

The Seven Seas Tattler Issue 1.6 - November 2017



Good Day all members of the Seven Seas Club. Here is your November edition - I trust that you will find items of interest (Ed - jonathanagolding@gmail.com)

From the Chairman

The Navy has been very quiet over the last while except for SAS SPIOENKOP and SAS MANTATISI sailing every now and then for some training.

The Durban based OPVs (Strikecraft) have conducted patrols along the coastline, stopping over in Simon's Town for fuel and a bit of R&R. They have returned to their base in Durban.

SAS AMATOLA is currently getting ready for Exercise OXIDE, which is a search and rescue exercise with the French based at Reunion. The exercise will be conducted in Durban.

Talking of the French, their ship the FLOREAL sustained some damage in Durban from the storm recently and will remain in Durban for a while to effect repairs.

We welcome new members and wish all those with upcoming birthdays a very special day and a great year ahead.

Report from The Treasurer

Financial results for September were, once again, most pleasing, with our sales target achieved and bottom line exceeded. Thanks for the great support!

Our Club Manager has been particularly vigilant and has managed to keep costs down, especially controllable costs such as water, electricity and stationery / printing and we are indebted to him.

The targets for October are a little more challenging, but we are confident that they will be achieved if the current support from members continues. The signs are already there.

For the 7 months of the financial year, the Club is on target, even after some heavy unexpected expenditure incurred, subsequent to our new tenants taking office. May the good times prevail!!

Regarding the Membership Database, I need to inform members that, owing to membership ID numbers becoming vacant, through resignations / forfeiture / deaths, these numbers are to be reallocated. A list of all members, with relevant membership ID's, is held behind the bar and members are encouraged to check with the barmen to confirm their numbers. This is particularly important for the "Friday Attendance Draw".

...till next time!

From the Club Manager

Seven Seas Club Parking Lot. There are six designated parking bays in the Seven Seas Club Parking area. Members are reminded that these parking bays are reserved for the use of Members whilst visiting the Club. The practise of Members parking in the Club parking area and then proceeding elsewhere is to cease with immediate effect. Your consideration in this regard is much appreciated.

100 Club Draw Winners

The following Members are winners of the 100 Club draw who have not yet collected their winnings. Arrangements may be made with the Club Manager to collect your winnings.

July 2017 M.S. Upson R300 August 2017 D.R. Faure R300 G.F. Harrison R1000 September 2017 R. Bromley R300	October 2017 M. Barnard R300 G. Palmer R300 C.J. Black R1000
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Happy Hour and 100 Club Draw

The next Happy Hour and 100 Club draw will take place in the Club on Tuesday the 14th November 2017 from **17h00 to 18h00**. Cheeseburgers will be on sale at R30 each. Normal attendance prizes for two lucky Members in attendance.

Home to the Warrant Officers

The Club will host the Warrant Officers in the Club on Monday the 4th of December 2017 at 12h00 for 12h30. Members are encouraged to invite either serving or retired Warrant Officers to join us at this annual event. List is available at the Bar.

Birthdays



we trust all of the following have a great birthday!

2 November **Lt G M Munro**
7 November **Dr R I McLean**
8 November **Mr P G Horwill**
13 November **Cdr M G Jardine**
17 November **Lt Col E E Earp**
18 November **Mr D C Le Roux**
21 November **Lt R C Maydon**
21 November **Lt Cdr R A Paul**
23 November **Mr W E Eiserman**
23 November **Capt R G W Thomson**
29 November **R Adm (JG) Cole**

New Members

The Club and Tattler take pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

Mr Tyrone Toplis. Tyrone currently lives in Fish Hoek. He is an IT professional and is employed by Assima. He is also a Member of the Olympics Sports Club and the Goodwood Club. Tyrone is a keen snooker player and we look forward to him putting his snooker skills to the test in the next snooker singles championship.

Mr Paul Addington. Paul and his wife Susan live in Constantia. Paul is retired and enjoys sailing. He is a Member of FBYC. Paul served in the Royal Navy until 1973. We look forward to swapping tales of all the seven seas with Paul and Susan in the Club.

SOME NAVY NEWS

French Navy in Durban ahead of Exercise Oxide

Written by Barbara Cole/defenceWeb, Tuesday, 10 October 2017

As well as getting to know the South African Navy and the Durban area's French community, La Floreal's crew have been replenishing their supplies-including groceries, French wine and fuel in the city, ahead of a long 30-day patrol in the French exclusive economic zone.

The French armed forces are permanently deployed in the Mozambique Channel to ensure the security of its citizens and its territories. Their mission includes monitoring illegal fishing, and although there have been no recent incidents, the patrols are maintained to deter illegal fishing boats.

Whether they are operating in the Mozambique Channel or the southern seas, their maritime security role is the same as the South African Navy: carrying out anti-piracy operations and being on the look-out for illegal fishing and acts of pollution.

While piracy was currently "quiet," there was always a chance that it would resume, said Captain Arnaut Lacote, the deputy defence attaché with the French Embassy in South Africa, who was on board La Floreal in Durban this week.

South Africa and France in July 2016 agreed to cooperate on the surveillance of the Marion Islands (South African territory) and Crozet (French Southern and Antarctic Lands archipelago) and France has expressed a desire to cooperate in the surveillance of the Mozambique Channel. The agreement is still pending implementation.

Ahead of La Floreal's visit to South Africa, the French embassy noted that the city of La Port in La Reunion was "twinned" with Durban back in 2005 with the agreement involving sport and cultural exchanges, economic trade and urban development. Le Port is providing technical and financial support for the city's Green Corridor and addresses three pressing needs: youth development, economic upliftment and environmental stewardship.

La Floreal heads back out to sea on Thursday. She arrived in Durban on the 7th October. She called on Cape Town in May this year after a period of maintenance and overhaul work.

Built by the Saint-Nazaire shipyards and armed in Lorient by DCNS, the Floréal and Nivôse frigates entered service in 1992. These vessels are 93.5 meters long and have a beam of 14 meters, with a displacement of 2,950 tons. Armament includes a 100 mm CADAM gun and two F2 20mm guns. A Panther anti-submarine helicopter is aboard La Floréal for her current patrol.

Armcor seeking torpedoes for Type 209 submarines

Written by Guy Martin, Thursday, 14 September 2017

Armcor has issued a tender for a heavy weight torpedo system for the South African Navy's Heroine class submarines, some years after it was announced that the Navy will be getting new torpedoes.

In a request for offer dated 1st September 2017 and entitled "Fully integrated heavy weight torpedo system (HWT) for the SA Navy Type 209 Mod RSA Submarine," Armcor said it "intends obtaining formal and binding offers for the acquisition of a heavy weight torpedo (HWT) system for the South African Navy (SAN)."

Closing date for the tender is 5 March 2018, with a compulsory bidders conference planned after the issue of the request for offers (RFO) - this will take place in Simon's Town between the 23rd and 27th October 2017.

Armcor said the heavy weight torpedo system must consist of inter alia Military Off-The-Shelf (MOTS) combat and exercise torpedoes that will be fully integrated by the prime contractor onto the Engineering Test Bed (ETB) of the Type 209 Mod RSA submarine and the three Type 209 Mod RSA submarines.

"The HWTs required are combat and exercise heavy weight torpedoes that can be operated from Type 209 Mod RSA submarines," Armcor said.

Original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) listed as being relevant to the contract include the German Submarine Consortium comprising Thyssen Nordseewerke, Howaldtswerke Deutsche Werft (HDW) and Ferrostaal, Atlas Elektronik, Cybicom Atlas Defence (responsible for the ETB), HDW (torpedo tubes and mine laying control system), Zeiss/Hensoldt Optronics (periscopes), Raytheon (navigation data management centre), Saab (electronic warfare system) and Leonardo (torpedo countermeasures).

Armcor said it intends to acquire the torpedoes from a single prime contractor.

News of torpedo acquisition surfaced in the 2014/15 Department of Defence annual report, which stated that the Navy will be replacing its heavyweight torpedo capability, along with acquiring a hydrographic vessel, inshore and offshore patrol vessels and upgrading the frigates and static communications.

It is believed the new torpedoes will replace the existing SUT 264s, which were only intended as an interim weapon. The Department of Defence expects the torpedo capability to be replaced by 2022/23.

Can you name the vessels?



Spotlight On



This month we focus the Tattler spotlight on **Captain Colin Sharwood**. Colin presents as a quiet and amiable man, but there is clearly some underlying steel.....

He was born into what he describes as a middle-class family on 28th January 1958, the first of four boys for parents Alan and Anne. He grew up in Fish Hoek, schooled there and matriculated in 1976.

Sailing was a family passion and they attended regattas all over the country. He excelled at various sports, playing first team rugby for two years, first team cricket, athletics (trophies in the middle distance and cross-country) and earned many sailing trophies including a silver medal in the national dabchick competition in 1976.

After school he continued his rugby representing the Natal defence force playing with some big names such as Craig Jamieson and Hugh Reese-Edwards until crocked with a knee injury. He continued to sail competitively and made the Olympic trials in the Lazer class. He still sails for pleasure, does some wind-surfing and plays golf.

He married Michelle (nee Locmant) in 1985 and they have a son, Dominic, a daughter, Aimee and a grandson, Colin's pride and joy.

Colin joined the navy in 1977. After initial military training for officers his first appointments were on the Ton class minesweepers SAS Walvisbaai. and SAS Mosselbaai. In 1979 he joined the Strike Craft Flotilla and during the next few years there were many courses and operations (Mozambique and Angola).

Between January '81 and February '83 he served as a navigator on board SAS Frederic Creswell and SAS Jim Fouche. After weapons officer, junior staff and warfare and combat officer courses he served as Weapons Officer on the SAS Kobie Coetsee.

After a two year stint at the Naval College as a Divisional Officer, he served as Operations Officer on board SAS Oswald Pirow.

Between 1991 and 1993 he was the Divisional Officer for the radar and action information organisation and combat officers course at SAS Simonsberg. In 1994 he qualified to command a strike craft, despite an unhappy relationship with Cdr Donkin. In March '94 he became the Officer Commanding SAS Oswald Pirow (later renamed SAS Rene Sethren.)

The next years were "the best 4 years of my career" according to Colin where he took part in two Atlasur exercises with South American countries, Red Lion exercises each year and was the first ship into Maputo and Dar es Salaam after the '94 elections.

After serving as strike craft squadron commander in Durban, January 2000 saw his promotion to Captain . He was appointed as Senior Officer Surface Warfare at Fleet Command.

Between 2004 and 2006 he had command of SAS Drakensberg. The ship attended the Battle Of Trafalgar celebrations (one of 150 ships from 77 nations). The ship also escorted the first submarine from Germany to RSA (SAS Manthatisi). He had a hair-raising trip transporting a 200 ton rotor from Antwerp to Cape Town for Koeberg power station. (Ed - Outrunning storms with this additional weight secured to the flight deck does not sound too friendly to this landlubber!) In Colin's words: "The ship was very tender and would heel over if the rudder was used at more than 5 degrees!"

After a few more courses (Ed - geez, there were a lot of these!), he was appointed as Senior Staff Operations Manager. In 2012 he became Senior Officer Combat Support. In 2015 he was appointed as Senior Officer Surface Warfare and later that year temp OC SAS Drakensberg to train the new OC (in addition to the earlier post).

During his career Colin was decorated with a number of medals, has been to 12 countries by ship and played an active role in the "bush war. (Tattler congratulates him on his service to the country). He is rightfully proud of his career as he is with his wife and daughters.

When asked about embarrassing moments he can give you more detail of rushing in to witness the birth of his daughter only to find it was a strange woman as he had the wrong theatre. He also forgot his spectacles when he stood up to make a speech at his daughter's wedding and could not read his notes!

What makes him happy? His family and particularly his 11-month old grandson. That, and a good round of golf.

The politics of this country can make him angry and watching people struggling financially makes

him sad.

His taste in music is rock and roll (good man!). He enjoys a bit of gardening and wood-work.

When asked about people who he respects, those that mentored him, in his words: -

"There have been a few. V Adm Retief, V Adm Simpson-Anderson, R Adm (JG) Soderlund all ex Strike Craft officers who moved on to higher places. Served with them during my career and I looked up to them. No-one really mentored me except maybe Capt (Ret) J. Johnson who was my sponsor OC during my attachment period when I was training up to become a captain of a Strike Craft. He taught me a few things and in later years expanded on them to improve my way of doing things, and driving a ship. You cannot drive a ship unless you have a feeling for it and understand the forces of the environment and how it affects the ship. You also must be able to predict what is going to happen and know when to bail out of a situation before it is too late (point of no return). This is what you call foresight or situational awareness and it is something you cannot teach someone. You either have it or not. This is one thing Joe Johnson taught me and luckily, I had it already and just expanded on it. I also think my sailing background helped with my seamanship skills."

The future? "I am retiring at the end of January 2018 and all I want is to be happy, healthy and live the rest of my life on our small holding in Riversdale with the idea of being self-sufficient. That means having a few animals for breeding to sell their offspring, have solar/wind power for electricity and to have a few cottages for renting/self-catering (farm style)"

Colin has been a member of our club since 1978 and has served on the committee in various capacities including Chairman, secretary and (current position) Deputy Chairman, since 2008.

He added the following :

"I take after my late father who did his Citizen Force training in the Navy in late 40's, early 50's and was the parade commander for the queen of England's coronation parade in Cape Town in 1953. If the Navy allowed it I would have loved to be at sea right now but as we all know your sea time eventually comes to an end then you have to spend your last 10-15 years of ones career in an office, directing ships."

He closed with the following (rather profound) comment :

"Soon I will be retiring and this will be the first time in my life I can do what I want, when I want and not rely on asking to do something.

0-19 years you answer to your parents and do what they say.

20-60 you work and answer to your senior/boss/the organisation

60-??? When do you realise for the first time in your life you don't have to listen to anyone (maybe you wife)"

Tattler thanks Colin and wishes him well on his imminent retirement. We hope he achieves his dream of the simple and self-sufficient life.

We are the better cricket team, but they boss us at rugby. What's their navy all about? A focus on the New Zealand Navy: -

Current fleet

The RNZN is currently in a transitional period where its role is being broadened into a navy that is more versatile than in the more recent past. Formerly combat-oriented and based on the frigate, a number of new ships have been incorporated into the fleet that have given the RNZN a much broader potential platform from which to work.

Combat Force

The Combat Force consists of two Anzac class frigates: HMNZS Te Kaha and HMNZS Te Mana. Both ships are based at the Devonport Naval Base on Auckland's North Shore. Te Kaha was commissioned on 26 July 1997 and Te Mana on 10 December 1999.

The specifications and armaments of the two ships are identical.

Patrol Force

The Patrol Force consists of two Offshore Patrol (OPV) and four Inshore Patrol Vessels (IPV). The Patrol Force is responsible for policing New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone, one of the largest in the world. In addition, the Patrol Force provides assistance to a range of civilian government agencies, including the Department of Conservation, New Zealand Customs and Police, Ministry of Fisheries and others. The Patrol Force consists of:

*2 Protector-class offshore patrol vessels (HMNZS Otago and HMNZS Wellington)

*4 Protector-class inshore patrol boats (HMNZS Pukaki, Hawea, Rotoiti, and Taupo)

Support Force

The Support Force consists of three vessels:-

HMNZS Endeavour is the fleet tanker. She provides fuel and other supplies for the frigates when they are on international operations, and for allied ships should this be required. Endeavour takes her name from the Royal Navy ship that carried James Cook to New Zealand on his first voyage in 1769. Her home port is the city of New Plymouth.

HMNZS Canterbury, the RNZN's new Multi-Role Vessel, entered service in June 2007.

HMNZS Manawanui is a highly specialised Dive Support Vessel.

Littoral Warfare Unit

The Littoral Warfare Unit (LWU) structure is two operational groups the Military Hydrographic Group (Mil-HG) and the Clearance Diving and Mine Warfare Group (CDMWG), and the Logistics Support Group. The LWU is responsible for ensuring access to and the use of harbours, inshore waters and associated coastal zones. The LWU consists of the Mine Counter Measures Team, Maritime Survey Team and the Operational Diving Team. The LWU operates four REMUS 100 Autonomous

underwater vehicles. Dive support capability is provided by HMNZS Manawanui.

The Operational Dive Team (ODT) is responsible for clearance diving, including maritime explosive ordnance disposal (MEOD) and supporting amphibious operations; underwater engineering and underwater search and recovery in support of the NZ Police. The ODT comprises 24 divers capable of operating two independent detachments. To become a fully qualified diver involves completion of the 4-week Defence Diver course and the 15-week Able Diver Warfare course. The ODT uses the Viper rebreather.

Aircraft

The RNZN operates eight Kaman SH-2G Super Seasprite helicopters for use on the two frigates, the new multi-role vessel and two offshore patrol craft. These eight aircraft are part of No. 6 Squadron of the RNZAF. The squadron is based at Whenuapai in Auckland, and helicopters are assigned to the ships as they are sent on deployments across the globe. The roles of the helicopters include:

- *surface warfare missions and surveillance operations
- *under water warfare
- *helicopter delivery services/logistics
- *search and rescue
- *medical evacuation
- *training
- *assistance to other Government agencies

Future fleet

Two of the fleet's newest vessels, the frigate Te Kaha and the multi-role vessel Canterbury.

The New Zealand Government defence white paper released in November 2010 called for an upgrade of the Anzac class frigates and the replacement of HMNZS Endeavour with a more capable ship. The recently decommissioned (2012) hydrographic ship, HMNZS Resolution and the HMNZS Manawanui are to be replaced with a single ship.

During these upgrades the navy suffered from a shortage of skilled staff and lacked the crew to operate an offshore patrol vessel. This is expected to improve as the NZDF's resources are directed to the South Pacific following the end of its commitments to Afghanistan, East Timor and the Solomon Islands. A modest Joint Force Amphibious Capability is planned to be operational in 2015.

In 2016 the Endeavour's replacement was announced as to be ordered from the same yard as her predecessor, Hyundai Heavy Industries, and was to be named HMNZS Aotearoa.

November in Military History

November 1, 1700 - Charles II of Spain died and was succeeded by Philip V, resulting in the War of Spanish Succession.

November 1, 1942 - German torpedoes sink the SS Mendoza close to Durban.

November 2, 1962 - During the Cuban Missile Crisis, President John F. Kennedy announced on TV, "the Soviet bases in Cuba are being dismantled, their missiles and related equipment being crated, and the fixed installations at these sites are being destroyed."

November 3, 1839 - The first Opium War between China and Britain began after British frigates blew up several Chinese junks.

November 3, 1957 - Soviet Russia launched the world's first inhabited space capsule, Sputnik II, which carried a dog named Laika.

November 4, 1862 - Richard Gatling patented his first rapid-fire machine-gun which used revolving barrels rotating around a central mechanism to load, fire, and extract the cartridges.

November 4, 1942 - During World War II, British troops led by Bernard Montgomery defeated the Germans under Erwin Rommel at El Alamein after a twelve-day battle.

November 4, 1979 - About 500 young Iranian militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Teheran, Iran, and took 90 hostages, including 52 Americans, that they held captive for 444 days.

November 4, 1975 - Castro decides to send troops to Angola to fight South Africa.

November 6, 1917 - During World War I, the Third Battle of Ypres concluded after five months as Canadian and Australian troops took Passchendaele. Their advance, measuring five miles, cost at least 240,000 soldiers.

November 7, 1659 - The Treaty of the Pyrenees was signed, ending the Franco-Spanish war of 1648-59.

November 7, 1945 - South Africa becomes a charter member of the United Nations.

November 8, 1519 - Cortes conquered Mexico. After landing on the Yucatan Peninsula in April, Cortes and his troops had marched into the interior of Mexico to the Aztec capital and captured Aztec Emperor Montezuma.

November 8, 1923 - Hitler's Beer Hall Putsch took place in the Buergerbraukeller in Munich. Hitler, Goering and armed Nazis attempted, but ultimately failed, to forcibly seize power and overthrow democracy in Germany.

November 8, 1942 - Operation Torch, the Allied landings in North Africa, began as 400,000 soldiers under the command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower landed at Morocco and Algeria.

November 9, 1918 - German Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated his throne in the closing days of World War I and fled to Holland. In Germany, Philip Scheidemann, a Socialist leader, then proclaimed a democratic Republic and became its first Chancellor.

November 9, 1989 - The Berlin Wall was opened up after standing for 28 years as a symbol of the Cold War. The 27.9-mile wall had been constructed in 1961.

November 10, 1942 - Following the British victory at El Alamein in North Africa during World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill stated, "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

November 11, 1918 - At 5 a.m., in Marshal Foch's railway car in the Forest of Compiègne, the Armistice between the Allied and Central Powers was signed, silencing the guns of World War I effective at 11a.m. – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. In many places in Europe, a moment of silence in memory of the millions of fallen soldiers is still observed. (Tattler reminds all to get their poppies!)

November 12, 1942 - During World War II in North Africa, the city of Tobruk was captured by the British Eighth Army under General Bernard Montgomery.

November 15, 1899 - Winston Churchill, is captured by Boer forces during the Anglo Boer war. Winston Churchill joined the British army in 1893 and developed a keen interest in war correspondence. Some of his early literary works were reports on various military campaigns. This led Churchill to work as a war correspondent for The Morning Post, in which he was to cover the occurrences of the Anglo-Boer War in South Africa. Soon after his arrival in South Africa, he accompanied a scouting expedition on an armoured train. The train was ambushed by the Boers and on 15 November 1899, Churchill was captured and imprisoned in a Prisoner of War (POW) camp. He managed to escape, and with the assistance of an English mine manager, made his way to Delagoa Bay. Hailed as a hero in England, Churchill then joined the army that marched on Mafikeng. On his return to England, he published a volume on his experiences during the war in South Africa.

November 15, 1921 - SA Naval Service was established.

November 15, 1969 - The largest antiwar rally in U.S. History occurred as 250,000 persons gathered in Washington, D.C., to protest the Vietnam War.

November 17, 1964 - British Prime Minister Wilson announces arms embargo on South Africa.

November 17, 1993 - The United Nations opened its first war crimes tribunal since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials following World War II. Judges from 11 nations were sworn in to examine recent mass murders in Yugoslavia characterized as ethnic cleansing.

November 18, 1916 - During World War I, Allied General Douglas Haig called off the First Battle of the Somme after five months. The Allies had advanced 125 square miles at a cost of 420,000 British and 195,000 French soldiers. German losses were over 650,000 men.

November 19, 1942 - The Russian Army began a massive counter-offensive against the Germans at Stalingrad during World War II.

November 20, 1917 - The first use of tanks in battle occurred at Cambrai, France, during World War I. Over 300 tanks commanded by British General Sir Douglas Haig went into battle against the Germans.

November 20, 1945 - The Nuremberg War Crime Trials began in which 24 former leaders of Nazi Germany were charged with conspiracy to wage wars of aggression, crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. battle against the Germans.

November 21, 1989 - The Citizen reported that the remaining 1500 South African troops in South West Africa (Namibia) had been withdrawn during November. While the Namibian political parties and the South African Government were negotiating as to how Namibia would be governed after its independence, war in Ovamboland and Angola continued to rage during the 1980s. After the battle at Cuito Cuanavale in 1988, a turning point in the history of southern Africa, the stalemate condition led all parties to rethink their positions. South Africa and Cuba agreed to the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Angola and the South African People's Organisation (SWAPO) undertook to keep its soldiers north of the 16th parallel - that meant at least 200 km north of the Namibian border. This agreement paved the way for Namibia's independence and the withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia

November 24, 1863 - The Battle of Chattanooga took place during the American Civil War as General Ulysses Grant's soldiers scaled heavily fortified Lookout Mountain and overran Confederate General Braxton Bragg's army.

November 25, 1981 - The armed mercenaries entered the Seychelles disguised as a beer-drinking tourist party, "The Ancient Order of Froth-Blowers." Hoare's objective was to return to power ex-President James Mancham, 49, a pro-Western leader who was deposed by René in a 1977 coup.

The raid was led by Colonel Thomas Michael ("Mad Mike") Hoare, who gained notoriety as a mercenary in the Congo during the 1960s. The 1978 film, "Wild Geese" is loosely inspired by Hoare's adventures, and he is the author of several books that recount his swashbuckling exploits.

But the Seychelles operation failed when a Mahé airport customs inspector found a weapon hidden in a Froth-Blower's luggage. A gunfight broke out at the airport, in which one mercenary was killed and several others wounded. Desperate to escape, the raiders fought their way to the control tower, guided an incoming Air India 707 to a landing and commandeered the plane. They forced the Air India pilot to fly them 2,500 miles across the Indian Ocean to Durban.

International suspicions pointed almost immediately to the South African government, who opposed Renee's socialist's regime and were already active in destabilizing other leftist governments in Southern Africa. These suspicions seemed substantiated by the casual manner in which the South African government dealt with the hijackers. Instead of extraditing them to Seychelles where they would be tried for treason, or charging them with hijacking, the South African government opted to unconditionally free 39 of the 44 mercenaries and charge the leaders, including Hoare, with lesser crimes.

International outcry was immediate, forcing the government to re-think their response to the incident. Several nations warned that South Africa could be struck from air-travel routings unless Pretoria enforced international agreements against harbouring of air hijackers. The government then brought hijacking charges against all 43 of the escaped mercenaries.

After a five-month trial Judge Neville James found 42 of the mercenaries guilty of airplane hijacking and sentenced Hoare to ten years in prison. His fellow raiders were given from six months to five years, and the judge later reduced most to six months.

November 26, 1940 - During the Holocaust, Nazis began walling off the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw, sealing in 400,000 inhabitants while denying them adequate food, sanitation and housing.

November 30, 1700 - The Battle of Narva occurred as 8 000 Swedish troops under King Charles XII invaded Norway, defeating a force of 50,000 Russians.

November 30, 1939 - Finland was invaded by more than 20 Russian divisions in the Winter War.

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Who would like to park this big lady?



Something different for the motor racing folk

Thursday, November 26, 1953

Desiré Randall Wilson was born on 26 November 1953 in Brakpan. Wilson is a former racing driver who is one of only five women to have competed in Formula One. In 1980 she won the Formula One race at Brands Hatch in the British Aurora F1 series. The win made her the only woman to ever hold the Formula One title.

Wilson also competed in CARTS and sports car racing. She is married to road course architect, Alan Wilson. She still occasionally races at the Goodwill Revival. A book documenting her life as a racing driver titled 'Driven by desire' has been published.

TEN (10) THINGS I KNOW ABOUT YOU

- 1) You are reading this.
- 2) You are human.
- 3) You can't say the letter "P" without separating your lips.
- 4) You just attempted to do it....
- 6) You are laughing at yourself.
- 7) You have a smile on your face and you skipped No. 5.
- 8) You just checked to see if there is a No. 5.
- 9) You laugh at this because you are a fun loving person & everyone does it too.
- 10) You are probably going to send this to see who else falls for it.

"Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many."

And one for the golfers -

An old favourite . . . about the Golfer who has been slicing off the tee at every hole . . .

He finally gives up and asks his long suffering caddy . . .

Golfer: "Can you see any obvious problems . . . ?"

Caddy: "There's a piece of **** on the end of your club."

The Golfer picks up his club and cleans the club face . . .

Caddy: "No sir, it's at the other end"



To close, one for us oldies.....

The husband leans over and asks his wife, "Do you remember the first time we had sex together over fifty years ago? We went behind the village tavern where you leaned against the back fence and I made love to you."

Yes, she says, "I remember it well."...

OK, he says, "How about taking a stroll around there again and we can do it for old time's sake?"...

"Oh Jim, you old devil, that sounds like a crazy, but good idea!"

A police officer sitting in the next booth heard their conversation and, having a chuckle to himself, he thinks to himself, I've got to see these two old-timers having sex against a fence. I'll just keep an eye on them so there's no trouble. So, he follows them.

The elderly couple walks haltingly along, leaning on each other for support aided by walking sticks. Finally, they get to the back of the tavern and make their way to the fence. The old lady lifts her skirt and the old man drops his trousers. As she leans against the fence, the old man moves in. Then suddenly they erupt into the most furious sex that the policeman has ever seen. This goes on for about ten minutes while both are making loud noises and moaning and screaming. Finally, they both collapse, panting on the ground.

The policeman is amazed. He thinks he has learned something about life and old age that he didn't know.

After about half an hour of lying on the ground recovering, the old couple struggle to their feet and put their clothes back on. The policeman, is still watching and thinks to himself, this is truly amazing, I've got to ask them what their secret is.

So, as the couple passes, he says to them, "Excuse me, but that was something else. You must've had a fantastic sex life together. Is there some sort of secret to this?"

Shaking, the old man is barely able to reply, "Fifty years ago that wasn't an electric fence."

*Tattler trusts that November will be kind to all of its members and,
for the majority of us, we have plenty of unseasonal rainfalls.*