



INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 46



I have found it doesn't take much to make a day interesting. In this last week I had a phone call from my GP's surgery to offer me a vaccination date this Saturday – not only that, it wasn't in Oxford or Chester but only about 5 miles away. Naturally, I accepted with alacrity only to realise later that it clashed with an important zoom meeting I ought to attend. Obviously, the injection won but in a week with only one thing planned, what are the odds of another entirely unconnected event getting in the way?

I hope everyone's days are passing comfortably. The vaccination programme seems to be progressing well and a reversion from lockdown to regional tiers with a return to small masonic meetings now seems likely before too long. Full meetings of our Rose Croix chapters will probably take a little longer but that will be my definition of a recovery – I know we all miss the comfortable enjoyment of seeing our lovely ceremonies being performed. I know golf will likely resume before that, and it will be very welcome, but even golf doesn't reach the parts that the Rose Croix does.

Here are my answers to last week's questions:

1. There are 206 bones in the human body and the Hyoid bone in the throat does not articulate with any other.
2. MOT tests were introduced in 1960, the 70mph limit in 1965 and the breathalyser in 1967.
3. A 400V 3-phase supply produces 230 volts in each phase but because alternating current voltage cycles in a sine wave form between plus 230 volts and minus 230 volts, and the phases are produced at 120 degrees to each other, the voltage difference between any two phases works out, at any stage of the three phases' cycles, at 400V .
4. The original Cream members were Eric Clapton (rhythm guitar), Ginger Baker (drums) and Jack Bruce (bass guitar) with poet/lyricist Pete Brown as the fourth "unofficial" non-playing member.
5. There are 46 Air Ambulance helicopters in the UK (including 2 publicly funded Scottish helos which don't appear in the Wikipedia charity helos list) and 47 Craft Provinces in English Craft.
6. With three points available for a win, the team winning the 3 points has effectively stopped the losers getting those 3 points which makes the win worth six. Thus, one team 4 points behind another will be only one point behind if they win but 7 points behind if they lose.
7. Ian Fleming bought a former donkey racetrack in Jamaica in 1946 and built his house called Goldeneye there. The 1995 film Goldeneye was written by Michael France. John Gardner, who

had taken over writing follow-on Bond books later wrote Goldeneye as a novelisation of the film.

8. The first vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine was built in 1808 by F. I. de Rivaz although it may have had only 3 wheels. His 1813 “Grand Char Mecanique” definitely had 4.
9. Dubhe and Merak are the 2 stars on the side of the “saucepan” shape that is the Plough or Great Bear in the Northern Hemisphere night sky. If a line is drawn from Dubhe to Merak and extended further, it points to Polaris, the Pole Star which is due North and very nearly stationary in our sky. The 2 stars are also easy to find for navigators using a sextant for position-finding.
10. Uriah Heep in Charles Dickens’ David Copperfield was said to have been modelled on Thomas Powell, a forger and thief employed in Dickens’ friend John Chapman’s shipping business.

No-one got the Rivaz internal combustion engine question but, as usual, Stephen Knight and Nick Wilson were otherwise very close. Best of luck with this week and I look forward to seeing if anyone gets No. 9! Here are this week’s posers:

1. How much did the Royal & Ancient Golf Club pay for the Open Championship Claret Jug?
2. What proportion of the prize purse is awarded to the winner on the European Tour golf events?
3. Kimi Raikonen has driven 87,000+ miles in Formula One races. Who has driven least distance?
4. Which dog won the Best-in Show award at consecutive Crufts Shows and when?
5. Which 1951 opera was based on a series of paintings from the early 1730s and, coincidentally, was written by a librettist with similar initials to the artist?
6. What is asymptosis?
7. In Greek Mythology, which of the Charities had the same name as (or was also) a Muse?
8. Who is supposed to have wagered \$10 about writing a very short story?
9. If the sum of 2 squares is Plus1 (i.e., $X^2+Y^2=1$), what do we know are true of X and Y?
10. Who wrote which song asking his mother to take a badge "off of me"?

I’ll let you know how the vaccination procedure goes next week. I had the flu jab in November and not only was it remarkably well organised, but I didn’t suffer at all so fingers crossed for Saturday’s arrangements.

Maintain the mantra - Hands, Face, Space and Stay Safe.

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