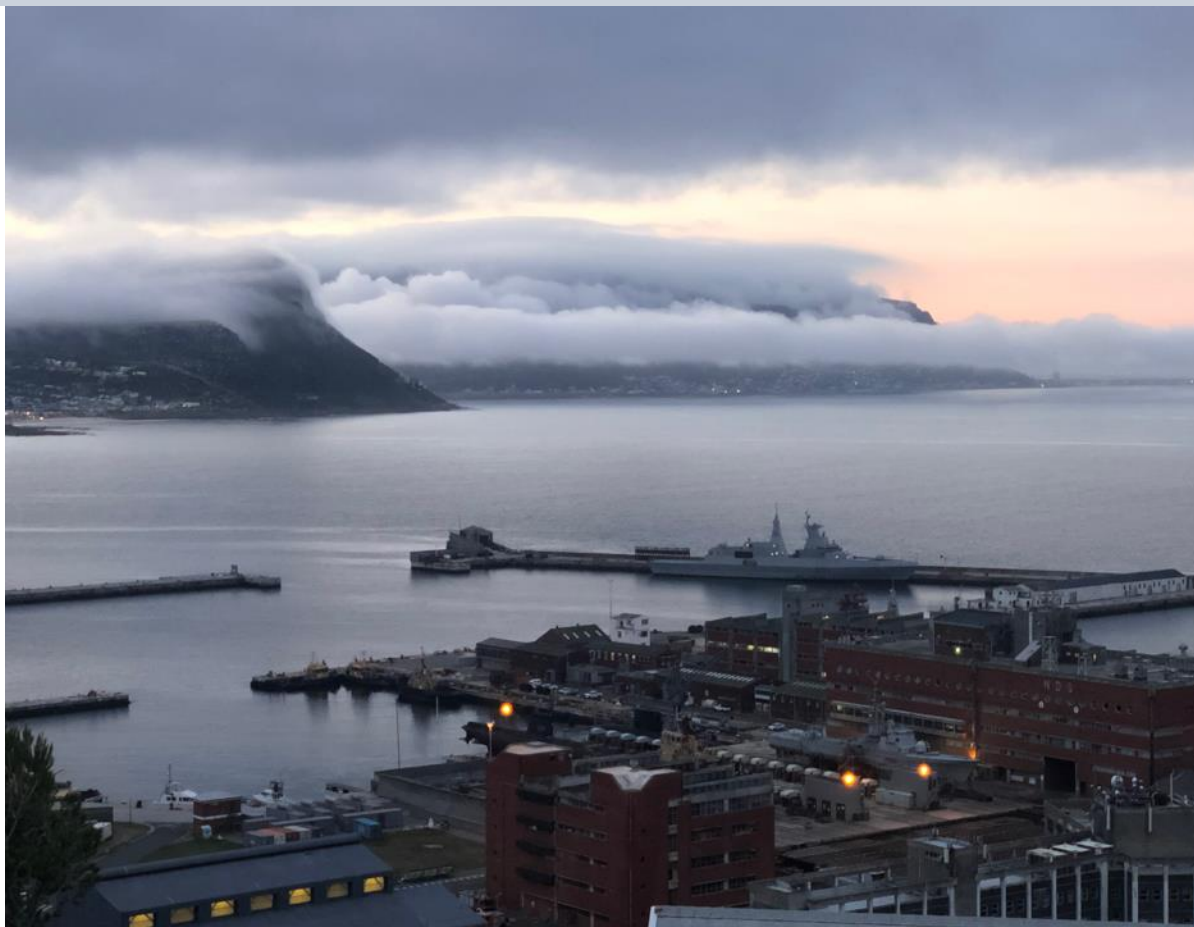




Welcome to the June Tattler

As you will have noticed, we are displaying a brand new masthead. This was our winner in the competition we ran. Well done to Euan Smith for his winning entry and thanks to all who contributed. We will, as promised, feature many of the other entries in this and future editions.

This month we feature a variety of articles including something on soccer, a cat named Jenny, a look at the remarkable jumping skills of the Belgian Malinois, the intrigue surrounding the beguiling Hedy Lamarr and much more.

In addition we have a great read from Euan Smith named "Dispatches from Europe". We have asked Euan to contribute as often as he is able but equally extend the invitation to all our club members. Whether you write about your own experiences, share your own photographs, share anecdotes or find an interesting 3rd party piece that you feel your fellow members will find enjoyable or interesting, don't hesitate to contribute these for publication.

We hope you enjoy the content and remind you that we welcome constructive criticism and of course contributions. We also remind readers that club members can avail themselves of the FREE facility of advertising in Tattler. Please communicate directly with the editors (colettepatience@gmail.com and jonathanagolding@gmail.com)

Tattler – we received the following compliment from one of our non-members, a friend from Johannesburg who reads our little rag.

"An interesting edition with lots of well edited variety . Well done ."

Thanks Howard Cohen. Always nice to receive feedback!

Treasurers Report

From the Treasurers "Abacus"

Our 2024 AGM has come and gone and work now returns to some degree of normality – I am sure that all of you who did attend were pleased with the state that the Club is in (both physically and financially). I would like to take this opportunity to recognise a couple of those unsung heroes of the Club who have contributed so much to making (and keeping) the Club what it is.

Firstly, Colette Patience who was elected to membership of the Club on the 19th April 2022 and despite only ever having been in the Club once to my knowledge, Colette remains a Country member in good standing (Colette resides in the UK). Since "Issue 4.5 – October 2020", Colette has been a key part of the editorial team producing the Club's high quality and eclectic Club newsletter called the Tattler! Thanks Colette for your contribution of your most valuable time and skills and particularly your well researched articles on Pirates which I enjoyed immensely. I will also admit to having tried a couple of your recipes.

Secondly, my wife (Charlene) who not only has had to put up with the impact of the time that the Treasurer's role subtracts from my ability to stay on top of my share of the household chores, but more importantly has contributed her time and qualifications as a bookkeeper to keep the Club's financial books in an exemplary condition since July 2020 – a contribution that delivers the foundation for what I deliver as the Treasurer and saves the Club approximately R24,000 per year in bookkeeping fees.

May is the time that the Treasurer's attention turns to chasing up those members who have not settled their membership subscription accounts. To date (23rd May 2024), 179 members have settled and are in good standing - sadly 32 remain with subs outstanding and, while we would prefer to keep our members, if not settled expeditiously will result in forfeiture of membership as per our constitution!

Interestingly, of these 32 outstanding members, 2 have paid but cannot be identified from the information reflected on the Club's bank statement (no name or membership number provided). If you think you are one of these, please contact me (dougl@icon.co.za) and let me know how much you paid and when you made the payment. (Hint – one of the payments was made in February 2024 and the other in April 2024)

Cheers



Doug Law-Brown
Honorary Treasurer

Tattler – The following was received from Eddie Noble.



The Club, as proposed in the annual budget presented at the AGM, relies on 4 main sources of income to keep the Club running, i.e. membership fees, bar sales, private functions and fund-raising.

The fundraising portion of the budget is the item that allows the committee to keep the membership fee as low as possible, and thus the more funds we raise over and above the normal income, has a good positive effect on the bottom line of the Club, and hence your fees.



We understand the economic climate hampers generous spending, but what we would like to achieve as a Club is to have events whereby we can raise funds but without milking the regular supporters of such events, which eventually leads to poor turn-out at Club fundraising events.

As such we would like to have events where we can have greater turnout, i.e. numbers of members, guests and friends. In order to do this, we need events which people want to attend and have fun whilst doing so, but also allow us to raise some important 'moolah' for the Club.



The Club would like members to put some ideas forward to the Committee for consideration. Also the committee cannot always do all the work for such events and we will be looking at having an Entertainment or Fundraising sub-committee to assist in this function.

Your ideas will greatly allow the Committee to offer something to members that we have not tried before.

So, PLEASE

- Discuss fundraising ideas with any committee member or email the Club at sevensseasclub@telkomsa.net or sevensseasclub2023@gmail.com.
- Put your hand up to assist in organising fundraising events. Many hands make lightwork. Contact any committee member to put your name down and help the Club.
-



For each idea that turns into an event the Club will offer you a free bottle of wine! You can then put your feet up, enjoy a glass and celebrate helping the Club to raise important funds!



Tattler – We trust you will all do your best to heed the call and forward some excellent ideas to the committee!

Editorial

Tattler – As you will have noticed we selected the winning picture for the cover of Tattler for the 8th Edition. To acknowledge all the entries received and for your enjoyment, we are publishing these photographs over the next month or two. We will do this in no order of preference. We sincerely thank all our contributors!

Gavin Munro



Alan Collingridge



Tattler has featured a number of cricket and rugby articles in the past. In this edition we have one covering what many speak of as the "beautiful game", football, or as many would say, soccer.

The 2023/2024 English Football Premier League is done and dusted. It was a great season and finished with worthy winners, Manchester City, being crowned champions for the fourth consecutive year. This is the first time that such has ever been achieved! **(Tattler - Not so much the "noisy neighbours" anymore Sir Alex)**

Arsenal, a team that played great football all year but are just unfortunate that they have to compete against the Manchester juggernaut, were pipped by just 2 points and Liverpool finished 3rd some 9 points adrift. These 3 teams were definitely the pick of the bunch when considering the entire season.

Manchester City will lose their enigmatic Spanish Manager, Pep Guardiola when the season finishes (There remains the small matter of the FA Cup to be won).

Josep "Pep" Guardiola Sala (born 18 January 1971) is a Catalan professional football manager and former player from Spain. In his tenure as the "gaffer" at ManCity his team has annexed 5 Premier League Titles and the FA Cup twice. **(Tattler - watch this space, this article is being written prior to The FA Cup Final).**



(Photograph - Callum Davis)



(Photograph- Will Lancaster)

Manchester United did what many believed impossible and won the FA Cup subsequent to the original article. Well done to them!

Guardiola is also now the first manager ever to win what each country recognises as its most significant Treble twice, having previously done so with Barcelona in 2008/09. His 16 major titles since 2016 makes him the most successful manager in Europe's major leagues during that period. When his incredibly impressive stints with Barcelona and Bayern Munich are included, Guardiola has now claimed 38 major honours as a manager.

Tattler is certainly shy of the knowledge to perform any in-depth analysis of the season, but will raise a few questions none the less.

- 1) What is wrong with the other (more famous!) team from Manchester?
- 2) What caused Liverpool to fall off the pace?
- 3) What caused Chelsea's (too) late dash to 6th place?
- 4) Why did Spurs crash (to 5th place)?
- 5) Isn't it great to see one of the "lesser" teams, Aston Villa right up there (4th place)?

But back to City. There are (English) pundits and commentators suggesting that this team is now the best in the world. Possibly, although I am sure there are those in Milan, Paris, Madrid, Leverkusen and elsewhere in Europe who may argue, not to mention those little football nations of Brazil and Argentina!

Some are suggesting that the current crop is the best City have ever had. Hard to argue with players such as Haaland, de Bruyne, Phil Foden, Alvarez, Rodri and Silva in the squad.

Tattler - Congratulations to Pep and ManCity!



You think your dog can jump?

Okay, so which dog do you believe can really jump? Although a Greyhound has been recorded to execute the highest dog jump at 6ft and 3 inches, the **Belgian Malinois** has to be the jumping champion (and a lot more!).

Click image alongside to watch the video. Remember to look out for the “skip” counter on your screen once the video starts running as you can click on “skip” to get rid of the sometimes tedious ads.



The profound effect of the re-introduction of a species - Wolves in Yellowstone

After decades of absence, wolves were reintroduced in Yellowstone park. The results are astounding!

Click on the image alongside to watch how this unfolds:

Wolves are fascinating creatures with a rich history and complex behaviours.



Wolves live in packs, which are typically family groups consisting of a breeding pair (the alpha male and female), their offspring, and sometimes a few other unrelated wolves. The pack structure is essential for hunting and raising pups.

Wolves communicate using a variety of vocalizations, including howls, barks, growls, and whines. Howling helps to maintain pack cohesion, communicate with other packs, and can be used to assemble the pack before and after hunts.

Wolves are highly territorial animals. Packs defend their territory from other packs, which can lead to aggressive encounters. The size of a wolf pack's territory can range from 50 to over 1,000 square miles, depending on the availability of prey.

Wolves are carnivores and primarily hunt large ungulates such as deer, elk, and moose. They are also opportunistic feeders and will eat smaller mammals, birds, and even carrion when necessary. A single wolf can eat up to 20 pounds of meat in one meal.

Wolves use sophisticated hunting strategies that rely on teamwork and communication. They often chase prey to exhaustion or use their numbers to corner and overwhelm it. Pack hunting allows them to take down larger prey that would be difficult to kill alone.

Wolves are built for endurance and can travel long distances in search of food. They can run at speeds of up to 35 miles per hour for short distances and can maintain a steady pace of about 5 miles per hour for several hours.

Wolf pups are born blind and deaf and rely entirely on their mother and pack for survival. Pups start eating solid food regurgitated by adults at around three weeks old and are weaned by six to eight weeks. The entire pack participates in raising and protecting the pups.

The terms "alpha male" and "alpha female" are often misunderstood. In the wild, alpha wolves are simply the breeding pair, and their leadership is based more on familial bonds and less on dominance hierarchies seen in captivity.

Wolves are highly adaptable and can live in a variety of habitats, including forests, tundra, grasslands, and deserts. This adaptability has allowed them to inhabit diverse regions across the Northern Hemisphere.

Wolves are considered a keystone species because they have a significant impact on their environment. By controlling the populations of prey species, they help maintain a balanced ecosystem, which can lead to increased biodiversity.

Wolves have played a prominent role in human culture and mythology. They appear in folklore, literature, and art across many cultures, often symbolizing both positive traits like loyalty and negative traits like cunning.

While wolves were once widespread across the Northern Hemisphere, they have been extirpated from many areas due to habitat loss, hunting, and conflict with humans. Conservation efforts have helped to restore wolf populations in some regions, but they still face significant challenges.

Wolves have highly developed senses of smell, hearing, and vision. They can hear sounds up to six miles away in the forest and ten miles away in open terrain. Their sense of smell is 100 times better than that of humans, allowing them to detect prey and other wolves from great distances.

Wolves are remarkable animals that play a vital role in the ecosystems they inhabit. Their social structure, adaptability, and ecological importance make them a subject of great interest and admiration.

[Tattler – Inspired by the Wolf theme, Colette did a little research on Wolves in Literature.](#)

Wolves have long held a significant place in literature, symbolizing various aspects of human nature, culture, and the wilderness. Their portrayal ranges from menacing predators to noble creatures, reflecting humanity's complex relationship with nature. Wolves are represented across different literary traditions.

In Classic Literature, there are Aesop's Fables. Most of us are familiar with "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" This fable illustrates the consequences of lying, with the wolf representing danger and deceit. In "The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing" the fable uses the wolf to symbolize hidden threats and deception.

Inferno is the first part of Italian writer Dante Alighieri's 14th-century narrative poem The Divine Comedy. The Inferno describes the journey of a fictionalised version of Dante himself through Hell, guided by the ancient Roman poet Virgil. In The Divine Comedy, the wolf represents avarice and greed, encountered by Dante in the dark wood.

Fairy Tales feature wolves as well. In "Little Red Riding Hood" the wolf is a central antagonist, embodying predatory danger and cunning. The wolf in "The Three Little Pigs" represents relentless threat and destruction, ultimately defeated by cleverness and preparation.

Wolves appear in Shakespeare's works, often symbolizing betrayal, savagery, and the dark side of human nature, as seen in Julius Caesar and King Lear.

Romantic and Gothic Literature feature wolves. William Blake in his poetry often juxtaposes the wolf with innocence and experience, exploring the dual nature of humanity. In Bram Stoker's Dracula wolves are associated with the supernatural and the predatory nature of the vampire, reflecting the fears and fascination with the unknown.

A Modern and Contemporary favourite many of you might have read or even watched in film, is Jack London's The Call of the Wild and White Fang. Here, wolves and wolf-dogs symbolize the wild, untamed aspects of nature and the struggle for survival. London explores themes of instinct, survival, and the harsh realities of nature.

In Children's Literature we have Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book. The wolf pack in The Jungle Book embodies the values of family, loyalty, and the laws of nature, with Mowgli's story highlighting the balance between civilization and the wild.

Wolves in literature appear serve as powerful symbols and characters, reflecting the multifaceted relationship humans have with the natural world and our own inner natures. In conclusion, the common themes and symbols seem to be:

Danger and Fear: Often depicted as predators, wolves can symbolize immediate physical danger, as well as deeper fears and anxieties.

Wildness and Freedom: Wolves frequently represent the untamed and free aspects of nature, standing in contrast to human civilization.

Transformation and Duality: In werewolf myths and stories, wolves embody the dual nature of humanity, the conflict between our civilized and primal instincts.

Loyalty and Social Bonds: As pack animals, wolves also symbolize loyalty, family, and social structures.

Tattler – “talking wolf “is not done if we miss the opportunity to explore the origins ...of the “Wolf Whistle”.

The origins of the wolf whistle, a two-note whistle often used to express admiration or attraction, are somewhat murky and debated.

One common theory is that the wolf whistle originated from sailors. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, sailors used various whistles for communication on ships. One specific type was the "boatswain's call" or "bosun's whistle," which sailors used to signal each other. The two-note whistle might have been adapted by sailors to signal the presence of attractive women as ships docked in ports.

A further theory suggests that the term "wolf whistle" and the sound itself could be inspired by the howling or whistling noises wolves make, although this is more speculative. the direct link to the whistle humans use is less clear.

The wolf whistle became popularized in the mid-20th century, particularly through its use in cartoons and films. Characters like Tex Avery’s animated wolf in cartoons of the 1940s famously whistled at attractive female characters, reinforcing and popularizing the association of the whistle with sexual attraction and admiration.

The wolf whistle is also commonly associated with construction workers and labourers, who might have used the whistle to catch the attention of women passing by. This usage however, solidified the whistle's connotation with unsolicited attention.

In Summary, while the exact origins of the wolf whistle are not definitively established, it likely has roots in sailor communication and gained prominence through popular media and cultural practices. The wolf whistle is generally understood as a form of non-verbal communication associated with catcalling. While it might have originated in playful admiration, contemporary perspectives increasingly view it as problematic and disrespectful. The shifting cultural attitudes towards such behaviours reflect broader changes in how society understands and addresses gender dynamics and street harassment.

Tattler – anyone out there relating to this?

1978	2023
Long hair	Longing for hair
8 Tracks	Cataracts
KEGs	EKGs
Streaking	Leaking
Acid Rock	Acid Reflux
Seeds and stems	Fiber
Stayin' Alive (the song)	Stayin' Alive (the goal)
Hoping for a BMW	Hoping for a BM
Going to a new, hip joint	Getting a new hip joint
Rolling Stones	Kidney Stones
Bell bottoms	Big bottoms
Disco	Costco
Whatever	Depends
Rock n' roll all night	Sleep through the night
Think you know everything	Think you know your name

What was playing on your turntable 50 years ago?

The syrupy Stylistics?



Or the gentle Joni Mitchell?



Maybe the popular Cat Stevens



You may have preferred Earth Wind and Fire?



Or Three Dog Night



Music - Bonus Feature - A beautiful rendition of Procal Harum's "Whiter shade of Pale", the single that reached number 1 in the UK Singles Chart on 8 June 1967 and stayed there for six weeks. Click on the image to listen.



Procol Harum is a British rock band best known for their 1967 hit single "A Whiter Shade of Pale".

The name "Procol Harum" is often said to be derived from a friend's cat's pedigree name. However, the true origin is shrouded in mystery, with some accounts suggesting it might be a playful misspelling of the Latin phrase "Procul Harum," which means "Beyond these things."

"A Whiter Shade of Pale" was heavily influenced by Johann Sebastian Bach's music. The song's distinctive organ line was inspired by Bach's "Air on the G String" and "Sleepers Wake."

"A Whiter Shade of Pale" became a global phenomenon, selling over 10 million copies worldwide. It reached number one in the UK and several other countries.

The lyrics of "A Whiter Shade of Pale" are famously cryptic. Over the years, they have been interpreted in numerous ways, ranging from psychedelic visions to medieval imagery.

The cover of their debut album, "Procol Harum," features a mysterious woman who some fans believe to be the ghost of a Victorian lady.

Procol Harum has seen many changes in its lineup over the decades. The only constant member has been lead singer and pianist Gary Brooker. This revolving door of musicians has contributed to the band's evolving sound.

"A Whiter Shade of Pale" has been covered by numerous artists and translated into multiple languages.

Despite disbanding in 1977, Procol Harum reunited in 1991 and continued to perform and record new music. Their longevity in the music industry is a testament to their enduring appeal and influence.

Procol Harum has not been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, a point of contention among fans and music historians.

Club Matters

Club Manager's Report

Congratulations to our May winners

100 Club Draw

Mr C. Tosio – R300

R Adm A.G. Green (Ret) – R300

Lt Cdr G. Hammond (Ret) – R300

Capt V. Neilson (Ret) – 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.

Lt Cdr J.S. Meyer (Ret) – 01 June.

1926 - American motion-picture star Marilyn Monroe, who became a major sex symbol and cultural icon, was born in Los Angeles.

Mr A.R. Bullock – 02 June.

On this day in 1953, 27-year-old Elizabeth II, the elder daughter of King George VI, was crowned queen of the United Kingdom at Westminster Abbey, having taken the throne upon her father's death in February 1952.

Mr R.M. Beal – 03 June.

On this day in 1989, the Chinese government called in the military to put down a pro-democracy demonstration carried out by more than 100,000 people in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, resulting in hundreds of deaths.

Mr C.H. Ryan – 04 June.

In 1937 the world's first shopping carts were introduced at Humpty Dumpty grocery stores in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and in 1984 American musician Bruce Springsteen released Born in the U.S.A., which became one of his defining works.

Mr J. Caig – 08 June.

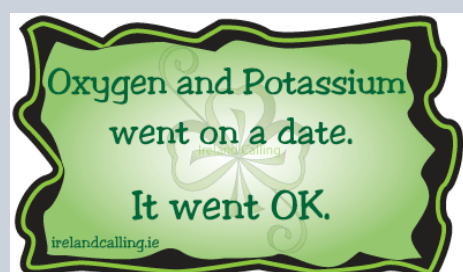
Believed to have been installed this day in 1504 in the cathedral of Florence was Michelangelo's statue of David, commissioned in 1501 and considered the prime statement of the Renaissance ideal of perfect humanity.

Mr T. Lutz – 14 June.

In 1800, Napoleon and his troops defeated the Austrians in the Battle of Marengo, securing his military and civilian authority in Paris.

Mr L.H.M. Dilley – 16 June.

On this day in 1963, Soviet cosmonaut Valentina V. Tereshkova became the first woman to travel in space, having been launched into orbit aboard the spacecraft Vostok 6, which completed 48 orbits in 71 hours.



TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louis, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand.....

Bithdays Continued...

Capt C.J. Moon (Ret) – 18 June.

John Weston, a civil engineer, began the construction of his own aeroplane in 1907 at Brandfort, in the Free State. This was the first SA built aeroplane. It is possible that John Weston based his design on a Voisin. He dismantled the aircraft and shipped it to France where he fitted a powerful Gnome rotary engine (50hp) and flew it successfully in 1910. On 16 June 1911 John Weston made the first flight in Kimberley establishing a South African non-stop flight record of eight-and-a-half minutes in his Weston-Farman biplane.

Cdr R. Strydom – 23 June.

1994 – South Africa readmitted to the United Nations.

Mr D.J. Pienaar – 23 June.

1961 - The Antarctic Treaty was enacted, reserving the entire continent for free and nonpolitical scientific investigation.

Lt Cdr J.R. Labuschagne – 27 June.

First minted in 1869, the yen was adopted as Japan's official monetary unit this day in 1871, when the government suspended the exchange of clan notes, money issued by feudal lords that had circulated since the 16th century.

V Adm PvZ Loedolff (Ret) – 29 June.

Marie Vogts was a botanist who specialised in the Protea plant. She obtained a PhD in 1971 with a thesis on autecology and a variation of the King Protea (*Protea Cynaroides*). She did extensive research on the Proteas in the Paarl Mountain Garden in her days as a lecturer at the Paarl Teachers' College. In her years in Gauteng, she pioneered Protea growing in the province. Vogts and her son moved to Betty's Bay where she established the experimental protea farm. The farm was later relocated to Tygerhoek.

Mr M. Le Grange – 29 June.

1976 - Air France A-300B Airbus hijacked from Athens arrives at Entebbe, Uganda.

We welcome the following new members to the club.

Mr Conradt Raffaello Martens, married to Hylet and resides in Fairfield Close, Fish Hoek. Con who is retired enjoys a game of snooker occasionally.

Mr John-Henry Smith and partner Frina Mink resides in Harbour Heights Simon's Town. John-Henrys interests include Fishing and History.

Aye, Glen

An old Doberman starts chasing rabbits and before long, discovers that he's lost. Wandering about, he notices a lion heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch. The old Doberman thinks, "Oh, oh! I'm in deep shit now!" Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the lion is about to leap, the old Doberman exclaims loudly,

"Boy, that was one delicious lion! I wonder, if there are any more around here?" Hearing this, the young lion halts his attack in mid-stride, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees. "Whew!," says the lion, "That was close! That old Doberman nearly had me!"

Meanwhile, a squirrel who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the lion. So, off he goes. The squirrel soon catches up with the lion, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the lion. The young lion is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!"

Now, the old Doberman sees the lion coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?," but instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old Doberman says "Where's that squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another lion!"

Moral of this story... Don't mess with the old dogs... Age and skill will always overcome youth and treachery! Bull Shit and brilliance only come with age and experience.

The monthly Seven Seas Quiz Night

The (second Wednesday of the month, as usual), May quiz took place on the 8th.

Five teams engaged in a friendly battle! There were several maximum scores (10 out of 10) during the evening. Some teams played their joker better than others! What encouraged the quizmasters was the post quiz mixing and chatting, an objective of getting cross- team socialising wonderfully met.

My thanks to our Manager Glen, our barman, Chris and our tech-man Doug for their work in ensuring another good night.

The winning Team (The Questionables!) is pictured here with their token prizes. Congratulations!



We remind members that our quiz is designed and run as a fun evening for members and their friends and family. Everybody is accommodated. Folk can come on their own, with a partner or a group. We assist in making up teams of four as best as possible. The June quiz will be held at 19h00 on the 12th. Come along and enjoy the camaraderie.

To whet your appetite, here is one of the May set of Questions, **Movies - famous lines/scenes:** ([Answers on the last page of Tattler](#))

- 1) Maria's joyful song, shot in Marktschellenberg, Germany, sets the stage for the rest of the movie, and Julie Andrews is an utter delight. Name the movie.
- 2) Name the movie which includes the door scene - This scene will live on in eternal debate about whether both of them could fit on the door.
- 3) "I'll have what she's having", Meg Ryan's fake orgasm scene, featured in which movie?
- 4) "I Am Your Father" is a famous line from which movie? (From a series - just the main title will do!).
- 5) The "you're gonna need a bigger boat" scene is from which movie?
- 6) Marilyn Monroe's original performance of "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" still lives on in fans' memories. Name the movie.
- 7) Clarice and Hannibal's first meeting is completely chilling. It's no wonder fans still try to creep each other out by reciting Anthony Hopkins' famous line, "Hello Clarice" is from which movie?
- 8) From which animated movie is the spaghetti scene? - Plenty of humans have tried to recreate the magic of the two pups enjoying their pasta together.
- 9) In this all-time great movie, Andy escapes by crawling through 500 yards of sh*t. The movie starred Tim Robbins (as Andy) and Morgan Freeman. Name it.
- 10) Which actor uttered "You talking to me?" in the movie, Taxi Driver.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns, contact one of the hosts, Euan Smith, Doug Law-Brown or Jonathan Golding (euansmith@gmail.com, dougl@icon.co.za, jonathanagolding@gmail.com) who will happily apprise you of the details

Tattler – We have since inception encouraged submissions from yourselves, anecdotes, photographs, your travels stories, experiences at sea; basically anything you consider would be of interest to your fellow club members. This month we publish the following contribution from Euan Smith and have encouraged him to “keep it coming”!

Dispatches from Europe

The myth of the jelly doughnut and more
(By Club Member, Euan Smith)

On June 26th 1963 United States President John F. Kennedy gave a famous speech in West Berlin in which he stated twice “Ich bin ein Berliner!” I grew up in the sure understanding that this was a faux pas of the worst kind in that whilst trying to show off his understanding of the German people and pledge his kinship to them he had in fact described himself as a local form of doughnut. This has no doubt amused many schoolboys over the years but as I sat outside a little café on the always too small chair next to a similarly tiny table in the early may sunshine of the leafy Berlin avenue called “Unter den Linden” very close to the spot he had delivered these words, I decided that I needed to be sure of my references and I looked it up.

It is in fact apocryphal. In the same way that a Swiss Roll is not known as that in Switzerland, a “Berliner” in the doughnut sense is only known as that outside Berlin. So JFK’s audience would not have misunderstood his claim to have joined their ranks. [\(Tattler - The Kennedy speech is recognised as one of his finest. It is not true that residents of Berlin in 1963 would have mainly understood the word "Berliner" to refer to a jelly doughnut or that the audience laughed at Kennedy's use of this expression – if nothing else because this type of doughnut is called "Pfannkuchen" \(literally: Pan cake\) in Berlin and the word "Berliner" is only used outside of Berlin.\)](#)

Having just arrived on the train from Warsaw I was enjoying the lovely café ambiance and watching life pass by before stepping onto one of the clean, efficient and frequent trains that make up part of the Berlin public transport system. Best of all though are the trams which also provide a relaxed view of the city as they rumble through the streets.



Today Berlin is a cosmopolitan city full of tourists from around the world and busy locals going about their business. I felt, however, a subtle tension emanating from the city’s tumultuous recent history. The 20th century saw the Nazi’s burning of the Reichstag, although they blamed the communists and used this as an excuse to eliminate many of these rivals for power, the carpet bombing of the city by allied forces and then, following WWII, the division of the city into four sectors. The East Germans and Russians then built the infamous wall of which some sections can still be seen today. The famous Checkpoint Charlie is now more of a tourist trap than a memorial with a McDonalds restaurant opposite it at the side of the road it once guarded. The remaining sections have been treated in very different ways. One section has been given over to talented graffiti artists and their designs have become world famous whilst another is the site of the “museum of terror” which details in the open air along the wall the depravities of the 20th century and man’s inhumanity to man. A sobering experience.



All this being said I felt relaxed and welcomed in this city. It allows for quiet reflection whilst tempting with the promise of pleasures yet to be discovered. On our last morning before returning to Poland I arose early and went in search of my favourite breakfast rolls which only the Germans seem to be able to make. I found a small corner bakery and made my purchase whilst exercising my schoolboy German as best I could before heading back towards the hotel.

On my way I spotted a promising shortcut which annoyingly turned out to be taking me into a secluded graveyard with no other exit. As I retraced my steps I began to read the names on the memorials and then to my astonishment came across one simple rough stone with the name Bertolt Brecht.

This son of Augsburg died in 1956 in East Berlin as it then was. A confirmed Marxist he struggled with the theory of epic theatre and his life of persecution perhaps reflects the ebb and flow of the city as it was washed by the tides of war both hot and cold. His books were burned by the Nazis and he was expelled from America, accused of un-American activities. He was awarded prizes in Russia and triumphed in Paris Theatre in the same year. All this I also had to look up as whilst I knew his name I was not sure of his pedigree.



Berlin was, and still is, full of the undiscovered.



The Tattler editor has requested that I follow this up with further "dispatches" in the future - watch this space for a little on the beautiful Poland.

Maritime and Naval / Military - Stories, News and Sport

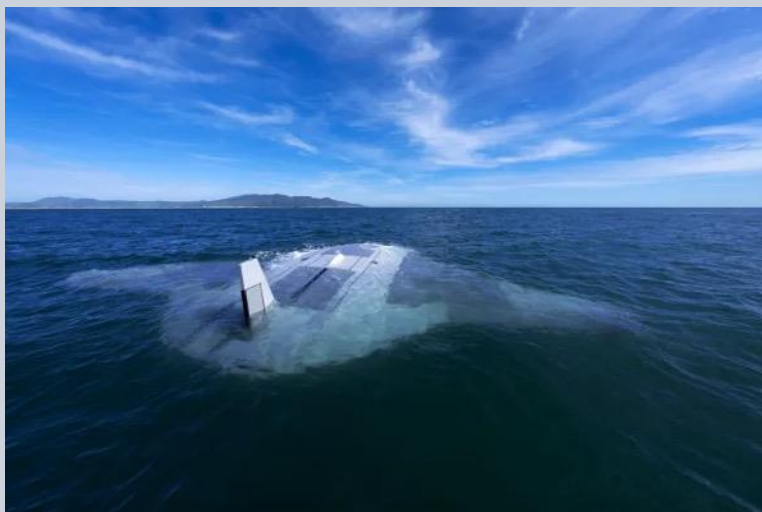
Some more science fiction? Introducing the Manta Ray - A STEALTH sub drone

Source: Maritime Technology

(Photograph - The US Sun)

DARPA Unveils Manta Ray, Uncrewed Extended Duration Undersea Vessel.

Borrowing a page from 1960s science fiction programming, officials at DARPA (the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) released the first pictures of Manta Ray, an in-development extended duration uncrewed undersea vehicle (UUV). They confirmed that contractor Northrop Grumman completed full-scale, in-water testing in February and March and that further testing is continuing on an energy harvesting system developed by PacMar Technologies.



The government confirmed the program had begun in 2020 and at the end of 2021 awarded Phase 2 contracts to perform subsystem testing followed by fabrication and in-water demonstrations of full-scale integrated vehicles.

The concept is for a new class of long-duration, long-range, payload-capable UUV. Describing the objectives DARPA said Manta Ray should be able to operate independently of manned vessels and ports once deployed. The goal is to have an independent system that would operate for extended durations without humans providing logistical support or maintenance.

Researchers highlighted a broad range of challenges for the program ranging from energy management to the ability to harvest undersea energy. The vessel needs to have low-power high-efficiency undersea propulsion as well as low-power systems to detect hazards or threats. They also face more basic challenges of biofouling, corrosion, and material degradation during long-duration missions.

“Our successful, full-scale Manta Ray testing validates the vehicle’s readiness to advance toward real-world operations after being rapidly assembled in the field from modular subsections,” said Dr Kyle Woerner, DARPA program manager for Manta Ray. “The combination of cross-country modular transportation, in-field assembly, and subsequent deployment demonstrates a first-of-kind capability for an extra-large UUV.” They highlighted that Northrop Grumman shipped the prototype in subsections to the test location in Southern California. They said this demonstrates the ease of shipping, and that assembly supports the possibility of rapid deployment throughout the world.

DARPA’s Woerner said “Once deployed, the vehicle uses efficient, buoyancy-driven gliding to move through the water. The craft is designed with several payload bays of multiple sizes and types to enable a wide variety of naval mission sets.”

PacMar Technologies conducted tests off Hawaii last fall. They verified sensors, vehicle hydrodynamic performance, and key autonomy behaviour. DARPA said it now engaging with the U.S. Navy on the next steps for testing and transition of this technology.

HD Hyundai Displays Prototype: USV Combining Autonomous Navigation and AI

Source: *Maritime Executive*



HD Hyundai released a concept for a stealth USV that combines autonomous navigation and AI. Photo: HD Hyundai South Korean shipbuilder HD Hyundai unveiled its first prototype for its entry into the emerging uncrewed surface vessel (USV) market. It comes as the shipbuilder looks to develop new high-value markets leveraging its autonomous navigation technologies and is also targeting expanded roles in naval shipbuilding.

Called Tenebris the company showed the prototype at a tradeshow in Washington D.C. along with its new partner Palantir, a U.S.-based leader in applications of AI technology. HD Hyundai and Palantir announced a joint development agreement just a month ago for the USV market. At the time, they said the goal was to have their first vessel, designed for reconnaissance operations, on the market by 2026.

They point to the anticipated strong growth in the USV segment. Hyundai cited data that said it was nearly a \$1 billion market in 2022 and within a decade could reach \$2.7 billion. While the market is growing quickly, they contend that previously developed USVs are difficult to operate in rough environments such as high waves.

They said the intent is to combine autonomous navigation software from HD Hyundai's subsidiary Avicus with Palantir's Mission Autonomy system which deploys AI. Palantir they report is considered to be an AI leader with the U.S. Department of Defense, Navy, and Army already customers.

Tenebris is designed for reconnaissance missions where the enemy is nearby. The prototype design is for a vessel 17 meters (approximately 56 feet) in length. It would have a light displacement of 14 tons and combine autonomous navigation and AI capabilities. It uses a high-performance hull. The concept is to replace manned vessels to perform surveillance and reconnaissance in dangerous areas. It could be used for mine searching and removal as well as other combat tasks.

HD Hyundai continues to work on the design to maximize the seaworthiness and range of the vessel. The goal is to ensure smooth and uninterrupted operations regardless of the sea conditions. They are also looking to enhance the vessel's speed, payload, and stealth capacity.

The business plan calls for expanding the applicability of the USV. A second offering would be a combat USV.

Beauty and Brains : Hedwig Kiesler: The Life and Legacy of Hedy Lamarr

Source: Various

Tattler – you're probably wondering what a story with this title is doing in our Maritime and Naval history section. There is a link believe it or not. I read a story on Hedy Lamarr which became more intriguing when I discovered her earlier identity as Hedwig Eva Kiesler. Enjoy the read!

In 1933, a beautiful young Austrian woman named Hedwig Kiesler took off her clothes for a movie director. She ran through the woods naked and swam in a lake, also naked, pushing well beyond the social norms of the period. This scene was part of the film *Ecstasy*, which became notorious for its daring content. While *King Kong* was the most popular movie of 1933, everyone in Hollywood was talking about *Ecstasy* and its gorgeous star. Louis B. Mayer of the giant studio MGM proclaimed her "the most beautiful woman in the world." The film was banned practically everywhere, which, of course, made it even more popular and valuable. Mussolini reportedly refused to sell his copy at any price .

Early Years

Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler was born on November 9, 1914, in Vienna, Austria, to a prominent Jewish family. Her father, Emil Kiesler, was a successful banker, and her mother, Gertrud, a pianist. Growing up, Hedy was a math prodigy and excelled in science, displaying a keen intellect from an early age. Her father's discussions about technology and her mother's artistic influence shaped Hedy's dual interests in the arts and sciences .

Rise to Stardom

The scandal of *Ecstasy* catapulted Hedy into the spotlight. Despite the controversy, or perhaps because of it, she became a subject of fascination. However, her personal life in Austria was far from glamorous. At 19, Hedy married Friedrich Mandl, one of Austria's wealthiest men and a leading arms manufacturer. Mandl was controlling and used Hedy as a showpiece at his opulent dinners with Austrian, Italian, and German fascists, including Hitler and Mussolini. Although she appeared to play the part of the subservient wife, Hedy absorbed the technical discussions around her, particularly those about radio-controlled missiles and torpedoes .

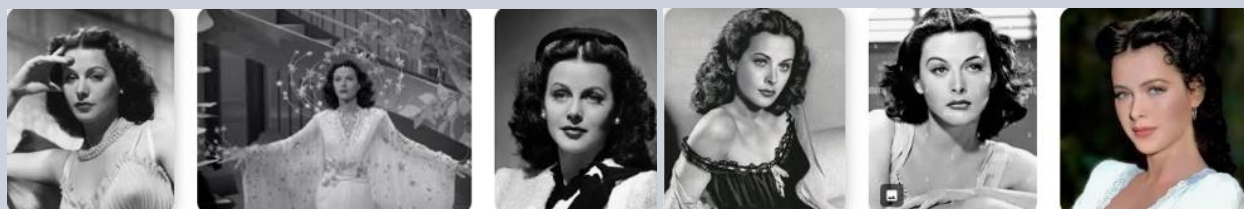
Escape from Austria

As a Jewish woman, Hedy despised the Nazis and loathed her husband's business dealings with them. Determined to escape her gilded cage, she made a daring bid for freedom in 1937. She drugged her maid, disguised herself in the maid's clothes, and fled to Paris, selling her jewellery to finance her escape. From Paris, she made her way to London. She got out just in time—by 1938, Germany had annexed Austria, and Mandl's factory was seized by the Nazis due to his partial Jewish heritage .

Hollywood and Transformation

In London, Hedy arranged a meeting with Louis B. Mayer, who was scouting European talent for Hollywood. Mayer, captivated by her beauty and intrigued by her story, offered her a contract with MGM. He also suggested she change her name to Hedy Lamarr to distance herself from her scandalous past. Under this new identity, Hedy became one of Hollywood's brightest stars .

Hedy's debut in Hollywood came with the film *Algiers* (1938), where her allure captivated audiences. She starred in a series of successful films, including *Boom Town* (1940) alongside Clark Gable, and the biblical epic *Samson and Delilah* (1949), which became the highest-grossing film of its year. Her beauty was her calling card, but her intellect remained her most powerful, albeit hidden, asset.



She appeared in more than 20 films. Each of her first seven MGM movies was a blockbuster. But Kiesler cared far more about fighting the Nazis than about making movies. She was known to “devour” scientific journals and articles between film takes.

The Inventor

During World War II, Hedy's memories of the technical discussions at her ex-husband's dinners inspired her to contribute to the war effort. At the height of her fame, in 1942, she developed a new kind of communications system, optimized for sending coded messages that couldn't be "jammed." She was building a system that would allow torpedoes and guided bombs to always reach their targets. She was building a system to kill Nazis.

By the 1940s, both the Nazis and the Allied forces were using the kind of single frequency radio-controlled technology Kiesler's ex-husband had been peddling. The drawback of this technology was that the enemy could find the appropriate frequency and "jam" or intercept the signal, thereby interfering with the missile's intended path.

Kiesler's key innovation was to "change the channel." It was a way of encoding a message across a broad area of the wireless spectrum. If one part of the spectrum was jammed, the message would still get through on one of the other frequencies being used. The problem was, she could not figure out how to synchronize the frequency changes on both the receiver and the transmitter. To solve the problem, she turned to a friend and “techno-musician”, George Anthiel and they incorporated Anthiel’s technology for synchronizing his player pianos.

In 1942, the co-invented frequency-hopping spread spectrum technology designed to make radio-guided torpedoes harder for enemies to detect and jam, received U.S. Patent No. 2,292,387 registered to Anthiel and Hedy Kiesler Markey (her married name at the time).

Although the U.S. Navy initially overlooked their invention, preferring simpler methods, the principles behind frequency-hopping spread spectrum would later become fundamental to modern wireless communication technologies, including Bluetooth and Wi-Fi and used to this day. Decades after her death, Hedy was finally recognized for her contributions to science, earning a place in the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2014.

You are probably using Lamarr’s technology, too. Her patent sits at the foundation of "spread spectrum technology," which you use every day when you log on to a wi-fi network or make calls with your Bluetooth-enabled phone. It lies at the heart of the massive investments being made right now in so-called fourth-generation "LTE" wireless technology. This next generation of cell phones and cell towers will provide tremendous increases to wireless network speed and quality, by spreading wireless signals across the entire available spectrum. This kind of encoding is only possible using the kind of frequency switching that Hedwig Kiesler invented.

Personal Life and Legacy

Hedy's personal life was as tumultuous as her career was illustrious. She was married six times, each marriage ending in divorce. Her husbands included screenwriter Gene Markey, actor John Loder, and nightclub owner Teddy Stauffer. Despite her rocky romantic life, Hedy had three children: James, Denise, and Anthony .

Hedy claimed the secret to her beauty was "to stand there and look stupid," a statement that belied her profound intelligence. She was an avid swimmer and credited the sport with helping her think through her inventions. Hedy's interest in technology was nurtured by her father, who encouraged her curiosity about how things worked. In her later years, Hedy withdrew from public life, becoming reclusive. She spent her final years in Florida, apparently obsessed with plastic surgery, passing away on January 19, 2000, at the age of 85.

Titanic - Jenny the Cat

Source: *Strangeworld*



The story of Jenny the Titanic cat and Jim from Ireland is a touching and intriguing part of the Titanic's history. It offers a glimpse into the everyday lives of those on board and the small yet significant ways animals impacted their experiences.

Jenny was the ship's cat (mascot), on the RMS Titanic, transferred from the RMS Olympic. Ship's cats were essential for controlling rodent populations on board and providing companionship to the crew.

Jim Mulholland was a 17-year-old Irishman from Belfast who worked as a stoker on the Titanic. Stokers were responsible for shovelling coal into the ship's boilers, a gruelling and dirty job. Jim's connection to Jenny is said to have formed during the ship's construction and early days at sea. She lived in the ship's galley and was cared for by Jim.

During the sea trials, Jenny gave birth to kittens and Jim found them a comfortable place next to the ship's galley. Caring for the mother cat and her kittens broke up the monotony of Jim's work preparing the Titanic for sailing. Jenny seemed content with her warm place near the boilers, her babies, and the kitchen scraps that Jim brought her.

As the story goes, Jenny exhibited unusual behaviour before the Titanic set sail on its maiden voyage. She reportedly moved her kittens off the ship while it was docked at Southampton. Some accounts suggest that Jenny's actions were seen as a bad omen by the superstitious crew.

Jim watched her carefully and realized that "this cat must know something that no one else does!". Witnessing Jenny's behaviour and possibly heeding the superstitions surrounding it, Jim Mulholland decided to leave the Titanic. It's said that he made a last-minute decision to disembark before the ship left Southampton, possibly saving his life.

Years later, Irish Road published Jenny's story after a journalist spoke to a very old man - Jim, who told the story.

He survived thanks to the cat and her kittens who warned him.

Sadly, though, most records seem to suggest Jenny died along with her kittens aboard the Titanic.

This month in History - June 1974

50 years ago

General

1 June - The magazine Emergency Medicine published "Pop Goes the Cafe Coronary", an informal article by thoracic surgeon Henry Heimlich, describing the effective use of abdominal thrusts to dislodge an object blocking an airway to save a person choking on food. [Tattler - In 2016 He used the technique to save a woman. He said he had demonstrated the technique many times but never used it in an emergency. His action dislodged a piece of meat with a bone in it from the 87-year-old woman's airway. "I didn't know I really could do it until the other day," he told the BBC!](#)

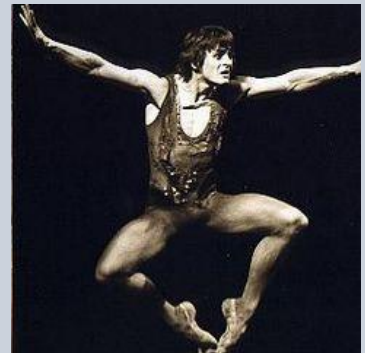
3 June - After a 40-day minesweeping operation, the U.S. Navy command office at Ismailia declared that the Suez Canal had been cleared of all active mines.

13 June - In his capacity as Earl of Chester, Prince Charles, the future King Charles III of the United Kingdom, delivered his first speech in the House of Lords, becoming the first royal to speak from the floor of the House since Albert, Duke of Saxony, the future King Edward VII, had spoken in 1884.

20 June - The United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, largest international meeting in history up to that time, based on the number of nations participating, was opened Caracas in Venezuela by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

27 June - Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev welcomed U.S. President Richard Nixon to Moscow for the third summit between the two leaders, and then hosted him at a banquet at the Kremlin, where the two raised toasts to their personal friendship and for reaching detente between the two superpowers.

29 June - Soviet ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov defected while the Bolshoi Ballet tour was in Toronto, Canada, and requested political asylum in Canada.



Sport

8 June - At a wet and muddy Newlands the Springboks were defeated 12-3, the first Lions victory at that venue since 1938.

9 June - Jody Scheckter won the 1974 Swedish Grand Prix at the Scandinavian Raceway. (See photo).



11 June - England beat India in the first test by 113 runs.

16 June - The 1974 24 Hours of Le Mans ended in a third consecutive victory for French drivers Henri Pescarolo and Gérard Larrousse.

16 June - American golfer Hale Irwin won the U.S. Open tournament at Mamaroneck, New York, by two strokes.

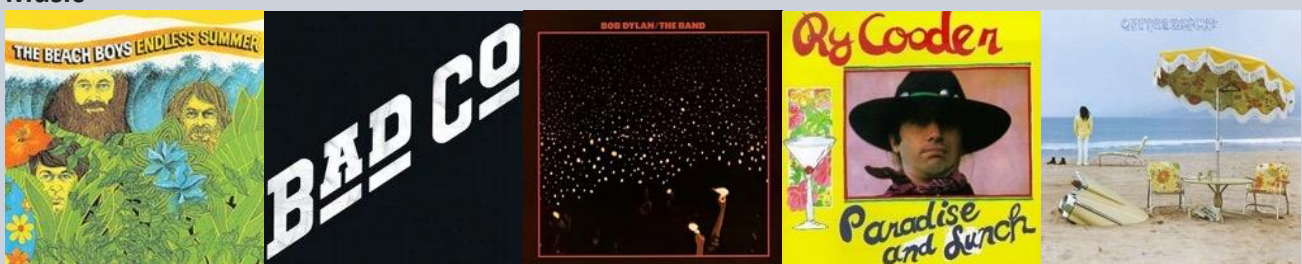
22 June - Against the Springboks, the Lions were dominant, winning the second test 28-9 in front of a shocked crowd to go up 2-0 in the series. (See comments and photograph below).

24 June - England thumped India by an innings and 285 runs in the second test. Amiss, Denness and Tony Greig all got centuries. Old took 9 wickets. In their second innings India was skittled for 42 all out!

22 June Test / Lions v Springboks 2nd test - The Lions hit the ground running, with legendary speed merchant JJ Williams crossing in each corner for two early tries, with Bennett converting the second. A Gerald Bosch drop-goal was the only reply for the South Africans. And the Lions continued their dominance into the second period, their pack in particular controlling their opposite numbers. Fly-half Bennett, as part of a virtuoso display, scored a scintillating try when he danced through the Springboks defence and crossed the whitewash. Milliken and Brown also crashed over for the Lions, with Bennett adding three points from the tee and McGeechan landing a drop goal. Bosch hit two penalties for the hosts, but they were truly outplayed and outmuscled on the day.



Music



Movies



Chinatown is a 1974 neo-noir mystery film directed by Roman Polanski, featuring Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway, and John Huston. The screenplay, crafted by Robert Towne, is frequently lauded for its intricate plotting and rich character development, reflecting a critical perspective on the corruption and moral decay of 1930s Los Angeles.

Set against the backdrop of a drought-stricken Los Angeles in 1937, the narrative centres on J.J. "Jake" Gittes (Jack Nicholson), a private investigator specializing in matrimonial cases. Gittes is approached by a woman purporting to be Evelyn Mulwray, who suspects her husband, Hollis Mulwray, the chief engineer of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, of infidelity. As Gittes delves into the case, he uncovers a complex web of deceit involving the city's water supply.

Hollis Mulwray is soon found dead, an apparent drowning, though Gittes suspects foul play. The real Evelyn Mulwray (Faye Dunaway) then confronts Gittes, revealing that the initial client was an imposter. Gittes' investigation leads him to uncover a massive conspiracy involving the manipulation of the city's water supply to drive up land values in the San Fernando Valley, orchestrated by powerful interests.



The plot thickens as Gittes discovers the involvement of Noah Cross (John Huston), Evelyn's father, a ruthless and influential figure seeking to expand his wealth and control. The film's climax reveals deeply buried family secrets and the extent of Cross's manipulative reach.

"Chinatown" employs classic film noir elements, including a morally ambiguous protagonist, a femme fatale, and a pervasive sense of cynicism and fatalism. The film is distinguished by its meticulous attention to period detail, Polanski's adept direction, and the atmospheric cinematography by John A. Alonzo, which utilizes muted colour palettes and shadowy compositions to enhance the narrative's dark, foreboding tone.

Upon its release, "Chinatown" was met with critical acclaim, particularly for its screenplay, direction, and performances. It received eleven Academy Award nominations, winning Best Original Screenplay for Robert Towne. The film is frequently cited as one of the greatest films ever made, noted for its narrative complexity and thematic depth.

The film's portrayal of corruption, both personal and institutional, resonates profoundly, offering a scathing critique of the American Dream.

The Parallax View is a 1974 political thriller directed by Alan J. Pakula and based on the 1970 novel of the same name by Loren Singer. The film stars Warren Beatty as Joe Frady, an investigative journalist who becomes entangled in a complex and dangerous conspiracy.

The movie begins with the assassination of a prominent U.S. senator atop the Space Needle in Seattle. Witnesses to the assassination begin dying under mysterious circumstances, leading to speculation that there is more to the story than a lone gunman. Three years later, another reporter, Lee Carter (Paula Prentiss), who witnessed the assassination, contacts Frady, claiming she is being pursued and fears for her life. Frady is initially sceptical but becomes convinced after she dies under suspicious circumstances.

Frady embarks on an investigation that leads him to uncover a secretive organization known as the Parallax Corporation. This corporation specializes in recruiting and training political assassins. Posing as a potential recruit, Frady infiltrates Parallax and discovers the extent of their operations, which involve identifying individuals with sociopathic tendencies and manipulating them into becoming assassins.

As Frady delves deeper, he realizes that he is in over his head and that powerful forces are at play, determined to eliminate anyone who poses a threat to their agenda. The film's tension escalates as Frady attempts to gather evidence and expose the conspiracy. His efforts culminate in a climactic sequence where he narrowly escapes several assassination attempts.

"The Parallax View" explores themes of paranoia, political corruption, and the erosion of trust in governmental institutions. It is part of Pakula's "Paranoia Trilogy," which includes "Klute" (1971) and "All the President's Men" (1976).

Upon its release, "The Parallax View" received mixed reviews but has since gained a reputation as a classic of 1970s cinema, noted for its gripping narrative and stylistic innovation. Warren Beatty's performance, the film's direction, and its commentary on political power and manipulation have been particularly praised.



And, 100 years back (June 1924)

9 June - The two unbeaten teams of the Olympic soccer football championship, Uruguay (4 wins, no draws or losses) faced Switzerland (3 wins, 1 draw, no losses) before 40,522 fans at the Olympic Stadium in Colombes. Uruguay won, 3 to 0 for the championship and the gold medal.

12 June - The largest train robbery in American history, based on adjusted value of the money taken, took place as the Newton Gang carried out the robbery of the express mail train number 57 of the Milwaukee Road. The train was stopped by the robbers while it was carrying out its "Fast Mail" service. The amount of cash and bonds taken was more than three million dollars (similar to \$54.3 million in 2024).

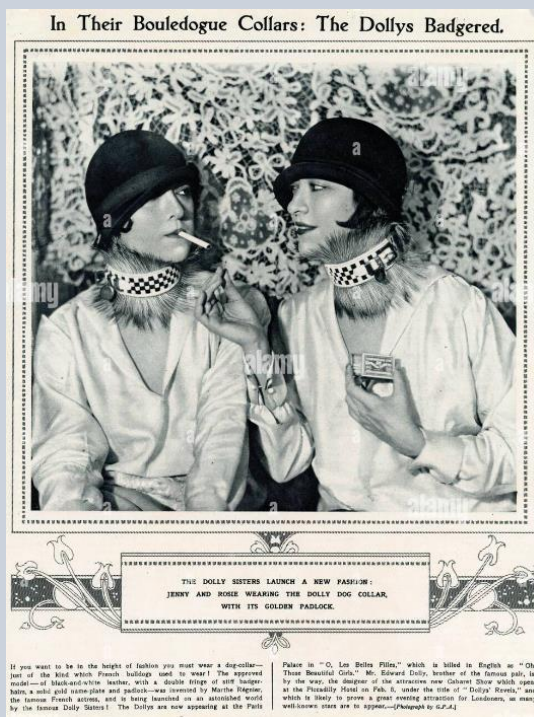


Imager of the Newton Gang



23 June - U.S. Army First Lieutenant Russell Maughan successfully made the first dawn-to-dusk transcontinental flight across the United States, landing in San Francisco at 9:46 in the evening local time, one minute before sundown, after having departed earlier on the same day from Long Island near Garden City, New York at 3:58 in the morning local time.

29 June - Studded leather collars were reported as the latest fad in women's fashion in Paris.



30 June - J. B. M. Hertzog took office as the new Prime Minister of South Africa.

Tattler – Laughs

Endless Debate Resolved?

I mowed the lawn today, and after doing so I sat down and had a cold beer.

The day was really quite beautiful, and the drink facilitated some deep thinking.

My wife walked by and asked me what I was doing, and I said, "Nothing."

The reason I said "nothing" instead of saying "just thinking" is because she then would have asked, "About what?"

At that point I would have had to explain that men are deep thinkers about various topics, which would lead to other questions.

Finally I pondered an age old question: Is giving birth more painful than getting kicked in the nuts?

Women always maintain that giving birth is way more painful than a guy getting kicked in the nuts, but how could they know?

Well, after another beer, and some more heavy deductive thinking, I have come up with an answer to that question.

Getting kicked in the nuts is more painful than having a baby, and even though I obviously couldn't really know, here is the reason for my conclusion:

A year or so after giving birth, a woman will often say, "It might be nice to have another child."

But you never hear a guy say, "You know, I think I would like another kick in the nuts."

I rest my case. Time for another beer. Then maybe a nap



Video humour - A bit more from Billy! (Beware - Many profanities!)



Poor instructions



NASA is launching a satellite to say sorry to the aliens.

They're calling it the Apollo G.



May quiz answers

- 1) The Sound of Music
- 2) Titanic
- 3) When Harry met Sally
- 4) Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back
- 5) Jaws
- 6) Gentlemen prefer blondes
- 7) Silence of the lambs
- 8) The Lady and the Tramp
- 9) The Shawshank Redemption
- 10) Robert de Niro

That's it for this month folks!