



It is September! Spring is waking up the vineyards and fruit trees and gardens and many brave blossoms can already be seen. In this issue of the Seven Seas Newsletter, we invite you on a voyage through sport, a little mystery, some history and innovation and a message from your Club Secretary.

In the Editorial, your editor challenges you to question his selections for key rugby positions as fiercely as any scrum! We shift gears to celebrate South Africa's motorsport stars, from the precision of David Perel to the daring of Brad Binder among others. In "Football Corner" Howard Cohen sets the scene for what promises to be an exhilaration next season.

We chase the enduring enigma of Amelia Earhart's disappearance, share a spine-tingling tale of ghosts haunting the Tibault-designed manor house once owned by Petrus Eksteen in Tokai, and unveil a behind-the-scenes video on forging industrial diamonds.

On the high seas of technology, we salute Eddie Noble and the team on the completion of their ground-breaking USV build. We marvel at a UK–French drone collaboration that promises to clean warships faster and more affordably than ever, and indulge in a nostalgic look at HMS Triumph, a storied name borne by at least ten vessels of the Royal Navy.

Finally, we close with a portrait of Richard Attenborough, whose life and legacy continues to inspire.

Set sail with us—there's much to discover.

Jonathan and Colette

Message from the Club Secretary

(Tattler - Thanks Euan!)

Dear members.

August is nearly done and there are signs of winter drawing to a close. The Club has been busy since I last wrote some notes with various events and the snooker tournament reaching its exciting climax. The extended view is a thing of beauty, and we continue to see more and more out of our windows that was previously obscured. Happy Hour was again well attended so it looks like the new arrangement of first Tuesday continues to please.

The Quiz was also well attended with some new members joining us and much fun was had by all as usual. The Grand Prix attendance was down and then up again and so we will continue to open on appropriate Sundays as long as there is interest. Rugby, Can I mention the rugby? Well yes, I guess I can now that we have beaten Australia in the second game. There was a good attendance at both games and much wailing and gnashing of teeth after the first! Now we move on to New Zealand and an even greater challenge. The Club will be the place to come and watch.

Today we had the very first of a new event for the Seven Seas Club, a Sportsman's Lunch. this first one featured Vince van der Bijl as our speaker and whilst not perhaps as well attended as we would have liked, was a joy for all that were there. All were privileged to enjoy a lovely lunch and a glimpse into the life of a sporting great. We look forward to more of these events with interesting and informative after lunch speakers to entertain us. (Tattler - More on this will be sent out at a later date)

On the maintenance front, after some more investigation, your committee has decided that the options we have for restoring the fireplace are all too expensive. We have decided to wait for now as the winter is nearly over and put a solution in place before winter 2026.

Talking of Winter, I am leaving you all for a month and a half to visit the cold north of Europe where summer is much like our winter. I shall miss our little piece of paradise but report to you next month from there. Look after our Club for me in the meantime please!

Cheers

Euan



Editorial

A giant called Eben

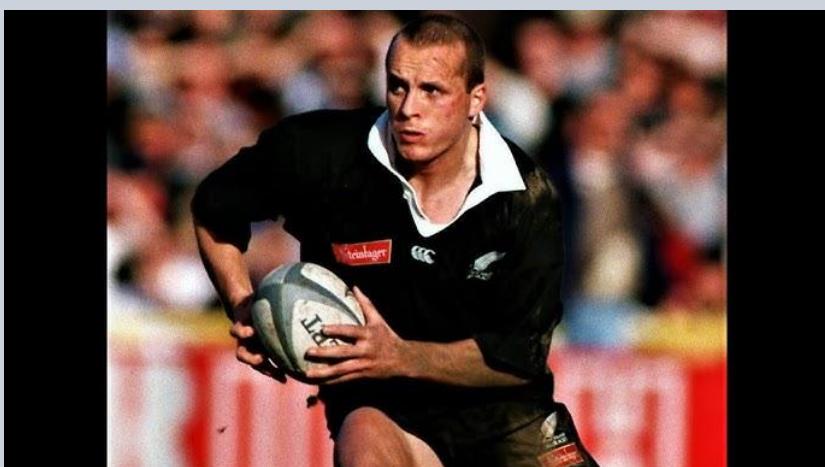
An odd accent, a few inaccuracies and some weird pronunciations! But it gets the point! Click on the image below to watch!



Just a joy to watch

Tattler - There are (too?) many examples of people choosing fantasy teams. Always a good "around the braai" topic, we love it because there is never a right or wrong!

For this edition, I am putting together a rugby back-line - **not anyone's "best ever", not even mine**, but 7 guys, all of whom were a joy to watch!



Full-back - Christian Cullen

There have been many fullbacks who have thrilled us. The Springboks and the French have had several, the Welsh a good few and more from all the different rugby nations, but I choose an All Black, Christian Cullen. Quick and silky-skilled, he was a thrill a minute and, despite being a Kiwi, he is my pick.

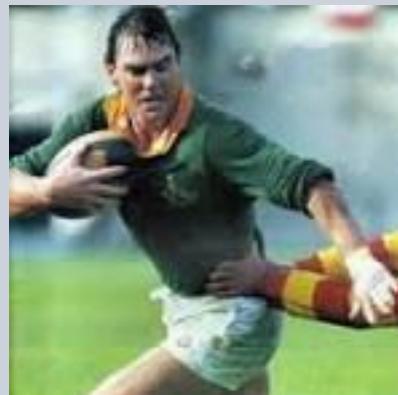
Wings - Jonah Lomu and Cheslin Kolbe



They certainly don't come any different! One, a giant, the other a relative midget, but both had/have that x-factor in spades.

Although Jonah was not a great defender, he was one of the "just give him the ball" players. As heavy as most forwards, yet as fast as most backliners, he ran around, or through, defenders at will. And then we have Chessie, Mr twinkle-toes. He can beat an opponent in a phone-box. Both give/gave supporters the greatest of pleasure and opponents, heaps of pain.

Centres - Michael du Plessis and Danie Gerber



I simply had to have both. While Phillippe Sella and Brian O'Driscoll both had huge appeal, my chosen two complemented each other so well, I selected them as a unit. Danie had the swerve and side-step, Michael had the pass. Danie could stand a man up when attacking, Michael would knock them down when defending. Both had pace to burn! Exciting? - better believe it!



Fly-half - Carlos Spencer

He may not even feature in the top 10 fly-halves of all time, but he belongs here. A complete maverick. Way ahead of his time, he had vision and the skills to match. Beyond exciting to watch him, even as a die-hard supporter of his opponents. Carlos could unlock any defence. Had it not been for the presence of the much more conservative and steadier Andrew Mehrtens, he would have graced the All-Black team very many more times.



Scrum-half - George Gregan

The pace, the pass, the passion, the perfect scrummie. Although I loved the Welshman Gareth Edwards and still regard him as one of the top rugby players of all time, Georgie is my pick for this parameter set. He won almost every trophy available to him, including the World Cup in 1999, the Tri-Nations in 2000 and 2001, and the Bledisloe Cup on multiple occasions. Named in the Wallaby Team of the Decade in 2005. Fabulous to watch. A joy.

Disagree with my picks? I am sure few will agree with all seven and we would love to see your alternatives!

Tattler - Your son, or grandson playing rugby?

FROM A RUGBY PARENT:

(submitted by Euan Smith)

One of my friends asked, "Why do you pay so much money and spend so much time running around for your son to play rugby?" Well, I have a confession to make, I don't pay for my son's rugby training or his kit, mouthguard or boots. Or even his hundreds of rugby balls.

So, if I am not paying for rugby, what am I paying for?

- I pay for those moments when my boy becomes so tired he feels like quitting but doesn't.

- I pay for the opportunity that my boy can have and will have to make life-long friendships.

- I pay for the chance that he may have amazing coaches that will teach him that rugby is not just about game plans but about life.

- I pay for my child to learn to be disciplined.

- I pay for my boy to learn to take care of his body.

- I pay for my son to learn to work with others and to be a proud, supportive, kind and respectful team member.

- I pay for my child to learn to deal with disappointment, when he doesn't get that try, he hoped for, or dropped the ball despite having practiced a thousand times, but still gets up and is determined to do his BEST next time...

- I pay for my boy to learn to make and accomplish goals.

- I pay for my son to learn that it takes hours and hours and hours of hard work and practice to create a champion, and that success does not happen overnight.

- I pay so that my son can be on the pitch instead of in front of a screen...

I could go on but, to be short, I don't pay for rugby; I pay for the opportunities that rugby provides my child to develop attributes that will serve him well throughout his life and give him the opportunity to bless the lives of others. From what I have seen for many years, I think it is a great investment!

David Perel and other Racing "Saffers"

(Written and submitted by Jim Page - Tattler thanks him!)



Brad Binder

I think many of us have heard the names of some of the South Africans that have in recent years made a name for themselves in motorsport internationally – the likes of Brad and Darren Binder in MotoGP, Jordan and Tasmin Pepper in the GT and W series respectively, Kelvin and Sheldon van der Linde, Jonathan Aberdein, Andrew Rackstraw, Sheridan Morias, Cameron Peterson and Stuart White.

David Perel

Perhaps the one name that is the least well known is David Perel. Hailing from Cape Town, David raced in Karting, rising through the ranks from 2002 where he finished second in the Western Province F100 Championship, to challenging in the European Championship in 2006. During this time, and in the early days of simulator (Sim) racing, he achieved several notable results, winning the GT4 virtual Le Mans.



Financial pressures led to a break from motorsport until 2014, where David managed to buy some seat time in a GT car – his talent was immediately recognized, and for 2015 he secured a drive with Bonaldi Motorsport in the Lamborghini Super Trofeo, ending the season with 3 pole positions, 7 wins and completing the season in second in the championship.

Kelvin and Sheldon van der Linde



David Perel

The success of 2015 saw David get a test with Kessel Racing Ferrari. Two days of track time and a little help from another Saffer, Alan Macdonald, David had a two-year contract in the bag to race in the GT series. 2016 was a stabilizing year, and David produced some solid results, securing his role in the team at Kessel. 2017 was significant, with David grabbing no less than 7 poles, 7 firsts, a send and third in the Blancpain series, finishing the season with gold medals in the Blancpain Sprint, Blancpain Endurance and the overall Blancpain AM champion.

He was the most successful Ferrari driver in 2017. In 2018 David was upgraded to a Silver ranked driver and moved to Rinaldi Racing where he competed in various championships across Europe, including the Blancpain GT Series, VLN, Creventic and Italian GT, driving a Ferrari 488 GT3.



Having established himself as a competent Silver ranked driver more opportunities started to come his way, eventually becoming a professional driver – earning a living from racing – and got the chance to race in the European Le Mans Series with Iron Lynx.



Charles Le Clerk

Things went well enough that he was offered a drive for the 2020 European Le Mans Series with Kessel Racing. A season-long battle ended with him tied for first place. David's performance during the season resulted in a call from AF Corse for the 2021 season, which included the option to race at... Le Mans.

David runs a successful coaching academy and there is no higher recognition I think, than the quote " If I manage to be on the podium that'll only be thanks to you" - Charles Le Clerk, Ferrari F1 driver.

Pictures of sheer madness?

Freestyle motocross rider Luc Ackermann has defied physics by clearing a nine-meter-high barrier with a Tsunami backflip between two moving trucks on a motorway in Germany in a video released August 19. Click on the image to watch.



Football Corner

Early Thoughts on the English football Season (By Howard Cohen)

The 2025/2026 EFL season is upon us, and each club has (at the time of writing) completed two league games. 40 weeks of intense, competitive football lie ahead, and a champion will emerge. The margins between winning and losing are often very fine ones. A rugby story illustrates the point well. The British and Irish Lions toured Australia for a three match test series. They won the first test comfortably and were behind in the crucial second test. They needed to score to win and in the dying seconds of the game Jac Morgan, the Welsh loose forward went flying into a ruck, and made contact with his Australian counterpart Carlo Tizzano, in what looked like illegal circumstances not helped by the meal Tizzano made of the contact. The Lions scored from the subsequent ruck and the series then came down to whether Morgan's clean out of Tizzano complied with the laws or not. The on-field officials and VAR decided that Morgan's cleanout was legal, and the series was won on that decision. The legalities or otherwise were bitterly contested by the opposing parties and neutral spectators and will forever be a bone of contention. For the record , the Wallabies comfortably won the dead rubber.

In the football season ahead many such contested rulings will decide a match and not inconceivably even who wins the EPL. Such are the margins in modern sport. The best game of the season so far was the one played between Newcastle and Liverpool. It encapsulated in a pulsating 111 minutes what makes the EPL such a compelling competition. A packed, thunderous, emotional St James Park was ready for the scousers. A banner hung from one of the stands enjoined the Toon " to get into them ". This was advice that was followed to the letter. Frustration hung over St James like a bad migraine caused by their talisman last season's striker Alexander Izak. He is currently on strike demanding a transfer and refusing to play for the Magpies despite being under contract with them. His antics have not endeared him to the Toon faithful and many beside. To compound matters his principal suitors are Liverpool as well as being his first choice. A further puzzling aspect of the Toon pre-season has been their tepid attempts at strengthening their squad. Missed out on Eze who went to Arsenal from Crystal Palace and a number of other uninspiring attempts. The only incoming player of any significance is Anthony Elanga from Notts Forest who is quick and enigmatic and will add a different dimension to the Toon flanks. Jacob Ramsey joined from Villa , but he is more of a journeyman at this stage of his career.

The scene was set. No love lost between the teams and a Liverpool team brimming with expensive new signings and a point to prove as well. The assembled theatre prickled with tension and raw feelings of blood lust. From the whistle the Toon tore into Liverpool with unbridled ferocity chasing and harrowing anyone in a red jersey. The press was relentless , the tackles frequently borderline and intensity palpable. No holds barred football with no fear and collective endeavour that took no prisoners. Anthony Young , the stand in striker for the awol Izak missed a host of early chances , not through any lack of effort , but just that finishing touch and intuition that is not the repertoire of a winger. In the mid field the irrepressible trio of Guimaraes Joelinton and Tonali were masters of their patch. All three played with the resolve of the truly committed. Gravenberch, Wirtz and Jones were completely overrun by the energy and tenacity of the Toon trio and were the principal agents in rattling Liverpool who struggled to slow the tempo and get their foot on the ball. Livramento , Barnes and Elanga were suppliers of a bounty of crosses that somehow Young could not deliver on. Oh, for a number 9 ! At the back Dan Burn was literally and figuratively a tower of strength as well as being a constant menace at set plays. Schar complemented Burn perfectly , a hard uncompromising defender with a ruthless , competitive streak. Pope had very little to do with his team dominating every facet of play ,but with ten minutes of the first half remaining a rather speculative shot by Gravenberch , wickedly deflected off Schar completely blindsided the keeper leaving him stranded. 1-0 to Liverpool in a half where Liverpool were the overwhelmingly dominant team. One felt that the arrogant Slot might have some talking to do in the sheds.

The game took a dramatic turn at the resumption of play in the second half. The newly minted striker Ekitike shook the Toon and the assembled faithful with a sharply taken goal. Liverpool paid a fortune for the French

striker , but he looks the business. Athletic , with an eye for goal , good feet and an unruffled temperament he will make his mark this season. One can only speculate about Slot's dilemma should Izak eventually arrive at Anfield. 2-0 to Liverpool and a mountain to climb. Could they retain their intensity and keep their tanks filled. Then a moment of madness to spice up proceedings. Anthony Young found himself chasing after a few Liverpool players to keep the press going on the back four. His last port of call was Virgil Van Dijk who he plummeted into with reckless disregard for the consequences. He managed to turn his back on his prey as he attacked his standing leg leaving spike marks spread down Van Dijk's calf. An abominable, totally unnecessary tackle and a straight red card.

The Toon now faced a 2-0 deficit with ten men and half an hour to play. The task ahead looked bleak. Liverpool was starting to look more composed and able to make more of the play. Salah started to show, Wirtz emerged from his frightened shell and even Jones began attempts to remove his cloak of anonymity. Bruno Guimaraes, my man of the match was still a man on a mission. Intensity burned deep into his demeanour he competed for a cross in the Liverpool 18-yard box , completely out muscling Kerkez, Liverpool's new acquisition at left back and nodded in from close range. The young acquisition from Bournemouth will learn that you never turn your back on an attacker in the box. 2-1 to Liverpool and ten Magpies with plenty of desire in their hearts. The game was being more evenly contested and the Newcastle mid field and back four were called upon to defend their third of the park with resilience and purpose. Howe brought on his only genuine striker Osula deep in the second half and he contrived to score the equalizer with a well taken opportunistic strike. 2-2 and was the unimaginable possible? The competitiveness of the game meant that there were frequent stoppages for injuries and fouls and at the end of regulation time the board went up indicating 111 minutes of injury time.

Both managers made a raft of substitutions as tired legs , empty tanks and spent emotions took their toll on an explosive game. In the 93rd minute Slot sent on 16-year-old Rio Ngumoha. In the 100th minute of the game Szoboszlai, Liverpool's best player on the night , playing out of position at right back smartly dummied a low Salah cross which directed the ball into the path of the onrushing teenager who buried the ball in the net to break Toon hearts and leave the champions undefeated after two games. A game to savour and an encouraging opening to what promises to be a fine season of football. They don't come much better than this one for drama and unedited fervour. Sentiment favoured the brave , but to their eternal credit pulled the iron out the fire and took home the three points.

Arsenal played United first up in what promised to be an interesting tussle. The Gunners have bought well in the summer. They have filled their gaping vacancy at number 9 with Victor Gyokeres, ex Sporting Lisbon, much coveted by United. A big , bustling no nonsense striker with an eye for goal, deceptively quick and able to hold the ball up, once he settles, he will strengthen Arsenal immeasurably as point man up front. Zubimendi likewise is a decent acquisition who will bolster the midfield options. Though he did not play in this game Eze has joined the Gunner ranks from Crystal Palace after being courted for some time by Spurs. A gifted , immensely talented player with speed , imagination and an eye for goal as well as the telling pass I have long been an admirer, and much should be expected of him. Noni Madueke late of Chelsea is also a talented player who with a bit of Arteta nurturing should prove a meaningful acquisition.

United in a disorganised summer acquired two players of substance in Bryan Mbeumo from Brentford and Mattheus Cunha from Wolves. Both have already showed their mark and lifted the skill levels immeasurably. There are still glaring frailties at keeper and in the midfield. Sesko was acquired from Leipzig to fill the striker role which has been an Achilles heel for United for some time. He has so far been anonymous and a yard off the pace. There remains too much dead wood in the squad and efforts to find homes for them have been tardy. The game itself was disappointing. United had a brief opening spell of 20 minutes where they showed glimpses of what they are capable of. Once Arsenal got their foot on the ball, they began to assert themselves and boss possession. A rather soft Calafiori goal from a set piece in the 13th minute was all the Gunners needed to repel a disappointing effort by United. Much work to be done for United to challenge for a European spot. They look under cooked. Arsenal will be a factor for top honours this year. They have a well-balanced squad and perhaps what they need to develop is more fire in their bellies - a ruthless uncompromising competitive streak and unshakeable self-belief.

Spurs did not have to play well to beat an off-colour Man City. An uncomfortable goal keeping performance by newly minted James Trafford once of Man City and tenacious play by the Spurs mid fielders with Richarlison, Pape Mata Sarr and the newly acquired Jaoa Paulinho, once of Fulham and recently of Bayern, found acres of space behind the high press of City and exploited it mercilessly. Brennan Johnson and Paulinho were able to score from this gap in the City armoury and Spurs ran out comfortable 2-0 winners. Thomas Frank has assembled a decent squad, and his cerebral style of management ought to bring results this year.

Chelsea played to a rather dull draw in their opener against Crystal Palace. It was competitive fare without ever producing a moment of magic and on balance a fair result on the night. Enzo Maresca is once again spoilt for choice with a massive pool of talent to choose from. An injury to Lewis Colwill creates opportunities for some young talent. Jaoa Pedro looks a promising acquisition but is he good enough to be Chelsea's front-line striker. Jackson has fallen out of favour and looks to be on the way out and newly acquired Delap looks a bit out of his depth - he does have promise, but I am not sure he is a fit at Chelsea which is light years away from Ipswich.

Thats all for now, yours in football.

(Tattler - Howard has been pressurised timewise so we forgive him for not discussing Chelsea' second game!)

Howard mentions Eze as a talent he much admires. We decided to tell you a little more about him.



Arsenal says – “Eberechi Eze has **returned home** after putting pen to paper on a long-term deal to become our seventh summer signing, ending a 14-year journey back to north London where his footballing story began. The England international joins us from Crystal Palace, where he scored the winning goal in the FA Cup final last season to immortalise himself south of the river.”

Born in Greenwich, Ebere honed his football skills playing on the caged pitches where he lived. Avoiding the car park on one side and dogs on the other, it was the place our new no.10 developed his talent. Such is his love for his beginnings, the England international even dedicated a pair of boots to his hometown. “I've seen so many things and learned so much along the way, and I'm blessed to have lived in a place that has helped shape me into the person I am today.”

In 2006, Ebere, a boyhood Arsenal fan from a family of Gooners, joined Arsenal academy setup. The midfielder would be in the system until he was 13 years old. Following his stint, he would also go on to play at Fulham and Millwall, as well as having trials at Bristol City and Sunderland. Despite not making it at any of those sides, he kept believing. “It doesn't mean that it's not difficult. It's still difficult to get through those times. I remember thinking: 'why is this so hard? But the love for football never, never changed.’

As he was preparing to enrol in college and start working part-time at Tesco, Ebere was handed another shot by Queen's Park Rangers in August 2016, where he would eventually turn pro. Following an impressive loan spell at Wycombe Wanderers, in which he netted five times in 20 games, the winger then became a regular at QPR, scoring his first goal in a 1-0 win over Sunderland in March 2018.

He would continue to flourish, scoring 14 goals and creating eight assists in 2019/20, earning him the club's Player and Players' Player of the year awards.

Having starred in the second tier, Ebere was given the chance at the highest level when Crystal Palace spent £17 million to bring him to Selhurst Park. He really hit form following the reappointment of Roy Hodgson in the 2022/23 season and finished as the club's top scorer on 10 goals.

His goal output would continue to increase across his next two campaigns with the club, and he departs sitting fourth in their all-time top Premier League scorers' charts with 34 strikes to his name.

Ebere's displays in the top-flight caught the attention of England manager at the time, Gareth Southgate. He received his first call-up as part of the provisional squad for Euro 2020; however, it arrived moments after he ruptured an Achilles during training and had to withdraw.

It would take another two years before Ebere would be called up to the senior squad again, and he finally made his debut in a 4-0 Euro 2024 qualifying win over Malta. He was selected for Euro 2024 where he made three appearances, and currently has 11 caps, scoring his first international goal back in March against Latvia at Wembley.

Much like one of our other new signings this summer, Martin Zubimendi, Ebere is a keen chess player. He was even spotted playing with British business magnate Richard Branson this summer.

Outside of the football pitch, in 2023 Ebere started the Eze Foundation with his brothers, Kechi and Chima, allowing them to give back to the local community.

On his foundation, he told the Crystal Palace website: "Giving back has always been something that's on our hearts.

The Fate of Amelia Earhart

(By Anthony Allen)



After 87 years, the long-standing mystery surrounding the fate of Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, has finally been solved — and the truth is far from uplifting. Earhart vanished in July 1937 while attempting to circumnavigate the globe, disappearing somewhere over the Pacific Ocean with her navigator, Fred Noonan. For decades, theories ranged from a crash at sea to capture on a remote island, but no definitive proof ever emerged.

Recent findings have brought clarity to the case. Experts analysing newly recovered evidence have confirmed that Earhart's plane did not simply vanish without a trace — it met a tragic end. The remains of wreckage matching her aircraft's unique specifications were identified in a remote area, ending years of speculation and hope that she might have survived in some hidden corner of the world.

The discovery closes one of aviation's most enduring mysteries but also delivers a sobering conclusion. Earhart's daring spirit and trailblazing achievements remain celebrated, yet the final chapter of her journey is now known to have ended in disaster. While the truth is painful, it cements her place in history as a fearless pioneer whose courage inspired generations.

September 9/11

This month we're drawn to two very different expressions of courage and remembrance. In our first we meet the service dogs whose intuitive bravery and unwavering devotion empower veterans, children and first responders to reclaim confidence and find solace. Then, through the camera lens we confront haunting photographs from 9/11—images that capture grief, heroism and the indelible mark those moments left on a nation's soul.



On the fateful morning of September 11, 2001, Michael Hingson, who is blind, found himself on the 78th floor of the North Tower of the World Trade Centre. Unbeknownst to him, his guide dog, Roselle, remained remarkably composed amid the unfolding chaos.

With precision and calm determination, Roselle guided Hingson through the smoke-filled stairwell, manoeuvring debris and disorientation. The duo's descent was fraught with challenges, but the canine's training and poise proved instrumental. They managed to escape just minutes before the North Tower collapsed, emphasizing the extraordinary capabilities of service animals during moments of crisis.

This poignant narrative not only underscores the unbreakable bond between humans and their service animals but also sheds light on the silent heroism witnessed amidst the tragedy of 9/11.

(From Birds and Animals)(From History Pictures)



In the harrowing moments following the collapse of the South Tower on September 11, 2001, two survivors—Joanne Capestro and her co-worker—emerged from the devastation, covered in thick, grey dust. They had escaped from the 87th floor of the North Tower, navigating their way down dozens of flights of stairs through smoke, confusion, and unimaginable fear. The air was filled with debris and ash, turning daylight into an eerie twilight as they stumbled through the chaos gripping each other's hands, dazed but alive.

Their image, wandering the dust-choked streets of Lower Manhattan, came to symbolize both the fragility and resilience of the human spirit. Joanne's suit, once office-wear, had turned colourless under layers of pulverized concrete and ash. Her expression captured a complex mix of shock, survival, and disbelief—shared by so many who escaped with their lives while others remained behind. In the midst of the apocalyptic scene,

she and her colleague clung to each other, finding in their bond a momentary refuge from the trauma surrounding them.

This haunting moment is one of many that define the emotional and human toll of 9/11. Joanne Capestro's journey did not end there—she would later attend the wedding of the photographer who captured that image, forming an enduring connection born from tragedy. Her survival and the silent strength in that photograph serve as a testament to the countless stories of courage, loss, and unity that emerged from that dark day in New York City.

Fancy a very long one-way trip into space where your great, great, great grandchildren may just reach the destination?

Meet Chrysalis, the generational ship designed to take humans on a 400-year trip to alpha Centauri.
(By James Felton - from IFL Science)



For beings of our size and lifespans, space is big. So big, in fact, that to make it to our nearest star system you would need to factor in the sizable downside that you will die of old age before you get there.

Humanity has focused on making our spaceships faster, as well as the possibility of sending smaller, uncrewed lightweight ships to the system potentially within human lifespans. But if we want to send humans to the star system in the future (or go on other long-distance trips) we may have to accept that it will take several human lifespans to get there.

With the restraints placed upon them by physics, sci-fi writers have imagined "generational ships" for decades. The idea is quite simple: creating a ship that will sustain a small society of humans for however many generations it takes to get to the intended destination. But in practical terms, such a mission would be complex.

For a new competition exploring the practicalities of generational ships, dubbed Project Hyperion, scientists competed to design their own ship which could feasibly take humans to a hypothetical habitable planet at least 250 years away in terms of travel time. The winning team went one step further, designing a spaceship named "Chrysalis" which they propose could deliver thousands of people to Alpha Centauri, a trip taking over four centuries.

From the outside, the ship has a very simple design, looking like a giant tube. While other entries were more elaborate, the team chose this design to ensure safety for the occupants during acceleration at speeds up to 0.01 percent of the speed of light.

To counteract the issues humans may experience when missing gravity for a large chunk/entirety of their lifetime, the ship would use rotating interior shells to create artificial gravity using the centrifugal force. This is only possible with a large ship, as with smaller ships it could create a lot of discomfort and potentially health problems for the crew (voluntary, and later involuntary).

"The smaller the spacecraft is, the faster it has to rotate, so if you're going to generate gravity, it's got to be done with a very large spacecraft that spins very slowly.

Building a structure that will initially hold over 1,000 humans (and later more as they produce more humans) would be quite some effort. In total, the ship would have a mass of around 2,400,000,000 tons, and measure over 58 kilometres (36 miles) from end to end. As such, they proposed that it be built in Lagrange point 1 between the Earth and the Moon.

"Lagrange Points are positions in space where the gravitational forces of a two-body system like the Sun and Earth produce enhanced regions of attraction and repulsion," NASA explains. "These can be used by spacecraft as 'parking spots' in space to remain in a fixed position with minimal fuel consumption."

The design won the competition, with the jury praising how the team's design copes with radiation, as well as the thought they put into the spacecraft's construction.

"The presentation is rich and visually engaging, drawing comparisons to iconic works like Rama, and showcasing a clear passion for both design and storytelling," the jury wrote. "Its overall spacecraft design seems to take inspiration from the gigantic world ship concepts of the 1980s."

While very much a concept design and not something humanity is planning on doing – we haven't even got to Mars yet – it's good to know that if we ever must leave our Solar System, at least we have options.

Watch the video to gain further insight. Click on the image to the right.



Ghosts in Tokai?

(From a post by Anthoney Allen)



Although grazing rights on the lands around the Tokai Manor House were originally held by Simon van der Stel, the estate was sold in 1792 to Johan Andreas Rauch, chief of the armoury and head caretaker of the Groote Schuur Estate.

The following owner, Andreas Teubes, was responsible for the construction of a manor house which French master architect, Louis Michel Thibault, is credited to have designed.

The very high front stoep (verandah), with its massive round pillars, was created by dramatically curving the twin flights of stairs. The residence was completed in 1796 and was described as the most outstanding homestead in the Cape Peninsula. The cost of building this splendid house ruined Teubes and he was forced into bankruptcy in 1799. In the early 1800s the residence was owned by Petrus Michiel Eksteen. He was a party-loving spendthrift who hosted the finest banquets. His parties were well-known, and his cellars were always

well-stocked. (He was eventually declared insolvent in 1849.)

During one of Eksteen's New Year's Eve parties, his son Frederick accepted a wager from his father to ride his horse up the staircase and into the dining room.

The guests watched expectantly as he mounted the steep steps of the Manor House on horseback. The horseman circled the dining room table, hooves clattering, spurred on by cheers and laughter from the revellers.

Tragedy followed. The dinner guests rose to watch the horse and mount depart. While descending the exceptionally steep steps, the horse tripped and both horse and rider fell. The game young man broke his neck in the fall and lay dead alongside his horse at the bottom of the staircase.

It is said that the spectral horse and rider still canter through the forest and sometimes, especially on New Year's Eve, they still try to repeat their foolhardy act. Over the years there have been several reports about the pair frequenting the area around the Manor House. Without a logical explanation, sometimes exuberant laughter and neighing of horses can be heard from inside the Manor House at night. In the dark early hours of the morning forestry workers have sometimes heard a horse at full gallop along the road. The rider reportedly wears clothes from a bygone era, heads straight towards the old house and mounts the steps!

THE 300-YEAR QUEST TO MAKE REAL DIAMONDS IN A LAB

(By Be Smart)



Click on the image to watch this interesting video about laboratory diamonds!

Tattler - "A little macabre"?

Diamond Backstory and a look at Diamond mining in Africa

Long before diamonds dazzled in velvet-lined boxes, they were prized for their bite—not their brilliance. The earliest grading systems, dating back to the 16th century, focused on size and cutting potential, with little regard for clarity or colour. Traders in India and Venice sorted stones by weight and shape, often by eye and instinct.

It wasn't until the 20th century that gemmological rigor took hold. The Gemmological Institute of America (GIA) introduced the now-famous 4Cs—cut, colour, clarity, and carat—in the 1940s, transforming diamond valuation into a science. But while jewellers chased perfection, industrialists sought durability. Enter the world of bort, ballas, and carbonado—gritty, flawed diamonds graded not for beauty, but for brute strength.

Today, synthetic diamonds—engineered via HPHT and CVD methods—are graded for consistency, thermal conductivity, and toughness. Their applications span from aerospace to quantum computing, where sparkle is irrelevant and resilience reigns.

Timeline of Diamond Discovery

3.3 billion years ago: Diamonds form deep in the Earth's mantle under intense heat and pressure more than 150 km below the surface.

ca. 2500 BCE: The first diamonds are discovered in alluvial deposits along India's Penner, Krishna and Godavari rivers, prized initially for their indestructibility rather than brilliance.

327 BCE: Diamonds appear in Europe as decorative accents for royalty, symbolizing strength, courage and invincibility. They were brought by Alexander The Great.

ca. 1330 CE: Venice emerges as the first European hub for diamond cutting and trade, pioneering techniques to polish and facet rough stones.

1867: Fifteen-year-old Erasmus Jacobs spots a transparent pebble on his father's farm along the Orange River near Hopetown—the "Eureka" that kicks off South Africa's diamond era.

1871: A British prospector known as Fleetwood Rawstorne and his "Red Cap Party" uncover a kimberlite pipe at Colesberg Kopje (later Kimberley), igniting one of history's greatest diamond rushes and supplying 95 percent of the world's gems by the 1880s.

1888: Cecil John Rhodes consolidates the field's leading mines into De Beers Consolidated Mines, establishing a near-monopoly that shapes global diamond trade for decades.

1905: Miners at the Premier Mine (formerly the Cullinan Diamond Pipe) near Pretoria unearth the 3,106-carat Cullinan—the largest gem-quality diamond ever found.

1849: During California's Gold Rush, prospectors panning near Placerville recover the first documented North American diamonds—small, low-quality stones that hint at further U.S. finds to come.

1906: On his farm just south of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, John W. Huddleston discovers two diamonds, confirming the first commercially significant diamond-bearing pipe in North America.

1924: Workers at the Prairie Creek pipe (future Crater of Diamonds State Park) in Arkansas pull out the 40.23-carat "Uncle Sam," still the largest diamond ever recovered in the United States.

1972: The State of Arkansas purchases the old Prairie Creek mine site, opening Crater of Diamonds State Park—today the only public "keep-what-you-find" diamond field in the world.

Diamond Mining in Africa

Africa is responsible for roughly 62 percent of the world's diamond production, a legacy that stretches back to the first Kimberley discoveries in the 1860s and continues to drive economic growth across the continent.

Major Producing Countries

Botswana

2023 production: 25.1 million carats.

2023 value: \$3.28 billion (second only to Russia globally).

Industry managed by Debswana, a 50:50 joint venture between De Beers and the government.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Dominated by artisanal and small-scale alluvial mining along rivers.

Efforts under way to formalize operations and capture greater local value.

Angola

Home to the Catoca mine (one of the world's largest kimberlite operations).

Diamond sector has seen rapid growth thanks to foreign investment and government reforms.

South Africa

Historic heartland of deep-shaft kimberlite mining.

Exports valued at over \$1.5 billion in 2016, with output exceeding 8.3 million carats that year.

Zimbabwe

Marange fields among the richest alluvial deposits globally.

Production vital to export revenues despite governance challenges.

Across eight African nations, diamond production ranks among the top ten globally, underscoring the continent's critical role in the industry.

Key Mines in South Africa

Venetia (Limpopo) – the country's largest producer

Finsch (Northern Cape) – deep underground operation since 2004

Kimberley/Cullinan (Gauteng) – legendary pipes yielding gems like the 3,106-carat Cullinan

Baken (Northern Cape) – alluvial diamonds along the Orange River

Koffiefontein (Free State) – historic Kimberley-area mine now under new management

Economic Impact and Community

Diamond revenues fund critical infrastructure, education and healthcare in producer nations. In Botswana alone, diamond-derived income accounts for more than one-third of government revenues and has underwritten everything from paved highways to world-class hospitals. Artisanal mining in central and west-central Africa provides livelihoods for hundreds of thousands, though it often lacks formal safety nets and market access.

Challenges and Future Outlook

Conflict and “blood diamond” stigma have spurred the Kimberley Process, though enforcement gaps remain. (Kimberley Process is an international certification scheme that aims to stop the flow of “conflict diamonds” – rough diamonds used by Rebel groups to finance wars against legitimate governments – into the global supply chain.

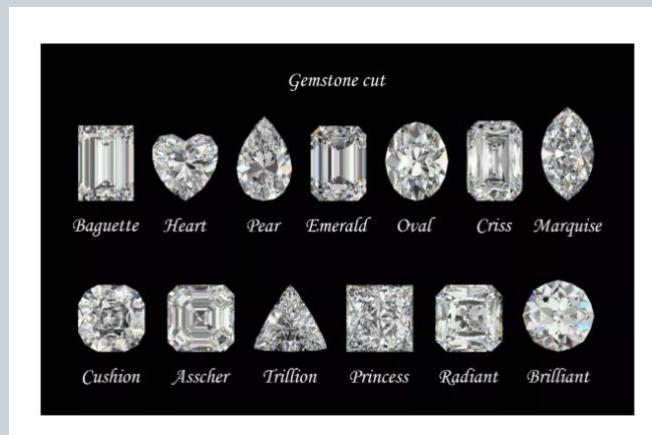
Environmental concerns around alluvial river mining and deep-shaft tailings require stronger regulation and rehabilitation plans.

Modernization efforts—automation, traceability tech, better community partnerships—promise higher yields and fairer value sharing.

Growing exploration in under-surveyed West African regions could diversify the map of African producers in the coming decade.

Whether mechanized kimberlite shafts or river-bed pick-and-shovel operations, diamond mining in Africa continues to evolve, balancing decades-old traditions with cutting-edge innovation.

Specially for our ladies – some gorgeous cuts to choose from.



THE BADMINTON SHUTTLECOCK IS THE FASTEST OBJECT IN ANY RACQUET SPORT. THE FASTEST RECORDED SMASH IN COMPETITION WAS 332KM/H, SET BY CHINA'S FU HAIFENG IN 2005. WHILE TENNIS HAS RECORDED HIGH SPEEDS, THE SHUTTLECOCK'S UNIQUE CONSTRUCTION AND AERODYNAMIC PROPERTIES ALLOW IT TO REACH HIGHER VELOCITIES.

Club Managers Report

100 Club Winners August 2025

Capt J. Jordaan (Ret) – R300.

Mr T. Van Zyl – R300.

R Adm D. Faura (Ret) – R300.

Mr C. Lee – R1000.

Birthdays

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

Capt J.S. Coetzer (Ret) – 03 September.

Treaty of Paris signed (1783), ending the American Revolutionary War.

Commercial Code of Signals published by the British Board of Trade in 1857, which eventually became the International Code of Signals (ICS).

Mr J. Brett – 08 September

International Literacy Day is an international observance celebrated each year on 8 September. It was declared by UNESCO on 26 October 1966 at the 14th session of UNESCO's General Conference and celebrated for the first time in 1967.

1504: Michelangelo's David unveiled in Florence.

R Adm HvE Bester (Ret) – 09 September.

1850: California becomes the 31st U.S. state.

Mr H.J.M Van Aswegen – 09 September.

American singer and songwriter Otis Redding, considered one of the great soul stylists of the 1960s, was born.

Cdr J.G. Feenstra (Ret) – 11 September.

2001: Terror strikes the Twin Towers.

Cdr M.C. Wilson (Ret) – 12 September.

The Lascaux cave paintings were found by four teenage boys, 1940, in the Dordogne region of southwestern France. The boys were exploring near Montignac when their lost dog fell into a foxhole, leading them to the entrance of the deep cave, which was adorned with numerous prehistoric animal paintings. This accidental discovery revealed a significant archaeological treasure.

Mr T.K. Toplis – 18 September.

1970: Jimi Hendrix dies. A guitar goes silent.

Lt Cdr G.C. Hammond (Ret) – 19 September.

1985: Mexico City earthquake. A city mourns and rebuilds.

Lt S.L. Van Der Walt (Ret) – 19 September.

The Montgolfier brothers sent aloft a balloon with a rooster, a duck, and a sheep aboard, rapidly advancing French aeronautics in 1783.

Mr W. Doerheit – 20 September.

1519: Magellan sets sail to circumnavigate the globe.

Mr B. Ireton – 21 September.

1937: The Hobbit published. Bilbo begins his journey.

Capt R.B. Gardner (Ret) – 22 September.

Gene Tunney successfully defended his world heavyweight boxing title by defeating Jack Dempsey after the controversial “long count” in the seventh round in 1927.

The first issue of National Geographic Magazine was published in 1888.

Cdr H. Van Wyngaard (Ret) – 23 September.

1846: Neptune discovered.

Mr F.M.M. Hemmings – 27 September.

1998: Google founded. The age of answers begins.

Mr P. Coetzer – 27 September.

On this day in 1066, after being delayed by bad weather, William, duke of Normandy, embarked his army and set sail for the southeastern coast of England in what would be known in history as the Norman Conquest.

Capt M.A. Boucher (Ret) – 30 September.

The USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear-powered vessel, was commissioned by the U.S. Navy, 1954.

American baseball player Babe Ruth became the first player to hit 60 home runs in a single season in 1927; his record stood until Roger Maris hit 61 in 1961.

New Members.

We welcome the following new members to the Seven Seas Club and wish them a happy association.

Ms Ann Louise Tilney resides in Forrest Drive, Silverglades, Fish Hoek. Ann is a past Chairperson and Committee Member of the Fish Hoek Service Centre. She is currently retired.

Mr Craig Peter Flanagan married to Kerri Dee and resides in Leon Terrace, Wynberg. Craig is employed by Ulster Investments. He is a Life and Committee Member of the Fish Hoek Surf Lifesaving Club.

Aye,

Glen

Monthly Quiz

Our monthly quiz was held on Wednesday 13th August. It was a lively evening for the five participating teams. Well done to all of them!

The winners on the evening, by a narrow margin, the "Questionables:" are pictured below with the quizmaster behind them.



We're delighted to remind members that our monthly quiz remains free of charge and wonderfully informal. No need to register in advance or arrive with a pre-formed team—just pitch up and join in!

Come solo, bring a friend, or arrive as a pair—we'll make sure everyone is comfortably accommodated. Of course, if you already have a team of four, feel free to arrive as such and dive straight into the fun.

Our September quiz will take place on Wednesday, 10th September at 19h00. Expect good company, lively questions, and a touch of friendly competition. We look forward to seeing you there!

The quiz consists of seven rounds, each with ten questions. Below is an example of one round. The topic is "Sport - Recent Winners and Losers"

- 1) Which country was the losing finalist in the recent World Championship of Legends (cricket)?
- 2) Who lost a recent rugby series to the British and Irish Lions?
- 3) Which man won Wimbledon this year?
- 4) Which driver won the F1 Grand Prix in Hungary
- 5) South African, Pieter Coetze recently won a gold medal in the world swimming championship. Which stroke?
- 6) Which horse won the 2025 Durban July. (Selukwe, Eight on Eighteen, Royal Victory, The Real Prince?)
- 7) The most recent golf major, the 2025 PGA Championship, was won by who? (Harris English, Bryson DeChambeau, Scottie Scheffler?)
- 8) In the recent Football Club World Cup final, Chelsea beat which team? (Paris Saint-Germain, Manchester City, Barcelona?)
- 9) Who won the recent cricket series between England and India?
- 10) Which famous pro-wrestler passed away last month?

Some mid-read humour!

A local bar was so sure their barman was the strongest man in town that they offered a standing \$1,000 bet

The barman would squeeze a lemon until every drop of juice was gone, then challenge anyone to try and squeeze out even one more drop

Weightlifters tried. Arm wrestlers tried. No one ever won.

Then one day, in walks this scrawny little guy — so skinny you'd miss him if he turned sideways — wearing scratched-up glasses and a ten-year-old polyester suit

He says, "I'd like to try the bet."

The place erupted with laughter

The barman says, "Sure, go ahead," and crushes a lemon until not a drop remains. Then he hands the wrinkled rind to the little man.

To everyone's shock, the little guy clenches his tiny fist, squeezes hard — and out comes one drop... then another... and then a third drop falls into the glass

Total silence in the bar. You could hear a pin drop.

As the bartender handed over the \$1,000, he asked, "What do you do for a living? Are you a lumberjack? A metalworker? A weightlifter?"

The little man smiled and said quietly:
"I work for the IRS."

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

And God saw it was good.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God, again saw it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed it was good.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you.

There is no need to thank me for this valuable information. I'm doing it as a public service.

If you are looking for me, I will be on the front porch!

Maritime, Naval and Military

Completion of locally Built unmanned Surface Vessel (USV)

Source: Eddie Noble

Eddie Noble of Noble Concentric Solutions, in conjunction with local naval architects Icarus Marine and Port Elizabeth shipyard Legacy Marine, recently completed the successful testing of the USV before delivery to the client in the Middle East.

The project took just over a year to complete, after many trials in both North End Lake and then the Algoa Bay, with plenty of marine traffic around.

However, as with several high-tech projects, things do not go as planned. In front of the Client and in the North End Lake, Eddie had the unfortunately incident of crashing or rather trying to drive the USV up the embankment at 17 knots from standstill.



Incorrect control signals between vessel and ground control station (GCS) led Eddie to believe that the vessel was in 'Local' mode and no navigation instructions were possible from the GCS to the vessel – but this was not the case. Fortunately, no damage to the boat, only to egos, and valuable integration lessons learnt.

However, after initial teething problems were ironed out on the Lake, sea trials went according to plan, much to the admiration of several tankers and carriers anchored out in Algoa Bay (fortunately a 'nav warning' from SAMSA about USV trials in the Bay prevented any mayhem!).





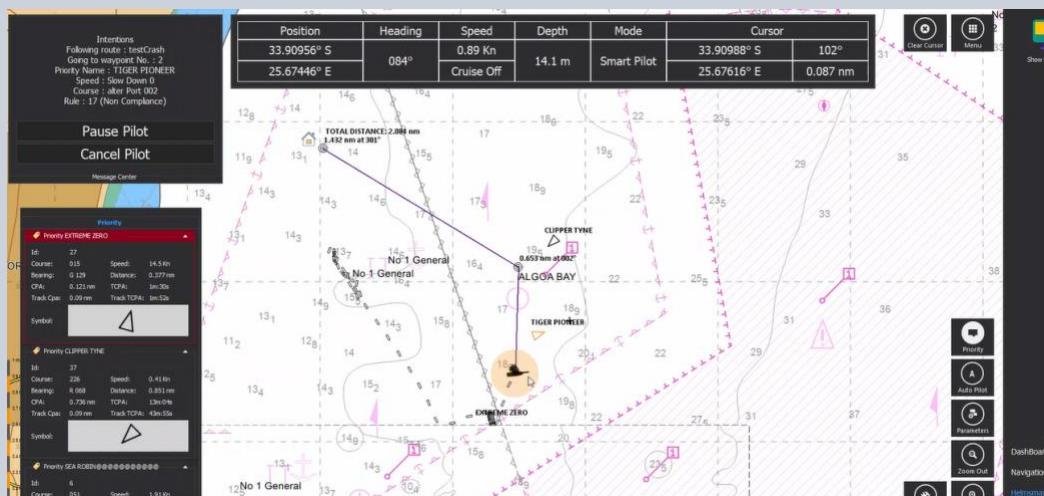
Some interesting facts about the USV and the trials:

1. Collision Regulation and impact on unmanned vessels. Two rules have an interesting impact on USV, namely:
 - a. *Rule 2 – Responsibility – No vessel, owner, master, or crew is exonerated from consequences of neglecting the rules or failing to take precautions required by the ordinary practice of seamen; and navigators must consider all dangers and special circumstances, including vessel limitations, and may depart from the rules only to avoid immediate danger.* This has implications for USVs due to having no onboard crew. The responsibility shifts to designers, operators, and remote supervisors (GCS). Autonomous systems must embody prudent seamanship through software programming which demands advanced decision-making algorithms that can interpret “special circumstances” and act accordingly.
 - b. *Rule 5 – Look out* -is a cornerstone of maritime safety, and it presents a unique challenge for unmanned surface vessels (USVs). It requires that “*Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions.*” For USVs, the absence of onboard crew means reliance on remote operators, cameras, microphones, and sensor fusion systems. USV developers thus must have redundant detection systems, AI-based situational awareness, and fail-safe communication links to approximate human vigilance.
2. For SAMSA, when discussing the sailing of the USV in Algoa Bay, the above two were ‘befuddling’ for them, they stated we must have two operators onboard, but we said it is designed for unmanned operation, where must they go? Discussions around strapping the operators on the aft deck, life raft, radios, access to engines controls etc. But we have an unmanned vessel ??? Fortunately, our design included a lockable helmsman bay for local operation of the vessel, so SAMSA were very happy then....
3. The use of meshed radio networks and Starlink, for line of sight and beyond line-of-sight communications between the USV and the GCS raised some interesting eyebrows from SAMSA. Meshed radio networks require ICASA licences before operating (can take up to 6 months to obtain)

currently) and Starlink not allowed in SA. Some smooth talking and demonstration of required vessel safety permitted the use of these systems during trials and for “export purposes”. Reliable communications to and from the vessel is critical for safety of the vessel. Both systems proved very reliable under varying operating conditions.

4. The USV achieved its design top speed of 38 knots with a single Volvo Penta D6-400 with stern drive. Range of 400 Nm (based upon trial data) was achievable. Excellent sea keeping using Humphree intercepts on the stern, excellent addition to keep all onboard sensors more stabilised.
5. Safe operation in congested waters in Algoa Bay, tankers, tugs, fishing boats, etc – the USV went along planned route with full autonomous control, collision avoidance law COLREGS – was stunning to say the least. We could have basically told the USV to sail to Cape Town, and it would have – safely!
6. The multi-purpose functionality of the vessel, its control of onboard systems, etc were all fully and successfully tested. Remote opening of mission bay hatch, testing of deployment mechanisms, mil-spec electro-optic system, and the dangerous LRAD (long Range Acoustic Device) – all worked to perfection.

Figure 1 - GCS showing intended Route and Vessels affecting Route



The end result of this exciting project

- putting South Africa on the map for indigenous USV design, build, integration, autonomous control. What a project it was and looking forward to many production orders....

UK-French drone cleans warships quicker – no dry dock, divers or downtime needed.

Source: Forces News 14/08

The system can be deployed in standard shipping containers, meaning it is suitable for aircraft carriers



Photo: Royal Navy

The UK and France have come together to develop a new, quicker and cheaper way of cleaning warships that uses a drone to wash a vessel – avoiding lengthy and costly periods in dry dock. The hull of the French navy's flagship FS Charles de Gaulle was inspected and cleaned without the need for using expert divers with specialist equipment after harnessing the latest underwater technology.

Royal Navy exchange officer Lieutenant Cam Dalley oversaw the project on the 41,000-tonne carrier. Lt Dalley's team were asked to look at ways of saving time, money and effort to keep the aircraft carrier's hull clean. These vessels need to be cleaned because of hull fouling, which is caused by bio growth on underwater surfaces, and reduces a warship's efficiency and speed, while increasing fuel consumption.



Lt Dalley (Picture: Royal Navy)

Lt Dalley looked beyond the traditional methods, given that the improvements in remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) utilised in industry and commercial shipping meant that surveys and cleaning could be completed underwater. "We need to catch up with what industry is pioneering to keep costs down," he said. "The technology represents a step-change in preventive maintenance: allowing our ships to maintain desired speeds whilst lowering fuel consumption in a more efficient and sustainable manner. "What's even more impressive is the capacity to automate the procedure using the robot's memory from previous cleans." A small and agile submersible conducted a visual inspection of the hull below the waterline as well as the external shaft-line, controlled – after a short period of training – by a 'pilot' on board. Then, if more cleaning was necessary, a bigger robot was put into the water via remote control and latched onto the hull using sucker pads.

The bio growth was removed from the hull through an umbilical cord into filters, which quarantined it. The leftover seawater in the system was sent back into the basin, which is cleaner than it was originally. Processing tanks later analysed if there was any contamination such as paint and bio debris before it was discharged to ensure it is environmentally compliant.

The system can be deployed in standard shipping containers, meaning it is suitable for aircraft carriers or auxiliaries. This new cleaning system is revolutionary since it is said to be safer, cheaper, cleaner, environmentally friendly, compliant with laws and could potentially be used throughout Nato. The project is one of several joint projects involving the two navies under the Lancaster House agreement between London and Paris. The Lancaster House treaties, which were signed back in 2010, were focused on improving interoperability, the ability to work together quickly, and the joint creation of capabilities. Through this agreement, there has been maritime cooperation between the two countries. Both countries helped with each other's deployments to the Gulf and the Indo-Pacific, and the Royal Navy aided the Charles de Gaulle carrier

group. Four years ago, HMS Queen Elizabeth and FS Charles de Gaulle worked together during Exercise Gallic Strike in the Mediterranean, the first instance of this kind. Is Europe's nuclear deterrent enough to go it alone?

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and France's President Emmanuel Macron signed off on a newly updated Lancaster House agreement this year, which encompassed nuclear partnership, the Entente Industrielle, and the Combined Joint Force. The declaration strengthened nuclear cooperation and will mean Britain and France will work closely on nuclear deterrence.

The UK-France nuclear partnership stated that the nuclear deterrents are independent but can be coordinated, and that there is no extreme threat to Europe that would not prompt a response by both nations. Any enemy, therefore, could be faced with two nuclear forces. London and Paris will also cooperate further on nuclear research.

Germany Develops First Submarine-Launched Surface Drone for Silent Recon and Strike Roles

Source: NavyRecognition

Warfare continues to change

"Submarine-launched USVs can be deployed from underwater and remain undetected while surfacing to perform missions in forward or denied areas."



*Hypothetical modular uncrewed surface vehicle.
Photo: Army Recognition*

According to information published by the German Naval Company Gabler, on August 20, 2025, a partnership has been concluded with the maritime robotics company FLANQ to co-develop a new generation of submarine-launched uncrewed surface vehicles (USVs). The announcement, made at DALO Industry Days 2025 in Ballerup, Denmark, underscores a major evolution in subsea warfare capabilities with the goal of transforming standard submarine torpedo tubes into launch platforms for autonomous surface systems.

The platform under development is based on a modular architecture that fits within the NATO-standard 533mm torpedo tube form factor. The vehicle will feature a folding control fin and mast structure to allow compact storage and launch, expanding once on the surface. Both the expendable and recoverable variants will use the same hydrodynamic hull, approximately 5 to 6 meters in length, with a displacement under 800 kilograms. The platform is expected to have a surface range exceeding 200 nautical miles and an operational endurance of up to 36 hours for the ISR configuration.

Navigation will be enabled by an autonomous mission system with GPS-denied capability through inertial navigation and AI-driven situational awareness. Communication options include surface-to-airdatalinks, satellite relay, and burst underwater acoustics for limited submarine interface. Payload capacity will vary by mission but early prototypes are reported to support modular bays for electro-optical infrared sensors, electronic warfare suites, lightweight loitering munitions, or decoy systems.

This submarine-compatible USV concept is highly relevant to several NATO and allied navies seeking to upgrade the mission flexibility of their existing diesel-electric and nuclear submarine fleets. The German Navy, a likely early adopter, operates the Type 212A and new 212CD submarines, both featuring modern combat systems well suited to integrating such modular payloads.

Other potential customers include the Royal Netherlands Navy, which is pursuing future submarine options with enhanced multi-mission capability, as well as Norway, Italy, and South Korea, all which field torpedo-tube-equipped submarines and have shown interest in autonomous force multipliers. For navies with limited budgets or constrained acquisition cycles, the Gabler-FLANQ system offers a cost-effective upgrade path without needing to modify the submarine hull or invest in dedicated USV support ships.

Submarine-launched USVs can be deployed from underwater and remain undetected while surfacing to perform missions in forward or denied areas. For ISR missions, they extend the sensor reach of submarines by hundreds of nautical miles without compromising their stealth posture. In strike configurations, expendable USVs can deliver stand-off effects such as launching loitering munitions, jamming enemy radar, or simulating naval signatures without exposing manned platforms.

This drastically changes the risk equation in contested littoral zones, allowing submarines to shape the battlespace before revealing their presence. Moreover, in hybrid warfare or peacetime reconnaissance scenarios, uncrewed assets can collect intelligence or conduct influence operations with plausible deniability, offering policymakers more flexibility in the escalation ladder. Gabler will lead systems integration, mechanical interfacing, and delivery, leveraging decades of experience in submarine mast and launch system design. FLANQ, for its part, will oversee design engineering, AI-enabled autonomy, and payload integration. A full-scale prototype is already under assembly with initial sea trials scheduled for mid-2026. The partners aim to showcase the system during NATO's 2026 Joint Warrior exercise, potentially marking the first-ever torpedo tube-launched USV demonstration in an allied operational scenario.

HMS Triumph – A name etched in Naval History

Source: Wikipedia, Weird pictures and News

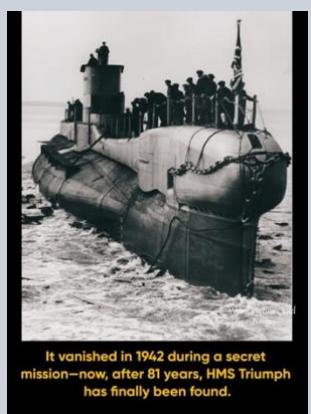
In this edition, we turn our attention to one of the Royal Navy's most storied names—HMS Triumph. Over the centuries, ten vessels have carried this title, each with its own chapter in Britain's maritime legacy. From galleons and ships of the line to aircraft carriers and submarines, Triumph has sailed through the ages as a symbol of strength, resilience, and sacrifice.

Among these, one vessel stands out for its mystery and rediscovery: the WWII submarine HMS Triumph (N18).

The Vanishing Submarine

Launched in 1938 by Vickers, HMS Triumph was a T-class submarine built for stealth and endurance. During the Second World War, she completed 20 daring combat patrols, sank enemy vessels—including the Italian submarine Salpa—and carried out covert operations along the coast of occupied Greece. Then, in January 1942, she vanished. No distress signal. No survivors. Just silence.

With 64 crew members aboard, Triumph disappeared into the icy depths of the Aegean Sea during a secret mission. For more than eight decades, her fate remained one of WWII's most enduring maritime mysteries.



It vanished in 1942 during a secret mission—now, after 81 years, HMS Triumph has finally been found.

Rediscovered After 81 Years

In June 2023, after a 24-year search, Greek diver and marine researcher Kostas Thohtarides located the wreck off the coast of Greece. Resting deep and intact on the seafloor, Triumph had been preserved by time and cold—a steel ghost, untouched and solemn.

Her rediscovery is more than a historical footnote. It is a moment of remembrance and the 64 crew members who never returned did not simply vanish.

Interested? Click image to Watch the video!



A Legacy of Ten Ships

The Royal Navy has named ten vessels HMS Triumph, with one additional ship planned under that name but renamed before launch. Here's a verified list:

English ship Triumph (1562) - A 68-gun galleon built at Deptford in 1561–62, launched in October 1562. Rebuilt in 1596 as a race-built galleon. Condemned and broken up in 1618.

English ship Triumph (1623) - A 44-gun great ship launched in 1623 at Deptford, modified over time to carry up to 72 guns, Sold out of service in 1688.

HMS Triumph (1698) - A 90-gun second-rate ship of the line launched in 1697, Renamed HMS Prince in 1714, Rebuilt in 1750 and broken up in 1773.

HMS Triumph (1739) - An 18-gun sloop, formerly the Spanish San Cristóbal (1735), alias Triunfo, captured in 1739 at Puerto Bello, Founded in 1740.

HMS Triumph (1764) - A 74-gun third-rate ship of the line launched at Woolwich, Served in major battles including Camperdown and Cape Finisterre. Used for harbour service from 1813, broken up in 1850.

HMS Triumph (planned 1862) - Intended as a 91-gun screw-propelled Bulwark-class second rate, Renamed HMS Prince Consort in 1862 before launch, Completed as a Prince Consort-class armoured frigate.

HMS Triumph (1870) - A Swiftsure-class broadside ironclad battleship launched in 1870, Renamed HMS Tenedos (1904), HMS Indus IV (1912), and HMS Algiers (1915). Served as depot and training ship; sold for scrap in 1921.

HMS Triumph (1903) - A Swiftsure-class pre-dreadnought battleship originally ordered by Chile, launched in 1903, acquired by the Royal Navy, Sunk by German submarine U-21 off Gaba Tepe on 25 May 1915.

HMS Triumph (N18) - A T-class submarine launched in 1938, Damaged by a mine in 1939, repaired, and returned to service, lost during a covert mission in January 1942; rediscovered in 2023.

HMS Triumph (R16) - A Colossus-class light fleet aircraft carrier launched in 1944, Served in Korea; converted to a heavy repair ship in 1964, Scrapped in 1981.

HMS Triumph (S93) - A Trafalgar-class nuclear-powered submarine launched in 1991 - Served in Afghanistan and Libya, firing Tomahawk missiles - Decommissioned in July 2025 after 33 years of service.

The Musicians who saved many lives

(From History pictures)



On the night of August 4, 1991, the Oceanos cruise ship was caught in a ferocious storm off South Africa's Wild Coast. As the vessel began taking on water, panic spread quickly — made worse when the captain and senior officers abandoned their posts early, leaving the passengers without leadership in the middle of the crisis.

In this vacuum of authority, an unlikely hero stepped forward: Moss Hills, a British-born guitarist performing onboard with his wife, bassist Tracy. With no maritime training, the couple began organizing frightened passengers, issuing distress calls, and coordinating what would become one of the most extraordinary civilian-led rescues at sea.

As the ship listed and the lights flickered in the black of night, Moss and fellow entertainers lowered lifeboats and kept order among the chaos. The worsening storm made lifeboat launches dangerous, so when the South African Navy dispatched helicopters, Moss climbed to the ship's top deck to help strap passengers into rescue harnesses. One by one, in howling winds and blinding rain, people were hoisted into the air and flown to safety. Through calm instructions and relentless focus, Moss and his makeshift rescue team helped more than 200 people escape the doomed vessel without a single fatality.

Moss was among the last to leave the Oceanos, departing just 45 minutes before it sank beneath the waves. A later Greek inquiry found the captain and several officers guilty of negligence, but their failure only underscored the courage and quick thinking of the entertainers who stepped in. What could have been a mass tragedy became a maritime miracle, thanks largely to a guitarist who refused to stand by while disaster unfolded — proving that true leadership often comes from the most unexpected places.

Sail Amsterdam 2025

SAIL Amsterdam 2025 was held August 20–24 as the event's 10th edition and part of Amsterdam's 750th-anniversary celebrations, transformed the city into a five-day maritime spectacle. Crowds lined the North Sea Canal for the Sail-in Parade—part of the “United by Waves” theme—as a flotilla of around 50 tall ships made their majestic entrance into Amsterdam



This month in History - September 1975

(50 years ago)

General

1 Sep - The Turnhalle Constitutional Conference began in Windhoek between white, black and coloured residents to discuss the future of South-West Africa (now Namibia).

9 Sep - The Communist nation of Albania issued a decree ordering a change of names for "all Albanian citizens who have inappropriate names in view of the political, ideological and moral standards", apparently to require non-Muslim minorities (such as Roman Catholics, Orthodox Christians and Romani people or "Gypsies") to take on less "Western-sounding" names.

10 Sep - Viking 2, which had originally been slated to be sent for a July landing on Mars until problems forced it to be replaced by a backup, was launched as the second vehicle to the "red planet". After descending from Mars orbit, Viking 2 lander would land at the Utopia Planitia on Mars on September 3, 1976, and transmit data until April 12, 1980.



16 Sep - U.S. Patent No. 3,906,166 was granted to Martin Cooper and others on his team at Motorola, for the first hand-held cell phone, after it had been applied for on October 17, 1973. Cooper's team worked at reducing the original 28-pound Motorola portable device to the first hand-held mobile phone, the DynaTAC, which weighed less than three pounds, and made the world's first cell phone call on April 3, 1973.

17 Sep - Stephen Holcomb Jr., a resident of Traverse City, Michigan walked into a branch of the National Bank and Trust Company with a German Reich Bank note for 100,000 marks and presented it for conversion to U.S. dollars. The note had been minted in 1923 during the use of the "papiermark" currency in the Weimar Republic during a period of hyperinflation and was worth less than one cent American, but the teller used the 1976 exchange rate for the Deutsche Mark and presented Holcomb with \$39,700 in cash. Holcomb was not charged with a crime because he hadn't specifically requested the exchange at 1976 rates but was sued by the bank later after having gone on a spending spree that left the bank still having failed to recover \$18,177 of the money that it had given him.

24 Sep - Dougal Haston and Doug Scott on the 1975 British Mount Everest Southwest Face expedition became the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest by any of its faces and the first Britons to reach the summit by any route.

26 Sep - The Rocky Horror Picture Show, which would become a cult film classic, after being adapted from a British stage play, was first shown, debuting in Westwood, Los Angeles. The film was a flop until April 1, 1976, when midnight screenings at the Waverly Theatre in New York City were accompanied by audience participation, which became a fad in the late 1970s.



30 Sep - The prototype of the AH-64 Apache helicopter made its first flight. The Apache, an attack helicopter that could fire Armor-piercing shells, withstand anti-aircraft fire, and fly missions under adverse conditions, would become a U.S. Army aircraft in 1985.

Sport

6 Sep - The 1975 Gillette Cup, (the thirteenth), an English limited overs county cricket tournament was won by Lancashire County Cricket Club who defeated Middlesex County Cricket Club by 7 wickets in the final at Lords.

7 Sep - Niki Lauda clinched the World Driving Championship by finishing in sixth place in the 1975 Italian Grand Prix, with only two races left for the season. It was the 45th Italian Grand Prix and the 41st to be held at Monza. The race held over 52 laps of the five-kilometre circuit for a race distance of 300 kilometres. The race was won by Swiss driver Clay Regazzoni in his Ferrari 312TA in a glorious day for Scuderia Ferrari. It was Regazzoni's third win, Ferrari's fifth win for the season.

9 Sep - The 1975 European Super Cup was played on 9 September and 6 October 1975 between the 1974–75 European Cup winners Bayern Munich and the 1974–75 European Cup Winners' Cup Winners Dynamo Kyiv of the Soviet Union. Dynamo won 3–0 on aggregate.

15 Sep - Chris Balderstone, who bowled for the England cricket team and played midfield for Doncaster Rovers F.C. in The Football League became the first and, thus far, only person to play first-class matches in both sports on the same day.

Music



Movies



Choosing a single figure to spotlight this month feels like trying to pick one star from a constellation. How does one decide between Robert Redford and Faye Dunaway, whose taut chemistry in *Three Days of the Condor* turns Cold War paranoia into compelling cinema; or the formidable group of Richard Attenborough, Stacy Keach, Michael York and Christopher Plummer in *Conduct Unbecoming*, a courtroom drama that slices through colonial decorum with unnerving precision? Then there's *Grey Gardens*, a haunting documentary that dances between decay and defiant glamour, and the ever-beloved John Candy, whose warmth and comic timing made even the most chaotic road trip feel like home. Yet in the end, it was Richard Attenborough who drew my gaze —not just for his commanding presence in *Conduct Unbecoming*, but for the breadth of his legacy, both on screen and behind the camera. This month, we tip our hat to a man whose career was as layered and compelling as the stories he chose to tell.

Richard Attenborough: A Life in Light and Shadow

Born on 29 August 1923 in Cambridge, England, Richard Samuel Attenborough was the eldest of three brothers in a household steeped in intellect and compassion. His father, Frederick Attenborough, was a distinguished academic and principal of University College Leicester, while his mother, Mary Clegg, helped found the Marriage Guidance Council. The family's ethos of service and curiosity shaped all three sons.

Richard Attenborough shared a close and affectionate relationship with his brothers, David and John, shaped by a childhood steeped in intellect, compassion, and shared curiosity. The Attenborough brothers grew up in a household that was one of academic rigour and moral conviction—during World War II, the family even took in two Jewish refugee girls, Helga and Irene Bejach, whom they raised as foster sisters. This sense of duty and empathy ran deep in all three brothers.

Richard, the eldest, was born in 1923. David followed in 1926, and John in 1928. Though their careers diverged—Richard into film and theatre, David into natural history broadcasting, and John into the motor industry—they remained deeply connected throughout their lives.—David would become the voice of the natural world, and John a successful executive in the motor industry.



Richard's early education at Wyggeston Grammar School for Boys in Leicester led him to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), where he trained in performance with a seriousness that belied his youth. His film debut came in 1942 with *In Which We Serve*, a wartime drama directed by Noël Coward and David Lean. During World War II, he served in the Royal Air Force's film unit, documenting bombing raids from the rear gunner's position—a role that demanded both courage and artistic sensitivity.

His acting career blossomed in post-war Britain, with standout roles in *Brighton Rock* (1948), *The Great Escape* (1963), and *Jurassic Park* (1993), where he played the visionary but flawed John Hammond.



Yet, it was as a director that Attenborough truly left his mark. His directorial debut, *Oh! What a Lovely War* (1969), was followed by *Young Winston* (1972) and *A Bridge Too Far* (1977). His magnum opus, *Gandhi* (1982), won eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director, and remains a masterclass in historical storytelling.

Away from the spotlight, Attenborough was a man of quiet passions. He was a lifelong supporter of Chelsea Football Club and served as its life president—a role he cherished with boyish enthusiasm. He also had a deep love for collecting art, particularly works by emerging British artists, and was known to champion their careers with the same passion he brought to filmmaking. His interest in education and the arts extended to his presidency of RADA and BAFTA, where he worked tirelessly to support young talent.

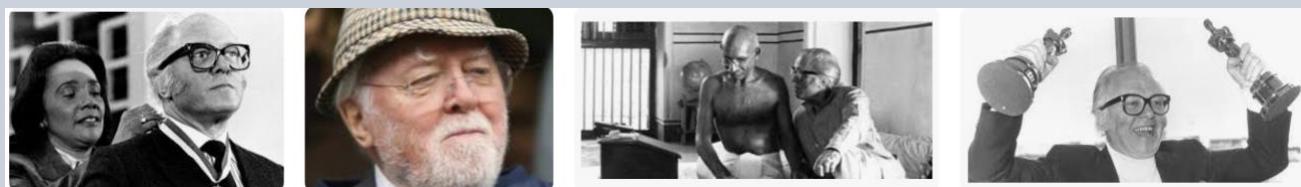
He married actress Sheila Sim in 1945, and their union—both romantic and professional—spanned nearly seven decades. They were among the original cast of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*, which became the

longest-running play in history. Together, they raised three children: Michael, a theatre director; Charlotte, an actress; and Jane, a gifted arts administrator whose life was tragically lost in the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.



Attenborough's humanitarian spirit was as profound as his artistic one. He founded the Jane Holland Creative Centre for Learning in Swaziland in memory of his daughter, and he was a tireless advocate for inclusive education and human rights. His peerage in the House of Lords, granted in 1993, allowed him to further champion causes close to his heart.

He passed away on 24 August 2014, just days before his 91st birthday. His legacy lives on not only in the films he made and the roles he played, but in the lives, he touched—through art, advocacy, and a belief that storytelling could change the world.



David often spoke warmly of Richard, especially after his passing in 2014. In interviews, he recalled their shared laughter and Richard's untapped gift for comedy. "Dick was a marvellous comic actor," David said. "We just spent all our time roaring with laughter... and that didn't get much of an outlet in his feature films". Their bond was not just fraternal but deeply personal, filled with mutual admiration and affection. John, the youngest, was less publicly known but equally cherished. He worked in the automotive sector and later became a financial adviser. He passed away in 2012, two years before Richard.

And, 100 years ago - September 1925

5 Sep - In the USSR, a joint protest, against Soviet Communist Party Secretary Joseph Stalin was signed by Comintern leader Grigory Zinoviev, Lev Kamenev, Deputy Premier Finance Commissar Grigory Sokolnikov and Vladimir Lenin's widow, Nadezhda Krupskaya. Zinoviev, Kamenev and Sokolnikov would all become victims of Stalin's Great Purge and would all be executed.

11 Sep - The British, French and German governments agreed in principle on a security pact and began planning a conference to arrange for a formal treaty.

20 Sep - The first underground subway in Italy, the Passante Ferroviario di Napoli, was opened.

25 Sep - The U.S. submarine USS S-51 was sunk off the coast of Rhode Island in a collision with a merchant steamer, killing 33 of the 36 crew aboard. The merchant ship, City of Rome, had spotted S-51 by its masthead light, but was unable to determine the sub's course or intentions, and altered its course, only to realize that it was heading toward the side of the submarine.

Tattler – Laugh

Your monthly funny video – John Cleese roasting American Football



I went to visit a psychic.
I knocked on her front door and she yelled...
"Who is it?"
So I left.



Subject: Male vs Female Logic

Woman: Do you drink beer?

Man: Yes

Woman: How many beers a day?

Man: Usually about 3

Woman: How much do you pay per beer?

Man: \$5.00 which includes a tip

(This is where it gets scary !)

Woman: And how long have you been drinking?

Man: About 20 years, I suppose

Woman: So, a beer costs \$5, and you have 3 beers a day which puts your spending each month at \$450. In one year, it would be approximately \$5400 ...correct?

Man: Correct

Woman: Do you know that if you didn't drink so much beer, that money could have been put in a step-up interest savings account and after accounting for compound interest for the past 20 years, you could have now bought a Ferrari.

Man: Do you drink beer?

Woman: No

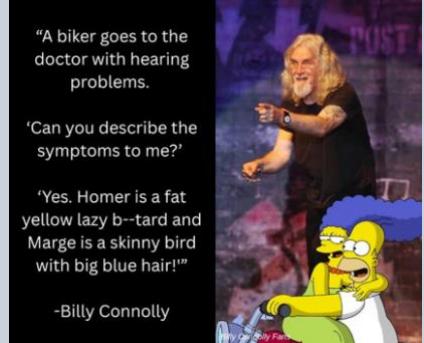
Man: Where's your Ferrari?

"A biker goes to the doctor with hearing problems.

'Can you describe the symptoms to me?'

'Yes. Homer is a fat yellow lazy b--tard and Marge is a skinny bird with big blue hair!'

-Billy Connolly



Very Funny

To write with a broken pencil is pointless / When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate / A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months / When the smog lifts in Los Angeles , U.C.L.A / The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground / A will is a dead giveaway / If you don't pay your exorcist, you can get repossessed / With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress / When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall / Police were called to a day care where a three-year-old was resisting a rest / The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered / When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye / Acupuncture: a jab well done.

Saw this at an Irish bar nearby



- 1) Pakistan
- 2) Australia
- 3) Sinner
- 4) Lando Norris
- 5) Backstroke
- 6) The Real Prince
- 7) Scottie Scheffler
- 8) Paris Saint-Germain
- 9) Neither - It was a drawn series
- 10) Hulk Hogan

We really would value more feedback. Please feel free to comment or submit items. Our email addresses are jonathanagolding@gmail.com and colettepatience@gmail.com
Have a good month.