



INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 25



IG Missive 10th September 2020

Twenty-five weeks and nearly half a year missed with at least sixteen weeks on current plans before we can have a physical meeting of any of our Chapters. Supreme Council has decided to go online for Zoom meetings with each District in the Order and Buckinghamshire's opportunity to host a Supreme Council member virtually is on Monday 16th November at 6pm. We don't yet know which of our Rulers will be available that day, but we should all try to attend – District Recorder Peter has sent an email to all Recorders for onwards transmission to all members so if you haven't yet seen your personal copy of the arrangements then please either check your spam box or nudge your Recorder.

You may already know that I quite like numbers and I listened yesterday morning to "More or Less" on Radio 4 which discusses statistics in the news and, usually, proves that they are misleading and inaccurate. Some numbers they produced as definitive were that for a healthy 75 year old proceeding carefully in today's pandemic, the chances of contracting Covid within the next year were about 3% and, even if the disease was caught, the likelihood of

surviving the illness was above 96%. This contrasted favourably with that same 75-year-old's chances of getting a cancer or having a heart attack or stroke in the next 12 months of between 5% and 6%. That said, anyone with the listed clinical vulnerabilities should still be very careful and the impending return to lockdown announced yesterday will not be helping. If anyone is interested, the radio programme is available as a podcast, just type "radio4 more or less" into your browser and you'll be off. On the other hand, if statistics worry you no matter how accurate or otherwise they are, then don't download it and please don't worry too much about things we can't control. Contributing to our communities (when possible and advisable) is still our purpose.

Now for the Week 24 Answers: Sorry about the intentional mis-direct about boxing – no-one made the jump to Formula One. Barrie Reece and Stephen Knight did best but it was a bit trickier last week.

1. Macbeth takes place at Glamis Castle which was George VI's wife Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's childhood home.
2. The "Old Lie" - "Dulce et Decorum Est Pro Patria Mori" (It is sweet and fitting to die for the homeland) is originally a line from the Ode 3.2 (valor) by the Roman lyrical poet Quintus Horatius Flaccus (Horace). Owen's poem was meant to make the British public realise that such a notion was no fun for the troops in the trenches in the First World War.
3. The sun just fails to set on 21st December on the Antarctic circle which, going due south from Aylesbury, is 7088 nautical miles away.

4. An undercut is a tactical pit stop in Formula One to change tyres before one's competitor does the same; it is done in the hope that the first to pit will gain an advantage.
<https://f1chronicle.com/how-the-undercut-works-in-formula-1/>
5. The Nissen hut relies on the air gap between the exterior and interior walls to provide insulation but the Quonset uses actual insulation and a "masonite" steamed and pressed wooden board for the internal walls. Both are uncomfortable!
6. Pete "Maverick" Mitchell's flight helmet (from the 1986 film "Top Gun") sold at auction in August for \$260,000.
7. Francis I became Holy Roman Emperor when he married Maria Theresa, daughter of Charles VI (the previous Emperor).
8. Sixteen (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_current_monarchs_of_sovereign_states).
9. A trachelion is the neck of a Greek Doric column between the hypotrachelion (grooves around the top of the shaft also referred to as the gorgerin) and the annulets under the echinus.
10. The largest solar farm in England (as at 3rd September 2020) is at Bradenstoke in Wiltshire and was formerly home to the RAF Lyneham Hercules Wing (where I spent many happy years).

Week 25 Questions:

1. Adam was the first man – who was the first woman?.
2. What is the so-called law which determines computer capability?
3. How many people does one need in a room to have a 90% chance of 2 of them having the same birthday?
4. Which French brothers pioneered motion pictures in the 1890s?
5. Where was Porridge Island?
6. Who made the Ark of the Covenant?
7. Why should you avoid eating the liver from seals and polar bears?
8. Which muscle groups have sub-divisions of magnus, longus, hallucis and brevis
9. What is the collective noun for a group of queens and torns?
10. Sir Francis Drake left Plymouth on 13th December 1577 to circumnavigate the world. What was the name of his ship?

Do keep phoning each other, put 16th November in your diaries and keep looking through the red book occasionally.

Stay Safe

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