



INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 39



Week 39 IG Missive – 17th December 2020

A somewhat more unusual week this time with various “stakeholders” in the political maelstrom issuing their “recommendations” on the correct advice to be followed. Nevertheless, I hope we all know how we intend to celebrate our own Christmas. Whether that be little or larger in family terms, and whether or not our churches are available for a full commemoration of our Saviour’s birth, I hope you and yours enjoy the celebration. We are each, at present, to be given leave to follow our chosen course and let us hope we avoid any third Covid spike which may follow the actions of those less wise.

This morning brought the advice from Supreme Council on the possible resumption of meetings in due course and I trust everyone has received their own copy of the guidance via their Chapter Recorder. The papers are very clearly written and though the slight ritual variations will need careful reading (and implementation) by all, they are vital if we are to resume a safe form of meeting at an early stage. We do need to resume the recruitment of new members as soon as we reasonably can of course, but while there remains a risk to the health of our (older)

membership, and to the wider community at large, then we must proceed with the due caution advised by our masters. We have been told this morning that Buckinghamshire will be in Tier 3 from Saturday morning so ‘tis time to hunker down again and realise that the light at the end of the tunnel might be an oncoming train.

John Stribling and Steve Howes sent the most accurate answers to last week’s questions, but Richard Skym and Nick Wilson were not far behind. I wish all readers happy Googling, Ask-ing, Bing-ing, or DuckDuckGo-ing, whichever is your preference.

Here are my answers to last week’s questions:

1. In 950 AD the capital of England was Winchester which had been Venta Belgarum under the Romans, Venta Caester under the Saxons, Wintancaester and then Winchester from around 600 AD. London formally became England’s capital from around 1100 AD.
2. The golfer was Peter Alliss whose putting cost him many wins during his professional career.
3. According to Homer, Virgil and Herodotus, the Trojan War was caused by Helen being abducted from her husband Menelaus, King of Sparta, by Paris, son of the King of Troy. Menelaus’ brother Agamemnon led an army of Greeks to recover her and the Greeks won.
4. The polystyrene grains of the water softener resin bed are coated with sodium ions, but the resin beads have a slightly greater affinity for the calcium and magnesium ions in hard water. As mains water travels through the resin bed, the Ca and Mg ions are attracted to the resin beads and the sodium ions are released so the water becomes “softer”. As the beads become saturated with Ca and Mg, their thirst for those ions reduces and the resin needs “regenerating”. This is

done by backwashing the beads with a strong brine solution which allows the sodium ions to flush out the now less attractive hardness ions, which are flushed to drain, and the resin resumes its sodium flavour ready for re-use.

5. No British Prime Ministers have been born in Wales (so far!). But Julia Gillard, PM of Australia 2010-13 was born in Barry, South Glamorgan having emigrated to Australia aged 5.
6. Lancashire became a hub of the cotton industry because it is near a seaport and is generally a damp environment (highly desirable because cotton is brittle and easily snaps when worked). Tariffs against Indian cotton and the invention of new machines made British manufacturing worthwhile.
7. Peterhead is 001.88°W of the Greenwich Meridian, Bournemouth is only 1.78°W and so is more easterly.
8. Four new Olympic sports for 2024 are skateboarding, sport climbing, surfing and break dancing.
9. In 1885, the Scottish FA invited Orion Football Club to enter the Scottish Cup. Unfortunately, the invitation arrived with the Orion Cricket Club by mistake. Since most Orion CC members played cricket in summer and football in winter they decided to accept the invitation and styled themselves Bon Accord FC. They met Arbroath in the 1st round on 12th September and were trounced 36-0; this is still the largest-ever senior level football score in a contested match.
10. Captain Cook discovered Australia in his ship the Endeavour. Colin Dexter wrote the Morse stories and the character's first name - only revealed late in the series of books, was Endeavour.

Here are this week's research subjects:

1. If $\sin(x) = \cos(y)$ within an equilateral triangle, how many radians is $x+y$?
2. What was written on Roman legion standards and also became an abbreviated mantra in retail trading?
3. Which company claims to have the oldest continuously used trademark logo?
4. What is the current definitive difference between Nosocomial and Iatrogenic infections?
5. If 3 horses dead-heated in a race at odds of 6/1, 10/1, 5/2, what would be the pay-out on a £5 bet?
6. Where might the value of quarantine and vaccinations be equal?
7. How many propeller blades did an Avro Shackleton have?
8. For simple interest investments 1% doubles the deposit in 100 years. How long does it take when interest is compounded?
9. Litmus paper turns red for acid and blue for alkali. What do Methyl Orange colours denote?
10. What made Malvolio think his mistress would marry him?

Maintain the mantra - Hands, Face, Space. Take plenty of exercise and do, please, Keep Phoning Around.

Stay Safe

Peter Harborne 33°

Buckinghamshire