



Welcome to our February edition!

This month we feature more incredible engineering and design in our series on roads and bridges. On the sport front, we feature the best of the lock forwards, another bumper football contribution and learn the back story to New Years Day test matches at Newlands. Ever wondered just how uncomfortable it might be driving a formal 1 race car and being the gunner on a B17 bomber? Keep turning the pages and you will soon find out!

In addition to our normal history section, Manager's input and cartoons, we are also pleased to have a "Classifieds" section, which allows members to market their companies and non-members to do similar for a small donation.

We hope you find items of interest, acquire some knowledge and have a laugh or two.

A girl who changes her hair is about to change her life
Coco Chanel

CLASSIFIEDS



MORRISONS
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- ✦ Jewellery valuations
- ✦ Jewellery design services
- ✦ Advice on repurposing or selling jewellery
- ✦ Pearl restringing
- ✦ Jewellery Council of SA member

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Click image above to launch the website.

Advertisement submitted by Peta-Anne van der Walt (nee Morrison), married to Club Member Eugene van der Walt.



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- Simple interface
- Big buttons
- Extra loud
- SOS button
- Drop-in charger
- Speed dial

Supports WhatsApp Calls & SMS

www.phoneforelderly.co.za - Tel: 083 226 6899

Click image about to launch the website.

Advertisement submitted by Club Member Eugene van der Walt.

CLASSIFIEDS Cont.

The advertisement for Prime Waste Solutions features a teal background with a collage of waste removal images. At the top, the company name 'Prime Waste Solutions' is written in large, bold letters, with the tagline 'Your Waste, Our Solution' below it. A row of three photos shows various waste removal scenarios: a residential yard with debris, a construction site with rubble, and a pile of household appliances. Below these photos, two columns list services and reasons to choose the company. The bottom of the ad includes a phone number and an email address, each preceded by its respective icon.

Prime Waste Solutions
"Your Waste, Our Solution"

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE

- HOUSE HOLD REMOVALS
- GARDEN WASTE REMOVALS
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- HOARDING CLEAN UP AND REMOVALS
- APPLIANCE RECYCLING
- DONATION SERVICES
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WHY CHOOSE US

- FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING
- ECO-FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS
- CUSTOMER FOCUSED APPROACH
- COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

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"Transform Your Space with Prime Waste Solutions"

At Prime Waste Solutions, we specialize in efficient and eco-friendly waste removal tailored to meet your needs. Whether it's residential, or construction waste, our team ensures a professional experience from start to finish.

Why choose Prime Waste Solutions?

- ✓ We are a reliable service.
- ✓ Competitive, transparent pricing.
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Let us help you create a cleaner, more organized space. Contact us today for a quote!

📞 Call us at: (084 443 7080)

✉️ Email us: (keanuhemmings5@gmail.com)

Editorial

"Wow" Photograph!

(Taken from "I Thought it was a normal picture")



April 1985, 50,000 feet over the Irish Sea, this is the only picture ever taken of a Concorde flying over Mach 2. The photo itself was taken by Adrian Meredith, a prestigious British photographer, from a Panavia Tornado, a British fighter of the Royal Air Force. Meredith had to be quick and precise, because flying that high he had less than 4 mins to take the shot. The fighter couldn't keep up with the Concorde beyond that time. If you look at the horizon, the Earth's curvature begins to show

FYI - With what a top rugby player needs to deal during a game

(Extract from an article in "Plague of Strength")

"Muscle is a rugby player's body armour. Its primary purpose on the pitch is for protection. In a typical test match, players will cover on average 9km while absorbing collisions comparable to car crashes. According to the game's performance scientists, a player should expect more than 400 impacts greater than 9G per match and around 30 greater than 13G. To put that in context, a space shuttle launch generates 3G "

Rugby Lock forwards - our best?

Tattler previously had a piece on loose forwards. This month we look at the second-row forwards.

In our opinion the following are the best to have represented the Springboks since 1960 (Since I started really watching them!)

Avril Malan

Frik du Preez

Jon Williams

Kevin de Klerk

Moaner van Heerden

Louis Moolman

Hennie Bekker

Mark Andrews

Krynauw Otto

Victor Matfield

Bakkies Botha

Andries Bekker (son of Hennie)

Eben Etzebeth

Franco Mostert

RG Snyman



Fifteen awesome forwards. Many big names have already been omitted. Some played too few games, others played both lock and flank, but I am sure that most would agree that these 15 belong at (or near?) the top 15!

Then the fun began. The age-old view that one cannot compare players from different eras is acknowledged, but then such an exercise would be completely futile.

Cutting the list down to 6 meant eliminating 9. Here there will be many different opinions, but I pressed ahead and reduced it to these players.

Frik du Preez

Louis Moolman

Mark Andrews

Victor Matfield

Bakkies Botha

Eben Etzebeth

At this stage there is the question of recognising that there are number 4 locks and their number 5 counterparts. I have attempted to take this into account when I select my top 2 which are Eben and Victor. This required omitting Frik, our player of the century and Bakkies, the famous (infamous?) "enforcer" But choosing our most capped all-round superstar partnered by the man he replaced (most caps), the absolute king of lineouts, was my privilege.



Football Corner

The arrival of the 2025 instalment of the EPL had two marquee games both of which involved a faltering, hapless Manchester United. After suffering an ignominious disassembling at the hands of Newcastle, United were billeted to play Liverpool at Anfield in a league clash and Arsenal at the Emirates in a fourth round FA Cup tie. A benighted ex Liverpool player and opiniated pundit had suggested that United looked no better than a youth team against the Toon.

Anfield was packed to the rafters as the faithful waited for the enemy to enter the storied arena like lambs to the slaughter. The anthem was sung with gusto and feeling, an opportunity to humiliate the old enemy was an enticing outcome. Slot indulged the atmosphere with the hint of a satisfied smirk. The scene was set.

When a team has it's back to the wall and all the knowing pundits believe all that is possible is a wing and a prayer it is a powerful motivator. United tore into Liverpool with maniacal gusto, there was to be no opportunity for their opponents to set the tempo and pace of the game. The measured build up and comfortable rhythm that is the Liverpool way was disrupted by ferocious gang tackling which in turn meant that inviting the press was not a realistic option. The danger of the United strategy was a vulnerability to a swift counterattack and a ball over the top. There was also the question of how long United could maintain the intensity and commitment their approach required.

A smashing goal from Martinez opened the scoring for United the second half of a frenetic pulsating game, with the excellent Gapko responding with a well taken goal a few minutes later. A needless penalty with twenty minutes to go saw the irrepressible little Egyptian Salah convert another expertly taken penalty. Was that to be the coup de grace? United's best player this season had other ideas. A fine finish by the crafty little fellow Amad Diallo equalled proceedings and the fiercely contested game ended with Maguire facing an open goal blasting the ball high and wide and a memorable game ended in a two all draw. Liverpool always looked the team with more craft and finesse, but the dogged persistence of the United defence coupled to brave offensive forays never allowed the home team to play with the tempo and shape that produces their best football.

Next up for United was a fourth round FA Cup tie against Arsenal at the Emirates. Once again United arrived as rank outsiders against a Gunners team who are making a serious assault on league honours this season. Arsenal dominated possession with 70% of the ball, had 26 shots at goal against a paltry 7 from United and made more than twice the completed passes their opponents could muster. What this statistical resume does not reveal is the commitment and bloody mindedness with which United defended their eighteen-yard box, Maguire was heroic at the centre of a back three and the effectiveness of their counter attacks, though they were few and far between troubled their opponents. Arsenal's major problem this season has been the lack of a commanding striker with an eye for goal. Kai Havertz fills this role, but good footballer though he is, he is not a natural striker.

The result is that Arsenal plays too much football in the final third and around the eighteen-yard box and struggle to turn their possession into goals. On the night Havertz had a wretched game. Fernandez scored a peach and Gabriel replied for Arsenal, both goals scored in the second half. With an hour played Dalot was sent for an early shower and United faced the rest of the game with 10 men. It became a real war of attrition with the Gunners unable to find the killer pass or a moment of inspiration as they fluffed several chances. United were content to man the ramparts looking for a turnover and a lightning counter. Neither team could break each other down and the honours were shared at full time. Extra time and penalties loomed. Tired legs and drained minds ensured that extra time was a dull affair with matters unresolved after the mandatory half an hour. In the crap shoot that followed Havertz was the first to falter with a pathetic effort and United were victorious. It was a classic Cup game with no quarter asked and none given. United could stand tall, particularly having to play the Gunners on their home patch with ten men for an hour.

Was this to be the renaissance United were looking for after an abject period under new manager Ruben Amorim. United answered this question by squeaking a win against Southampton thanks to a final ten-minute hat trick from the little maestro Diallo. For the balance of the game, they were outplayed by the Saints. The next two games against Bournemouth and Brighton they were disassembled and thoroughly outclassed. No renaissance here. Years of poor, random recruiting of players either over the hill or not up to standard for a club with United's ambitions and a consistent pattern of overpaying for mediocrity has left Amorim with a team he has described as the worst in the 134-year history of the club. I would not argue with the gaffer. No quick fixes for United. The squad needs to be completely overhauled if United are to compete for European honours. The 3-4-2-1 style that Amorim is determined to play needs completely different players. For the diehards they live more in hope than expectation.

The surprise package this season has been Notts Forest currently lying joint second with Arsenal on 44 points. Steve Cooper brought Forest up from the Championship in 2022, their first time in the EPL since 1999. He remained at the helm and managed to ensure that they stayed up in 2023. Cooper's period in charge coincided with a far-reaching spending spree orchestrated by owner Greek billionaire Evangelos Marinakis in an endeavour to strengthen their resources to ensure they remained in the topflight. The spending was random, uncoordinated and thoughtless. A host of mediocre players were acquired and Cooper who seemed to have had little or no say in the acquisitions struggled to find a winning team from his burgeoning squad. He was sacked midway through 2023-24 with Forest lying in 17th in the table. Nuno Espirito Santo, a goalkeeper in his playing days with vast coaching experience took over the reins at Forest. A successful four years at Wolves was followed by an unhappy six months at Spurs. Nuno then ventured into the murky waters of the Saudi League where he managed Al-Ittihad to a league title and the Saudi Cup in 2022. He was dismissed in November 2023 and the following month was appointed manager of Forest.

Nuno has assembled a vastly under rated squad at Forest, trimming much of the baggage from the Cooper tenure. He has shrewdly acquired several players of talent deemed surplus to requirements at their previous clubs. Their goalkeeper Matz Sels is for my money the best keeper in the league. He has a 76% save percentage which is the leading effort in the league. Ola Aina plays at right back and is a tower of strength at the back. His stature belies his physicality and determination, and he is a force offensively too. He has made more goal line defences than any other player. An effective long throw is also part of Aina's armour. English born he plays international football for Nigeria.

Nico Williams, ex Liverpool is the left back and has proved a sound defender and dangerous in an attacking role where he cuts in from the left menacingly and has created several assists and scored himself. Quick and determined and relentless, he is an integral part of the team. Anchoring the back four are the redoubtable Serbian Nikola Milenkovic, a giant of a man who allows nothing past him, either aerially or on the turf. His partner in crime is the excellent Brazilian Murillo who is developing into an admirable, forceful centre back and a shrewd acquisition.

Elliot Anderson, ex Newcastle, who Eddie Howe admitted he was reluctant to sell has proved his promise fulfilling a vital role in the Forest midfield. A fine athlete, he is an important link between the back four and the front players and screens the back four tenaciously. At the heart of the midfield trio is Morgan Gibbs - White ex Wolves, possibly Forest's most valuable player. He is the dominant link with the front three. A high work rate coupled to fine ball skills; he is particularly effective with ball at his feet. A natural eye for a defence splitting pass he is both a creator and a goal scorer. Not shy to perform his defensive duties he is the vital cog in Nuno's team. The Brazilian Danilo completes the midfield and is rock solid in defence and dynamic offensively when the opportunity presents itself.

Up front Forest's " holy trinity " has been a revelation. Down the left Callum Hudson -Odoi ex Chelsea has had a super season. Tall, fast and strong he is not scared to take on his opponents down the line and is equally adept cutting inside looking for an assist or goal scoring opportunity. A player of great promise who never managed to fulfil his potential he has now blossomed into a first-class winger. Down the right flank Anthony Elanga ex Manchester United, has proven what one always thought he was capable of. One of the quickest

players in the league he frightens his opponents with his electric pace, he is a fine crosser of the ball and has been instrumental in several of Forest's goals this season. Finally, Kiwi Chris Wood who had four years at Burnley and a brief unsuccessful spell at Newcastle has found his mojo. He has scored 14 goals the season and has been highly efficient in finding the right spaces to occupy for his attacking players to find him. When opportunity presents itself, he scores. He is a decisive and ruthless finisher and excellent with his head often scoring from crosses.

Nuno's style of play is uncomplicated. He plays 4-3-3 and does not play possession-based football. On the contrary he is quite happy for his team to concede possession in his opponents own half. A high press is not for Nuno. As a result, Forest is a low scoring team with many 1-0 games won. They also have one of the lowest possession stats in the league. He places great store by his team's defensive capabilities and their ability to turn possession over with efficient no nonsense tackling. Thereafter lightning counter attacks are his mantra and reliance on Wood to take their chances. Playing out from the back is also not in Nuno's play book. Goalkeeper Sels has kicked long 82 % of the games played this season. It is simple and uncomplicated, but it works, and Nuno has found the right players to play his brand of football. Their standing in the log currently tells the story. One hopes this famous team can resurrect some of the glory day of the late seventies and eighties.

So long for now.

Howard Cohen

Tattler – Many of us who live close by have been to the New Years Cricket Tests at Newlands and experienced the magic. With the 2025 Test played just a month ago, we give a glimpse into that history.

History of Newlands Cricket Ground and New Year Test Matches

Newlands Cricket Ground, nestled at the base of Cape Town's iconic Table Mountain and Devil's Peak, is one of the most picturesque cricket venues in the world. Its history is intertwined with South Africa's cricketing journey.



Newlands was officially established in 1888, making it one of the oldest cricket grounds globally. The first match was played between local sides in 1889, shortly before South Africa's first Test match against England in 1889 in Port Elizabeth.

Over the decades, the ground underwent numerous renovations to improve spectator facilities while preserving its historic charm. Its lush outfield, dramatic mountain backdrop, and proximity to the city centre make it a fan-favourite venue.

Newlands has hosted several iconic cricketing moments, including South Africa's re-entry into international cricket in 1992 post-apartheid and numerous Test and ODI classics.



New Year's Day Test Matches: A South African Tradition

The New Year's Day Test at Newlands is a highlight of South Africa's cricketing calendar. Known for its carnival-like atmosphere, it draws passionate crowds and creates lasting memories for players and fans alike.

The tradition of the New Year's Test began in the early 1990s after South Africa's readmission to international cricket. It quickly became a beloved part of the country's summer.

Played in early January, it often runs from January 2 to 6. The timing aligns with the summer holidays, attracting local and international fans. Newlands' reputation for excellent pitches and thrilling matches makes it a fitting host.

Some of the Memorable New Years Matches in recent years:

2003 vs. Pakistan: Graeme Smith scored a double-century, showcasing the future South African captain's talent.

2011 vs. India: A hard-fought Test saw South Africa narrowly miss victory against a strong Indian side led by Sachin Tendulkar.

2018 vs. India: A thrilling low-scoring Test saw South Africa triumph in a series that highlighted Newlands' spicy wicket.

Fans enjoy picnics on grassy embankments, colourful clothing, and local cuisine, creating a festival-like atmosphere. The ground's natural beauty, coupled with its rich cricketing culture, makes the New Year's Test at Newlands an unforgettable experience.

The first Test match played at Newlands Cricket Ground was between South Africa and England, held from March 25 to March 27, 1889. This was part of England's tour of South Africa and only the second-ever Test match played by South Africa.

Match Details:

South Africa 1st Innings: 47 all out

England 1st Innings: 292 all out

South Africa 2nd Innings: 43 all out
Result: England won by an innings and 202 runs.

The match was played on a matting wicket, a common feature in South African cricket at the time. England's bowlers, led by Johnny Briggs, dominated. Briggs claimed 15 wickets for 28 runs in the match, a remarkable feat that remains etched in cricketing history.

South Africa struggled with their batting, failing to reach even 50 in both innings.

This game marked the beginning of Newlands' storied history as a Test venue, eventually becoming one of the most iconic cricket grounds globally.

Early legends of Newlands cricket ground

Newlands Cricket Ground has seen numerous players rise to legendary status, particularly in its early years when cricket was evolving in South Africa. Several individuals left an indelible mark on the ground and its history during the formative years. Here are some early legends associated with Newlands:

Aubrey Faulkner
Role: All-rounder
Era: Early 20th century
Achievements:

Aubrey Faulkner was one of South Africa's first true cricketing stars and widely regarded as one of the greatest all-rounders of his era. At Newlands, Faulkner delivered several exceptional performances with both bat and ball. Known for his attacking batting style and effective leg-spin, he was instrumental in South Africa's success in home series during his time.



Jimmy Sinclair
Role: All-rounder
Era: Late 19th and early 20th century
Achievements:

Jimmy Sinclair was South Africa's first cricketing hero. He scored South Africa's first-ever Test century in 1899 and was renowned for his powerful hitting. Sinclair also made key contributions at Newlands, particularly with the ball on its spin-friendly pitches.

Herbie Taylor
Role: Batsman
Era: Early 1900s
Achievements:

Herbie Taylor was a masterful batsman known for his precise technique and ability to handle fast bowling. His performances at Newlands helped solidify South Africa as a competitive Test nation in the pre-World War I era. Taylor scored several elegant half-centuries at Newlands, often standing tall when South Africa struggled against formidable opponents.



Bert Vogler

Role: Leg-spin bowler

Era: Early 20th century

Achievements:

Vogler was part of South Africa's famous "googly quartet" alongside Faulkner, Schwarz, and White. His success at Newlands with his deceptive leg-spin helped South Africa win critical matches. Vogler's impact at Newlands exemplified the dominance of spin bowling during this era.



Dave Nourse

Role: Batsman and bowler

Era: Late 19th and early 20th century

Achievements:

Dave Nourse was an early South African cricket stalwart who excelled at Newlands. Known for his durability and consistency, he was one of South Africa's first players to achieve notable success in both domestic and international cricket. He represented the Cape Colony in Currie Cup cricket, helping establish Newlands as a prominent venue.

Johnny Briggs (England)

Role: Bowler

Era: 1889 (First Test at Newlands)

Achievements:

Briggs dominated the first-ever Test match at Newlands, taking 15 wickets for 28 runs in a single match. Although he played for England, his performance at Newlands set a high standard for the ground's history.



The contributions of these players helped establish Newlands as a cricketing stronghold and paved the way for the rise of South African cricket on the world stage. Their performances brought recognition to Newlands as a venue that rewards skilful batting, clever spin bowling, and disciplined seamers—a reputation that continues to this day.

Today, Newlands remains a premier cricket venue, hosting Tests, ODIs, and T20 matches. Its combination of historical significance, scenic beauty, and vibrant atmosphere cements its place as one of the most beloved cricket grounds in the world. The New Year's Test continues to uphold the traditions of excellence and celebration, serving as a beacon of South African cricket culture.



Things look a little different these days. Much of the lawns and open space has been used to build additional stands.

2025 New Years Day Test

SA vs Pakistan PK

South Africa won by 10 wickets

The year was 1992.

The REAL future of engines in motor cars?

Revolutionizing Power: Yamaha's 450-HP Hydrogen V8

Yamaha's groundbreaking 450-HP Hydrogen V8 merges thrilling performance with sustainability, redefining high-performance engineering for an eco-friendly future without compromising on power.

AND

BMW has announced a move away from electric vehicles, stating that it has successfully addressed the challenges of hydrogen engine technology. The company revealed significant progress in hydrogen fuel cell development, which it sees as a more sustainable alternative to conventional electric cars. Unlike electric vehicles that depend on large batteries, hydrogen engines use lightweight fuel cells, offering faster refuelling and greater range.

BMW also emphasized the environmental benefits, highlighting that hydrogen-powered vehicles emit only water vapor, making them a promising solution for the future of eco-friendly transportation.

AND

The NamX hydrogen car is a big step forward in green transportation. It can refuel in just five seconds, much faster than electric cars, and can travel about 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) on a full tank. This makes it perfect for long trips without needing to stop often. The car solves common problems with electric vehicles, like long charging times and limited charging stations.

By offering quick refuelling and a long range, the NamX shows how hydrogen technology can be practical and eco-friendly. It's designed to be both useful and good for the environment, making it a strong choice in the growing market for clean energy vehicles. This car could be an important part of the future of green travel.



The global car industry - The Chinese are Coming

(Extract from an article by Tim Cohen)

Actually, if anyone was to take notice, they are already here. The industry has most definitely taken notice; it's just that until now, Chinese car producers have been focusing on their own, huge internal market.

Chinese car manufacturers have gone from producing about 500,000 units a year in 1990 (about what SA was producing then and now), to 30 million a year. That's a little less than the entire rest of the world's output. For years, most of these cars were produced by foreign-owned car companies; now local manufacturers predominate.

One example is that **China's best-selling car manufacturer, BYD (Build Your Dreams), sold a record number of electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrids globally last year (about 4.3 million)** - far more than its target of 3.6 million. In total, that's twice the number of cars sold by Tesla; its EVs alone sold just under Tesla's total sales. The essential reason is that the Chinese producers are producing very cheap cars - **BMW quality at Toyota prices, one China-based analyst told me.**

So, the Chinese have arrived!

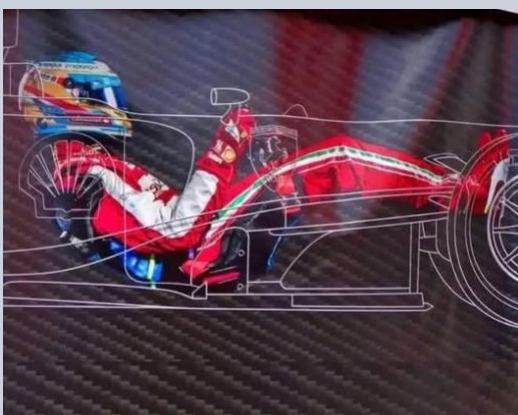


And (From Wikipedia)

There are currently about 150 active brands in the Chinese automobile market. Among them are 97 Chinese domestic brands and 43 joint venture (JV) brands. Before 2010, the traditional "Big Four" refers to the four major state-owned car manufacturers, SAIC, FAW, DongFeng and Changan. Other Chinese car manufacturers, both from public and private sectors, like Geely, BAIC, BYD, Chery, GAC, Great Wall, JAC and Seres emerged as the major players with the expansion of the Chinese automotive industry.

Formula 1 Race Cars - The position of the driver

Tattler - Ever wondered just how uncomfortable it is? This is how they sit!



The Atlantic Road, Norway

Tattler has featured certain roads and bridges recently - this month we feature what has been described as the most beautiful road in the world.



It connects Averøy with the mainland via a series of small islands and islets spanned by a total of eight bridges over 8274 meters. The road was opened in 1989 and is toll free. The Atlantic Road has National Tourist Route status and the entire stretch between Bud and Kristiansund is one continuous experience packed with coastal scenery, culture and history.

The route was originally proposed as a railway line in the early 20th century, but this was abandoned. Serious planning of the road started in the 1970s, and construction started on August 1, 1983. During construction the area was hit by 12 European windstorms. The road was opened on 7 July 1989, having cost 122 million Norwegian krone (NOK), of which 25 percent was financed with tolls and the rest from public grants. Collection of tolls was scheduled to run for 15 years, but by June 1999 the road was paid off and the toll removed.

THE WORLD'S HIGHEST BRIDGE STANDS A DIZZYING 565 METERS OVER A RIVER VALLEY

By Hasan



The Beipanjiang Bridge, a testament to human ingenuity and a marvel of modern engineering, holds the title of the world's highest bridge. Perched an astonishing 565 meters (1,854 feet) above a breathtaking river valley, this colossal structure defies gravity and showcases China's remarkable progress in infrastructure development.

The Beipanjiang Duge Bridge, while under construction in 2016.

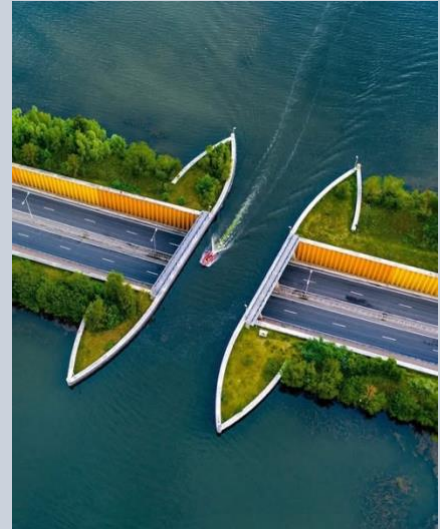


Completed in 2016, the Beipanjiang Bridge, also known as the Duge Bridge, surpassed all previous records, becoming the first bridge globally to exceed the 500-meter (1,640 feet) height barrier. Spanning 720 meters (2,362 feet) across the mighty Beipan River, it connects the provinces of Guizhou and Yunnan in a region renowned for its rugged mountainous terrain. The bridge exemplifies the ingenuity of cable-stayed design, where the deck is directly supported by cables anchored to towering pylons. This innovative approach ensures even weight distribution and allows for longer spans with fewer support structures.

However, the Beipanjiang Bridge may soon relinquish its title as the world's highest. China is currently constructing even more ambitious projects, such as the Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge with a staggering height of 625 meters (2,001 feet), slated for completion in 2025.

An unusual "bridge"!

The Veluwemeer Aqueduct in the Netherlands is a stunning example of innovative engineering. This unique water bridge allows boats to sail over the N302 road while cars pass underneath, seamlessly blending functionality and design. A must-see for architecture and travel enthusiasts!



And from the totally practical to something completely different - the Lucky Knot Bridge



The Lucky knot bridge spans the Dragon King Harbor River in Changsha, China. The 185 m long and 24 m high pedestrian truss bridge, which is bright red in colour, was designed by NEXT architects based in Amsterdam and Beijing. The bridge, which started out as a design for an international competition, was designed keeping tourist activities in mind.

Tattler saw this and wasn't sure whether to believe it!

An Unusual Road

In France, there's a road called Passage du Gois that seems to have a mind of its own. Twice a day, it disappears under 13 feet of water, only to reappear a few hours later. If you want to cross it, you must be quick, or the sea will rise and swallow it up again! It's like something out of a fairy tale, but it's real, and people still use it.





The Passage du Gois or Gôa is a causeway between Beauvoir-sur-Mer and the island of Noirmoutier, in Vendée on the Atlantic coast of France. The causeway is 4.125 kilometres (2.6 mi) long and is flooded twice a day by the high tide. A road runs along the causeway.

Every year, a foot race – the Foulées du Gois – is held across it, starting at the onset of high tide.

17 String Bass

Elwood Francis, ZZ Top’s charismatic bassist, stunned the world when he unveiled an astonishingly unique instrument—a colossal 17-string bass guitar. This remarkable instrument captures the spirit of Francis himself: bold, unapologetic, and utterly original.

No, it isn’t a prank. No, it isn’t photoshopped! Click on the image to watch him in action.

In 2022, ZZ Top guitar tech-turned-bassist Francis Elwood made headlines throughout the guitar press and beyond when he whipped out an almighty 17-string bass guitar with the Texas blues-rock legends.

And although Elwood has since admitted he feels uncomfortable in the role he has occupied since Hill’s passing in 2021, his new addition to the ZZ Top arsenal continues the band’s great tradition of wacky instruments (the spinning fur guitars that starred in the LEGS video being their most famous examples).

Now, in a new interview with GUITAR WORLD, Francis has detailed the origin story behind the unlikely extended-range behemoth, which started life as a cheap knockoff of YouTuber Jared Dines’ 18-string Ormsby creation (and is most definitely not a Fender, no matter what that gargantuan headstock logo says).

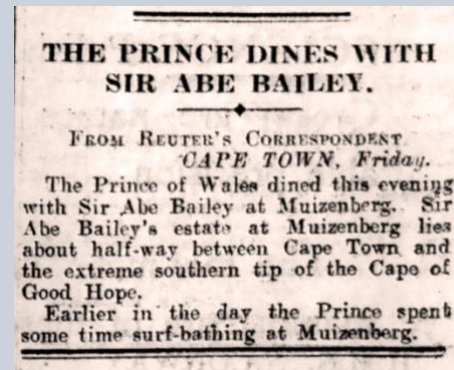
Unsurprisingly, the instrument proved somewhat challenging to play, not least because the very first time Francis used it was on stage – to tackle, appropriately enough, ZZ Top classic GOT ME UNDER PRESSURE. “Man, the guitar tech barely got the thing ready for the show,” he says. “And we don’t do soundchecks; I didn’t even play the guitar until the first time, so it was a baptism by fire while we were out on stage. I was like, ‘God damn, this thing is hard to play.’”



95 years back in Muizenberg

(A bit of dining and some "surf-bathing"!)

This from the Irish Times - 25 Jan 1930 - from the Cape of Diab Archive



The fun of shopping

This is something **Tattler** wrote some 5 years ago shortly before Christmas.

My detailed research indicates that the following rules apply to all Pick n Pay staff. I believe a similar set is due shortly by Checkers



- 1) Never leave a gap on the shelves. Should there be a space due to a product being out of stock, close the gap immediately by shuffling other adjacent products. If this does not do the trick, any other product will do. Customers hate seeing gaps and would much prefer to spend a while searching for the one they want before they buy another product.
- 2) When packing, ensure that the pallet or trolley you are using properly blocks the aisle. Just limiting the space is good but not adequate. Customers will appreciate the extra time you afford them to study the shelves you are so neatly packing
- 3) Never explicitly inform a customer about the location of the product they seek. A vague gesticulation is all a good customer ever needs.
- 4) Don't ever smile. It is a known fact that customers are scared of teeth and baring yours could frighten them away.
- 5) Chatting to co-workers is encouraged. Do it frequently and be sure you do it in such a way as to partially block an aisle. As in number 2, customers enjoy this
- 6) Even better, have a conversation from a distance. Customers love the sound of loud voices, particularly when it stops them listening to Christmas music
- 7) When packing a customer's bag be sure to spread stuff around. Each of the customer's 10 bags should have at least one freezer item, one vegetable and one tin. This makes their unpacking at home much more interesting.
- 8) Even though the customer has presented his loyalty card as he arrived at the till, be sure to ask him at least one more time if he has such a card. A few times is better as it makes him feel more valued.
- 9) Never, ever, ever walk quickly if an item arrives without an adequate bar code. A nice saunter will be appreciated by the customer and even more so by the others in the queue.
- 10) If you are fortunate to have a packer, be sure to engage with him fully. Make total eye contact whilst you converse as you slide products over the bar code reader. You will get the right side and angle on the fifth or sixth attempt and customers enjoy watching you multi-task.

Has anything changed

Club Manager's Report

100 Club Winners January 2025

Mrs O.A. Marlow – R300

Mr R. Hartley – R300.

Mrs S. Belshaw – R300.

Mr A. Dunlop – R1000

We wish the following members a very **Happy February 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.

Cdr O. Pfuhl (Ret) - 01 February.

Norwegian politician and diplomat Trygve Lie was elected the first secretary-general of the United Nations. (1946)

Mr P. Berrange - 01 February.

Harry Edward Styles was born on February 1, 1994, in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, England. Styles was in the boy band One Direction until he launched his solo career.

Dr J.W.J. Van Wyk – 03 February.

The Italian dramedy *La dolce vita*, which was directed by Federico Fellini, had its world premiere, and it became widely hailed as one of the most important films in cinema. (1960)

Mr W. Fourie – 03 February.

German craftsman, inventor, and printer Johannes Gutenberg, whose printing press was considered a history-changing invention, died in Mainz. (1468)

Ms E. Le Roux – 06 February.

Ronald Reagan - 40th president of the United States whose controversial economics philosophy, Reaganomics, impacted the latter part of the 20th century.

Lt Cdr K. Baker (Ret) – 09 February.

Joe Pesci - Iconic tough-guy actor who starred in the Martin Scorsese films *Goodfellas*, *Raging Bull* and *Casino*.

Mr P.V. Dines – 13 February.

Peter Gabriel (1950) - Singer/songwriter well known as the original lead singer of Genesis. He began a solo career in 1977.

Mr E.J. Smith – 14 February.

Today is Valentine's Day, the feast day of St. Valentine, a priest and physician who was martyred about 270 ce in Rome, and the tradition of exchanging greetings of love on Valentine's Day is based on the legend that Valentine had signed a letter to his jailer's daughter, with whom he had fallen in love, "from your Valentine."

Capt R.H.L. Harrison (Ret) – 15 February.

Leon Spinks defeated Muhammad Ali to become the heavyweight boxing champion of the world. (1978)

B. Lowson – 15 February.

The silent film *It* was released in American theatres, and Clara Bow, the star, became Hollywood's first "It girl." (1927)

Cdr A. Schulze – 16 February.

The 20-member Taryba (council) of Lithuanian delegates proclaimed their country an independent state. (1918)

Mr G.H. Mc Queen – 17 February.

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers, better known as the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), was founded in Washington, D.C., as the National Congress of Mothers. (1897)

Mr T. Van Zyl – 17 February.

During the American Civil War, the Confederate Hunley became the first submarine to sink an enemy ship when it successfully attacked the USS Housatonic in the waters off Charleston, South Carolina. (1864)

R Adm (JG) E.T. Beddy (Ret) – 20 February.

John H. Glenn, Jr., the oldest of seven astronauts selected by NASA for Project Mercury spaceflight training (and later a U.S. senator), became on this day in 1962 the first American to orbit Earth, doing so three times.

Mr C.T. Tosio – 20 February.

Trevor Noah (born February 20, 1984, Johannesburg, South Africa) is a South African comedian, television host, political commentator, and author who is perhaps best known as the host (2015–22) of the American television series *The Daily Show*.

Mr W.C. Pace – 23 February.

Mexican-born American musician Carlos Santana won eight Grammy Awards for *Supernatural*, tying the record set by Michael Jackson. (2000)

Capt W. Stassen – 26 February.

Berlin West Africa Conference, a series of negotiations (Feb. 26, 1885) at Berlin concluded, in which the major European nations met to decide all questions connected with the Congo River basin in Central Africa.

Capt D.P. We Wet (Ret) – 28 February.

Olof Palme, the internationally prominent prime minister of Sweden (1969–76, 1982–86) whose strong pacifist beliefs included opposition to the Vietnam War, was assassinated this day in Stockholm in 1986.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to our club and as readers of the *Seven Seas Tattler*. Wishing you a long association and hope we see you at our monthly quiz evenings and many other events.

S Lt Rodney Russel (Ret) resides in Milnerton Rural. Rodney is an ex-Strike Craft Member who is currently employed by Trailfun (Pty) Ltd.

S Lt Emil Schnackenberg (Ret) married to Rachel and resides in Fish Hoek. Emil is currently employed by the City of Cape Town.

S Lt Pierre Van Wyk Becker married to Herculina and resides in Milnerton. Pierre, who is an Engineer, is employed by SK&G.

Mr David John Chaplin, married to Amanda resides in Ricketts Close Simon's Town. David is retired from the Standard Bank Group.

Mr Eric Peter Eggeling, married to Annebel and resides in Glencairn Heights. Peter is employed in the Real Estate Industry and is an active member of the NSRI Station 10 Simon's Town.

Mr John Frederick Pallot-Brown resides in Harbour Heights Simon's Town. John is currently retired.

Mr Warren Carl Pace resides in Bay View Heights Simon's Town. Warren is a self-employed Graphic Designer.

Aye,

Glen

January Quiz

Putting together a quiz is not as simple as some may envisage. For quite a while we struggled with the balance of questions. Our ambition was to construct 70 questions that were a combination of interesting, educational and fun. Coupled with this we need the technology to assist in running reasonably quickly and producing results and scores promptly. With the assistance of Euan and Doug, I believe we are achieving our "pass mark". This is paramount to being successful, as is having the support of members on a regular basis.

We thank all our attendees, particularly those who support us on a regular basis. Long may this endure.



The first quiz of the year, on Wednesday the 8th was most encouraging. The scores were very close, the winners earning their laurels by just two points! Congratulations to Chris and his team, the "Porcupines"!

The quiz night will occur each month (second Wednesday) and we hope to one day hit our ambitious target of 8 teams. This month we had 5 teams (20 players). Our February Quiz will be held on the 12th of February. Please join us. Bring friends and family or come on your own. Please be there by 18h45 to allow a prompt 19h00 kick-off.

As always, we provide a set of questions that were used. The topic of this set was "Religion"

- 1) Many cultures have rites associated with death and mourning, such as the last rites in Christianity, shemira in , the antyeshti in Hinduism, and the antam sanskar in Sikhism. Name the religion (the missing word)
- 2) Communal fasting is done by Muslims during
- 3) In which religion is the main ceremony, the puja, which involves offering food, water, and flowers to the deities.

- 4) Who were the opposing enemies in the French Wars of Religion?
- 5) In France, all the edicts of tolerance, from the Edict of Saint Germain (1562) to the one of (1598), attempted to organize religious coexistence within the same territory. Name the (missing) edict.
- 6) A symbol of the Buddha's teachings, or Dharma. This object's three spirals represent the three jewels of Buddhism: the Buddha, the Dharma, and the sangha (the community). The eight spokes of the same object represent the Noble Eightfold Path. What is the object?
- 7) (In Hinduism) this (two letter) word is a sacred sound that represents the universe and Brahman, or God. It is made up of the three Sanskrit letters M, U, and A, which are said to represent the sounds heard when the universe was created. Name the word
- 8) The Church of England's history can be traced back to the arrival of Christianity in England over 1,500 years ago. However, the Church's Anglican identity and connection to the state began with the Reformation. Which King's actions were motivated by his desire to annul his marriage so he could remarry and have a male heir?
- 9) Islam was founded when the prophet Muhammad received his first revelation in Mecca, Arabia. In which year was this? (310, 610, 810)?
- 10) How many points does the Star of David have?

Try them! Answers elsewhere in Tattler

An elderly man rear-ended a guy driving an expensive European sports car. Enraged, the guy hops out and confronts the old man. He yells,
 "Look what you did to my car! You're going to give me \$10,000 right now or I'm going to beat you to a pulp!"
 "Oh my..." the old man said nervously. "I don't have that kind of money. Let me call my son." he said with hope. "He trains dolphins, and he will know what to do."
 "Dolphins!" the other driver huffed, while rolling his eyes.
 The old man pulled out his phone, dialled his son, and just as his son answered, the irate man snatched the phone away from the old man.
 "So, YOU'RE a dolphin trainer, huh?" The irate man yelled, "Well, your old man here just rear-ended my car, and I need TEN GRAND right now, or I'm going to beat you AND your old man to a pulp!"
 "I'll be there in 10 minutes." says the voice calmly on the other end.
 Exactly 10 minutes later, a Jeep pulls up and a guy hops out and proceeds to pulverize the bully, leaving him in a heap on the side of the road. When he finished, he walked over to his father and said,
 "For the last time dad, I train **Seals... Navy Seals. NOT dolphins!**"

Maritime, Naval and Military

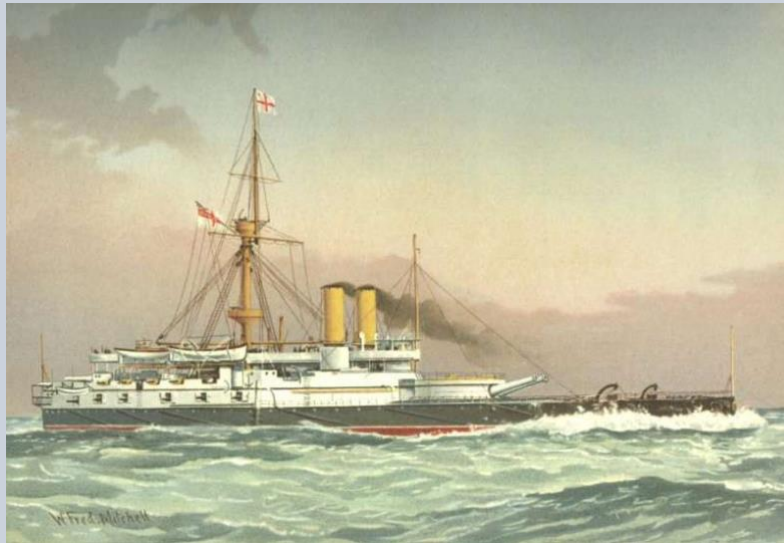
HMS Victoria

Source: DefPost 10/01

HMS Victoria, launched in 1887, was a prominent battleship in the British Royal Navy. She served in the Mediterranean Fleet until a 1893 collision near Tripoli caused her to sink.

Her legacy underscores the challenges of naval command and the unpredictability of the sea. The wreck is vertical - Her propellers drove her into the seabed.

To watch a fascinating video on how the collision occurred and she came to be buried as she is, [click on the image below](#).



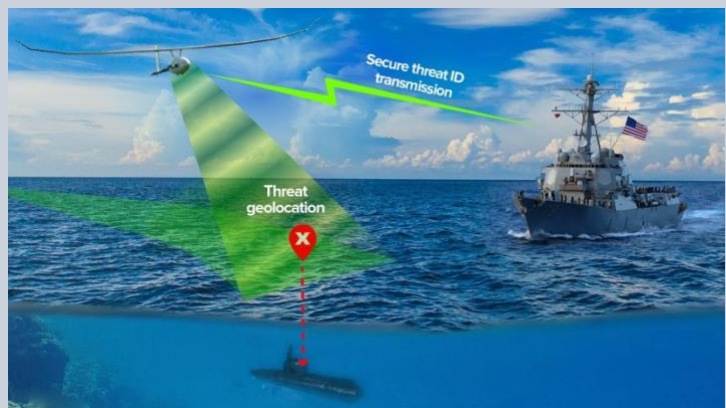
Charles River to Develop AI Submarine Detection System for US Navy

Source: DefPost 10/01

MAGNETO detects and classifies the magnetic signature of an underwater vessel.

Image: Charles River Analytics

The US Navy has awarded Charles River Analytics \$1 million to develop a tool that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to identify adversary submarines by their magnetic signals.



Unlike traditional acoustic detection methods, the Guidance for Naval Enhancement of Tactical Operations (MAGNETO) tool capitalizes on the fact that submarines, made of ferromagnetic materials, distort the Earth's magnetic field.

However, detecting magnetic fields alone is insufficient for effective anti-submarine warfare, the firm explained.

It's equally important to distinguish submarine signals from those of large boats or sunken shipping containers. AI plays a critical role here by enabling the creation of unique "signatures" for submarine detection.

"The biggest advantage of MAGNETO is that it allows us to detect ultra-low-noise submarines reliably, quickly, and efficiently while minimizing risk to the warfighter," said Dr. Todd Jennings, Research Scientist at Charles River and Principal Investigator of MAGNETO.

How MAGNETO Works - MAGNETO employs a hierarchical process, progressively refining signal identification through successive stages.

This structured approach allows the system to process data in real-time, ensuring that only relevant signals advance to more detailed analysis. Initially, MAGNETO detects the presence of a submarine, followed by determining its type — such as a nuclear missile or diesel-powered — until achieving a precise classification. Incoming signals are first cleaned to remove noise, after which a feature extractor isolates key elements that might indicate activity. In the final stage, a classifier conducts a detailed analysis to confirm the submarine's identification.

Future iterations of the tool are expected to further enhance its capabilities by analysing wave noise to determine if it signals the presence of submarines. Beyond submarine detection, the tool can also locate airplane wreckage, underwater power cables, and lost shipping containers.

Drones

Source: UK Defence Journal 07/01

To the layman (Us at Tattler) these just keep getting bigger and more prolific!

Leonardo reveals design of new British naval drone.



Leonardo has revealed the design of its new Proteus uncrewed rotorcraft technology demonstrator, a circa three-tonne aircraft developed to showcase advances in autonomy, modular payloads, and cutting-edge rotorcraft technologies.

The announcement, made on 7 January 2025, marks a significant step in supporting the UK RN's Maritime Aviation Transformation strategy, which aims to enhance maritime aviation capabilities through 2040. The Proteus demonstrator incorporates a modular payload bay that enables "flexibility in mission roles, including the ability to trade fuel for mission payload," according to Leonardo.

This design allows commanders to customise the aircraft for specific missions, potentially reducing the need for multiple aircraft types and delivering value for money. The aircraft will also act as a platform to test autonomous Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) capabilities, leveraging experience from Leonardo's existing Uncrewed Air System (UAS) programmes. Advanced flight control laws and algorithms will be tested to validate the viability of large uncrewed platforms in maritime environments.

Leonardo highlighted its use of advanced digital tools in Proteus' development, including a 'digital twin' to simulate and test capabilities without live trials. The company stated, "Utilising a digital twin, AI and Machine Learning (ML) algorithms in a synthetic environment enables Leonardo to test, modify and prove capability without the need for live aircraft trials, thereby reducing costs and significantly accelerating development."

Innovative manufacturing techniques, such as additive layer manufacturing (3D printing) and low-temperature cure composite materials, are being used to streamline production and reduce costs, says the firm. These technologies are expected to improve sustainability and resilience throughout Leonardo's supply chain.

The Proteus programme was contracted in 2022 as part of a joint effort between Leonardo, the UK Ministry of Defence's Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) Future Capability Innovation team, and the Royal Navy. The demonstrator is on track for its first flight in mid-2025, according to the company.

Cramped Spaces during WW11

Source: Lakshan Witharana (Weird things that will amaze you)

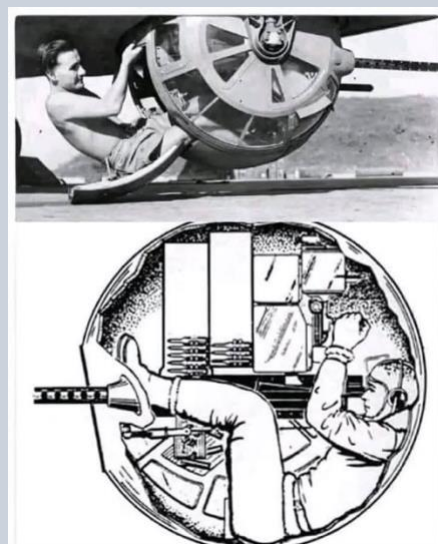
Tattler - Imagine this!

The Ball Turret on a B-17 Bomber

The ball turret on a B-17 bomber was a rotating, spherical gunner's station located underneath the aircraft. This small, cramped space housed a single gunner armed with two .50 calibre M2 Browning machine guns. The turret was designed to protect the vulnerable underside of the bomber from enemy fighters during missions over Europe and the Pacific in World War II. Operated hydraulically and with limited mobility, the gunner would remain seated in a foetal-like position, often facing cold temperatures and tight quarters for the duration of long flights.

Serving in the ball turret was considered one of the most dangerous roles on a B-17. Gunners had to endure hours in isolation while exposed to enemy fire, as the turret's location made it a primary target for attacking fighters. Despite the risks, the ball turret was a vital component of the bomber's defence system, helping ensure the success of missions and the survival of crew members. The B-17, known as the "Flying Fortress," became a symbol of American air power, and the bravery of the ball turret gunners contributed to its legendary reputation.

(Credit goes to original content owner.)



This month in History - February 1975 (50 years ago)

General

1 Feb - U.S. President Ford announced that the 1976 fiscal year budget would reflect a deficit of 52 billion dollars. At the time, it was "the largest peacetime deficit in the nation's history".

4 Feb - Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath stepped down as chairman of the Conservative Party after former Education Minister Margaret Thatcher outpolled him 130-119, less than a majority of the 276 needed to become the party's leader, the first woman leader for any British political party.

6 Feb - Thieves in Italy broke into the Ducal Palace art museum and stole the paintings La Muta by Raphael, and the masterpieces The Flagellation of Christ and Madonna di Senigallia, by Piero della Francesca, considered to be three of the ten most famous Italian paintings from the Renaissance. The works were recovered, unharmed, on March 24, 1976.

13 Feb - The Turkish Federated State of Cyprus was proclaimed by Rauf Denktaş, who had formerly been the Vice-President of the Republic of Cyprus until war divided the predominantly Greek southern half from the mostly Turkish northern part. Denktas would proclaim full independence of the area on November 12, 1983.

16 Feb - HMS Sheffield, a guided missile destroyer, was commissioned into service in the British Royal Navy. The ship would be sunk by the Argentine Navy in May 1982 during the Falklands War, with a loss of 20 lives.

24 Feb - The coronation of Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva, who had been King of Nepal since the death of his father on January 31, 1972, took place in Kathmandu at exactly 8:37 a.m. local time, a moment that had been pre-determined by the royal astrologers.

Sport

1 Feb - Rugby - England lost to France 20 - 27, Scotland beat Ireland 20 -13.

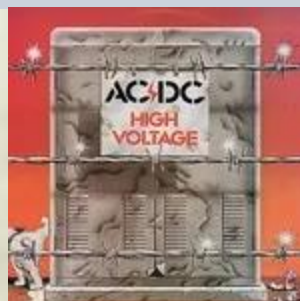
8 - 13 Feb - Cricket Test - England beat Australia by an innings. Peter Lever got 9 wickets, Captain Mike Denness got 188, Keith Fletcher got 146. In a losing cause Max Walker took 8 English wickets!

15 Feb - Rugby - Wales beat England 20 - 4, France beat Scotland 10 - 9.

20 - 25 Feb - Cricket Test - New Zealand lose to England by an innings. Mike Denniss got another big hundred (188), Keith Fletcher a double century. Tony Greis took 5 wickets.

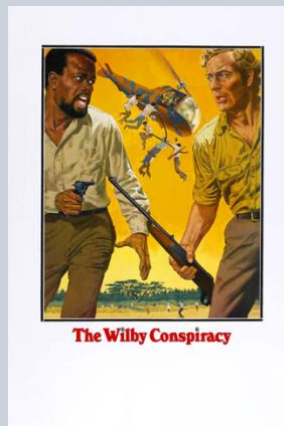
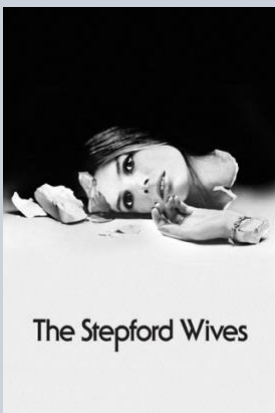
28 Feb - 5 March - Cricket test - New Zealand and England draw. (Two days lost to weather) Dennis Amiss got 164.

Music





Movies



The Inimitable Goldie Hawn

Goldie Hawn's story is one of reinvention, resilience, and, above all, a determination to live life on her own terms. From a childhood spent dancing in Maryland to becoming one of Hollywood's most beloved comedic actresses, Goldie's life has been full of twists and turns. Along the way, she became a symbol of the 1970s free-spirited ideal, starred in iconic movies, faced scandal, and, ultimately, created a family and career legacy that would last decades.

Goldie Jeanne Hawn was born on November 21, 1945, in Washington, D.C., the daughter of Laura, a homemaker, and Edward Hawn, a salesman. Growing up in Silver Spring, Maryland, Goldie's early life was unremarkable—except that she was already showing signs of being a performer. At the age of three, Goldie's parents enrolled her in ballet, and it quickly became apparent that dance was her true passion. A natural at rhythm and movement, Goldie spent hours practicing and performing, dreaming of one day becoming a dancer.





After attending Montgomery Blair High School, she briefly studied drama and drama therapy at American University but found herself drawn more to the world of entertainment than academia. At 18, she packed her bags and headed for New York City, where she took up residence and began training in dance while auditioning for Broadway roles. It didn't take long for her to land a part in the Broadway show *Can-Can*, and Goldie soon transitioned into a larger role in *The Pajama Game*.

But it was Rowan & Martin's *Laugh-In*, the quirky 1960s variety show, that truly launched her into fame. A mix of slapstick, political humour, and off-the-wall comedy sketches, *Laugh-In* made Goldie a household name. Her giggle became instantly recognizable, and her "Sock it to me!" catchphrase helped establish her as one of TV's most beloved personalities.



Goldie's transition from TV to film was swift, and her first major success came with the 1969 movie *Cactus Flower*. The film, a romantic comedy directed by Gene Saks, saw Goldie playing the role of a ditsy young woman who unwittingly becomes part of a complicated love triangle. Her performance was magnetic, and it earned her the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress at the age of 24. It was the beginning of a career that would redefine comedy in the 1970s and 1980s.

Her follow-up films included *There's a Girl in My Soup* (1970) and *Butterflies Are Free* (1972), but the real breakout role came with 1975's *Shampoo*, directed by Hal Ashby. In *Shampoo*, Goldie played a seductive but vulnerable woman named Jackie, the mistress of Warren Beatty's character, a charming and somewhat superficial hairdresser. The film, set during the height of the sexual revolution, was a hit, and Goldie's portrayal of Jackie showed her range as both a comedic and dramatic actress.

But it was more than just her acting that kept Goldie in the public eye. As the 1970s unfolded, she became synonymous with the free-spirited, carefree image of the era—blonde, beautiful, and fun-loving. Hollywood was buzzing about her infectious personality, which translated seamlessly to the screen.

Like many actresses of the 1970s, Goldie was a magnet for attention—both on and off the screen. She became known for her whirlwind romances and high-profile relationships, some of which caused a media frenzy.

Goldie's first marriage was to dancer and musician Gus Trikonis in 1969. The two were married for about four years before parting ways. The marriage was overshadowed by Goldie's rapid rise to fame and her increasingly hectic work schedule. Her second marriage was to the brilliant and charismatic actor and director, Bill Hudson, of the musical group The Hudson Brothers. The two married in 1976 and had two children: a son, Oliver

Hudson (born 1976), and a daughter, Kate Hudson (born 1979). The marriage was tumultuous, and the couple divorced in 1982, just six years later.

While Goldie was raising her children, she was also dealing with the public's intense scrutiny of her personal life, especially her relationships. Her divorce from Bill Hudson was widely publicized, and the fallout was difficult, especially since her children were still young. Despite the challenges, Goldie remained dedicated to her family and her career, refusing to let the scandals define her.

Though Goldie's love life had its share of public drama, there was one relationship that would stand the test of time. In the mid-1980s, Goldie met actor Kurt Russell while filming *Swing Shift* (1984). Their chemistry was instant, but they didn't immediately become a couple. Instead, they built a strong friendship before falling in love. Kurt, who had already achieved success in Hollywood, and Goldie, who had raised two children and was navigating the aftermath of her previous marriage, found in each other a sense of balance and understanding.

The couple has now been together for over four decades, and while they never married, they have built one of the most enduring relationships in Hollywood history. Their son, Wyatt Russell, born in 1986, also pursued a career in acting, following in his parents' footsteps. Goldie has often spoken about the freedom she felt in not marrying Kurt, saying it allowed them both to maintain their individuality and avoid the pressure of conventional expectations. Their commitment to each other remains a testament to their deep connection.

As the years went on, Goldie's career evolved. She moved into producing and directing, working on films like *The First Wives Club* (1996), which became an unexpected hit. Though Goldie had scaled back her acting roles by the late 1990s, she continued to make appearances in films and on television. One of her more notable later roles came in *The Christmas Chronicles* (2018), where she starred as Mrs. Claus alongside Kurt Russell, who played Santa Claus. The film was a massive success for Netflix and showed that Goldie's infectious charm had not faded with time.

She Was a Beauty Queen Before She Was an actress: Though she is known for her bubbly personality, Goldie's early aspirations were not limited to acting. Before her TV and film career, she briefly competed in beauty pageants and was even a contestant in the Miss Rheingold contest, a popular competition in New York in the 1960s.

She Almost Quit Acting to Become a therapist: After years of high-pressure work in Hollywood, Goldie briefly considered leaving acting to become a therapist. She was always interested in psychology, and she even considered opening a therapy practice before deciding to return to acting. Her fascination with psychology later led to her work in emotional intelligence and self-esteem building. Goldie has long been an advocate for mental health and wellness. She has written about her experiences in therapy and has used her platform to encourage people to take care of their emotional well-being. She is also a strong proponent of meditation and mindfulness, both of which she believes have contributed to her long-lasting happiness.

Her Dance Background: Goldie's early training as a ballet dancer set the stage for her future success. In fact, she used her dance experience to great effect in many of her roles, even incorporating it into her comedic performances.

Her Musical Career: While not widely known, Goldie released an album in 1972 called *Goldie*. The album, which features a mix of pop and folk songs, was not a major commercial success, but it's a fun piece of Hollywood history. She also recorded some tracks with the famous producer and musician, Burt Bacharach.

[Click on the image alongside to listen to a Goldie Hawn track](#)

Goldie Hawn's career and personal life are a remarkable blend of triumphs, challenges, and reinvention. From her early days as a ballet dancer to becoming one of Hollywood's most beloved actresses, she has faced scandal, heartbreak, and the pressures of fame, all while maintaining an unwavering commitment to her family and her craft.

Goldie Hawn's legacy, defined by laughter, love, and resilience, is as strong as ever, and she remains an enduring figure in both Hollywood and popular culture.

And, 100 Years ago (February 1925)

2 Feb - The location of the tomb of Egyptian queen Hetepheres I, mother of the Pharaoh Cheops (Khufu) and wife of the Pharaoh Sneferu in the 26th century BC, was inadvertently discovered at Giza more than 4,500 years after her burial.

12 Feb - The Belgian airline SABENA (Société anonyme belge d'Exploitation de la Navigation aérienne) pioneered the first air travel between Europe and central Africa as aviators Edmond Thieffry, Léopold Roger and Joseph De Brycker succeeded in flying a Handley Page W8 F biplane from Brussels, capital of Belgium, to Léopoldville (now Kinshasa), capital of the Belgian Congo.

Edmond Thieffry



25 Feb - The first "electrical recording" of a phonograph record, using a method licensed from Western Electric by Columbia Phonograph Company, was made by Art Gillham as he and his orchestra used microphones to perform "You May Be Lonesome" and a more popular recording, "Hesitation Blues".

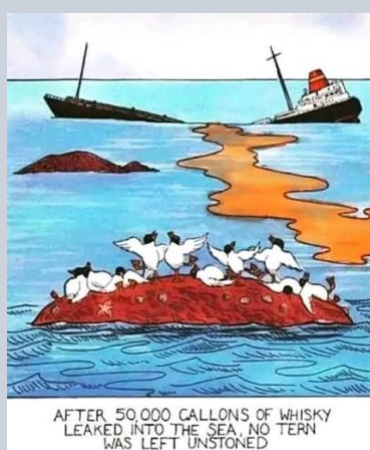
27 Feb - No longer outlawed, Germany's Nazi Party was officially re-established at a convention in the same hall in Munich where Adolf Hitler had launched his failed putsch. Hitler made his first speech since his release from prison to a packed audience of over 4,000 in the hall as another 1,000 stood outside.

Tattler – Laughs



Your monthly chuckle video

Most of us don't always get the lyrics right! For a good belly laugh, watch the attached



I was on a train and this woman opposite looked at me and said "Every time you smile, I feel like inviting you to my place..." 😂
I asked, "Are you single?"
She replied "No, I'm a dentist."



Did you know ... A pig's orgasm lasts 30 minutes. (O.M.G!) ... A cockroach will live nine days without its head before it starves to death ... (Creepy ... I'm still not over the pig) ... The male praying mantis cannot copulate while its head is attached to its body ... The female initiates sex by ripping the male's head off... (Honey, I'm home... What the ...?) ... The flea can jump 350 times its body length ... It's like a human jumping the length of a football field ... (30 minutes... Lucky pig! Can you imagine?) ... The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds ... (What could be so tasty on the bottom of a pond?) ... Some lions mate over 50 times a day... (I still can't believe that pig... quality over quantity) ... Butterflies taste with their feet ... (Something I always wanted to know) ... Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump ... (Okay, so that would be a good thing) ... A cat's urine glows under a black light. (I wonder how much the government paid to figure that out) ... An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain ... (I know some people like that) ... Starfish have no brains... (I know some people like that, too) ... Polar bears are left-handed ... (Talk about a southpaw) ... Humans and dolphins are the only species that have sex for pleasure... (What about that pig? ... Do the dolphins know about the pig?) ... Now that you've smiled at least once, it's your turn to spread these crazy facts...



Answers to Quiz

- 1) Judaism
- 2) Ramadan
- 3) Hinduism
- 4) French Catholics and Protestants (Huguenots)
- 5) Nantes
- 6) The Dharma wheel
- 7) Om
- 8) Henry VIII
- 9) 610
- 10) 6

That's it for this edition. Please feel free to submit comments, responses and your own contributions to either Jonathan or Colette (jonathanagolding@gmail.com; colettepatience@gmail.com). Have a good month!