



*“Lightning across the bay”*

Welcome to June – and a Fresh New Look for the Tattler!

We’re thrilled to unveil our updated masthead this month, featuring a striking image generously provided by talented photographer Jon Kerrin. His stunning photo will grace the Tattler for the year ahead – thank you, Jon!

As we kick off our 97th edition (that’s right, nearly at the century mark!), this new chapter begins with a message from our ever-dedicated secretary, followed by a rich mix of stories to inform and inspire. Sports lovers can enjoy a wrap-up of the English Premier League, while history buffs will appreciate the uplifting story of Ray Ewry—a boy who overcame polio to become an Olympic legend—and a quick dive into the origins of the Olympic Games. We also wind our way through the fascinating history of Bainskloof Pass, and, for the more squeamish among us, share a “quick, did-you-know” about those wretched little survivors: cockroaches.

We take a nostalgic look at some classic TV ads—including the memorable IBM Elephants—and spotlight a series of high-stakes naval battles that unfolded in the month of June throughout history, complete with named vessels and turning points. And for movie buffs, don’t miss our fun feature on *Jaws*, the blockbuster that forever changed summer cinema and left a legacy on the big screen.

As always, we hope this edition informs, entertains, and perhaps even surprises you. Happy reading!

Your editors  
Jonathan and Colette

**Front Cover By Jon Kerrin**

*Jon Kerrin is a professional landscape and nature photographer based in Cape Town. His work explores the dramatic beauty of South Africa’s wild spaces—from coastal storms and star-filled skies to wildlife in remote parks. Jon runs both one-on-one and group photographic workshops across the country, helping others capture powerful images of landscape, astrophotography, and wildlife through hands-on, immersive learning.*

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## Report Back on Club Activities

(Euan Smith, our club secretary, writes for Tattler)

Dear Members

As we move inexorably into winter and the nights become longer and wetter and colder The Club is open warm and dry and ready to receive you. So don't pass by but rather step inside for a refreshing break and a chat. This last month has been busy with lots of private functions and members events organised and enjoyed. The Quiz continues to attract more people and is enjoyed by everyone with friendly rivalry and much scratching of heads.



Happy Hour has been somewhat up and down regards attendance and so The Committee has decided at the last meeting to move it away from the Quiz to the first Tuesday of every month instead of the second. Hopefully by separating these two popular events we can avoid putting off those members who don't want to spend two evenings in a row with us. As I write this I am looking forward to the third evening of food from around the world on Wednesday which will take us to Italy, The Galley has just been re-floored and all the equipment cleaned and refurbished thanks to Sean Gourley so things should be a little easier for our volunteer cooks who somehow manage to feed us all on the night.

We have been glad to welcome back Theo Kent our long-time bar person after he suffered a fall whilst taking down the flags one evening. It is good to have you back Theo, and many thanks go to Chris Marlow for standing in, at very short notice and to our temporary staff member Kim Leih for stepping into the gap for us. With their help we managed to host a 21st, a 60th and a 90th birthday party this month which just shows the versatility and wide attraction of our fabulous club. We have also started to open on a Sunday specifically for the Grand Prix where the timings are appropriate. the first two in Italy and Monaco have attracted enough for us to continue. So, if you are a follower of motorsport or just want to join a fun crowd on a Sunday afternoon come and watch the race on the big screen.

I of course have to mention the Tattler as I write for it. How many magazines, newspapers, podcasts, debates and the like can you read, watch, listen to that are the equivalent of 30 pages that contain NO bad news, politics, negativity, ugliness these days? Jonathan as those of you who know him will know can be quite a political beast, but together with Colette has been able to put together a magazine that achieves this. A 30 pager that has items of history, opinions, sporting stories, humour and educational items that don't spark negative thoughts. Very well done indeed!

June looks like it could be an equally event filled month so don't be a stranger. Come and join us soon.

Cheers!

Euan

## Editorial

### Prost vs Senna



In the high-octane world of Formula 1, rivalries are nothing new. But every so often, a clash of titans redefines the sport itself. This is the story of two men—Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost—whose fierce battle for supremacy went far beyond the racetrack.

One was an unstoppable force—emotional, aggressive, spiritual. The other a calculating genius, cool under pressure, a master of precision. Together, they turned Formula 1 into a battleground of speed, ego, and raw talent.

From controversial crashes to unforgettable victories, their rivalry was as much about philosophy as it was about racing. And in the end, it left a mark on motorsport that will never be erased.

#### Tattler - Who is your pick?

To relive this rivalry or learn about it for the first time, click on this image to watch the video.



## South Africa has another World Champion!



In the next photo Rayno Nel is supported by Tom Stoltman. Rayno beat Hooper's time by less than a second to snatch one of the most coveted titles in Strength Sports, by only half a point from Tom. This could've been Tom's 4th title.



## From a wheelchair, he soared!

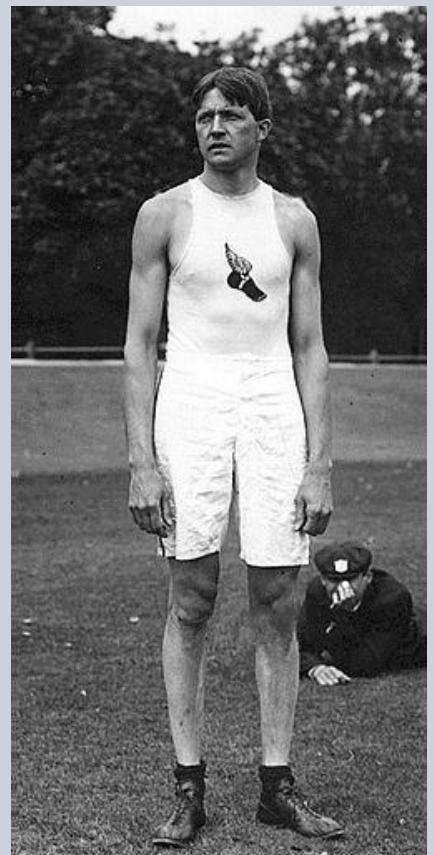
**Tattler** - found this inspiring and worth featuring. The amazing true story about Ray Ewry, a boy stricken with polio who went on to become a champion of note.

(From Wikipedia)

*Ewry at the 1908 Olympics* Raymond Clarence Ewry (October 14, 1873 – September 29, 1937) was an American track and field athlete who won eight gold medals at the Olympic Games and two gold medals at the Intercalated Games (1906 in Athens). This puts him among the most successful Olympians of all time.

Ewry was born in Indiana in 1873, and contracted polio as a young boy. In his childhood, he used a wheelchair, and it was feared that he might become paralysed for life. However, Ewry did his own exercises and overcame his illness.

He specialized in now defunct events, the standing jumps: the standing high jump, the standing long jump and the standing triple jump. These events were like their modern, normal versions but the athlete jumped without a run-up.





Ewry proved to be the best standing jumper in the world. At his first Olympics, held in Paris (1900), he won gold medals in all three standing jumps. Incidentally, all three finals were held on the same day (July 16).

At the 1904 Summer Olympics, Ewry successfully defended all three of his titles. The standing triple jump event was discontinued after those Olympics, but Ewry continued to dominate the two remaining standing jump events at both the 1906 Intercalated Games and 1908 Games, thus bringing his total to 10 Olympic gold titles including two from the Intercalated Games, **the highest number achieved until 2008**.

The 1906 Intercalated Games are currently not officially recognised by the IOC, although they were organized as an Olympic event by the IOC. Even if the 1906 games are removed from his totals, he stands (as of 2008) as the 12th most successful Olympian of all time in terms of total individual medals and second most successful in terms of individual gold medals. The standing jumping events were no longer held in the Olympics after 1912.

Ewry's superiority is also displayed by the fact that his world record in the standing long jump (3.47 m or 11 ft 5 in) was still standing when the event was discontinued internationally in the 1930s. In 1974 he was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame and in 1983 into the United States Olympic Hall of Fame.

It was not only the inspiring grit and determination of Ray Ewry that got our attention, but also the intrigue and the history of the Olympic games and the 1906 Intercalated Games.

### From Ancient Glory to the Global Stage

The Olympic Games trace their roots back to ancient Greece, nearly 3,000 years ago. First held in 776 BCE in Olympia, a sacred site in the western Peloponnese, these early Games were part of a religious festival in honour of Zeus. Events included running, wrestling, chariot racing, and the fierce pankration—a no-holds-barred mix of boxing and wrestling. Only free Greek men could compete—naked, as was the custom—and an Olympic truce ensured safe passage for all participants and spectators.

After over a thousand years, the ancient Games were abolished in 393 CE by Roman Emperor Theodosius I, as part of his campaign to eliminate pagan rituals. The tradition remained dormant until the 19th century, when French educator Baron Pierre de Coubertin revived the Olympics in 1896 in Athens. The first modern Games featured 43 events and 14 nations, and De Coubertin's vision of sport promoting peace and unity captured the world's imagination.

Since then, the Olympics have become a global celebration of athletic excellence. With over 200 countries participating and sports ranging from fencing to skateboarding, the Games—now alternating between Summer and Winter editions every two years—continue to showcase the spirit of competition, cultural exchange, and human achievement.

## The Forgotten Olympics: The Intrigue of the Intercalated Games

Tucked between the well-documented Olympiads of the modern era lies a curious chapter in Olympic history—the **1906 Intercalated Games**. Held in Athens, these Games were intended to reinvigorate the young Olympic movement, which had stumbled through poorly organized editions in 1900 (Paris) and 1904 (St. Louis). The idea was to host a more frequent set of Games, every four years but offset by two years from the main Olympics—hence the term “*intercalated*,” meaning inserted.

The 1906 Games were a surprising success. Well-organized and enthusiastically attended, they restored much of the credibility lost in earlier efforts and introduced several features that would become Olympic staples: athletes marching by nation in an opening ceremony, a centralized Olympic Village, and a more structured program of events.

Yet, despite their impact, the Intercalated Games have since been stripped of official status by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). They are not included in official Olympic counts, and the medals awarded are not recognized in the official tally—even though athletes like **Ray Ewry** added to their personal legends there.

### Why were they sidelined?

The Intercalated Games were sidelined for a combination of logistical, political, and organizational reasons, despite the 1906 edition being successful.

The idea behind the Intercalated Games was to host a set of Olympic Games every four years in Athens, two years after each main Olympic Games (e.g., 1906, 1910, 1914, etc.). This was meant to stabilize the still-young modern Olympic movement by returning to its “spiritual home” regularly.

The plan never got past 1906. The 1910 Games were never held due to political instability in Greece, including tensions in the Balkans. Financial constraints following the cost of the 1906 event and a lack of sustained international support for the concept were all contributing factors.

Although the 1906 Games were originally recognized by the IOC, they were later retroactively declassified. The IOC, under Pierre de Coubertin’s influence, wanted the Games to rotate globally, not stay tied to Greece. Coubertin himself disapproved of the 1906 Games, partly because he wasn’t central to organizing them. As a result, the IOC eventually excluded the 1906 Intercalated Games from the official Olympic record.

Any future chance of Intercalated Games was quashed by global events, like the Balkan Wars (1912-1913) and the outbreak of World War I shortly after. With the world entering a turbulent period, maintaining a regular global sporting event was difficult enough, let alone introducing an extra one.

So, while the 1906 Intercalated Games were a major step forward in Olympic organization and tradition (introducing things like national team parades and medal podiums), the idea of recurring Athens-hosted Games just didn’t survive the practical and political realities of the early 20th century.

## Who bowled the most maiden overs in ODI cricket?

**Tattler** - Does this surprise you?

Sr.	Player	Team	Mat	Overs	Maiden	WK	Runs	Best	5w	Avg	Eco
1	Shaun Pollock	South Africa	303	2618.4	313	393	9631	6/35	5	24.50	3.67
2	Glenn McGrath	Australia	250	2161.4	279	381	8391	7/15	7	22.02	3.88
3	Chaminda Vaas	Sri Lanka	322	2629.1	279	400	11014	8/19	4	27.53	4.18
4	Wasim Akram	Pakistan	356	3031	238	502	11812	5/15	6	23.52	3.89
5	Kapil Dev	India	225	1867	235	253	6945	5/43	1	27.45	3.71

**A maiden over is an over in which the bowler delivers six consecutive balls without conceding any runs. This means that during the entire over, no runs are scored off the bat. No extras are given, like wide or no-balls. As a result, no runs are added to the batting team's total.** *Many of you know this but I needed a little clarification - Colette*

Whilst you are deciding whether you're surprised by the above results or not, I got thinking about "Maiden Moments" in sport generally. We now understand what it is in cricket. Next up: What's a maiden race in horse racing? It appears to be "A race for horses that have never won before". Kind of like giving the losers a chance to lose until they win. What's a 'maiden win' in Formula 1? That's when a driver gets their first career victory. A maiden hundred is a player's first century in cricket. A maiden Grand Slam title is a player's first major win. "So basically, in all these sports, a 'maiden' is either someone (or a horse), who's never done the thing, or just did it for the first time. I'm confused. If you win your first F1 race, you're a maiden winner. But if you're a cricket bowler and someone scores zero off you, you've bowled a maiden. So... does that make the batsman the maiden? I've concluded that it is used inconsistently and "confusingly", and I should leave the sports commentary to Jonathan and Howard Cohen and our sport mad readers. *Colette*

### A Tribute to a hero - Brok Harris

*(As published by Stormers Rugby)*

**Tattler** did a feature on him and Deon a while back. A great player and guy!

Click on the image below to watch this video.



## Football Corner

### The Premier League - 2024/2025

**Tattler** - Howard Cohen shares his summary of the recent football season in England.

The last ball has been kicked in the EPL for the 2024 / 2025 season. As always it has had its dramatic moments, there have been supremely competitive, exhilarating games, dull unimaginative contests, breathtaking skills and sloppy amateurish play. VAR has never been far from the forefront of controversy, has been correct more often than it has been wrong, but dished out drama, disappointment and a fair share of heartbreak. Common sense cannot be expected to emerge from a system that depends on the data it receives and the rules that it is designed to implement. Both the tackle rule and what constitutes a handball remain ambiguous and clarity is required in the rules. There have been some horrendous leg breakers that have escaped sanction and some more minor infractions that have received maximum sanction. Much the same applies to what constitutes a handball. Consistency is the watchword, but there is work to be done in this regard. Offside rulings have been nail-biting, and frequently wonderful goals have been disallowed but the system is working, and the offside rule is a crucial part of the game. Generally, the standard of refereeing has been commendable. It is a demanding job which requires decisive, incisive decisions in the moment. One last comment on the rules, officialdom and VAR. Set plays and corners have become shambolic. The type of pushing, barging, obstruction and gamesmanship that goes unpunished would never be allowed by a rugby referee adjudicating a lineout. Something urgent must be done by the suits to rectify a deteriorating situation. Some element of obstruction has always been part of the game but set plays should not be allowed to deteriorate into a crap shoot.

The league was deservedly and comfortably won by Liverpool who had sewn up their supremacy a few weeks before the end of the season. This was a disappointment for neutrals, but obviously a singular triumph for the scousers. One would have liked to see a battle to the end for the top spot, but Liverpool was just that much better in all the dimensions that mattered. The most interesting contest developed into the battle for the remaining places for European football next season. A word about the champions. Slot inherited an excellent squad and pragmatically and presciently chose not to tinker with what Klopp had left behind. He also made no alteration to the system that had served to produce some magical football. He brought patience and composure to his predecessor's heavy metal football. The result was more consistency vital to winning the title, but the product was not as exciting to watch, and the more prosaic approach led to some sterile, albeit winning football. Given their supremacy in the EPL their domestic cup and Euro performances were disappointing. They ought to have won more silverware given the quality of their squad. For what it is worth my view is that there is not enough depth in the squad, and they are a long way from having at least two quality players in every position with a few to spare. They will have to acquire some quality at full back, midfield and out wide if they are to maintain their high standards. Their player of the season was the inimitable Mo Salah. Virgil Van Dijk was a pillar in defence and Mac Allister and Szoboszlai the pick of a midfield that lacks some creation. Alexander- Arnold, despite the hype, is eminently replaceable.

The Arsenal were runners up and not for the first time were the bridesmaid not the bride. At stages of the season, they were close enough in points to nurture serious title aspirations. It was not to be. Arteta is a capable young coach and has a decent squad, but they lack a world class striker. On this issue they have prevaricated for a few seasons with poor acquisitions, false nines, fill in players deputising and in Mikel Merino a mid-fielder who had never played in the number 9 position in his

playing career. In the last few games of the season, given his obvious limitations, Merino did a commendable job. It must be added that Kai Havertz, Arteta's first choice for the striker's spot missed the second half of the season due to injury. Havertz is not a natural 9 and never will be one. No team with title aspirations can contend seriously without a quality striker and another 9 who is competition for the first choice. Arsenal just did not score enough goals and missed a plethora of opportunities which would have been buried by a decent striker. They often played attractive football but were guilty of playing too much of their football in front of opposing defences. Their play was too lateral and their playmaker Odegaard often struggled to make the incisive pass he was looking for - it was not his best season. Martinelli and Trossard never gave up battling for the cause, but their star player was Saka who was able to get behind defences and create opportunities. He missed a few sitters himself. Their defence was solid with Gabriel, until he was injured and Saliba impressive. Myles Lewis - Skelley was the young player of the year, and much can be expected of him. They incline to be febrile in temperament in critical stages of games which cost them draws when they should have been wins. Some work for them off season, but overall, a season of promise though short of real execution.

Manchester City in third position had to overcome a slump in form the worst in Pep Guardiola's storied career. They played some abject, dreadful football and seemed to have run out of legs, ideas and energy. It was a sight for sore eyes - perhaps given the age of the squad they had run out of gas. Guardiola, always honest, assured all that would listen that City would emerge from the shadows and fight for a Euro spot. To their eternal credit City were able to emerge from the doldrums with fight, spirit and energy. Guardiola altered nothing to his coaching mantra of possession based attritional football. The difference was that the likes of Bernardo Silva, Kevin De Bruyne, Ilkay Gundogan, Josko Gvardiol and other previous non performers showed up for work. City regained their competitive spirit and began to win, particularly against lower placed opposition which had hitherto been a problem. They systematically climbed the league ladder eventually finishing in a commendable third position given their earlier travails. In their revived portion of the season the inestimable De Bruyne was the standout player, finding enthusiasm, energy and ambition when all seemed lost. He was the inspiration and bowed out after ten magnificent years with the club. All hail Kevin, an unforgettable professional and one of the finest players of his era. Other than Omar Marmoush, one of the players acquired by City during their slump, the other players who came in are not good enough to play for City. A clear-out and some key acquisitions are clearly required in the off season.

Chelsea who finished fourth were a bit of a surprise package. They had a dreadful start to the season under new coach Enzo Maresca and the doomsayers were out in force. They managed to keep their heads down and once their poor form was arrested; they began to resurrect their season. Maresca fielded the youngest squad ever in a single campaign, something which he has every right to be proud and excited about. Though Chelsea is a club that has been in the spotlight for all sorts of negative, often ill-informed comment, they managed to fly under the radar this season when the focus was on other contenders for the Euro spots. With Spurs winning the Europa League it meant that, outside Liverpool, there were only three spots left for Champions league football. Chelsea began to win, often in grinding determined fashion, on other occasions with some style and elan. If a draw was the best option available, they played for it. Maresca transformed them into a difficult team to beat. Their player of the season Moises Caicedo was a rock in defence, one of the most dynamic tacklers in the league and often capable of the telling pass. Levi Colwill was consistently effective in the tackle and scored a few vital goals. Trevor Chalobah took his chances when he was recalled from loan and earned an England call up for his efforts. Marc Cucurella, not a personal favourite, was a first-class

wing back, one of the best in the league and was always up for the fight, a powerful engine and the heart of a lion. An underrated player he also contributed with a few vital goals. Enzo Fernandez was combative and persistent in the middle of the park and the senior player around whom Maresca built his team. Up front Jackson was erratic but scored some vital goals. Personally, I am of the view that Chelsea ought to be in the market for a striker. Jackson is not quite the profile and ability they are looking for. Cole Palmer, particularly when he was in the mood, was the fulcrum of Chelsea's offensive initiatives. A supremely gifted player, languid and unhurried, he can pick a pass, make the play and score goals. He sometimes drifts out of the play and his work rate could improve, though he is always looking for that little pocket of space to receive and make the play. Chelsea's shrewdest acquisition for some time. Mention must also be made of Noni Madueke who is a player to watch for the future. Once he won the confidence of the gaffer, he was a significant contributor to Chelsea's offensive efforts. Quick, intrepid, skillful with the ball at his feet, he often delivered telling crosses and earned an England call up.

Newcastle United grabbed the last Euro spot after an exceptional season under their fine manager Eddie Howe. The Toon who have significant oil money behind them, have not pursued an overly aggressive stance in the market partly because they were in breach of the League's financial rules under their previous ownership. They have steadily built their squad with Alexander Izak being their most significant acquisition. Howe chose to play high tempo, attacking, relentless no holds barred football. No matter the opposition the Toon would adopt a high line and force their opposition into their own half. Howe's midfield of Tonali, Guimaraes and Joelinton were without peer in the league. They complemented each other with uncanny intuition - all three workaholics, fearsome tacklers and fine passers of the football. Murphy, Barnes and Gordon quick, nimble and brave down the flanks and Izak probably the most effective, deadly striker in the league. At the back Pope stopped most of what he was called upon to save and Burn, Livramento, Schar, Botman and Trippier resolute and determined in defence. Newcastle was at their best scoring goals and pressing their opponents. When they became tentative and lost concentration, they could be vulnerable and were not a team who had a plan B. For me they played the type of football fans pay to watch and were engrossing and unfailingly entertaining. My team of the season.

Aston Villa will compete in Europa next season, slightly disappointing in a campaign which at times promised more. Well-managed by the lively street wise Unai Emery, they lacked the consistency to seriously contest the major positions, but with the squad at his disposal and some money behind him one suspects that a top four spot is not beyond them.

Notts Forest will contest the Conference League next season. If regard is had to the last time Forest played in Europe, their greatest successes were in the 1970's and across an 18-year spell under the legendary Brian Clough in the 80's, returning to Europe is a superb outcome. In truth the ownership, management and players will have some regret at the outcome. At times in the season, they occupied the top four zone, but Nuno's style of play was just too defensive and lacked ambition. Surrendering possession, relying on an excellent defence and pinning hopes of scoring on a turnover and a lightning attack is a strategy that worked for Forest, but they were eventually found out. They simply could not score sufficient goals when teams found a counter to their game plan. More is to come from Forest, but they have to alter their game plan - they have the resources to do so.

An EPL season is comprised of more than the winner and the Euro qualifiers. Particular mention must be made of Bournemouth, Brighton and Brentford and Crystal Palace. These teams led by talented coaches and a batch of gifted players enriched the league and regardless of their opponents were

always serious contenders. Brentford deserve special mention. Another offensively minded side never intimidated regardless of the opposition they were always an entertaining watch. A small squad with a strong Scandinavian flavour they were up for the fight. They possessed in Mbeumo, Wissa and Schade probably the most potent front three in the league. All three managed double figures in goals scored which no other team managed this season. Ivan Toney, who has just been called up for England once kept Wissa out of their starting line-up. Their manager Thomas Frank is technically one of the finest around.

In conclusion my best of the season eleven. Goalkeeper Matz Sels, Notts Forest. Right fullback Munoz, Crystal Palace. Left back Kerkez, Bournemouth. Centre backs Van Dijk, Liverpool, Milenkovic, Forest. Midfield Tonali, Guimaraes, Newcastle, Rice Arsenal. Right wing Salah, Liverpool, left wing Mbeumo, Brentford. Striker Izak, Newcastle.

Until we meet again, yours in football,  
Howard Cohen

### Thinking back to some memorable adverts from yesteryear:

*Click on the images below to watch.*

Many would speak of the IBM "elephant" ad.



There was also the clever BMW one



and the Dunlop staffy!



*In a cheeky nod to the way internet culture and search engines have permeated every aspect of our lives—from tech to tabloids—we’re highlighting how search has evolved from sterile algorithmic innovation into a global phenomenon that even icons like Pamela Anderson have (knowingly or not) got into.*

*This playful visual parody (where Pamela’s infamous assets stand in for Google’s “oo”) isn’t mere tabloid fodder—it’s a satirical reflection on how branding, celebrity, and digital identity blur in the age of search. As we explore the influence of Google on everything from how we shop to how we learn, we tip our hat to the bizarre but fascinating ways it’s shown up in pop culture. Ps. This was never an official Google advertisement.*

*Pamela Anderson without makeup? That’s not just a headline—it’s practically a cultural event. In a world airbrushed to oblivion, seeing Pam fresh-faced is like finding page 10 of Google search results: rare, honest, and surprisingly refreshing.*

*It’s a reminder that even icons—yes, even the living embodiment of the 90s internet—have real faces, real pores, and real mornings. So, while the digitally enhanced “Google” tee moment may live on in cheeky internet history, we’d argue the barefaced Pamela might just be the most “searched for” truth of all: beauty without the filters, glamour without the gloss.*



## History of Bainskloof Pass

From - Origins 22 - Genealogy & History

Bainskloof Pass was completed in 1853 to link Wellington with the interior of the Cape Colony. The project was overseen by Andrew Geddes Bain, a Scottish born road engineer and geologist. It was one of 24 passes he was responsible for building in South Africa.

Construction of the pass began in 1849 and took four years to complete. The pass stretches for approximately 30 kilometres and climbs to an altitude of 594 metres at its highest point.



Before the pass, the route over the Limietberg mountains was dangerous and limited to rough tracks. Bainskloof Pass provided a safer and more efficient way for wagons to cross the mountains, improving transport between the Cape's interior and the port in Cape Town. It played a key role in economic expansion in the Boland and beyond.

The pass is known for its use of dry-stone walling, a technique where stones are carefully fitted without mortar. Much of Bain's original stonework is still visible today. His approach was both practical and suited to the terrain. The road followed the natural contours of the mountains and included rock cuttings, retaining walls, and culverts for water drainage.

In recognition of its engineering significance and historical value, Bainskloof Pass was declared a national monument. While parts of it have been resurfaced for modern vehicles, many original features remain intact. The pass is still in use, though with restrictions on vehicle size and weight due to its narrow width and sharp bends.

Later photographs



**The world's best beaches for 2025 have just been named and one of Cape Town's very own has made the prestigious list.**

(And one of Simon's Town's own!)



According to *The World's 50 Best Beaches*, this year's list was a culmination of many days spent by judges, Beach Ambassadors and World's 50 Beaches team exploring beaches all over the world.

These judges found **Cape Town's famous Boulders Beach** special enough to be placed at a respectable 12th spot on the list, adding:

*"Famous for its resident colony of African penguins, Boulders Beach near Cape Town offers a unique opportunity to observe these charming birds up close in their stunning natural habitat. The beach is set against a backdrop of large granite boulders that create sheltered coves with unusually warm waters, ideal for swimming. This setting makes it distinct from other Atlantic Ocean beaches in the area, which are typically cooler. The presence of the penguins, combined with the safe, warm swimming spots, draws both tourists and locals who are looking for a unique beach experience that combines wildlife observation with leisure activities."*

## **A Geographic oddity - A very weird town in which to live!**

Imagine living in a town where you need to leave your country and then return to it when you go out and then do the reverse when you return home? That would be in [Angle Inlet](#), Minnesota!

To travel to Angle Inlet by road from other parts of Minnesota, or from anywhere in the United States, requires driving through Manitoba, Canada.



Its population was 54 as of the 2020 census. The community is part of the Northwest Angle, the only place in the contiguous United States north of the 49th parallel.



Mostly surrounded by Canada and a lake. You can reach Angle Inlet without crossing the international border by crossing the Lake of the Woods. This can be done by aircraft, by boat when the lake is free of ice, or by ice road in the winter months. Since there are no automobile ferries operating on the lake, vehicles coming from the rest of Minnesota can only reach the Angle without crossing the border in winter. While the ice is forming in late autumn and breaking up in the spring the lake's surface cannot be safely crossed – at these times domestic access to the Angle is possible only by air.

The area has a very rural, remote feel, attracting anglers and outdoors enthusiasts. It's known for excellent

\*\*walleye fishing and pristine wilderness.

There's a self-service border crossing station where travellers report to U.S. and Canadian customs via video phone—one of the only such setups in North America.

Angle Inlet is home to the last one-room schoolhouse still operating in Minnesota, serving the handful of children in the community.

*The walleye is a freshwater fish in the perch family that is a popular and commonly stocked game fish. Walleye are long and thin, primarily gold and olive in colour, with a white belly. The back is crossed with five or more black bands. They have two dorsal fins—one spiny and one soft-rayed.*



## Nightmare loading - Large, Snake-Like Fish Invading the United States - The Northern Snakehead (From The Smithsonian)

It may sound like something out of science fiction: A three-foot-long fish that can breathe air, “walk” on land and survive for days out of the water. But the northern snakehead is very real—and, perhaps more importantly, it’s very invasive.



Originally hailing from Asia, the northern snakehead (CHANNA ARGUS) has been proliferating throughout the United States for the last two decades. They have sharp teeth and scales that are similar in colouring and pattern to pythons.

Their air-breathing abilities also give them some unique advantages. In addition to being able to survive on land, northern snakeheads can live in muddy, shallow waters that don't have a lot of oxygen—ecosystems that are typically off-limits to other fish that exclusively absorb oxygen through their gills.

Female northern snakeheads can carry up to 50,000 eggs, many of which will hatch one to two days after being fertilized. The fish typically shy away from humans. But once their eggs have hatched, northern snakeheads can turn nasty. Both the male and female parents guard their young—called fry—and have been known to aggressively defend them against any possible threats.

Interesting ...

## Sweeter melons?

(Source - Farmer's Way)

**Tattler** was fascinated!

In some parts of China, you may notice a strange sight: a stone carefully placed over a watermelon. This isn't to prevent it from rolling over or to protect it from prying hands, but rather for a deeper secret related to its sweetness.

During the day, the stone absorbs the sun's heat, protecting the watermelon from its scorching heat. As night falls, the stone gradually releases that heat, creating a thermal contrast that stimulates the fruit's ripening process, making it sweeter. It's a simple agricultural trick, but it carries a profound understanding of nature and its effects on crops.



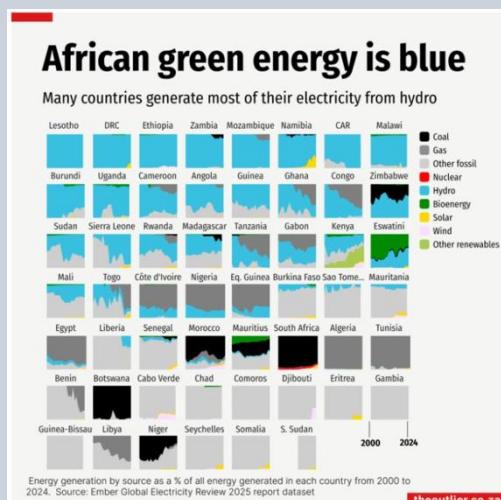
## For our Petrol Heads!

Think that 1000bhp is relatively new? How about this machine from 30 years ago?

Click on image below to watch.



Could you have guessed?



Did you know?

A cockroach can live for 168 hours (a week) without its head!



Cockroaches breathe through little holes found in each of their body segments, so they don't need their mouth or head to breathe. However, they do need their mouths to drink water, so they will eventually die of thirst after a week or so.

## SA-Born Marlène Dumas Smashes Record for Living Female Artist with R246m Painting



### Tattler - Caught my eye

Cape Town-born Marlène Dumas has achieved a significant milestone in the art world, setting a new auction record as the most expensive living female artist. Her 1997 painting *Miss January* sold for \$13.6 million at Christie's New York on May 14, 2025. This sale surpasses the previous record for a living female artist, held by Jenny Saville, whose *PROPPED* (1992), fetched £9.5 million (\$12.4 million) at Sotheby's London in 2018. Before this auction, Dumas's highest price was \$6.33 million, achieved in 2008 for *THE VISITOR* (1995) at Sotheby's London.

#### About *Miss January* (1997)

*“Miss January is a monumental 10-foot semi-nude portrait that challenges traditional representations of the female form. The painting features a blonde woman, nude from the waist down, gazing directly at the viewer. Its striking composition and scale underscore Dumas's exploration of the female body, identity, and societal norms. Notably, the painting revisits themes from Dumas's early work, echoing her first known drawing, *Miss World*, created when she was just ten years old.”*

Born in 1953 in Cape Town, South Africa, Marlène Dumas grew up during the apartheid era, an experience that profoundly influenced her artistic vision. She studied at the University of Cape Town and later at Ateliers '63 in Haarlem, Netherlands. Dumas also pursued psychology at the University of Amsterdam, a discipline that informs her deep psychological engagement with her subjects.

Since relocating to the Netherlands in 1976, Dumas has become one of the most influential contemporary artists. Her work is characterized by emotionally charged, psychologically complex portraits that often draw from found photographs. She explores themes such as sexuality, race, grief, motherhood, and the body, frequently revisiting and reinterpreting these subjects throughout her career.

Dumas's art challenges traditional narratives, particularly regarding the female nude. By confronting and deconstructing these representations, she invites viewers to reconsider their perceptions of identity and the human form.

Marlène Dumas's record-setting sale of *Miss January* not only highlights her exceptional talent but also signifies a broader recognition of her contributions to contemporary art. Her work continues to inspire and provoke, solidifying her place as a leading figure in the art world.

## Club Managers Report

### 100 Club Winners May 2025

Mr J. Page – R300

Capt T. Thiart (Ret) – R300

Capt J. Jordaan (Ret) – R300

Capt J. Jordaan (Ret) – R1000

We wish the following members a very Happy June 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.

#### **1 June – Lt Cdr J.S. Meyer (Ret)**

*1938: Superman debuted in Action Comics No. 1.*

*2009: Air France Flight 447 vanished over the Atlantic.*

*1916: The Battle of Jutland ends.*

*Born: Marilyn Monroe (1926), Morgan Freeman (1937)*

#### **2 June – Mr A.R. Bullock**

*1953: Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.*

*1896: Marconi filed his first radio patent.*

*Born: Charlie Watts (1941) (Rolling Stones drummer)*

#### **3 June – Mr R.M. Beal**

*1965: First American spacewalk by Ed White.*

*2017: London Bridge attack.*

*1940: End of Dunkirk evacuation.*

*Born: Josephine Baker (1906), Anderson Cooper (1967), Rafael Nadal (1986).*

#### **4 June – Mr C.H. Ryan**

*1989: Tiananmen Square massacre.*

*1919: U.S. Congress passed the 19th Amendment.*

*1942: Start of the Battle of Midway.*

*Born: Angelina Jolie (1975), Russell Brand (1975), Joyce Meyer (1943).*

#### **14 June – Mr T. Lutz**

*1777: U.S. adopts the Stars and Stripes.*

*1940: Paris falls to Nazi forces. 1982: Falklands War ends with British victory.*

*Born: Donald Trump (1946), Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811), Boy George (1961).*

#### **16 June – Mr L.H.M. Dilley**

*1976: Soweto Uprising begins.*

*1963: Valentina Tereshkova becomes first woman in space.*

*Born: Geronimo (1829), Joyce Carol Oates (1938).*

#### **18 June – Capt C.J. Moon (Ret)**

*1815: Napoleon defeated at Waterloo.*

*1928: Amelia Earhart crosses the Atlantic.*

*1812: U.S. declares war on Britain (War of 1812 begins).*

*Born: Paul McCartney (1942), Isabella Rossellini (1952), Salman Rushdie (1947).*

#### **23 June – Cdr R. Strydom, Mr D.J. Pienaar, Mr C.R Martens**

*1912: Alan Turing born.*

*2016: Brexit referendum.*

*1945: End-stage WWII naval campaigns.*

## 27 June – Lt Cdr J.R. Labuschagne

1954: First nuclear power station opens in Russia

1980: Itavia Flight 870 crash.

1905: Mutiny on the battleship Potemkin.

Born: Helen Keller (1880), Vera Wang (1949), Tobe Maguire (1975).

## 29 June – V Adm PvZ Loedolff (Ret), Mr M. Le Grange

2007: First iPhone released.

1995: Shuttle-Mir docking.

1864: USS Kearsarge sinks CSS Alabama.

Born: Nicole Scherzinger (1978).

## New Club Members

We welcome the following new member to our club and wish them a long association.

Lorna Pauls married to Werner Pauls and, resides in Fairfield Close, Capri. Lorna is the daughter of Member Con Martens and thus joins the Club as a Family Member.

Aye,

Glen

## Seven Seas Quiz - 14 May 2025

Another great night at the **Seven Seas Quiz – 14 May 2025!** With five full teams, the room was buzzing with brainpower and banter. A huge thanks to all who joined—your enthusiasm makes it fun. It was a nail-biter, with the winners just edging ahead by *two points!*

Studies in concentration (1)



Studies in concentration (2)



To the victors, the spoils!



Think you could have cracked it? Why not test yourself with one of the rounds. As usual we provide a set of questions from the quiz to give non-participants a taste of what our quizzers face! This set is from the Music Category titled "Band Names". Give it a go (questions below) ... and maybe we'll see you at the next quiz night!

#### Music Category- Band Names

- 1) This band that had hits with "Magic Carpet Ride" and "Born to be Wild" took their name from a novel originally published in Germany in 1927 and first translated into English in 1929. The novel was named after the German name for a particular canine.
- 2) Brian Jones, this band's guitarist, saw a Muddy Waters album lying on the floor during a phone call with a journalist and, in a moment of inspiration, suggested the name of the band. Which band? (Hint - they got together in '62 and are still around).
- 3) Where did ABBA get their name?
- 4) As revealed in his autobiography, Bound for Glory, this was the name of Woody Guthrie's boyhood gang, named after his hometown, Oklahoma City, known as 'Boomtown', during the oil boom. What band?
- 5) A band named After a city in Massachusetts, where the band was formed. Their songs include "More than a Feeling" and "Don't Look Back".
- 6) This band created their name after seeing a poster which referred to Frank Sinatra's move from Las Vegas to Los Angeles.
- 7) Steve Harris named this band after a torture device as shown in the 1939 film The Man in the Iron Mask. (A steely young woman?).
- 8) This band's name refers to the Hindenburg disaster!
- 9) This band named themselves after a metal dildo from a novel, "The Naked Lunch" by William S Burroughs. (Dan is really tough?).
- 10) Bono once said that this band name came from its interactivity with the audience, as in "you too".

Answers elsewhere in Tattler

## Maritime, Naval and Military

### ↳ Sailor Talk! Nautical

*Idioms That Made It Ashore - Ahoy, landlubbers! Ever wonder how many everyday phrases come from the high seas? These salty idioms were born on deck—and we still use them, even if we've never hoisted a sail!*

**Batten down the hatches** – Get ready, trouble's coming.

**Three sheets to the wind** – A polite way to say someone's quite drunk.

**Know the ropes** – You've got experience (just like a seasoned sailor).

**Loose cannon** – Someone who could explode into chaos at any moment.

**Cut and run** – Make a fast getaway, no questions asked!

**All hands on deck** – Everyone pitch in—now!

**Taken aback** – Completely surprised (just like a ship suddenly hit by wind).

**Clear the decks** – Get everything out of the way and be ready for action.

**By and large** – Generally speaking, in all conditions.

**High and dry** – Left behind or in a tough spot.

### Royal Navy adds first uncrewed AI submarine Excalibur to its arsenal

*Source: Navy Lookout 15/05*

So, maybe you thought uncrewed underwater vessels were tiny?

**The Royal Navy has launched its first-ever uncrewed submarine, a 19-tonne underwater vessel named Excalibur.**



The RN's development of uncrewed underwater systems took a significant step forward with the formal unveiling of its first Extra-Large Uncrewed Underwater Vehicle (XLUUV) today. (15 May 2025) Named XV Excalibur, the 12-metre long, 2.2-metre diameter vessel displaces 19 tonnes and is the largest uncrewed submarine trialled by the RN or any European navy to date.

The launch marks the culmination of the CETUS project—an experimental programme initiated in 2022 and developed by the Navy's autonomy and innovation teams in collaboration with industry and DE&S.

The vessel was constructed by MSubs in Plymouth and was first launched at Turnchapel Wharf in February. Since being delivered to the RN, she has undergone Harbour and Sea Acceptance Trials (HATs and SATs) in Devonport.

Excalibur was christened in traditional fashion by Honorary Captain Peaches Golding OBE CStJ RNR, the Lord Lieutenant of Bristol, using a bottle of Plymouth Gin. The last submarine to carry the name, HMS Excalibur was built in 1947 and was used to experiment with high-test peroxide (HTP) propulsion (ultimately abandoned due to the volatility of the dangerous chemicals involved). 200 guests and VIPs including R Adm. James Parkin, Navy Director Develop, representatives from AUKUS nations, trainees from across the navy and Cadets, attended the ceremony at HMNB Devonport, South Yard.

The XLUUV is intended as a testbed to examine how such craft might conduct operations, including long-endurance surveillance, seabed warfare, and deployment of sensors or payloads in denied or contested environments. Excalibur will join the recently created Fleet Experimentation Squadron run by the new Disruptive Capabilities and Technologies Office, along with XV Patrick Blackett. Excalibur is a technology demonstrator and not an operational asset but will be used to trial the Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) and stealth capabilities of the XLUUV, alongside its ability to carry bespoke payloads. While much smaller than a conventional submarine, the scale of the vessel allows for greater endurance and payload capacity than traditional autonomous underwater vehicles. Early indications are that the platform will be modular and adaptable to a range of roles.

### The Delville Wood Memorial

*Source: South African Military History Channel*

Rather lovely!

Delville Wood, France. Memorial to the South Africans - the Star shape echoes the shape of the Dutch built Cape town Castle. It commemorates those South Africans who fought & died in World War 1.



South Africa played a significant role in **World War I (1914–1918)** as part of the **British Empire**, contributing troops, resources, and strategic support. **Over 230,000 South Africans** (black and white) served in various capacities during WWI.



South African troops fought in multiple theatres:

- **German South-West Africa (now Namibia)** – The first major campaign involving South Africans, led by General Louis Botha and General Jan Smuts.
- **East Africa** – South African forces participated in the campaign against German colonial forces under General Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck.
- **Western Front (France and Belgium)** – South African Infantry Brigade, notably the 1st South African Infantry Brigade, served with distinction.
- **Middle East** – A smaller number served in Egypt and Palestine.

### The Battle of Delville Wood (July 1916)

- A defining moment for South African troops.
- Part of the Battle of the Somme in France.
- The 1st South African Infantry Brigade was ordered to hold Delville Wood at all costs.
- Out of approximately 3,150 men, only around 750 survived after six days of relentless fighting.
- This battle is commemorated as a symbol of South African sacrifice in WWI.

## Notable Naval Battles in June

Source: [history.com](http://history.com), [Britannica.com](http://Britannica.com), [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)

### GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE (1 JUNE 1794)

- **Date:** 1 June 1794
- **Conflict:** French Revolutionary Wars (War of the First Coalition).
- **Belligerents:** Great Britain vs. Revolutionary France.
- **Commanders:** Admiral Lord Howe (Britain) vs. Vice-Admiral Louis-Thomas Villaret de Joyeuse (France).
- **Outcome:** British tactical victory – the British fleet inflicted heavy losses on the French fleet (sinking or capturing several ships). Howe's ships "inflicted a severe tactical defeat" on the French line. Seven French ships of the line were lost and thousands of men killed. Strategically, however, Villaret succeeded in saving a vital French grain convoy (so France secured its objective). Both navies claimed success, but the British maintained naval pressure after.
- **Named vessels:** HMS QUEEN CHARLOTTE (Howe's flagship) led the British van, supported by HMS ROYAL SOVEREIGN, BRUNSWICK, DEFENCE, etc. The French flagship was MONTAGNE (Villaret's ship); other notable French ships included VENGEUR DU PEUPLE and ACHILLE (lost).
- **Sources:** Britannica notes this was "fought on 1 June 1794 between the British and French navies". The aftermath describes a "severe tactical defeat" for the French fleet even as their grain convoy escaped.



HMS Queen Charlotte

## BATTLE OF MIDWAY (3–6 JUNE 1942)

- **Date:** 3–6 June 1942.
- **Conflict:** World War II (Pacific War).
- **Belligerents:** United States (Pacific Fleet) vs. Empire of Japan (Combined Fleet).
- **Commanders:** Admiral Chester W. Nimitz (overall US Pacific Fleet commander), Admiral Frank J. Fletcher (Carrier Task Force 17) and Admiral Raymond A. Spruance (Carrier Task Force 16) vs. Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto (Japanese CINC) and Admiral Chūichi Nagumo (Japanese carrier task force).
- **Outcome:** Decisive U.S. victory – U.S. dive-bombers caught the Japanese carriers by surprise and sank four fleet carriers (Akagi, Kaga, Sōryū, and Hiryū). Japan lost ~292 aircraft and its best pilots, largely eliminating its carrier strike capability. The U.S. lost the carrier USS YORKTOWN and destroyer USS HAMMANN but turned the Pacific balance of power. Midway “destroyed Japan’s first-line carrier strength” and ended Japan’s initiative in the Pacific.
- **Named vessels:** U.S. carriers ENTERPRISE, HORNET, and YORKTOWN fought; Yorktown was lost. Japanese carriers AKAGI, KAGA, SŌRYŪ, and HIRYŪ were sunk. (USS HAMMANN was also sunk).
- **Sources:** Britannica summarizes Midway as “in which the United States destroyed Japan’s first-line carrier strength”. Historical accounts note Japan lost four fleet carriers and a cruiser, while the U.S. lost only YORKTOWN and one destroyer.



*USS Enterprise*

## BATTLE OF THE PHILIPPINE SEA (19–20 JUNE 1944)

- **Date:** 19–20 June 1944
- **Conflict:** World War II (Pacific War, during the Mariana Islands campaign).
- **Belligerents:** United States (5th Fleet) vs. Empire of Japan (1st Mobile Fleet).
- **Commanders:** Admiral Raymond A. Spruance (US 5th Fleet) and Admiral Marc A. Mitscher (US Carrier Task Force) vs. Admiral Jisaburō Ozawa (Japanese Combined Fleet), with Vice Admirals Kakuji Kakuta and Takeo Kurita under him.
- **Outcome:** Overwhelming U.S. victory (nicknamed the “Great Marianas Turkey Shoot”). Japanese naval air power was shattered. The U.S. sank two Japanese fleet carriers (TAIHŌ and SHŌKAKU) and one light carrier (HIYŌ), destroying 550–650 enemy aircraft. American losses were light (only one US battleship damaged and ~123 planes lost). The battle eliminated Japan’s capacity for large carrier operations.
- **Named vessels:** U.S. fleet carriers included ESSEX, LEXINGTON, BUNKER HILL, WASP, HORNET, BENNINGTON, COWPENS; Japan fielded carriers TAIHŌ, SHŌKAKU, ZUIKAKU, JUN’YŌ, HIYŌ, RYŪHŌ, etc. (Taihō, Shōkaku, Hiyō were sunk).
- **Sources:** The battle “eliminated the Imperial Japanese Navy’s ability to conduct large-scale carrier actions”. Casualty lists confirm Japan lost 3 carriers (2 fleet, 1 light), while U.S. forces emerged virtually unscathed.



*IJN Taihō*

## BATTLE OF LA ROCHELLE (22–23 JUNE 1372)

- **Date:** 22–23 June 1372
- **Conflict:** Hundred Years' War (Caroline phase) – Castilian intervention supporting France.
- **Belligerents:** Crown of Castile vs. Kingdom of England.
- **Commanders:** Admiral Ambrosio Boccanegra (Castile) vs. John Hastings, Earl of Pembroke (England).
- **Outcome:** Crushing Castilian victory – the entire English fleet was captured or destroyed. Castile's ~22 ships (mostly galleys and carracks) defeated and sank the English force (~32 ships), capturing or killing most English sailors. This defeat seriously disrupted English Channel trade and weakened English positions in Aquitaine.
- **Named vessels:** The Castilians deployed about 22 vessels (galleys and naos); specific ship names are not given. The English fleet (~32 ships and barges) was entirely lost, with no named survivors cited.
- **Sources:** Contemporary accounts note that “the Castilian victory was complete, and the entire English fleet was captured or destroyed.

## BATTLE OF CHIOGGIA (24 JUNE 1380)

- **Date:** 24 June 1380.
- **Conflict:** War of Chioggia (Venetian–Genoese War, 1378–1381) – part of Genoa–Venice rivalry.
- **Belligerents:** Republic of Venice vs. Republic of Genoa.
- **Commanders:** Admiral Carlo Zeno and Doge Andrea Contarini (Venice) vs. Admiral Pietro Doria (Genoa).
- **Outcome:** Venetian victory – Venice repelled a Genoese assault on its lagoon. The Genoese fleet (23 galleys under Doria) was largely destroyed or captured by Venetian forces (Pisani, Zeno and Contarini). This lifted the Genoese threat and ended Genoa's challenge to Venetian control of the Adriatic.
- **Named vessels:** The battle involved galley squadrons; no individual ship names are recorded in sources. (Venice had some 48 galleys in total, Genoa ~23.)
- **Sources:** It “culminated on June 24, 1380” off Chioggia and was a Venetian victory, with “destruction of much of the Genoese fleet”.



## BATTLE OF SLUYS (24 JUNE 1340)

- **Date:** 24 June 1340
- **Conflict:** Hundred Years' War (Edwardian phase)
- **Belligerents:** England vs. France
- **Commanders:** King Edward III (England); Admiral Hugues Quiéret and Constable Nicolas Béhuchet (France)
- **Outcome:** Decisive English victory – the English fleet defeated the French/Genoese fleet, capturing or destroying almost the entire French force. The French lost the majority of their ~213 ships and ~16,000–20,000 men, giving England naval supremacy in the Channel.
- **Named vessels:** The English fleet (120–150 ships) was largely mercantile cogs; no ship names are recorded. (Flagships are not individually noted in sources.)
- **Sources:** The battle “was a naval battle fought on 24 June 1340 between England and France”, and left the French fleet shattered.



## This month in History - June 1975 (50 years ago)

### General

**6 June** - A helicopter landed inside the grounds of the Southern Michigan Prison at Jackson at 11:05 am, picked up long time inmate Dale Remling, and departed again. Remling was re-captured two days later.

**8 June** - The Venera 9 space probe was launched by the Soviet Union to explore the planet, Venus. It would land on Venus on October 22 at 13:12 Venus solar time and transmit data for 53 minutes.

**16 June** - The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was created in Australia which put the Great Barrier Reef under government protection.

**18 June** - Faisal bin Musaid, the 31-year assassin of his uncle, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, was publicly beheaded at Dira Square in Riyadh. A crowd of thousands watched.

**20 June** - "Jaws", (\*\* see separate story), an action film about a white shark terrorizing a resort island, premiered nationwide. Within two weeks, the film would recoup its costs, and by September 5, it would surpass *The Godfather* as the highest-grossing film in history.

**23 June** - The United States Supreme Court voted, 8–0, to accept the resignation of former U.S. President Richard M. Nixon from practice before the court.

**25 June** - The People's Republic of Mozambique, formerly the colony of Portuguese East Africa, gained independence from Portugal shortly after midnight.

**27 June** - International terrorist Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, more commonly known as "Carlos the Jackal", eluded capture after three policemen of the French Intelligence Service arrived at his Paris apartment to question him about a recent terrorist attack at the Orly Airport. After getting permission to use the bathroom, Carlos came back out firing a gun and killed two of the officers, then escaped.

### Sport

**11 June** - Cricket - One-day international cricket debut of Javed Miandad aged 17 yrs 364 days.



**14 June** - Tennis - Chris Evert defeated Martina Navratilova, 2–6, 6–2, 6–1 to win the French Open.

**15 June** - Tennis - Björn Borg defeated Guillermo Vilas, 6–2, 6–3, 6–4 to win the French Open.

**21 June** - Rugby - Springboks beat France 38 - 25.

**21 June** - Cricket - West Indies beat Australia in the Final of the Prudential World Cup. Captain Clive Llod got a century, and Keith Boyce took 4 - 50. Australian captain Ian Chappell scored 62 and Gary Gilmour took 5 - 48.

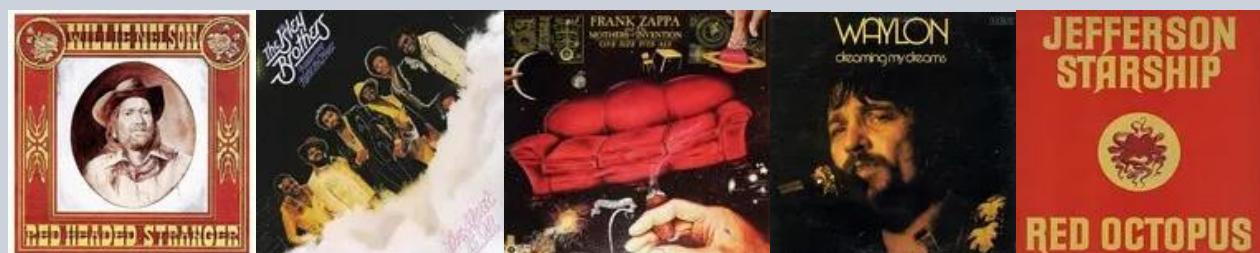
**22 June** - F1 racing - British driver and future world champion James Hunt won his first Formula One Grand Prix (Dutch Grand Prix) giving small privateer operation Hesketh Racing the highlight of its six-year history with its first and only Grand Prix win. Hunt drove his Hesketh 308 to a one-second win over the Ferrari 312T of the World Championship points leader, Austrian driver Niki Lauda. Third was taken by Lauda's Ferrari teammate, Swiss driver Clay Regazzoni.

**23 June** - Golf - Lou Graham beat John Mahaffey in a playoff to win the US Open.

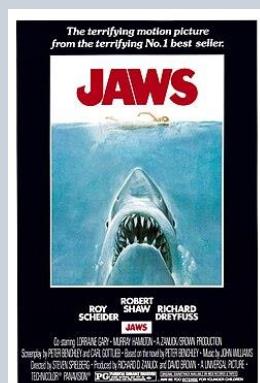
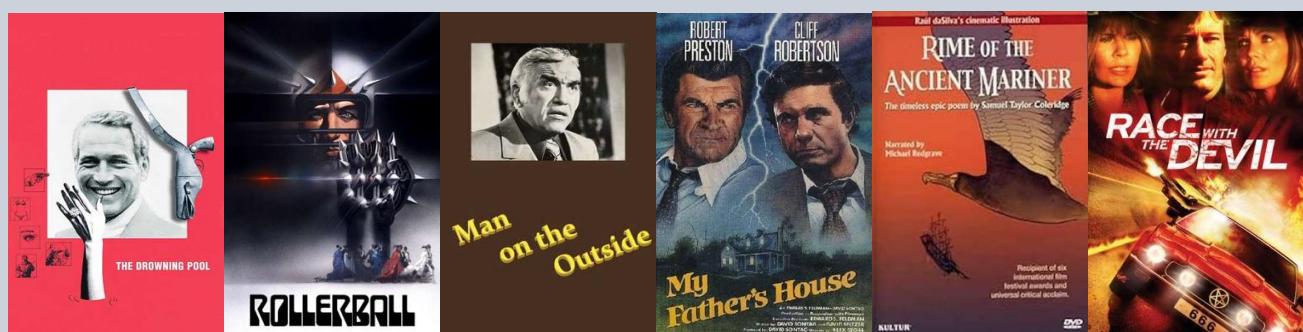
**28 June** - Rugby - Springboks beat France 33 - 18. Gerald Bosch equalled the world record for most penalty goals kicked in a major Test, landing six.

**30 June** - Boxing - Muhammad Ali retains world title beating Joe Bugner on points.

## Music



## Movies



\*\*\*

### The Monster Movie That Nearly Sank but Made History.

In the summer of 1975, a film about a giant, man-eating shark swam into cinemas—and changed Hollywood forever. But *Jaws* was never meant to be the phenomenon it became. Behind the scenes, it was a chaotic, salt-sprayed disaster that almost ended young director Steven Spielberg's career before it began. Instead, it launched it—and the blockbuster era—with a roar.



Jaws was based on Peter Benchley's 1974 novel, itself inspired by real-life shark attacks off the New Jersey coast in 1916. Universal Studios snapped up the rights before the book was even published. The story was simple: a great white shark terrorizes a small resort town, and a police chief, a marine biologist, and a salty shark hunter team up to kill it.

Enter Steven Spielberg, a 26-year-old director who had only one theatrical feature under his belt (*The Sugarland Express*). He saw Jaws as "a story about three men against nature"—more *Moby-Dick* than monster movie. But he had no idea what he was getting into.

Perhaps the most legendary anecdote in film production history: the mechanical shark, nicknamed "Bruce" (after Spielberg's lawyer), barely worked. Built in three versions for different types of shots, Bruce would frequently sink, malfunction, or just not move.

As Spielberg put it:

"We were on a shoot where the star wasn't cooperating—and the star was a 25-foot shark."

The upside? With the shark failing, Spielberg was forced to hide it for much of the film. This led to a masterclass in suspense—using music, suggestion, and shots to terrify audiences. The less they saw, the more they feared.



Duh-Duh. Duh-Duh. Enter John Williams, whose now-iconic, two-note score became synonymous with dread. Spielberg thought it was a joke at first—but quickly realized Williams had created a theme that was as terrifying as the shark itself. That music turned swimmers into moviegoers, and moviegoers into screamers.

The three leads—Roy Scheider (Brody), Richard Dreyfuss (Hooper), and Robert Shaw (Quint)—had electric chemistry on screen. Off-screen? Not so much. Shaw, a heavy drinker, would often provoke Dreyfuss and show up to set hungover or combative. But the tension added grit to their scenes. One of the film's most unforgettable moments—the "Indianapolis speech", where Quint describes surviving a real WWII shark attack—was largely written by Shaw himself and delivered while he was reportedly half-drunk. It's now considered a defining moment in movie monologue history.

Box Office Tsunami - Despite the production nightmares (including going 100 days over schedule and millions over budget), Jaws finally hit theatres on June 20, 1975. It opened on 464 screens—unusually wide for the time—and rode a tidal wave of hype.



Within weeks, it became the highest-grossing film ever, earning over \$470 million worldwide (equivalent to over \$2 billion today, adjusted for inflation). People lined up around the block. Some refused to swim for the rest of the summer. Beaches reported actual attendance drops.

It was the first summer blockbuster, and its success reshaped how studios planned releases, making summer the season for big, thrilling spectacles.

Jaws didn't just scare audiences—it changed the industry. It made Spielberg a household name, inspired generations of filmmakers, and proved that smart direction and creative constraint could turn disaster into destiny.



The movie earned three Oscars (editing, sound, and score) and was nominated for Best Picture. In 2001, it was preserved in the U.S. National Film Registry for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

### Bite-sized facts - no pun intended!

#### Jaws (1975)

*Spielberg snuck in a cameo: his voice is the Amity Island dispatcher on the radio.*

*The production boat was so small the crew had to dump film equipment overboard to keep it from sinking during one stormy scene.*

*The shark only appears on screen for about 4 minutes total.*

*The line "You're gonna need a bigger boat" was improvised by Roy Scheider.*

#### Jaws 2 (1978)

*The shark's back, and so is Chief Brody. Not quite the original's punch, but it gave us the classic tagline: "JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO GO BACK IN THE WATER..."*

#### Jaws 3-D (1983)

*Set in SeaWorld with Dennis Quaid and very dodgy 3D. The shark eats tourists, the audience groans. Cult classic or guilty pleasure? Very hard to decide.*

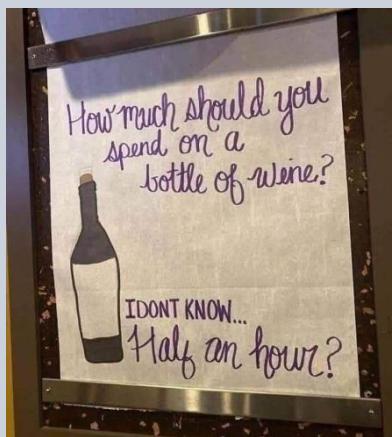
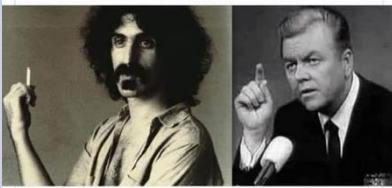
#### Jaws: The Revenge (1987)

*A shark stalks the Brody family... all the way to the Bahamas. Michael Caine missed the Oscars to film it, but said, "I HAVE SEEN THE HOUSE THAT IT BUILT, AND IT IS TERRIFIC."*

## Tattler – Laughs



In 1966, the original confrontational TV host (who had a wooden leg) named Joe Pyne interviewed Frank Zappa. Right off the bat in his usual aggressive, insulting way, Pyne asks: "So, Frank, you have long hair. Does that make you a woman?" Zappa snapped back: "So, Joe, you have a wooden leg. Does that make you a table?"



Your monthly chuckle, or maybe belly-laugh!  
The late great Robin Williams (interviewed by Parkinson) Click to play.



### Understanding Engineers

Percussive Maintenance / I hit it, and it started working  
Cycle Power to the Panel / Turn it off and on again  
High Impedance Air-Gap / I forgot to plug it in  
Organic Grounding / I got electrocuted  
Thermally Reconfigured / It melted  
Kinetic Disassembly / It blew up  
Thermal Shock / It burned



### SENIOR PARACHUTE CLUB

Yesterday my daughter e-mailed me AGAIN, asking why I didn't do something useful with my time. "Like sitting around the pool and drinking wine is not a good thing?" I asked. Talking about my "doing-something-useful" seems to be her favorite topic of conversation. I did this and when I got home last night, I decided to play a prank on her. I e-mailed her and told her that I had joined a Parachute Club. She replied, "Are you nuts? You are 86-years-old and now you're going to start jumping out of airplanes?" I told her that I even got a Membership Card and e-mailed a copy to her. She immediately telephoned me and yelled, "Good grief, Dad, where are your glasses?! This is a Membership to a Prostitute Club, not a Parachute Club." "Oh man, I'm in trouble again," I said. "I really don't know what to do. I signed up for five jumps a week!!" The line went dead. Life as a Senior Citizen is not getting any easier, but sometimes it can be fun.

shared by Gramma's Funnies

### The Candy With The Little Hole...

This should make you smile. You have to love little kids.



The children began to identify the flavors by their color:

Red ..... Cherry

Yellow ..... Lemon

Green ..... Lime

Orange ..... Orange

Finally the teacher gave them all HONEY lifesavers. None of them could identify the taste.

The teacher said, 'I will give you all a clue. It's what your mother may sometimes call your father.'

One little girl looked up in horror, spit her lifesaver out and yelled,

'Oh my God! They're ass-holes!'

The teacher had to leave the room.

### Answers

- 1) Steppenwolf
- 2) Rolling Stones
- 3) An acronym from the initials of the first names of the band members
- 4) Boomtown Rats
- 5) Boston
- 6) Frankie Goes to Hollywood
- 7) Iron Maiden
- 8) Led Zeppelin
- 9) Steely Dan
- 10) U2

We really would value more feedback. Please feel free to comment or submit

items. Our email addresses

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Have a good month.