

The Seven Seas Tattler Issue 6.07 – December 2022



Good day and welcome to Tattler to all who read it!

The last edition for this year, the contents in this month of Christmas include some unusual traditions, news on the quiz, a lovely recipe, some rugby stuff and the usual items from our Club Manager and some humour. We hope you will find some items you enjoy.

As always, we invite and welcome contributions, critique and ideas - You may send these to Jonathan (jonathanagolding@gmail.com) or Colette (colettepatience@gmail.com).

New Year's Eve party!

Do you feel like having a party but don't want the hassles of entertaining at home?

Here is your solution!!

We are planning a no frills evening at the club

Each person, couple, or group brings a plate or a few plates of eats;

We will provide the music - big screen and audio;

Dress - whatever! Dress up or dress down. Fancy dress if you like;

Families are welcome and you can bring your house guests if you are in that situation;

It will be similar to having your own party at home - without all the beverages and other hassles and, particularly, the cleaning up afterwards!

There will be no cover charge;

There will probably be some "fun stuff" on the side! We will be considering some old fashioned ideas such as elimination dances and mystery competitions! (no money involved!).

Please let us know if you are interested and the likelihood of you attending.

You are also welcome to give ideas to make the evening more fun.

JONATHAN & EUAN

Club Manager's Report

Congratulation to our 100 Club Winners for November 2022

MR C.J. Black : R300
Mrs N. Green : R300
Mr J. London : R300
Mrs O.A. Marlow : R1000

We wish the following members a very Happy Birthday. May the year ahead be filled with good health and happiness. For our usual bit of fun we note some historic events and dates.

Ms M.C. Seyffert-Wirth – 4 December / *Jeff Bridges—American actor known for his laid-back personality and his versatility—was born (1918).*

Mr G.T. Arniel – 6 Dec / *U.S. federal judge held that James Joyce's Ulysses was not obscene, thus allowing for greater freedoms in literary works (1933).*

Mr N.J. Von Wildenrath – 7 December / *Japanese bombers launched a surprise aerial attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor (1941).*

Capt V.R. Neilson (Ret) – 13 December / *Dutch navigator Abel Tasman sighted South Island, New Zealand (1642)*

Capt P.A. Napier (Ret) – 15 December / *The film *Gone with the Wind* premieres (1939).*

Mr K.S. Collins – 18 December / *Guitarist Keith Richards of the rock band the Rolling Stones was born (1943).*

R Adm A.G. Green (Ret) – 19 December / *Titanic, a drama about the doomed ocean liner premieres (1997).*

Lt J.V. Carne (Ret) – 20 December / *Egyptian and US Archaeologists discover a 5000 years old fleet of ships near the Nile (1991).*

Mr D.G. Nelson – 21 December / *Jane Fonda, American Actress born (1937).*

Mr D.C. Law-Brown – 22 December / *Dusi Canoe Marathon commences (1951).*

R Adm (JG) T. Honiball (Ret) – 25 December / *Indian Ocean tsunami - large earthquake shook the Indian Ocean floor west of the island of Sumatra (2004).*

Lt L. Chiste (Ret)– 25 December / *Charlemagne, king of the Franks, became the first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (800).*

Mr J.A.H. Golding – 25 December / *Retired England cricketer Sir Alastair Cook and Louis Chevrolet, (1878), a famous automobile designer and racer were born.*

Mr T. Allan – 30 December / *Rudyard Kipling, British Writer was born in India (1865).*

Cdr F. Jordaan (Ret) – 31 December / *Anthony Hopkins, Welsh actor born (1937).*

Mrs A. Opperman – 31 December / *The United States officially handed over control of the Panama Canal to Panama (1999).*

The following new members are welcomed to our club. May their stay be long and rewarding!

Stephen (a retired businessman) and Adele Langlois who spend much of their time travelling between St Clements in Jersey and South Africa.

Gary and Rosemary Hewitt who live in the Simon's Town area. Gary is a retired export business owner with plenty of experience in the printing environment.

Aye, Glen

Another great quiz evening!

Four teams contested. There were many twists and turns and the playing of the joker proved key

The winners, pictured alongside, squeaked in right at the end. Well done to them. And a thank you and well done to the other three teams! The spirit and banter was superb. To those that miss the fun and games of the quiz evenings we can only hope that you will "give it a wind" at some stage

The winners - Denise and John Lamont, Preston Barnard and Planks van Aswegen



An example of the questions: (Category - Science and Nature)

- 1) Which of these does NOT produce a blue flower? - Cornflower, Iris, Periwinkle, Oleander, Morning Glory
- 2) What "juice" is the acid in your stomach?
- 3) Which of these is NOT a fish? Psychedelic Frogfish, Tassled Scorpionfish, Goatshead Wrasse, Chameleon Goby
- 4) What results from an irritant, such as a bit of food, a grain of sand or bacteria becoming trapped in a mollusc?
- 5) The following are all examples of shapes of what? Orbicular, Reniform, Ovate, Linear
- 6) Combining vinegar and baking soda results in a reaction to produce carbon dioxide and what?
- 7) How far is Venus from Earth? 10 million kms, 40 million kms, 100 million kms?
- 8) What distinctive safety device was introduced into Formula 1 race cars in 2018 to protect the driver, particularly if the car overturns?
- 9) Achieved by Australian Ken Warby in the Spirit of Australia in 1978, what is the record speed on water? 336kph, 511kph, 829kph?
- 10) The Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge, on the Beijing-Shanghai high speed railway in China, is the longest bridge in the world. How long? 77 kms, 93kms, 165kms?

Tattler – to see how well you did have a look at the answers on page 4. See you at the next quiz!

World Football Cup Club "Draw"

The club is running a draw.

You purchase an envelope on which you write your name (available from the Bar staff). The envelope is retained by them. Inside the envelope is the name of one of the competing nations. After the final, the envelopes will be opened and the winner and runner up will become known!



FIFA FOOTBALL WORLD CUP 2022

QATAR – 8 VENUES – 20 November to 18 December 2022

ENTER THE LUCKY DRAW FOR ONE OF THE 32 TEAMS

Groups

Group A Qatar Ecuador Senegal Netherlands	Group B England IR Iran USA Wales	Group C Argentina Saudi Arabia Mexico Poland	Group D France Australia Denmark Tunisia
Group E Spain Costa Rica Germany Japan	Group F Belgium Canada Morocco Croatia	Group G Brazil Serbia Switzerland Cameroon	Group H Portugal Ghana Uruguay Korea Republic

R100-00 CASH PER ENTRY – MAXIMUM 3 PER PERSON. SHOULD THERE BE AN OVER SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE 1st BATCH OF 32 TICKETS, A 2nd OR 3rd BATCH OF TICKETS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE (BUT ALL 32 TICKETS HAVE TO BE TAKEN PER BATCH).

PRIZES (PER BATCH)

1 st Place (Final Winner)	R1,000
2 nd Place (Final Runner up)	R500

HOW IT WORKS:

- Each of the 32 team names is sealed in an unmarked envelope.
- The envelopes will be kept behind the bar.
- Select an envelope, pay the barman and write your name on the envelope.
- Envelop is returned to the barman.
- Envelopes are opened after the final whistle on December 18th and Winners announced on the day, via newsletter or at the next Club gathering.
- If there are more batches, the same will apply, and prize money will be the same.
- Envelopes can be purchased up until the 18th December, but prior to the Final.

Answers to the quiz questions!

- 1) Oleander
- 2) Gastric
- 3) Goatshead Wrasse - There is a Sheepshead Wrasse!
- 4) A pearl
- 5) Leaves
- 6) Water
- 7) 40 million kms
- 8) The Halo
- 9) 511kph
- 10) 165kms. Actually 164.8kms (102.4 miles)

Navy News

International Maritime News – AI for the South Korean Navy

Source: <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/11/> By: Juho Lee 23 November 2022



ROKS Dosan Ahn Changho at sea (ROKN photo)

LIG Nex1 To Develop AI For ROK Navy Submarines

LIG Nex1 will work with the Korea Research Institute for Defence Technology, Planning, and Advancement (KRIT) to incorporate advanced artificial intelligence (AI) technology into the combat systems of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Navy's new submarines. The contract, which was signed between the company and KRIT on November 21st, is worth 39.6 billion Korean won or around \$30 million.

The deal marks the first time AI will be used in the combat system of a major South Korean military asset. The system is expected to oversee the entire combat management process, including search and track, identification and classification, tactical operations, and engagement.

According to LIG Nex1, the new system will increase the survivability and effectiveness of ROK Navy submarines, which usually operate alone and are, therefore, completely dependent on onboard systems. Moreover, the company expects there to be ample opportunity for export, given that the United States, Germany, and other major Western nations are looking to upgrade their submarines using similar technologies.

LIG Nex1 statement - "As a company that is crucial to realizing the Navy's vision of creating a 'Smart Navy', we shall try our best [in developing this system]...Using the experience and technology we have accumulated, we will successfully carry out this project."

In addition to KRIT, LIG Nex1 will also cooperate with Cochl, the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology, Korea University, Hanyang University, and Sejong University to meet requirements. Although details have not been released, it is likely the system will be used in the KSS III or Dosan Ahn Changho-class submarine. The lead vessel of the class deployed for the first time in August this year.

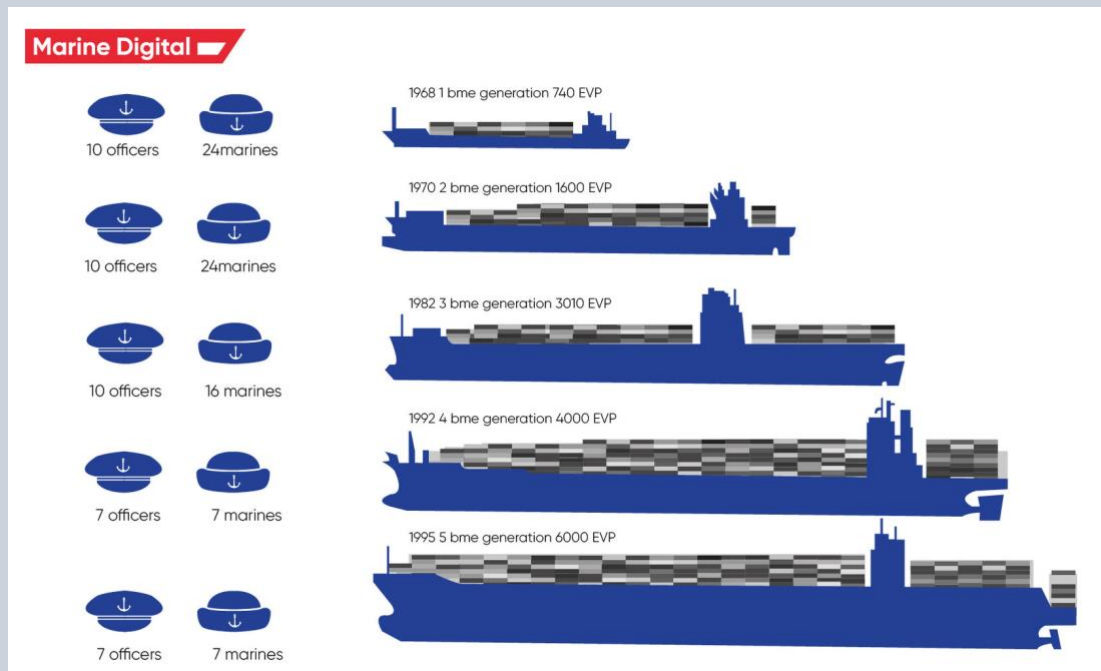
The move to acquire an AI-based combat system is part of a broader effort by the ROK Navy to incorporate automation, AI, and unmanned systems into its fleet. Last month, the force announced the creation of an unmanned fleet that will become fully operational by 2040. It also revealed the "Navy Sea GHOST" concept, a new operational doctrine that includes both traditional and newer, unmanned assets.

Maritime Information – Impact of digitisation and “How to read a Windsock”

Source: <https://marine-digital.com>

Tattler – We thank Eddie Noble for sourcing these very interesting contributions.

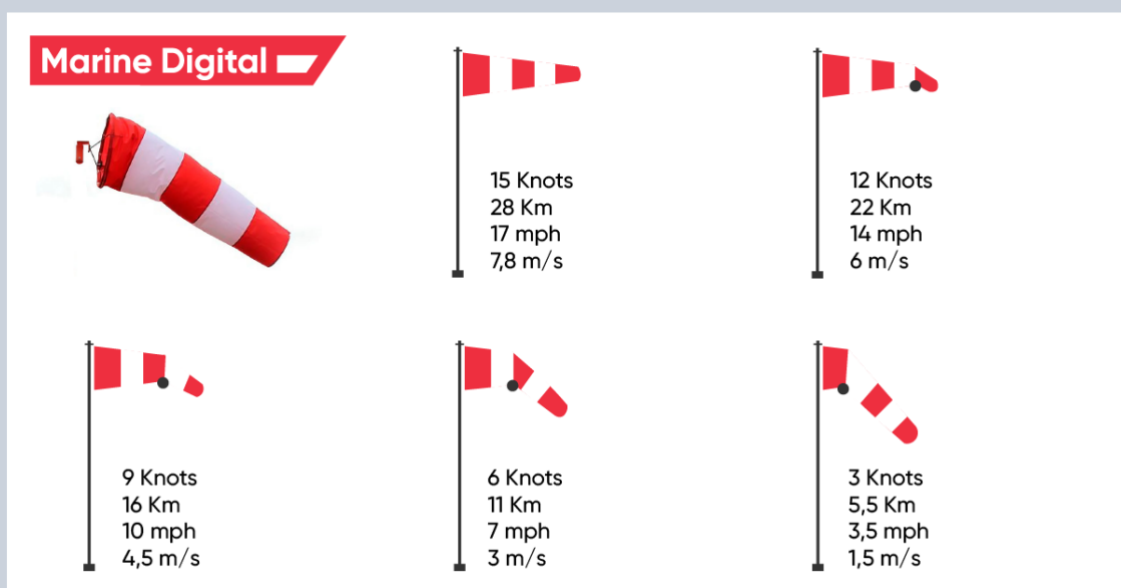
How the number of crews in the maritime industry has changed



Windsock

A windsock is a tapered woven textile tube used to measure wind direction and speed.

Alternating bands of bright orange and white are used to estimate wind speed. Each lane adds 3 knots to the calculated wind speed. However, some round frame mounts cause the windsocks to remain open at one end, indicating a speed of 3 knots, even if the anemometers do not indicate wind speed. A fully extended windsock suggests winds of 15 knots (28 km/h; 17 mph) or higher.



Local Maritime News – Preservation of Submarine SAS Assegaai as a Museum of Technology

Source: Digby Thompson

Tattler - Last month we published information on the "submarine museum" project. We will keep you updated as and when we can.

Digby Thompson recently posted the first pic of the foundation for the Submarine Museum.



Lighthouses – Southern African Lighthouses

Source: <https://www.southafrica.net/gl/en/travel/article/lighthouses-of-south-africa>

Lighthouses seem to capture our imagination and hold a certain mystique. In the next couple of issues of Tattler we will be sharing some stories and images of historic and unique lighthouses across the globe.

The lives of light-keepers in South African lighthouses were often an exercise in solitude; a challenge when supplies ran out; and a thrilling adventure when there were hapless souls to be saved and ships to be diverted from the treacherous South African coastline, which stretches for nearly 3 000 kms.

For more than 400 years, from the 15th Century to sometime in the 19th Century, sailing around the South African coastline was a deadly business. In fact, there are an estimated 2 000-plus shipwrecks along the 3 000 km stretch of South African shores – just about 1 ruined vessel for every coastal kilometre.

In the 1800s, the first wave of South African lighthouses went up mainly as a response to major shipwrecks – or a series of them.

For instance, Slangkop Point Lighthouse on the Cape Peninsula was built after a large steamer called the Kakapo ploughed straight up onto the white sands of Noordhoek. Danger Point Lighthouse on the southern Cape coast was erected 40-odd years after the famous Birkenhead wreck.

The existence of the Cape Agulhas Lighthouse is the direct result of local farmers' pleas to the authorities after they had seen one shipwreck victim too many on their beaches.

In 1902, legendary lighthouse engineer Harry Claude Lee Cooper was dispatched from England to sort out South Africa's coastal navigation services. He found only 17 lighthouses in working order. Today, there are 45 lighthouses in South Africa.

Cooper worked tirelessly at his task. Not only did he have to design bespoke lighthouses that would withstand the roughest weather, he was also a one-man 'human resources division' for the newly appointed light-keepers and their families.

Light-keepers needed to be men of solitary nature and sober habits, slightly insomniac, with a tolerance for loud foghorn blasts and the ability to repair and paint an enormous structure in a short time and possibly in dodgy weather conditions.

And what of the wives and children of the light-keepers? Where would they shop, socialise, be educated, and how would they maintain their sanity, often with nothing but heavy seas, gale-force winds and a very bright beam for company?

The light-keepers were mostly retired men of the sea and so understood the critical importance of keeping the light burning. Every lighthouse had its own code: a light shining on and off for a set number of seconds so that passing ships knew where they were in the darkness.

And just as each lighthouse had its own distinctive features, so every light-keeper had his individual quirks. Some were fishermen, some were painters and others were super-handymen. Most proved to be great under extreme pressure.

One light-keeper kept a semi-crazed Jersey bull called Bovril, which had to be shot after making a serious attempt on his owner's life.

Nowadays, with South Africa's lighthouses mostly on automatic, the few remaining light-keepers in service have to be good maintenance men and very good tourism operators.

Just like 'trainspotting', 'lighthousing' has become a serious traveller-occupation. Lighthouse lovers from all over the world will happily travel up and down the South African coastline, admiring the old giants that still stand sentinel between the sea and the land.

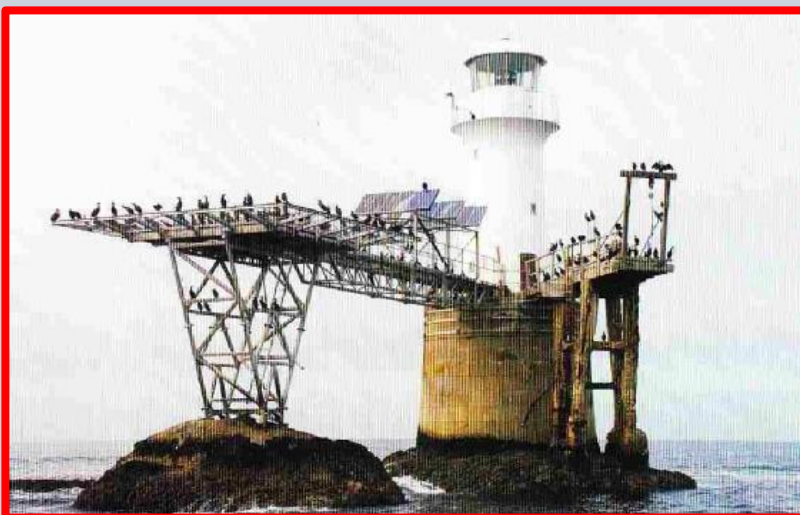
Tattler - Those of us fortunate to live in Simon's Town see the Roman Rock Lighthouse every day. and, obviously, at night. Ever wondered about its history?

The following is courtesy of the Simon's Town Historical Society

One hundred and sixty years ago work began on building Roman Rock Lighthouse, one of the few worldwide which is situated on a rock in the ocean, the majority being on promontories which jut out into the ocean rather like Cape Point lighthouse.

The lighthouse was designed by Alexander Gordon of the British Lighthouse Authority. The cost was to be between £3,000 and £3,500. Cast iron segments were bolted together and the lowest rung secured to the rock. The stone was quarried from Seaforth beach, from the rock behind and under the present restaurant, assembled there on site and numbered, before being ferried out to the required site.

Quarrying and cutting the granite rock at Seaforth / (Image ST Museum)



Roman Rock Lighthouse, False Bay, built between 1861 & 1865 / (Image ST Museum)



In 1857 the ship ROYAL SAXON arrived with the mechanism. The erection of the tower took 4 years as fierce winds and seas allowed only 96 working days during this period. From Jan 7 to June 8 1861 for instance it was only possible to work on 5 occasions. The Clerk of Works was a Mr. Cousins. This first mechanism had a focal plane of 16,5 m above high water with a range of 19,3 km. It was not a great success as only 1 reflector was visible at a time. There were 8 reflectors in all and they made a revolution every 4 minutes.

Two keepers manned the lighthouse and changed over every 7 days. A third keeper remained on shore during that time. It was a boring job and they earned the highest salaries in the service. For instance the first lightkeeper Mr. J. Williams earned £110 per annum and his assistants £95 per annum. Their only pastime was fishing, but reeling in the fish in the teeth of a strong south-easter required skill!! In 1914 the mechanism was replaced and thereafter the tower was no longer manned. It was powered by dissolved acetylene gas. The gas cylinders were renewed every 3 – 4 months. The automatic flash occurred every 6 seconds. Part of the 1914 mechanism is on display at the Simon's Town Museum.

In 1992 the South African Navy asked for it to be electrified as by now the bright lights of Simon's Town and Kalk Bay over-shadowed it. It now also has a back-up diesel engine and solar panels. The old dome was replaced by a glass fibre one. The dome was air-lifted to the lighthouse by a Sikorsky 861 helicopter and a base for the workmen was adjacent to Glencairn station.

The first Lighthouse in South Africa

First lit on 12 April 1824, it is located on Mouille Point. The lighthouse was the first solid lighthouse structure on the South African coast and the oldest operational lighthouse in South Africa. The lighthouse was commissioned by acting Governor of the Cape Colony Sir Rufane Shaw Donkin and designed by German architect Herman Shutte. Building commenced in 1821 and was completed in 1823. The lighthouse started operating in 1824. The lighthouse cost approximately £6,420 pounds sterling to build. When the lighthouse was first lit, it burned Argand lamps fuelled by sperm whale oil. The light from these lanterns could be seen for 6 nautical miles (11 km; 6.9 mi). The lighthouse was expanded to its present height in 1865. In 1922, the range of the light house was extended to 22 nautical miles when 3rd order dioptric flashing lights were installed. Its present characteristic is a white light flashing every 10 seconds. In 1926, a foghorn was installed in the lighthouse despite a letter of complaint sent to the Mayor of Cape Town in 1923 by Green Point residents. Local Residents call the Green Point Lighthouse "Moaning Minnie".



Editorial

Picture of the Month

This month's photograph was taken by my talented neighbour, Jon Kerrin and reproduced with his permission.



Visit www.jonkerrin.com

Tattler - Happy Hookers (well, some of the time!) This month we look at the guy who wears the number 2 shirt, the hooker.

This position, or rather what is required from the man who plays it, is one that has changed most significantly over the years. "Back in the day", the stand-outs and the primary way they were measured, was to do with winning the ball in the scrum. In those days some of the better hookers were contortionists. Remember laws such as "footup" and the strictness of refs on inserting the ball straight? Post-match pub talk was often about the number of "heels against the head", something that has almost totally disappeared in recent times.

In the modern era, whilst scrumming is still hugely important, there is considerably less focus on the man in the middle of the front row, although there is still, and correctly so, huge focus on the scrumming prowess of the props. The hooker must still hook (sort of) but the primary role is inserting the ball into the lineout, a very different role indeed!

In my early days this role was performed by the wings, many of whom were not very good at it as it was a minor part of their job.

So, having the best scrumming skills in the world will not cut it if lineout skills are not supreme. Hence, when looking at great hookers, the pundits don't even seem to consider the very best of those prior to, say, 1970. A little more on this later.....

Of course the ability to steal the ball off the deck and the ability to run with the ball and make good passes - being seen as an extra loose forward are also huge for the top number twos.

The top hookers in world rugby at present? Well, both Springboks, Malcolm Marx and Bongi Mbonambi are both proficient "throwers in" and ball carriers. Marx is of the very best at winning balls from the breakdown. All Black Dan Coles is arguably the best all-rounder with Codie Taylor not far behind.. Both Augustin Creevy and Julian Montoya (Argentina) are up there. Australia has the very competitive Fainga'a. France has Marchand, England have Cowan-Dickie and Singleton, Scotland have Frazer Brown, all competent. Ken Owens from Wales is certainly one to watch.



Click above to see All Black hooker, Dane Coles in action

Who is seen as the best in recent times? The "love him or hate him" Sean Fitzpatrick is seen by many as at the top of the pile. The Argentinian Mario Ledesma is right up there as is Keith Wood from Ireland (My personal favourite!). John Smit ranks highly - maybe more to do with his captaincy skills? Englishman Brian Moore gets the nod from most - a real pitbull! One of Fitzpatrick's arch rivals, Phil Kearns makes most top 10s as do Bismarck du Plessis, Steve Thompson (England) and the frog, Raphael Ibanez.



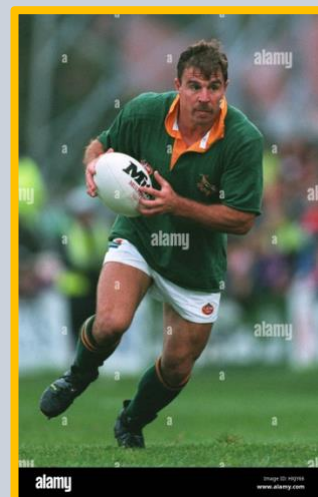
The best ever? Sean Fitzpatrick (photo courtesy of Getty Images)

But, going back to an earlier point, do the likes of Uli Schmidt, the great Welshman Bobby Windsor (who started his career as a fly half!), James McLeod the All Black hooker, the huge Australian Tommy Lawton, Scot Frank Laidlaw and many others simply not rank?

So, my sympathies to the many double-jointed, fast striking, tighthead-winning happy hookers, many of whom never even got a chance to throw the ball in the lineout! You are remembered, particularly by those who wore 9 and appreciated your actual HOOKING skills!



My all-time favourite, Keith Wood. (Photograph courtesy of Getty Images and "Ruck")



And one of the best from further back - Uli Schmidt (courtesy - Alamy)

For some variety I have asked my good mate Euan Smith, an erstwhile happy hooker, for a few chirps on the subject.

"I was indeed a very happy Hooker. At the age of twelve I lasted half a game at flank before a wise and eagle-eyed games master shoved me into this weird spot between the two largest boys in the year. That seemed pretty good to me as I reckoned it to be about the safest place on the field. Bad mistake! Contortionist is correct and yes back in the day when a Hooker actually hooked you had to get into some very strange positions and

have total and utter trust in your props to keep your face from being ground into the floor. Basically the hooker takes up a position similar to the subject of a crucifixion and then with arms akimbo is slammed into a tonne or so of opposition forwards by his own teammates. All this whilst being expected to twist into impossible positions in order to make contact with the ball with the side of his foot furthest from said ball. And yet every hooker i have ever met has loved to play in that position. Perhaps that is because in the mind of most hookers once the two set piece tasks were performed, hooking your own ball and hopefully some of theirs and hitting your jumper in the line out, then you are free to do whatever seems the right thing for your side. Backline players will tell you that mostly involved getting in their way and hanging about on the wing hoping for a try scoring pass to come your way. (Ask Uli Schmidt about that one 😊)

Who is my hero hooker? The Great Colin Deans.

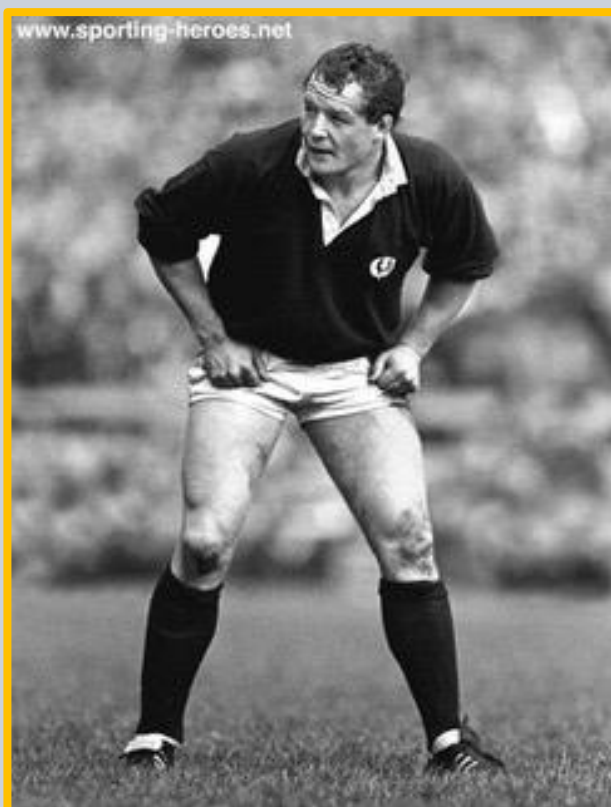
In my mind he was one of if not the first to play in that position and expand it into the role of a fourth back row player. I tried to model my play on his with mixed success. One of his best moments was when skippering Scotland in 1986 against the English, for his pre match team warm up speech he said - nothing. In his words his team had just seen the English strutting around Murrayfield for photo opportunities as if they had already won and the lads had seen this. To a man they were clawing at the door and could not wait to get out on the park and kill someone. No words required. Result Scotland 33 England 6.

The Front Row Union is something that still exists even though the game has changed immeasurably from the fist flying, hand stomping, maul collapsing chaos that I used to revel in. Based on the premise that anyone brave or foolish enough to play at a number below four must be a fellow spirit there is a camaraderie between friend and foe alike and a mutual respect for being able to set, engage and take the pressure. After the game you would often find the front row from both sides occupying a large area, it had to be large to accommodate them, at the end of the bar where the conversation was largely subliminal and based around how useless backs were. Part of being a hooker is to do the deeds that need to be done albeit sometimes bending the laws a little in order to win. Sean Fitzpatrick was a master at this. I fondly remember an afternoon playing in a top of league decider in Alberton south of Johannesburg where as a result of a somewhat illegal act by myself my opposite number two had landed a right hook across my left eye. Amid the ensuing fracas one of my teammates grabbed the loose ball and the resulting try won us the game. After a quick trip to the local hospital for a few stitches I returned to the ARFC clubhouse with head swathed in bandages and a rapidly developing blue black eye. 😊 There I was greeted by said opposite number two whose team, as a result of my actions had just dropped to second in the league table behind us. With a huge grin he clapped me on the shoulder - that hurt - and thrust his empty beer jug into my hand whilst exclaiming "it's definitely your round you B@\$*\$^&d". Respect was mutual and love of the game unquestioned."

The older we get
The better we were!

Euan Smith

Tattler - Thanks Euan!



Christmas - some traditions

(courtesy of "holiday extras")

Tattler – Here are some interesting and somewhat different Christmas traditions from other parts of the world!

Festive Sauna | Finland

Many homes in Finland come equipped with their own sauna, and at Christmas time this cosy spot becomes a sacred space associated with long dead ancestors. On Christmas Eve, it's customary to strip naked and take a long and respectful stint in the sauna, which is also believed to be home to the legendary sauna 'elf'. After the sauna session, Finns head out to the evening celebrations - while spirits of those ancestors take their place in the bubbling water.



Roller Skate Mass | Caracas

In the Venezuelan capital of Caracas, swathes of city-dwellers make their way to mass on roller skates every year on Christmas morning. The tradition is now so well established that many of the city's streets are closed to traffic from 8am, so that the skating congregation can get to church safely. It's even said that children will sleep with one lace from their skates tied around their toe, the other skate dangling from the window so that their friends can wake them up with a friendly tug on the lace.



The Yule Cat | Iceland

One of the more unique festive traditions we've heard of comes from Iceland, where a giant cat is said to roam the snowy countryside at Christmas time. Traditionally, farmers would use the Yule Cat as an incentive for their workers - those who worked hard would receive a new set of clothes, but those who didn't would be devoured by the gigantic cat-like beast.



Today it is customary for everyone in Iceland to get new clothing for Christmas to avoid an unsavoury demise.

Flying Witches | Norway

According to Norwegian folklore, Christmas Eve is the day when mischievous spirits and witches take to the skies for mischief and general tomfoolery. As witches often use brooms as their preferred mode of transportation, it's tradition for Norwegian families to hide away any sweeping sticks where the witches won't be able to find them.



Pickle in the Tree | Germany

Image by Jamie Anderson under Creative Commons license.

The Christmas tree tradition embraced around the world today is believed to have started in Germany back in the 16th Century, so it comes as no surprise that our continental cousins still have some unique customs relating to the festive conifers. One of these is to hide a pickle somewhere within the branches of the tree, and give a gift to whichever child in the household finds it.



Some claim that the tradition may not be German after all. One legend says that the Christmas pickle originated in Spain, when two young boys were held as prisoners inside a pickle barrel. The heroic Saint Nicholas rescued the boys and brought them back to life. Either way, a pickle on the Christmas tree is a tradition we can totally get behind.

Bad Santa | Austria

British kids are well acquainted with Father Christmas, Santa Claus or Saint Nick, but they can consider themselves lucky they don't live in Austria. That's because it's here that a ghoulish creature called 'Krampus', the evil accomplice of St Nicholas, is said to wander the streets in search of badly behaved children. During the month of December, you can expect to see terrifying masked figures out and about scaring kids and adults alike with ghastly pranks.



If this holiday tradition sounds like your kind of thing, be sure to check out the annual Krampus parade in Vienna.

The Alternative Christmas Tree | New Zealand

Thought all Christmas trees were created equal? Think again. The Kiwis are all about the Pohutukawa, a beautiful tree that is native to New Zealand with gnarled roots and bright crimson flowers. The first mention of the Pohutukawa tree came from Austrian geologist Ferdinand von Hochstetter in 1867. He described locals decorating their churches and homes with the brightly coloured branches at Christmas.



Today, the Pohutukawa tree is a recognised symbol of Christmas around New Zealand and is featured on Christmas cards, decorations, and even in the Christmas carols that children sing at school.

What were you listening to in December of 1972? Click on the images below to listen.

Don McLean?



Possibly Roberts Flack?



Looking Glass?



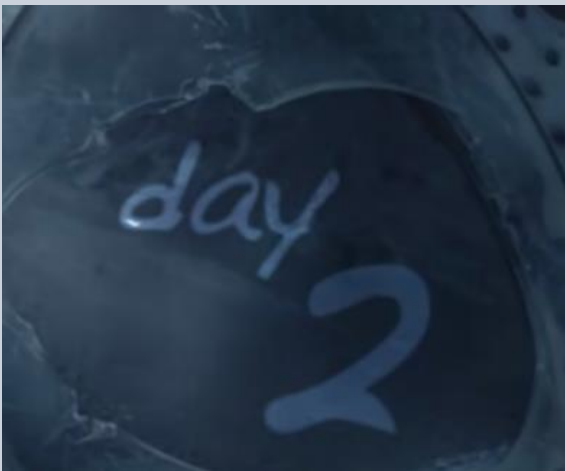
Or was it Neil Young?



Fifty Years ago - Miracle in the Andes

In December 1972, a chartered aircraft carrying a Uruguayan rugby team was found 72 days after it crashed in the Andes. Incredibly, there were 16 survivors, who managed to stay alive by eating from the bodies of their dead team-mates. This is the incredible story of "The Miracle in the Andes".

The attached video reminds us of this event. Click below.



Tattler – Some interesting facts about the Andes Mountains



The Andes, Andes Mountains, or Andean Mountains (Spanish: Cordillera de los Andes; Quechua: Anti) are the longest continental mountain range in the world, forming a continuous highland along the western edge of South America. The range is 8,900 km (5,530 mi) long, 200 to 700 km (124 to 435 mi) wide (widest between 18°S – 20°S latitude) and has an average height of about 4,000 m (13,123 ft). The Andes extend from north to south through seven South American countries: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina.

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Andes-Mountains>

This month in History

50 years ago – December 1972

General

7 Dec - The last draft call for induction of American adult males into the U.S. Armed Forces was made. As of 2022, nobody has been summoned into drafted into military service in the U.S. in more than 48 years.

8 Dec - Florida became the first state, since the June 29 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Furman v. Georgia*, to reinstate capital punishment. Governor Reubin Askew signed the bill into law a week after it had passed both houses of the State Legislature.

11 Dec - Mankind landed on the Moon for the sixth and last time, as the Apollo 17 lunar module Challenger touched down at 1955 GMT at the Taurus-Litrow crater at 1:54 pm Houston time.

18 Dec - Operation Line-backer II, described more generally as the Christmas Bombing and sometimes as "The Eleven-Day War", began at 2:51 pm as the first of 87 B-52 bombers, piloted by Major Bill Stocker, lifted off from Andersen AFB in Guam. These were joined by 42 more B-52s flying from Thailand, along with 400 fighters and refuelling tankers. At 7:40 pm Hanoi time, from an altitude of 35,000 feet, the bombers began dropping their payloads on targets in North Vietnam, and were met by hundreds of SAM missiles and some MiG-21 fighters. There were 121 bombing runs in the first 24 hours.

19 Dec - The super tanker Sea Star collided with another ship and spilled 144,000,000 litres (32,000,000 imp gal; 38,000,000 US gal) of petroleum into the Persian Gulf.

29 Dec - The takeover of Israel's embassy in Thailand, by Palestinian terrorists, ended peacefully after intervention by Egypt's ambassador and Thai officials. The four Arab gunmen, granted safe passage to Cairo, released their Israeli hostages, including the ambassador. Before everyone departed, the Egyptian and Israeli ambassadors, the four gunmen and five diplomats all ate dinner together inside the embassy.

Sport

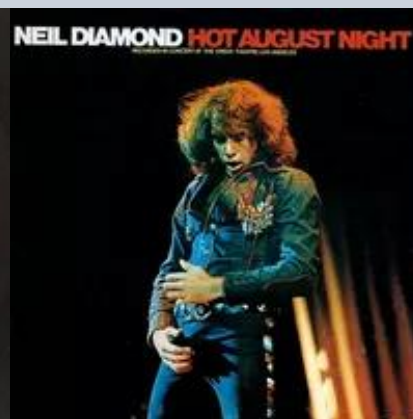
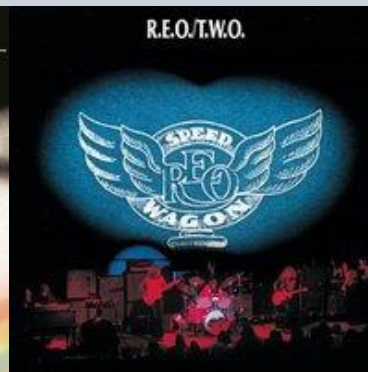
2 Dec - The All Blacks squeak past Wales by 3 points (Wales 16 , NZ 19). One try by wing John Bevan and one try by prop Keith Murdoch.

16 Dec - All Blacks beat Scotland 14 - 9. Andy Irvine scored a try for the Scots and Grant Batty, Sid Going and Alex Wyllie each got a try for New Zealand.

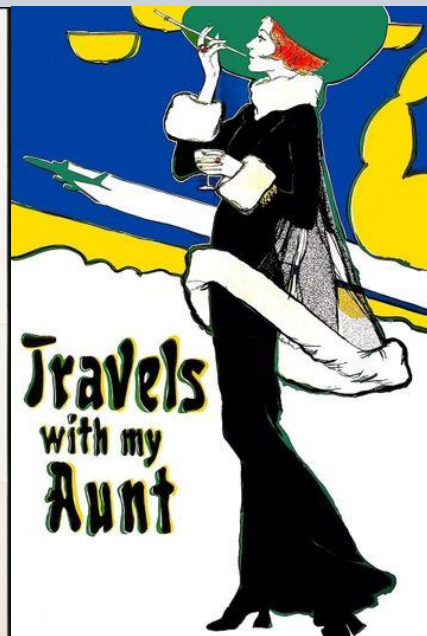
23 Dec - WP beat Rhodesia by 45 runs. Mike Procter took 10 wickets (for Rhodesia) in the match. Michell and Davison got first innings 50s for Rhodesia. For WP, Eddie Barlow got a second innings ton and then took 7 for 53 in the last innings. *Tattler - boy, he was some cricketer.*

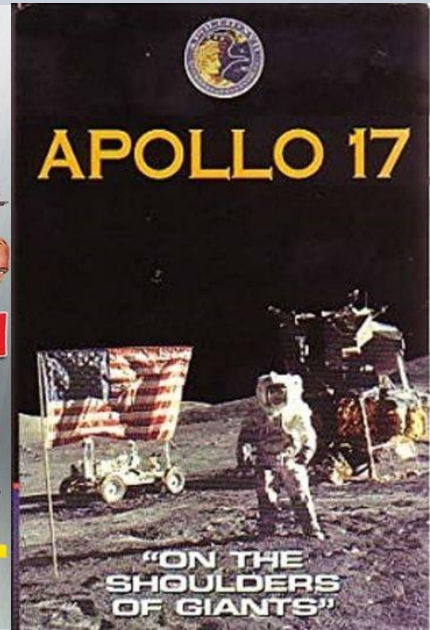
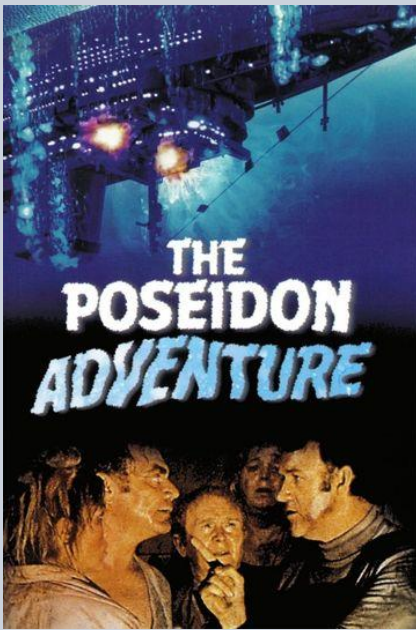


Music



Movies

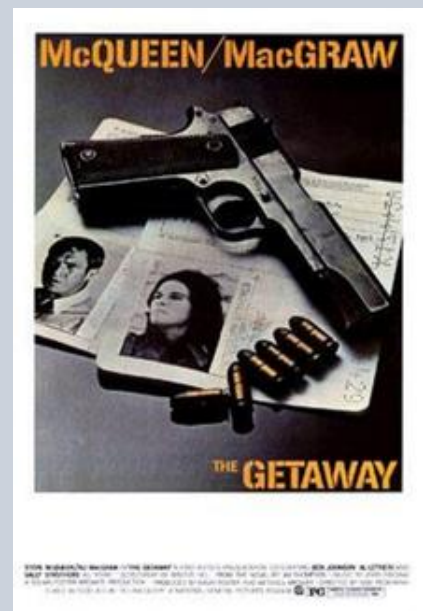




The Getaway

The Getaway is a 1972 American heist thriller film based on the 1958 novel by Jim Thompson. The film was directed by Sam Peckinpah, written by Walter Hill, and stars Steve McQueen, Ali MacGraw, Ben Johnson, Al Lettieri, and Sally Struthers. The plot follows imprisoned mastermind robber Carter "Doc" McCoy (McQueen), whose wife Carol (MacGraw) conspires for his release on the condition they rob a bank in Texas. A double-cross follows the crime and the McCoys are forced to flee for Mexico with the police and criminals in hot pursuit.

The Getaway premiered on December 13, 1972. Despite the negative reviews it received upon release, numerous retrospective critics gave the film good reviews. A box office hit earning over \$36 million, it was the eighth highest-grossing film of 1972, and was one of the most financially successful productions of Peckinpah's and McQueen's careers.



Casting

Foster one of the producers, suggested Ali MacGraw, a much in-demand actress after the commercial success of Love Story (1970). She was married to Robert Evans, who wanted her to avoid being typecast in preppy roles, and set up a meeting for her with Foster, McQueen, and Peckinpah about the film. According to Foster, she was scared of McQueen and Peckinpah because they had reputations as "wild, two-fisted, beer guzzlers". McQueen and MacGraw experienced a strong instant attraction. "He was recently separated and free," she said, "and I was scared of my overwhelming attraction to him." MacGraw was paid \$300,000 plus German distribution rights.



Ali MacGraw is best remembered for portraying Jenny in 1970's "Love Story" opposite Ryan O'Neal — but the former actress experienced her own epic romance when cameras stopped rolling. The now-79-year-old was married to Hollywood producer Robert Evans before she left him for actor Steve McQueen, her co-star in "The Getaway." The couple married in 1973.

The actress told this week's issue of People magazine that their relationship was "chemical." "This was a man who could walk into any room and [any] man, woman and child would go, 'Whoa, what's that?' And I was no exception," she explained. "He was incredibly attractive most of the time but there was also danger, there was a bad boy there."

The couple parted ways in 1977 after five tumultuous years together. McQueen died three years later in 1980 at age 50 from cancer. "I wish we had both grown old sober," admitted MacGraw, who is now single. "There were wonderful days and dreadful days." "I'm not a victim in any way," she added. "There were many times that were just wonderful and there were many times that were just ghastly."

Despite becoming a film icon, MacGraw left Hollywood in 1994 for a quieter life away from the spotlight in Santa Fe, N.M. She has been sober for 31 years after struggling with alcoholism. These days, MacGraw is collaborating on a clothing line with Ibu —a role she's perfectly content with. As for her current life, which involves spending much of her time volunteering for various non-profit organizations, the answer is simple. "I'm very happy right now," she said.

And, One Hundred Years Ago (December 1922)

9 Dec - The American radio station WJZ made the first broadcast that could be heard across the Atlantic Ocean. Shortly after midnight, with the benefit of an increase in the wattage of the broadcast signal, listeners overseas were able to hear the Star-Spangled Banner, followed by a voice saying WJZ repeatedly, then a greeting from the British consul-general in New York to British listeners. Afterward, at 12:30 in the morning, Vaughn De Leath sang her new hit, "Oliver Twist", commissioned to be played on a phonograph in theatres showing the newly-released silent film of the same name. Afterward, a jazz orchestra called "Black and White Boys" played "God Save the King" and a person read aloud the 23rd Psalm from the King James Version of the Bible.

14 Dec - The Ministry of Education of Soviet Russia ordered that schoolchildren were to be taught that Santa Claus and angels were myths. The protocol was part of a protocol pushed by the Russian Communist Party described by them as "a battle against all religious holiday-making" and was premised on the idea that "holidays leave a psychologically bad impression on children due to decorations and legends of 'decadent religions.'"

27 Dec - The Japanese aircraft carrier Hosho was commissioned, the first ship designed from the beginning to be a carrier.



Colette's Kitchen

We would love to share your favourites too. Send your submissions directly to Colettepatience@gmail.com.

This is our December edition so I thought we could consider food for holiday cheer! This turkey recipe is known to have converted die-hard turkey “slammers”. Leftovers also make excellent sandwich filling.

Turkey on the Weber Braai

1 good size Turkey
Roll of **heavy-duty** aluminium foil
Your stuffing of choice
Escort streaky bacon (2 packets)
A little string (not essential)
Salt & pepper
Weber braai, Briquettes etc.



Season the turkey well with salt and pepper. Stuff it with your favorite stuffing. Place some of this stuffing under the skin around the breast meat. **See our family “go-to” stuffing recipe above.** Be careful not to tear the skin. If you have a little string tie the legs and loose skin together so that the stuffing is kept well inside the cavity. If not, just work carefully.

Stuffing Recipe *(for turkey, chicken, deboned shoulder, beef-olives (add mince))*

Enough for a roast chicken/simply double up for more
80g butter

1 large onion, finely chopped
4 slices of day old white bread
1/1.5 tbsp dry thyme leaves – taste as you go
Salt and black pepper
Tbsp of dry sherry to taste (not essential but nice)

Finely chop the onion. Break up the bread with your fingers in tiny bits (better result than store bought crumbs). Melt the butter and pour it over. Add the thyme and the sherry. Mix well. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

TIP – fry off a heaped tsp of stuffing in a little pan so you can check if it needs anything more.

Use streaky bacon and lay a pattern of lattice strips crisscross over the entire Turkey (legs, wings, the works). You would use at least one packet and depending on the size of your bird, perhaps more. Be generous with this because it moistens the turkey and gives the crispy skin a lovely smokey flavor.

Cut a big piece of **heavy-duty** aluminium foil. It needs to be big enough to hold the turkey and allow you to wrap well and ensure no leaks. Place the bird on the shiny side of the foil.

Fold your foil to cover the turkey and make sure that the goodly cooking juices won't leak out. Make a “seal” for the foil on top by folding it over a couple of times in such a way that you can easily unroll it to have a peek inside if you need to.

Start up your Weber by lighting two baskets heaped to overflowing with briquettes. Place the baskets to each side of the weber and you place an aluminium or drip tray of choice in the center of the two baskets.

When you're ready to cook, place the turkey in the foil directly onto the grid and over the drip tray just in case there are some leaks. Cover Weber with lid. Make sure all the vents are open. Cook for approximately 50 minutes per kilo.

Plan your last 45 minutes carefully. Open the foil and expose the top of the turkey to brown and crisp the bacon and any exposed skin. Have a spoon at hand to quickly (you don't want to lose heat!!), baste the turkey with the juices in the foil parcel. Put the lid on for 45 minutes. Remove the turkey carefully, still in the foil parcel. Let it rest for 10 minutes. Pour off all the good juices carefully for use in your gravy or freeze as stock for another occasion. Carve and enjoy.

Yours in the kitchen

Tattler – Laughs



Benny Hill in the "Ye Olde Wishing well" skit.

Billy Connolly

Tattler - Warning - **VERY rude** language! If you can deal with the swear words, can understand "Scottish" and enjoy his brand of humour watch this. Otherwise DO NOT!



For two years, a man was having an affair with an Italian woman. One night, she confided in him that she was pregnant.

Not wanting to ruin his reputation or his marriage, he paid her a large sum of money to go to Italy and secretly have the child. If she stayed in Italy to raise the child, he would also provide child support until the child turned 18. She agreed, but asked how he would know when the baby was born. To keep it discreet, he told her to simply mail him a postcard,

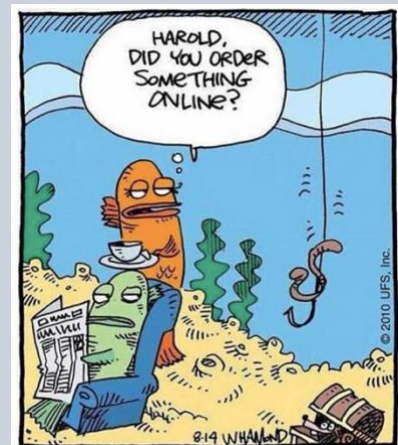
...and write 'Spaghetti' on the back. He would then arrange for the child support payments to begin.

One day, nine months later, he came home to his confused wife. "Honey!", she said "you received a very strange post card today."

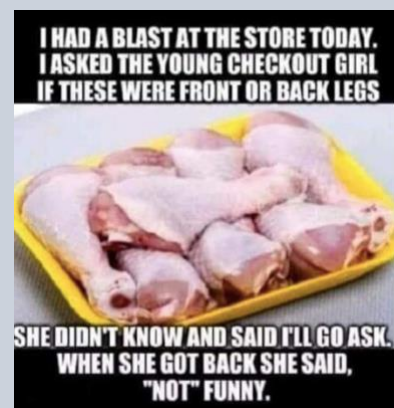
He said 'just give it to me and I will explain later'. She watched as he read the card, turned white and fainted.

On the card was written:

Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti
Three with meatballs, two without...send extra sauce.



**I told my wife I saw a
deer on the way to
work.
She said how do you
know he was headed
to work?**



Tattler - That's it for another month and another year!. The club and Tattler wish all of our members and their families a blessed Christmas and happy holiday period. Keep well and stay safe!