



INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 47



Princes Risborough seems to be doing well with the vaccination programme because our GP surgery is now handing out appointments to the under-70s. I went for mine last Saturday and the organisation of parking, queueing, paperwork and injection was outstanding. The local Rotary Club has provided most of the dozen or so outside volunteers and the admin and medical staff indoors were all very efficient and cheerful. From parking the car to walking out with my new armful of vaccine took less than 20 minutes with most of that time spent shuffling forward in the queue with the other 50-odd lucky recipients ahead of me and, by the time I left, another 50 behind. We still can't go out at the moment of course but as the number of injectees increases we can look forward to some easing of the current lockdown. Jonathan Van Tam is still an impressive speaker and let us hope the take-up of vaccinations reduces the "R" rate appropriately. It may still be months to go but we must surely be on the downslope now.

Here are my answers to last week's questions:

1. The cost of the Claret Jug in 1872 was £30 and was met by 3 golf clubs so the R&A paid £10.
2. European Golf Tour winners get 16.67% of the prize purse. The US PGA Tour pays 18%.
3. Ernst Loof qualified for his only race in Formula One at the 1953 German Grand Prix and drove approximately 2 metres before he had to retire with fuel pump failure.
4. Dogs winning consecutive 'Best in Show' awards at Crufts have all been Cocker Spaniels - "Luckystar of Ware 1930 and 1931, "Exquisite of Ware" in 1938 & 1939 and "Tracey Witch of Ware" in 1948 & 1950 (1949's show being cancelled).
5. The libretto for the 1951 opera "The Rake's Progress" was written by Wystan Hugh Auden (with Chester Kallman) and the paintings on which it is based were by William Hogarth.
6. Asymptosis is a synonym of asymptotic and refers to a situation where a straight line gets closer and closer to a curve without ever reaching it (or, equally, a curve approaching a straight line without ever reaching it). It could also refer to a race between a hare and a tortoise where the hare's speed (from behind the tortoise) is

- reduced by half each time it covers half the remaining distance between them – it can never get to the tortoise.
7. The 3 Charities in Greek mythology (known as Graces in the Roman tales) were Euphrosyne, Thalia and Aglaia. The Muses were Calliope, Clio, Euterpe, Melpomene, Terpsichore, Erato, Polyhymnia, Urania and Thalia. The name Thalia therefore occurs as both Muse and Grace but whether they were the same goddess depends on which poet, writer or philosopher one reads.
 8. Ernest Hemingway is supposed to have wagered with friends that he could write a complete but very short story. He wrote “For Sale, Baby Shoes, Never Worn” and won a tableful of \$10 notes.
 9. If the sum of 2 squares is 1 then a). the numbers must be 0 and 1 or be fractions less than 1, b). they may be positive or negative (because squares are always positive) and c). their sum must be between 1.0 and 1.4142. If they were equal, they would both be the square root of a half (which is 0.7071). And NO, I can’t think of any direct use for this information either!
 10. Bob Dylan in the opening line of “Knocking on Heaven’s Door.”

Of the respondees, Stephen Knight and Nick Wilson, as usual, were the better entries. Here are this week’s posers:

1. What lies at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Maryland?
2. Can the sum of 2 prime numbers ever be a prime?
3. How did Sir John Tenniel become the origin of an October 6th celebration?
4. Which was the first foreign land to be colonised by the Kingdom of Great Britain?
5. Who are believed first to have developed the mathematical concept of zero?
6. What can an adult eel do which no other animal is known to be able to do?
7. Who was the first presenter of the “Top Gear” car programme to make way for a replacement?
8. In which year was the first building standing over 1000 feet high built and where?.
9. What damaged 70,000 houses and 200,000 cars in Jul 2014 and where did it happen?
10. What use is made of the Heaviside layer?

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

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