.

Week 20 answers:

1. The Shakespeare Memorial Theatre opened in 1879 the first time and then again in 1932 after the first building had burnt down in 1926.
2. Kerkyra, also known as Corfu, is the nearest Greek island to the UK.
3. The LZ129 Hindenburg is the longest aircraft ever built at 245m (803ft).
4. An icosahedron has 30 edges.
5. The Laerdal Tunnel in Norway is the longest road tunnel in the world at 24.5 km.
6. Herbert Asquith, Robert Harley and Aubrey de Vere each held one of 3 different earldoms connected with Oxford.
7. "Cloudbase" was the base for the "The Spectrum" security organisation in Gerry Anderson's series "Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons".
8. Arnold Ridley and Michael Gambon have both acted as Pte Godfrey in "Dad's Army".
9. The oldest World Cup footballer is Essem Al-Hadary who played in goal for Egypt in 2018 at the age of 45yrs+161 days.
10. ASCII stands for American Standard Code for Information Interchange.

Now for the Week 21 Questions:

1. Why would a previous Bucks Provincial DC have known the difference between a mullet and an estoile?
2. John Ford got 4 from 5 but who got 3 from 12?
3. Who developed Colossus?
4. Why do US parachutists shout the name of an Indian warrior as they jump from the aircraft and what does his real name mean?
5. Why did the author of "All Quiet on the Western Front" change his names?
6. What was the name of Jacques Cousteau's boat?
7. Which was the first element artificially created?
8. Who might use a zwischenzug?
9. What is a Gaelic Banshee?
10. What does the formula $T^{\circ}F=40 + N15$ mean?

Keep phoning around, taking exercise and staying safe.

Peter Harborne 33°
Inspector General
Buckinghamshire