



Welcome to the October Edition of the Seven Seas Tattler!

Ahoy, readers! As the seasons shift we're thrilled to bring you a jam-packed edition of the Seven Seas Tattler that sails across sport, science, history, and the arts with a few surprises tucked in the pages.

From the Club Secretary: A warm welcome and a toast to our ever-growing community. September's quiz saw a record six teams—proof that our crew is sharper than ever!

Rugby legend Siya Kolisi edges tantalizingly close to his 100-cap milestone, while football and Formula 1 updates keep the adrenaline flowing. Discover the tale of the Bronze Leopard of Hout Bay—an emblem of mystery and pride. We dive into geothermal energy and unravel the glowing wonder of bioluminescence that lit up Cape Town's shores in August.

Notre Dame rises again—explore the journey of its reopening and the spirit behind the restoration. Get to know the stirring story behind the US National Anthem—how a poem became a nation's voice.

Your editors have picked their top 10 female vocalists—expect passion, power, and a touch of friendly rivalry. We debut our Art Corner. We're kicking off this new feature with our editors' picks. Send in your choice creations to keep the gallery growing!

Naval News: Cutting-edge updates for maritime minds—WB Group's Sea drone and the Royal Navy's new ship-busting missile trials.

With 1975's cinematic gems in focus, Jack Nicholson takes centre stage in our feature on his life and career.

So, grab your favourite brew, settle in, and enjoy this voyage through October's finest tales and triumphs.

Jonathan and Colette

Message from the Club Secretary

(Tattler - Thanks Euan!)

Dear Members

Hello from the far north where the seasons are now changing and there is a distinct nip in the air. When I arrived at the start of September it was just about still summer with all the summer activities still in full swing. Nice walks (see below), long evenings sitting outside a country pub, ale in hand, enjoying the late sunshine were all in order. But no longer. Autumn's chilly grip has descended with dark clouds rolling past and a hint of frost on the ground in the early mornings. Soon it will be time to return to Simon's Town, and I am beginning to look forward to it very much. We live in a very special part of the world and should treasure it.



The path through the woods

I have heard good reports from Glen and others of the continued success of various events at The Club this month. The Quiz managed six tables of contenders I am told. Fabulous news and Thank You Doug for taking up the reins where I left them and making sure Jonathan kept in line. There were also some outside events held which will help the coffers swell and perhaps lead to some new members to get to know. The Sunday Grand Prix had a poor attendance one week and then a much better one the next. Perhaps the lack of advertising led to the lack of numbers so we will try to make sure that all events are individually promoted in future so that we all know what is happening. I will be back soon to enjoy the build-up to our lovely summer when we can take full advantage of our amazing facilities, but first I must take some time off in Italy walking and climbing in Umbria. Wish me luck and I will see you all again soon. Look after The Club for me please.

Cheers!

Euan

Editorial

You get photographs and then you get photographs!



Incredible shot by National Geographic Award Winner

SIYA KOLISI EDGES EVER CLOSER TO THE MAGICAL 100-CAP MILESTONE

Siya Kolisi will move to within touching distance of 100 caps for the Springboks when he leads the team out on Saturday.

(By Craig Lewis **24 Sep 2025**)

Siya Kolisi has once again been a key performer for the Springboks this season, recovering from some early injury issues before increasingly settling into his stride in the loose trio, particularly once he was back in his preferred role at openside flank.

When Kolisi leads the Springboks out against Argentina this Saturday, he will play his 97th Test Match, leaving him only three matches short of becoming the ninth Springbok centurion in the history of the game.

If he remains fit, Kolisi will undoubtedly feature in the final Rugby Championship game in London, meaning he will head on the end-of-year tour on 98 caps, and with the very real prospect of reaching 100 caps.



It does make for quite an interesting dilemma as Springbok coach Rassie Erasmus generally has tried to ensure milestones such as reaching 100 caps **can be celebrated in South Africa in front of home fans.**

However, South Africa will play five games on the end-of-year tour against Japan, France, Italy, Ireland and Wales, and Kolisi would only be able to feature in one of these matches if the Springboks hoped to defer his 100-cap milestone to next year.

WILL SIYA KOLISI REACH SPECIAL MILESTONE THIS YEAR?

REMAINING BOK SCHEDULE FOR 2025:

- 27 September: vs Argentina, Kings Park, Durban. **Kick-off: 17:10.**
- 4 October: vs Argentina, London. **Kick-off: 15:00.**
- 1 November: vs Japan, Wembley. **Kick-off: TBD.**
- 8 November: vs France, Paris. **Kick-off: 22:10.**
- 15 November: vs Italy, Turin. **Kick-off: 14:40**
- 22 November: vs Ireland, Dublin. **Kick-off: 19:40.**
- 29 November: vs Wales, Cardiff. **Kick-off: 17:10.**

FOOTBALL CORNER – HOWARD COHEN

An eventful month in the EPL. Three quick fire games played by each club and then an irritating international break which upset the rhythm and momentum clubs were starting to build. Managers cast into fear about injuries to players away on international duty. A look at the table at the end of August looks uncannily like what one would anticipate the end of the season will look like. There would appear little doubt that the top three teams in the league are Liverpool, Arsenal and Man City, though City's start has been patchy and they have taken awhile to hit their straps. Spurs and Chelsea have plenty of work to do. Though Bournemouth and Crystal Palace have both made excellent starts and have two fine managers and talent aplenty in their squads, I don't envisage top four finishes for either team. Top six positions are wide open and there is much football to be played. Newcastle have had an indifferent start, but I expect Eddie Howe's men to improve as the season matures into the winter. One hopes that one or two lesser fancied teams make a run, because the league remains top heavy and overwhelmingly dominated by the financial resources available to clubs.

Liverpool is unbeaten so far this season and that run includes home and away wins to Athletic Club in the Champions league. The team oozes class in virtually every position.

They have spent heavily in the summer but have acquired undeniable talent and strengthened their squad significantly. There is sufficient depth to make a run for the league, Europe and perhaps progress far in one of the domestic Cup competitions. They now boast both Izak, after his regrettable shenanigans over his transfer from Newcastle and the irrepressible Frenchman Ekitike who has made a notable start to the season until his recent act of petulance when he removed his shirt and was shown a red card for a second yellow. He has a bit of maturing to be added to his undoubted skills. Slot has some will say unenviable task of deciding which of these two world class strikers will play the big games. I see little prospect of successfully playing them together, but it is a problem other managers can only dream of.



Florian Wirtz, who Liverpool paid extortionist money for has struggled for form so far. He was acquired for his creative skills and seeing and executing the pass that finds space, opens the play and creates chances for the front men. The pace and physicality of the English game has hindered him as he has less time on the ball and is too easily robbed of the ball or misfires with the pass. One detects he is becoming frustrated with his form which he has conceded is below his and the gaffer's expectations. He is a player of undeniable talent and skill and will grow into the important creative, playmakers role he currently occupies. Milos Kerkes is another notable acquisition from Bournemouth intended to occupy the left back slot Andy Robertson occupied so effectively. It has been a mixed bag so far for the young Hungarian who has discovered that playing for Liverpool is a different proposition to starring for the Cherries. He has been exposed a couple of times by his positional play and skilful wingers have tested him for pace. He has the credentials to develop into a dominant full back and youth is on his side. Expect Liverpool to continue to set the pace for the league title. A final thought on Liverpool's acquisitions. One has yet to see Jeremy Frimpong. I recall an international game last season between Holland and Spain when he gave Cucurella the runaround of his life. A player to watch.

What about the perennial bridesmaid Arsenal. Their roll call of acquisitions this season is impressive. Gyokores, Eze, Madueke, Zubimendi, Norgaard, Mosquera, Arrizabalaga and Hincapie who is a defender on loan. The list is brimful of talent and skill and adds much needed depth to Arteta's squad. Their form has been disappointing given the undoubted quality of their squad. Their game against Liverpool is illustrative of Arsenal's strange inability to take a game by the scruff of the neck, particularly against top six opponents.



Arteta left out both Eze and Odegaard who are their undoubted playmakers. The Gunners had a fair share of possession 47% and 9 shots on goal but looked largely toothless against a Liverpool back four of Szoboszlai, Konate, Van Dijk and Kerkez who were imperious on the day. Arsenal's offensive work looked turgid and uninspiring, though not for want of trying. Liverpool seemed to be comfortable to absorb any pressure and bide their time with an equally passive approach to the game. Gyokeres was anonymous more for a lack of service than effort on his part, but he seemed to be unable to make the play for an assist or get his head on a set play. A sterile half time ended 0-0. The second half

was turned on its head by a phenomenal strike from Szoboszlai. With about seven minutes remaining Liverpool were awarded a free kick some 30 yards out and centrally situated. A goal looked implausible, but not to the outstanding Hungarian who rifled a wicked, swerving dipping shot past a hapless diving Raya into the top left of his goals. 1-0 to Liverpool in a thoroughly disappointing game as a spectacle. This was a game Arsenal needed to win and to impose some authority and self-belief on a season where they have every right to regard themselves as serious contenders for league honours. They failed in that objective.

Another inexplicably flaccid performance from Arsenal was their game against Man City who have had an undistinguished, inconsistent start to the season. Arteta chose to start the game with Merino and Trossard leaving Saka, Eze and Martinelli on the bench. Once again, the question was raised - why not start with at least two of your creative attacking playmakers if your intention was to go out and win the game? In the ninth minute a clever Haaland assist to Reijnders saw the Dutchman in space carry the ball with verve toward the Arsenal 18-yard box and set up an accurate assist for the on rushing Haaland who buried the ball in Raya's net. In a surprising change of tactics Guardiola then turned the game into a war of attrition. No longer was he to play a high press with City pressing their opponents into their half of the play with Rodri controlling the pace of the game and City dominating possession. Instead, City sat back deep in their half, 4-1-4-1 became 5-4-1 and they surrendered possession to Arsenal posing the challenge to the Gunners to break down the City blockade. Try as they might Arsenal were unable to mount a challenge or pierce the ramparts.

Too little creativity in the 18-yard box and weak efforts down the flanks left Arsenal bereft of meaningful scoring opportunities. The teams went to the sheds 0-0 with Arteta desperately needing a change of personnel and some creative firepower in the second half. On cue Saka, Eze and Martinelli were introduced, and the trio made a difference. Arsenal asked far more questions, and the impressive Donnarumma in the City goal became the Gunner's biggest obstacle to scoring as they mounted a siege on City's final third. Arsenal had 13 shots on goal, but only three were on target. City enjoyed 32% of possession which is the lowest ever in Guardiola's reign at City. In addition, just to add colour to the narrative Arsenal made 282 more passes than City. It beggars' belief that against this background Arsenal were unable to score until deep into stoppage time. What is not surprising is that the players who finally broke the deadlock were Eze, and Martinelli. The former Palace star Eze who was Arsenal's best player found the ever-willing Martinelli with a smart assist and the Brazilian winger lobbed the ball into an empty net. A deserved draw for Arsenal, anything else would have been larceny, but this was a game the Gunners ought to have won. Arsenal are now five points behind Liverpool which is virtually a two-game lead. There is plenty of football to be played but Arteta must adopt a more offensive approach to their game plan. He has the material and an excellent squad - the best he has ever had. He has got to start with players like Eze, the fit again Saka, Martinelli and Odegaard and Gyokeres must receive more service. As a postscript Eze who I concede is one of my favourite players and a superb talent is best deployed as a 10, not as a winger. Odegaard needs to prove that he is a better 10 than Eze. Arteta does not want to be known as a handbrake manager which some pundits have cruelly labelled him. Take your foot off the pedal Mikel

Chelsea remains one of the more intriguing enigmas of the EPL. Since the contrived forced sale of the club to a group of American venture capitalists led by billionaire Todd Boehly drawing the curtain on the Abramovich reign, which was colourful, controversial and exciting and brought the club unparalleled success in the league, domestic cups and Europe nothing has ever been the same again. Chelsea, always known for hiring and firing

managers in a relentless pursuit of success now seem to be a club without an identity. Boehly and his partners seem hell bent on running the club like an American baseball or gridiron franchise. They seem reluctant to take advice from those who could teach them something about football and what it takes to manage an English football club with a storied history successfully. Recruitment continues to be random, visionless, misdirected and strategically without any thought or plan. Money is no real object though there seems to be a cavalier attitude to the fair play rules enforced by the FA. This is a problem that preceded the Boehly takeover and came to light during a due diligence conducted in 2015/2016.

The player profile would appear to have an age limit of around 23, some proven talent and the willingness on the part of candidates to significantly improve their wages and to be naive enough to lock themselves into long term contracts, eight years being the preferred term. Some of these players make the grade at first team squad level, some become perennial loanees, and some join the bomb squad where they are treated as well paid lepers isolated from the squad and forced to train on their own, an arrangement which is demeaning to the players and unfortunately is not confined to Chelsea. There have been some notable exceptions to the profile sketched. Enzo Fernandez, Moses Caicedo, Marc Cucurella, Pedro Neto and most notably Cole Palmer represent a fine core of talent, who except for Palmer, cost an arm and a leg, but have proved their worth. There has been a succession of managers who have come and gone in the Boehly era, though it must be said that Chelsea are a big club, difficult to manage and revolving door managers are a characteristic of football in general. Frank Lampard had two unsuccessful bites at the cherry, Mauricio Pochettino came and went, Graham Potter found the job too demanding for him and Enzo Maresca currently holds the reins. It should be pointed out that the Chelsea job is particularly demanding because the manager is actually the head coach responsible for all operational football matters from the first team down to the academy. Not an easy brief for anyone.

On the field of play Chelsea blow hot and cold. Last season after an undistinguished start where they languished mid table without a wing and a prayer they finished in fine style and deservedly qualified for champions league football, no mean feat and a job well done. They also won the World Club Championship in America in the summer. Though this competition has its critics of whom I am one, it remains a notable achievement. This season seems to be following a similar course. Their results have been a mixed bag. They thrashed West Ham 5-1, drew with Palace, beat Fulham 2-0 drew with Brentford. Man United beat them 2-0 in a Mancunian monsoon and they lost 1-3 to Brighton this weekend. In Europe they were comprehensively outclassed by Bayern Munich. What does one make of all this. In my view all is far from lost for Chelsea this season and one writes them off at one's peril. For my money Maresca is the right man for a tough job. He is demanding, forthright and not overwhelmed by his mandate. The team has been severely hampered by the absence of Cole Palmer who is their playmaker and was brilliant last season. A languid, moody, mercurial player he sees space and opportunity where other players fear to tread. He creates chances and he scores goals. At his best he always seems to have time, never flustered, never hurried - one of the league's best 10's. One hopes his thigh injury clears up and does not require surgery. It is encouraging to see Reece James injury free and getting a run in the midfield where he looks a good fit. Jaao Pedro is undoubtedly a gifted player with guile and imagination, but he is not a natural striker. 10 is his best position and that is Palmer's natural spot. A conundrum Maresca will need to resolve. Delap's injury robs them of a natural striker, and his return will add a physical dimension to the team which they lack up front. Levi Colwill is a big miss as a partner for Caicedo at the heart of the defence. Robert Sanchez is not good enough to be Chelsea's first choice goalkeeper. His red card against United was rash, thoughtless and indicative of his play. A goalkeeper is a priority for Chelsea in the January window. Tyrique George is a rough diamond, but he is young, but certainly not good enough to command the 9 spot at present. Estevao looks a serious talent and is sure to develop as a classy winger. Quick, sharp with typical Brazilian flair and inspiration he ought to develop into a star. Finally, though he is a controversial player and left United under a cloud, Alejandro Garnacho has much to offer, and one hopes Maresca nurtures this young fellow who performed admirably at United before falling out with Amorim. My feeling about Chelsea is that the best is yet to come and a top six position is a realistic target.

Yours in Football, Howard Cohen

F1 TRACK - JIM PAGE (OUR MOTORSPORT SCRIBE)

Sainz, Verstappen, Horner, Bottas et al

Wow, just wow. Carlos “not good enough” Sainz Jr is now only the second driver in history after Alain Prost to finish on the podium for McLaren, Ferrari and Williams. Meanwhile, his erstwhile replacement at Ferrari has yet to make a podium appearance.



The GP at Baku produced some interesting facts:

Max Verstappen’s sixth grand slam (that’s pole, fastest lap, win and led every lap), that ties him with Lewis Hamilton, and puts him two behind the late great Jim Clark.



On the silly season front, former Red Bull TP Christian Horner walked off with a reported \$82 million severance package, and instructions to remain on gardening leave for a further 9 months. That puts him clearly out of contention as a TP for any current or new team on the grid, although all the teams appear to be settled at this time.

The funny Finn, Valtteri Bottas and his new team partner Checo Perez have 162 days as of 26th September until they turn a wheel in anger at the Australian GP in their new Cadillac - and it appears that they have been made welcome, although there’s a team member with a lot to prove. Colton Herta is the team’s official test driver, although he does not yet hold an F1 super licence though he is a seven-time IndyCar winner!

THE STORY OF THE BRONZE LEOPARD OF HOUT BAY

(By Nereesha Patel)

Lording over a rocky outcrop in Hout Bay, a bronze leopard statue has captivated curious onlookers for decades.



If you've ever visited Hout Bay in Cape Town, you will have noticed an enigmatic sight: a bronze leopard perched on a towering rock that overlooks the cerulean waters of the bay.

For travellers either navigating the last stretch of Chapman's Peak Drive or embarking on the scenic coastal route, the leopard is a silent sentinel. Its teal-blue tinge – combined with its hunched, almost introspective posture – makes the statue stand out against the skyline and the surrounding seawater.

So, what is the origin of the bronze leopard? For what purpose was it created?

The mountains and forests of the Cape Peninsula were once home to an abundance of amazing animals, including leopards.

Alas for these creatures, human settlements in Cape Town boomed exponentially, both in population and development. In response, a vast majority of the wildlife abandoned the peninsula in search of less-populated areas to call home.

Twenty-six years after the last leopard sighting, the bronze leopard was born. Ivan Mitford-Barberton, a renowned local sculptor, fashioned the leopard out of bronze, which had been donated by the Pepsi-Cola Company (now PepsiCo).

Following the 295-kilogram statue's completion, Mitford-Barberton decided to donate the statue to the community of Hout Bay. And so, with the aid of the Divisional Council of the Cape, the leopard ascended to its rocky perch on 14 March 1963.

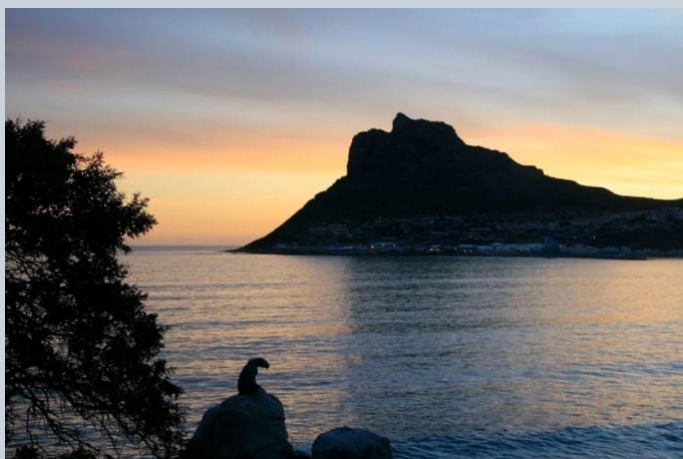


Image: Moonstone Images/ Canva

Today, the leopard maintains its place on its lofty, rocky throne. However, years of exposure to the salty sea breezes of Hout Bay have resulted in heavy oxidation, turning the statue's bronze colouring into a mottled tealish blue.

Although its original colouring hasn't endured, the message behind the leopard does: it serves as a memorial to the wildlife that once roamed the Cape Peninsula, to the leopards and other creatures who were forced to leave their natural habitats in response to human encroachment.

It also acts as a reminder to appreciate nature in all its forms, from the untamed to the most sublime.

And as the leopard continues to survey the bay and the once-natural landscapes beyond, it fills visitors with sadness and hope: sadness because we will never see the likes of these magnificent creatures living freely among these lands, and hope because we can help safeguard those that remain.

STORKS DON'T ONLY DELIVER BABIES!

(Tattler - [Something a little different](#))

A three-way love affair - Klepetan, Malena and Stjepan

"When Klepetan left, Stjepan said Malena mourned for 10 days."

Every spring for over 20 years, a white stork named Klepetan made an extraordinary solo journey, flying nearly 9,000 miles from South Africa to a small village in Croatia. His destination? A rooftop nest in Brodski Varoš, where his beloved Malena waited. This wasn't just migration, it was a story of unwavering love, loyalty and resilience that captivated millions around the globe.



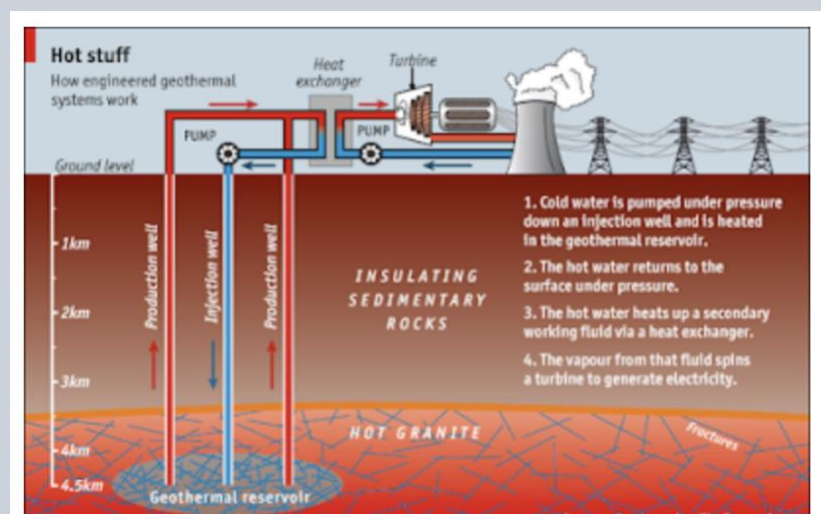
Malena's journey began in hardship. In 1993, she was shot by a hunter and left unable to fly. Rescued by retired school janitor Stjepan Vokić, she was given a second chance at life. Vokić built her a safe home and cared for her with deep compassion, keeping her warm in winter and even taking her fishing. Then in 2001, Klepetan appeared. From that day on, he returned every year, defying nature's norms to be with the stork who could no longer fly.

Unlike most migrating storks that travel in pairs, Klepetan made the journey alone. Together, he and Malena raised 66 chicks, with Klepetan teaching them to fly while Malena nurtured them from the nest. Their partnership was full of instinct, love and quiet cooperation, a bond many humans can only dream of. After Malena's passing in 2021, Klepetan didn't forget. He continued returning to her resting place under an apple tree near the home they shared. Even in 2024, now over 35 years old, he still comes back a silent, soaring tribute to a lifelong love.

This is more than a tale about two birds. It's a reminder that love knows no boundaries, that animals form bonds just as deep as ours, and that devotion can echo across skies and seasons.

Geothermal Energy

We all know about energy from solar and wind-turbines. What do we know about this topic?



Geothermal energy is the heat from within the earth.

This clean, renewable energy source comes from the planet's primordial heat and ongoing radioactive decay, making it a constantly available, inexhaustible resource.

While the resource is available everywhere, its practical extraction often requires specific geographical conditions, such as natural hot springs, geysers, or deep wells.

How it Works

1. **Heat from the Earth:** The Earth's interior contains molten rock (magma) and hot water, heated by the planet's formation and radioactive decay.
2. **Tapping the Resource:** Wells are drilled to access underground reservoirs of hot water or steam.
3. **Power Generation:**
 - **Flash Steam Plants:** High-temperature fluids are brought to the surface, where a pressure drop causes them to "flash" into vapor.
 - **Turbine Operation:** This vapor drives a turbine, which in turn powers a generator to produce electricity.
 - **Binary Power Plants:** Lower-temperature geothermal water can be used to heat a secondary fluid with a lower boiling point, which then produces steam to drive the turbine.

Applications

- **Electricity generation**
- **Heating and cooling:** for buildings, industries, and homes
- **Direct use applications,** such as in agriculture and spas

Advantages

- **Renewable and clean:** A sustainable energy source with minimal environmental impact.
- **Reliable and available:** It provides a continuous, baseload power source, unlike intermittent solar or wind energy.
- **Compact:** Geothermal plants require relatively small land footprints.

Disadvantages

- **Location-specific:** Geothermal plants are most effective in areas with accessible geothermal resources.
- **High upfront costs:** The initial investment for drilling and plant construction can be significant.

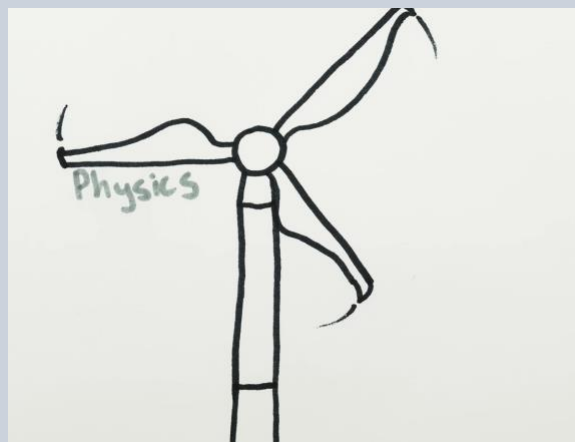
Still interested? Watch this video by clicking on the image alongside.



DID YOU KNOW? - WHY DO WIND TURBINES HAVE THREE BLADES?

(source - 1440)

An interesting snippet. Watch the video by clicking on the image below.



IN AUGUST, VARIOUS PARTS OF CAPE TOWN WITNESSED A PHENOMENON CALLED BIOLUMINESCENCE. WHAT IS IT?

(From 1440 Science & Technology)

(Photograph from extrafrica)

Background

Bioluminescence is the process by which an organism produces its own light due to a chemical reaction.

Though commonly associated with fireflies and glowworms, the phenomenon is rare in land species. By contrast, an estimated 75% of all ocean animals,



including more than half of all jellyfish and two-thirds of squid, exhibit this ability themselves or through a symbiotic relationship with bioluminescent bacteria.

How It Works

Bioluminescence comes from oxyluciferin, the general name for various energized molecules that emit light. Differences in the composition and structure of oxyluciferin result in the range of colours emitted as it releases its energy.

The chemical diversity of luciferins comes from bioluminescence having evolved independently at least 94 different times in nature—the first instance at least 540 million years ago.

An enzyme called luciferase acts as a catalyst that facilitates the reaction by providing a location where oxygen and luciferin can more easily bind together. Like a lock needing a specific key to open, each luciferin fits into a particular version of luciferase, which is not universal across species.

Luciferases produce oxyluciferin consistently and generate a steady glow. Rapid flashes of light are instead driven by another class of enzymes called photoproteins, which rapidly catalyse reactions.

Although the colour of bioluminescence is limited to the variety of oxyluciferin and the energies they contain, blue light's greater energy and penetrating power in water likely helped it evolve into the predominant colour for oceanic creatures.

Natural Functions

Since bioluminescence originated independently across species, its uses range from mating and communication to hunting and self-defence.

Each of the over 2,000 species of fireflies emit light and flies in unique patterns as part of their courtship ritual. In their larval stage, before developing reproductive organs, their emissions are antipredatory and communicate toxicity.

Anglerfish and dragonfish contain symbiotic light organs housing bioluminescent bacteria that can emit light to confuse and attract prey.

Some creatures, like pandalid shrimp, spew bioluminescent slush to startle, distract, or misdirect predators. Ostracods, a type of crustacean, release this material upon being eaten to illuminate their predator from within—a burglar alarm signal—forcing their release for risk of alerting larger predators to their attacker.

Applications

Scientists have modified genes they want to understand with luciferase to create reporter genes. When activated, these genes provide visual cues to help directly monitor protein production, cellular movement, and virus spread.

Because bioluminescence produces cold light—illumination with very little energy lost to heat—tubes of such microorganisms have been tested as electricity-free street lighting. With efficiencies near 100%, these containers surpass modern LED bulbs' approximately 90% efficiency, though they are less bright.

Bioluminescence during a red tide

This occurs when blooms of dinoflagellates, microscopic algae, accumulate in the water, turning it reddish during the day. At night, these same dinoflagellates produce a blue glow when disturbed by waves or other movements, a phenomenon that can be beautiful but may also deplete oxygen or release toxins, depending on the species. Not all red tides are bioluminescent, and not all bioluminescent algae create a red tide

COMEBACK OF THE YEAR - NOTRE DAME REOPENING

Notre Dame's twin towers and roof reopened late in September, nearly six and a half years after a fire severely damaged the over 850-year-old Catholic cathedral in central Paris. Visitors can now climb its 424 stairs and enjoy a close look at its famed gargoyles.

The restoration has sought to honour the cathedral's original 13th-century Gothic craftsmanship—an effort requiring over 1,000 oak trees and more than 2,000 artisans. The interior reopened in December with a ceremony attended by 1,500 dignitaries, including then-first lady Jill Biden and president-elect Donald Trump. French President Emmanuel Macron had previously vowed to fully reconstruct Notre Dame within five years of the 2019 fire.

Before the fire, Notre Dame attracted over 11 million tourists annually—more than the Eiffel Tower or the Louvre. Since partially reopening, average daily attendance has exceeded 35,000, putting it on pace to surpass pre-fire visitorship. Tickets for the weekend sold out in 24 minutes.

Watch this incredible video by clicking on this haunting image below:



ROMAN CONSTRUCTION

Sources: Science Advances (2023), MIT Materials Lab, "Roman Concrete: The Hidden Science" by Marie Jackson

In 2023, scientists uncovered the secret behind ancient Rome's enduring architecture: self-healing concrete. Unlike today's brittle blends, Roman builders packed their mix with special lime chunks. When water seeps into a crack, these lime particles react and crystallize—effectively sealing the damage. This 2,000-year-old "liquid stone" quietly repairs itself over time....

It's why structures like the Pantheon and aqueducts still stand tall, while modern concrete often crumbles in just decades. The Romans weren't just master builders—they were materials scientists far ahead of their time. Their forgotten genius is now helping shape the future....



So, have we gone backwards?

DID YOU KNOW? THE STORY BEHIND THE US NATIONAL ANTHEM

(Source - 1440)



The 'Star-Spangled Banner' was written in 1814, during the War of 1812

The song is based on "Defence of Fort M'Henry" a poem written by Francis Scott Key, a lawyer negotiating for the release of American soldiers when Fort McHenry, in Baltimore, was attacked by the British.

The Star-Spangled Banner was the name of a massive flag at Fort McHenry

Designed and fabricated by flagmaker Mary Pickersgill, the flag has 15 stars and 15 stripes and was 30 feet by 42 feet, a size big enough to be seen by Francis Scott Key, who was eight miles away from Fort McHenry when he began composing his poem.

The US national anthem borrowed its melody from a British tavern song

Key's original poem, "The Defence of Fort M'Henry," was written to the meter of a well-known drinking song: "The Anacreon Song," also known as "To Anacreon in Heaven." The original song has more than a few sexual innuendos and was written by a Brit, two details that seem at odds with the serious and patriotic lyrics of Key's poem.

Watch this video for more(Click on the image below).



DO YOU KNOW NEW YORK?

I hope you find this as helpful as I did. New York. Did you know that this city has 5 districts?

1: Manhattan-The most touristy side. Although it is the best known of the five, it is the smallest. Here you find the main icons of the city such as the Empire State, Central Park, Times Square, among others. This island, surrounded by the Hudson, East and Harlem rivers, is divided into 3 areas: Downtown, midtown and uptown.2: Brooklyn-The multifaceted side. It is the most populated district and the fourth largest in North America, one of the most beautiful and artistic. You'll be amazed by the imposing Brooklyn Bridge, Coney Island Amusement Park, and beautiful Prospect Park.

3: Queens-The diverse side. Being the largest of the boroughs, it has a convergence of more than 150 cultures, making it a diverse and multicultural place. Here are the JFK and LaGuardia airports, the Tennis Open is held, you find the beautiful botanical garden, and it is where you can experience a Mets baseball game.

4: The Bronx-The versatile side. Cradle of hip hop and rap, home of the Yankees and canvas of beautiful graffiti, where you find the beautiful New York Botanical Garden, the largest urban zoo in the United States, the humble home of Edgar Allan Poe and a more authentic Little Italy in the Belmont neighbourhood.

5: Staten Island-The unknown side. You may have heard of this borough because of the famous free ferry where you can see the Statue of Liberty and the magnificent Manhattan skyline up close, however, Staten Island is much more than this.



WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

Sources: Science HowStuffWorks, The Mirror (UK)

Who is a twin or has twins in their family and can relate to this?

In 1979, the world learned the incredible story of Jim Lewis and Jim Springer, identical twins separated at birth and reunited at age 39.

Born in Ohio in 1940, the brothers were adopted by different families and, amazingly, both were named James. They grew up just 40 miles apart but never knew the other existed.

When they finally met, the similarities they uncovered were almost unbelievable.

Both men had married a woman named Linda, divorced her, and then remarried a woman named Betty.

Each had a son, and both had named him James Alan. As children, both had a dog named Toy.

Their shared interests were very specific. Both enjoyed woodworking and math, but disliked spelling. They drove the same model of light blue Chevrolet and even smoked the same brand of cigarettes.

Perhaps most strange of all, both families vacationed on the exact same three-block stretch of beach in Florida, but their paths never crossed.

The case of the "Jim Twins" became a cornerstone for studying the effects of genetics on our lives, suggesting that some parts of our path may be written in our DNA long before we take our first step.



QUIRKY? GREAT MARKETING, OR JUST WEIRD?

Have you heard about Volvo Island?

Volvo Island is a small man-made island located in a flooded strip mine near Ottawa, Illinois, United States. The island is called that due to its sole occupant: a 2001 Volvo S80 sedan. Since its placement in January 2012, the vehicle has remained a distinctive landmark of the area.



The creation of Volvo Island was the idea of Scott Mann, a resident of Ottawa and proprietor of two local car repair shops.

The area surrounding the island was originally a strip mine that had been abandoned and subsequently filled with approximately 40 feet of standing water, forming a lake.

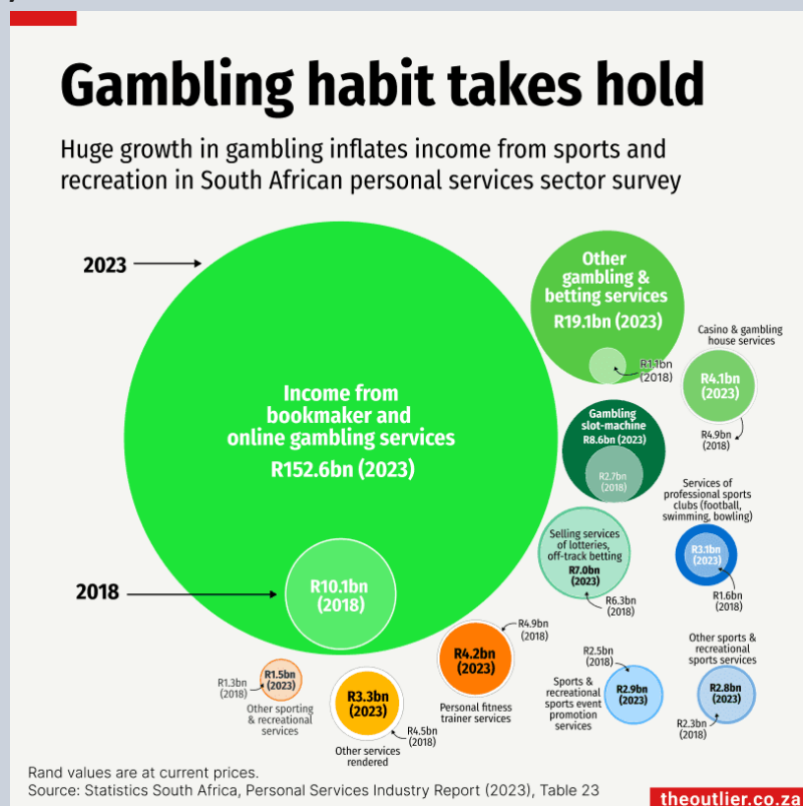
In early 2012, Mann decided to place the Volvo on a peninsula extending into this lake. Utilizing a tow truck, the car was positioned at the end of the landmass. Subsequently, an excavator was used to remove the connecting land, effectively isolating the vehicle on its own small island.

Despite its exposure to the elements over more than a decade, the 2001 Volvo S80 remains on the island, appearing relatively intact. There are no current plans to remove the vehicle or alter the island.



Tattler - I am sure it is doing no harm to the brand!

ASTOUNDING (AND SCARY?) GROWTH!



WHO IS/WAS THE BEST FEMALE VOCALIST?

This month we thought we would do something a little different. Colette and Jonathan have chosen their top singers. Always hugely contentious but always a matter of opinion, here are our thoughts. We would love to receive yours!

JONATHAN

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Ella Fitzgerald2) Janis Joplin3) Whitney Houston (although I don't like her music much)4) Aretha Franklin5) Barbara Streisand6) Stevie Nicks and Christine McVie (Can't separate them as they did so many good ones together)7) Shirley Bassey8) Tina Turner9) Annie Lennox10) Christina Aguilera	<p>Jonathan's Lineup: The Velvet Rebels and Torchbearers</p> <p>Jonathan's choices lean into powerhouse performers with distinctive timbres and stage presence. There's a reverence for jazz and blues (Ella Fitzgerald, Janis Joplin), theatricality (Shirley Bassey, Barbra Streisand), and the magnetic mystique of Fleetwood Mac's duo—Stevie Nicks and Christine McVie, inseparable in his eyes. Even Whitney Houston, though not to his taste, earns a respectful nod. His list pulses with drama, soul, and a touch of rock rebellion.</p>
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COLETTE

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Aretha Franklin - The undisputed "Queen of Soul,"2) Whitney Houston3) Mariah Carey - Famous for her five-octave range4) Stevie Nicks - The mystical voice her raspy tone5) Tina Turner - raw vocal power6) Karen Carpenter - Her warm, melancholic7) Barbra Streisand - A vocal powerhouse8) Adele9) Sinead O'Connor10) Lady Gaga	<p>Colette's Ensemble: The Emotional Architects</p> <p>Colette's selection is rich in vocal nuance and emotional storytelling. Aretha reigns supreme, followed by Whitney's crystalline control and Mariah's acrobatic range. There's a poetic thread running through Karen Carpenter's melancholic warmth, Stevie's mystical rasp, and Sinead O'Connor's raw vulnerability. Lady Gaga and Adele bring contemporary flair, while Streisand anchors the list with timeless vocal command.</p>
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Shared Icons: Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston, Tina Turner, Barbra Streisand, and Stevie Nicks—these five form the golden bridge between both lists.

Jonathan's Jazz & Rock Edge: Ella, Janis, Annie Lennox, and Shirley Bassey add grit and glamour.

Colette's Emotional Range: Karen Carpenter, Mariah Carey, Adele, Sinead O'Connor, and Lady Gaga reflect a spectrum from introspection to theatrical boldness.

ART CORNER

We would like to feature pictures of works of art in this "corner". But, other than this month, pictures will not be from your co-editors, they must come from readers! So, please submit either a photo or the name of the work, plus the artist's name to one of us. You can do a write-up if you wish or we can do it for you.

To kick off, here are two that we like:

Jonathan's Pick – Metamorphosis of Narcissus by Salvador Dalí



This painting, created during Dalí's paranoiac-critical period, reimagines the Greek myth of Narcissus, the youth who fell fatally in love with his own reflection.

On the left, Narcissus crouches by a pool, gazing at his reflection. On the right, a stone hand mimics his posture, clutching an egg from which a narcissus flower blooms.

The mirrored forms suggest duality: life and death, flesh and stone, ego and transformation.

The egg and flower evoke rebirth, echoing the myth's ending where Narcissus becomes a flower.

Salvador Dalí was a master of surrealism, a provocateur, whose life and work blurred the boundaries between dream and reality.

Born in Figueres, Catalonia, Spain in 1904, Salvador Dalí showed artistic talent and eccentricity from a young age. He studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando in Madrid, where he explored Impressionism, Cubism, and ultimately Surrealism. His flamboyant personality marked by his signature moustache, theatrical behaviour, and love of provocation—made him a cultural icon as much as an artist.

Dalí's work often delved into dreams, subconscious imagery, and Freudian symbolism. His most famous works include *The Persistence of Memory* (1931), with its melting clocks, and Jonathan's pick, *Metamorphosis of Narcissus* (1937), about transformation and self-obsession.

He died in 1989 in his hometown of Figueres, leaving behind a substantial legacy.

My (Colette) Pick - Norham Castle, Sunrise (c.1845) by Joseph Turner



Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775–1851) was a visionary of British art, often hailed as the “painter of light.” Born in Covent Garden, London, to a barber and wigmaker, Turner showed talent early on. He entered the Royal Academy Schools at just 14 and exhibited his first watercolour at 15.

Though he began with topographical watercolours and architectural studies, his style evolved dramatically embracing Romanticism and later pioneering an Impressionist approach that would influence Monet and the French painters.

Turner never married, though he had a long relationship with Sophia Caroline Booth, with whom he lived in later years under the pseudonym “Mr. Booth.”

He was notoriously private, eccentric, and deeply committed to his craft, leaving behind over 30,000 works to the nation.

This ethereal painting is part of Turner’s late work, where form dissolves into atmosphere.

Norham Castle, a subject he revisited often, stands as a spectral silhouette bathed in golden light. The castle itself—on the River Tweed near the Scottish border had appeared in his earlier, more detailed compositions. But here, it becomes almost immaterial.

The sunrise fills the canvas with warm, radiant tones—pinks, golds, and soft blues—blurring the boundary between sky, water, and stone.

The castle is barely defined, a ghostly presence. This abstraction was radical for its time.

Rather than depict a historical scene, Turner evokes mood, memory, and the sublime.

Turner’s work evolved from precise topography to expressive, almost abstract studies of nature’s power. His obsession with light—sunrises, storms, fires, fog—led him to dissolve form into colour. He often painted with his fingers, using unconventional materials, and was known to lash canvases with spit or candle smoke to achieve desired effects.

His late works, like Norham Castle, Sunrise, were misunderstood by many contemporaries but are now seen as precursors to modernism.

Club Managers Report

100 Club Winners September 2025

Mr W. Pace – R300

Cdr P. Pysden (Ret) – R300

Mrs C. Law Brown – R300

Mr W. Doerheid – R1000

Birthdays October 2025.

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

Mrs C.M. Broadhurst – 02 October.

October 2, 1452 – Birth of Richard III, England's last Plantagenet king

Mr A. Dunlop – 03 October.

1888 New Zealand Natives, a privately organized and mainly Māori rugby team, play their first game in the UK and beat Surrey 4-1; they are the first national rugby team to wear all-black and perform the haka.

Ms E. Mansell – 04 October.

1957 – Sputnik 1 Launched: USSR sends the first satellite into orbit, beginning the Space Age.

1911 – Britain's first escalator opens at Earls Court, London

Cdr J. Martin (Ret) – 08 October.

1967 – Death of Clement Attlee, UK Prime Minister (1945–51)

Mr D.F. Oettle – 09 October.

1967 – Execution of Che Guevara, revolutionary leader, by Bolivian forces

Mr D.M. Hoare – 10 October.

1967 – Barbara Castle introduces the breathalyser in the UK

R Adm (JG) P. Fougstedt (Ret) – 15 October.

Virgil (70-19 BC) Roman poet of the Augustan period (Aeneid), born in Andes, Cisalpine Gaul.

Capt G.R. Marlow (Ret) – 15 October.

Mr R.G. Mc Rae- Samuel – 15 October.

1666 – Samuel Pepys records King Charles II wearing the first waistcoat.

Mr C. Hitchen – 17 October.

1860 – First professional golf tournament held at Prestwick, Scotland.

Mr E. van der Watt – 19 October.

1781 – Surrender at Yorktown: British General Cornwallis surrenders to George Washington, ending the American Revolutionary War.

Mr A. Fitzpatrick – 21 October.

1805 – Battle of Trafalgar: Admiral Horatio Nelson is mortally wounded in a decisive British naval victory against France and Spain.

S Lt R. Russel – 26 October.

1863 Football Association forms in England, standardizing soccer and splitting from rugby.

Mr C.T. Hobbs – 28 October.

Capt (SAAF) K.D. Hobson (Ret) – 28 October.

306 Maxentius proclaimed Emperor of Rome.

1886 – Statue of Liberty dedicated in New York Harbor.

Ms A.L. Tilney – 29 October.

Mr J.H. Smith – 29 October.

1929 – Wall Street Crash begins: Black Tuesday.

539 BC King Cyrus "the Great" of Persia marches into Babylon, freeing Jewish captives and allowing them to return home.

1390 First trial for witchcraft in Paris.

Aye, Glen

September Quiz

On the 10th of September we had six teams participating. Another very closely contested evening, the winners edging it by a single point. We thank all who participated. My thanks to Doug Law-Brown for his assistance and support in Euan's absence.

As always, we encourage club members to come and join the fun. While the quiz is certainly competitive, the emphasis will always be on entertainment.

The pictures below show some of the teams in action. The evening had its share of both furrowed brows as well as spontaneous laughter.





The winners are pictured below. Congratulations to "The Porcupines"!



We are not slavishly sticking to the traditional categories of history, geography, music, sport and similar. Our sample set of questions below is an example of our approach

Topic - Literature - Dicks, Willies, Johnsons and similar!

- 1) An English writer who made lasting contributions as a poet, playwright, essayist, moralist, literary critic, sermonist, biographer, editor, and lexicographer. The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography calls him "arguably the most distinguished man of letters in English history". Who?
 - 2) Roald Dahl wrote about him in a book that featured Charlie Duckett. Name the character
 - 3) Willy Loman, is the protagonist in which of Arthur Miller's plays?
 - 4) Name the English folklore surrounding a real-life (c. 1354 – 1423), wealthy merchant and later Lord Mayor of London. The legend describes his rise from poverty-stricken childhood with the fortune he made through the sale of his cat to a rat-infested country.
 - 5) Which of these is not a private dick? Sam Spade, Mike Hammer, Loveday Brooke, Maud Gold?
 - 6) Willy Stark is a character in the book "All the King's Men". It was written by? (John Steinbeck, Robert Penn Warren, Alistair MacLean?)
 - 7) My Name Is Jack Johnson, But I'm Not the Singer was written by Jill Johnson, Dick Johnson or Willy Johnson?)
 - 8) What is the title character in the novelization of the movie "Free Willy"?
 - 9) The Member: An Autobiography (1832) – novel. Was this written by John Galt, John Stevenson or John Brown?
 - 10) In Shakespeare's Sonnets, this "p" word is used in a potentially ambiguous way, possibly referring to both male and female genitalia, and as a symbol of disappointment or difference. ("Bubble?)
- Members are invited to the October Quiz which will be held on the 8th of October at 19h00
-

SOME GENUINE WISDOM

(from Classic Literature)

Teacher, I've read so many books... but I've forgotten most of them. So what's the point of reading?" That was the question of a curious student.

The teacher didn't answer. He just looked at him in silence.

A few days later, they were sitting by a river. Out of nowhere, the old man said: "I'm thirsty. Bring me some water... but use that old strainer lying there on the ground." The student looked confused. It was a ridiculous request.

How could anyone bring water in a strainer full of holes? But he didn't dare argue. He picked up the strainer and tried.

Once. Twice. Repeatedly...He ran faster, angled it differently, even tried covering holes with his fingers.

Nothing worked. He couldn't hold a single drop.

Exhausted and frustrated, he dropped the strainer at the teacher's feet and said: "I'm sorry. I failed. It was impossible."

The teacher looked at him kindly and said: "You didn't fail. Look at the strainer."

The student glanced down... and noticed something. The old, dark, dirty strainer was now shining clean. The water, though it never stayed, had washed it repeatedly until it gleamed. The teacher continued:

"That's what reading does. It doesn't matter if you don't remember every detail. It doesn't matter if the knowledge seems to slip through, like water through a strainer...

Because while you read, your mind is refreshed. Your spirit is renewed.

Your ideas are oxygenated. And even if you don't notice it right away, you're being transformed from the inside out."

That's the true purpose of reading. Not to fill your memory...but to cleanse and enrich your soul

Maritime, Naval and Military

WB Group Rolls Out Sea Drone That Can Fire Loitering Munitions

Source: *NextGenDefense* 09/09

(For those who may not know about the term "Loitering Munitions - see below)

WB Group's StormRider sea drone deploys loitering munitions, surveillance systems, and remote weapon stations to safeguard maritime missions.



The Stormrider launching loitering munitions while at sea. Photo: WB Group.

Poland's WB Group has pulled the wraps off StormRider, a naval drone built to support maritime expeditions and strike from afar. Armed with a WARMATE TL launcher, the unmanned vessel can deploy loitering munitions for precision strikes while limiting collateral damage. Remote weapon

stations also enhance its offensive capabilities, enabling long-range tracking and target engagement without a crew onboard. To reduce risk to personnel, StormRider can operate remotely or semi-autonomously, thanks to its automated architecture.

"StormRider can be used to protect roadsteads, ports, anchorages, and critical maritime infrastructure," the company stated on its website. "The system is also used for counter-sabotage operations and in support of Force Protection operations." The company added that the naval drone is engineered to function independently or as part of joint patrol and protection missions with military forces.

StormRider draws on WB Group's experience in designing yachts and fast craft. At 8.5 meters (27.8 feet) long and 3 meters (9.8 feet) wide, it can launch from frigates like the upcoming Miecznik-class or from patrol ships currently in service with the Polish Navy. Beyond its strike role, StormRider is outfitted with a suite of cutting-edge sensors, including a radar, sonar, and an echosounder, enabling continuous monitoring regardless of weather or visibility. The drone also features a variety of optoelectronic systems for surveillance and targeting, including a daylight camera with thermal imaging and a laser rangefinder. These capabilities position it for Baltic patrols and for supporting offshore installations such as seabed energy platforms. WB Group presented StormRider publicly for the first time during the 33rd MSPO International Defence Industry Exhibition in Kielce, Poland.

Loitering Munitions

Loitering munitions, also known as "kamikaze" or "suicide" drones, are unmanned aerial vehicles equipped with a warhead that can remain airborne in a target area, search for and identify targets, and then crash into the target to destroy it and itself. They combine the surveillance capabilities of a drone with the offensive strike capability of a missile, offering advantages such as precision targeting, reduced collateral damage, and the ability to adapt to changing battlefield conditions by striking time-sensitive or mobile targets.

Royal Navy completes first firing of new ship-busting missiles

Source: 29 September 2025 / <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk>

A Royal Navy warship has completed the first firing of new ship-busting missiles capable of taking out enemy vessels at ranges of more than 100 miles.

Plymouth-based frigate HMS Somerset headed to Norway's Arctic rocket range in Andøya to unleash the Naval Strike Missile (NSM) during an exercise – known as Aegir 25 – alongside Norwegian and Polish allies. The successful missile launch marks a major milestone on the journey to make the Royal Navy more lethal – and is demonstration of the strong bilateral cooperation between the UK and Norway.



The 400kg NSM can be used against warships or land targets and is 20 years newer, has greater range and is a far more capable successor than the Harpoon system on Type 23 frigates and Type 45 destroyers.

Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry, Luke Pollard said: “The NSM is one of the most advanced missiles in our naval arsenal. It will give the Royal Navy and our allies an edge against our enemies.” “This milestone, achieved through our exemplary international partnership with Norway, significantly enhances our maritime deterrent and underscores the Government’s dedication to investing in the technologies that will maintain Britain’s secure.” Commander Matt Millyard, Commanding Officer of HMS Somerset said: “I am very proud of the team following the successful first of class firing of the Naval Strike Missile. “This is not something that comes together easily and has involved an incredible amount of work by the crew and staff from across the defence enterprise. “The professionalism and teamwork demonstrated by all throughout the planning and execution has been exemplary.”

The successful firing was the culmination of months of dedicated work, which involved meticulous planning and thorough tuning of the system – including alignment and sea acceptance trials.

Staff from Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace – who manufacture NSM – were on board HMS Somerset supporting prior and during the firing.

The NSM, which is also in service with the Norwegian, US and Polish navies, travels close to supersonic speeds (Mach 1) and can strike targets more than 100 miles away, evading detection by skimming on the sea.

It will be a complementary weapon for the ‘Future Cruise Anti-Ship Weapon’, which will become the Fleet’s premier long-range, heavy duty anti-ship missile, carried by the Royal Navy’s next-generation warships fitted with the Mk41 vertical launch system (including the new Type 26 and 31 frigates). Commander Matthew Cox, NSM Programme Director said: “This programme showcases the strong UK-Norwegian strategic partnership, enabling the UK to achieve its first ship installation within 12 months of business case approval – an unprecedented pace for a complex weapons programme. “The UK’s first NSM firing, hosted by Norway at Andøya, further highlights this enduring collaboration.” Currently NSM is fitted to HMS Richmond, HMS Somerset and HMS Portland. Norwegian-led Aegir 25 continues to the end of September as allies conduct firings – including from land-based launch systems and by Norway’s Coastal Ranger Command.

This month in History - October 1975

(50 years ago)

GENERAL

6 Oct - Italo Luder, serving as Acting President of Argentina during a leave of absence by President Isabel Perón, signed Decree 2772, giving the Argentine armed forces authority to "annihilate subversion" ("aniquilar la subversion") by any means necessary against guerilla insurgents.

8 Oct - Women were allowed admission into the United States Service academies (at West Point, Annapolis, Colorado Springs, New London and Kings Point) for the first time, as President Ford signed legislation that included the requirement.

10 Oct - "Airmail" was ended in the U.S. as a separate form of mailing letters domestically and internationally. By 1975, the U.S. Postal Service was transporting all interzone mail by airplane.

14 Oct - In Operation Savannah, less than one month before Angola's scheduled independence from Portugal, troops from the South African Defence Force invaded by crossing the border from the trust territory of South-West Africa. Battle Groups Alpha and Bravo rendezvoused in the Cunene Province near Katwitwi. Cuba would begin sending combat troops on November 8 to fight the SADF force.

20 Oct - The U.S. and the U.S.S.R. entered into a five-year agreement for the sale of at least 6,000,000 tons of American grain to the Soviets each year.

22 Oct - The Soviet space probe Venera 9 landed on the planet Venus and transmitted Earth's first photographs of the surface of another planet. The first ground-level photos of Venus showed that beneath the thick clouds of carbon dioxide, the planet has a rocky surface. Venera 9 transmitted for 53 minutes before its equipment gave way to temperatures of 485 °C (905 °F) and an atmospheric pressure 90 times higher than that of Earth.

27 Oct - For the first time, American news magazines Time and Newsweek published editions depicting the same individual on their covers, as both featured American rock musician Bruce Springsteen.

31 Oct - Queen released one of its most celebrated songs, the single Bohemian Rhapsody, initially in the UK. The song was also on the group's album A Night at the Opera, released on November 21, and the single went on sale in the U.S. in December.



SPORT

1 Oct - In the "Thrilla in Manila", Muhammad Ali retained his world heavyweight boxing championship against former champion Joe Frazier in a boxing match in Manila, the Philippines.



5 Oct - United States F1 Grand Prix - The race was won by the new world champion, Austrian driver Niki Lauda driving a Ferrari 312T. Lauda took his fifth win for the season by a four-second margin over outgoing world champion, Brazilian Emerson Fittipaldi in a McLaren M23. Fittipaldi's West German teammate Jochen Mass finished third.

18 Oct - Rhodesia beat Border and Transvaal beat Free State in the Gillette Cup Cricket.

25 Oct - EP beat Transvaal, WP beat Griqualand West and Rhodesia beat Northern Transvaal in the Gillette Cup Cricket.

27 Oct - Northern Transvaal beat Free State 12 - 6 to win the Rugby Currie Cup.

MUSIC



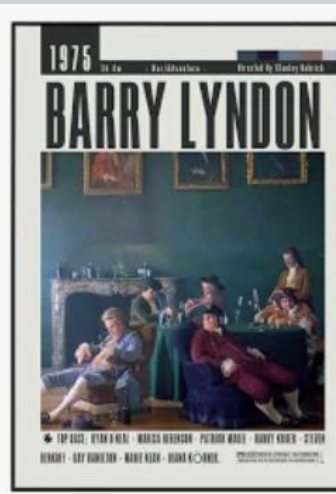
(Deep Purple)





(Billy Joe Spears)

MOVIES



What a dazzling lineup this month! Robert De Niro and Jack Nicholson lead the charge, with cinematic brilliance from Stanley Kubrick in *Barry Lyndon* and Milos Forman's unforgettable *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

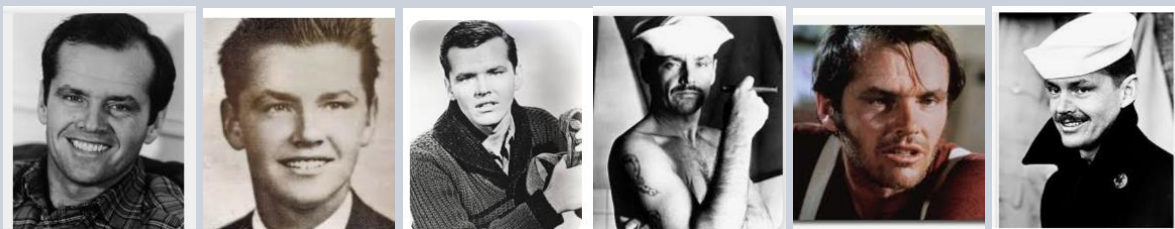
Faced with such excellence, I resorted to fate—my husband officiated the coin toss: De Niro was heads, Nicholson tails. And the winner is...

Jack Nicholson

Jack Nicholson's life reads like a screenplay—equal parts mystery, rebellion, romance, and brilliance. Born John Joseph Nicholson on April 22, 1937, in Neptune City, New Jersey, his early years were steeped in a secret that would only unravel

decades later: he grew up believing his grandmother was his mother and his actual mother was his sister. The truth came out in a *Time* magazine investigation in 1974, when Nicholson was already famous. He took the revelation with characteristic cool, saying, "I'd say it was a pretty dramatic event, but it wasn't what I'd call traumatizing."

Jack Nicholson's school life was the first act in a lifelong performance—equal parts charm, rebellion, and raw talent.



He grew up in Neptune City, New Jersey, and attended Manasquan High School, graduating in 1954. Even then, he was a standout: voted Class Clown, he had a reputation for being witty, mischievous, and magnetic. Teachers noted his intelligence, though he often preferred entertaining classmates to following rules. He later joked that he was “always acting,” even in school corridors.

Nicholson didn't pursue college. Instead, he moved to Los Angeles at 17, where he worked as an office boy in MGM's animation department. That job, meant to be temporary, became a gateway to Hollywood. He studied acting at the Players Ring Theatre, honing his craft in small productions and absorbing the Method techniques that would later define his performances.

His lack of formal higher education never held him back. Nicholson once said, “I never had a teacher who told me I was special. I had to find that out myself.” That self-discovery, rooted in a rebellious schoolboy spirit, became the foundation of his singular career.



He moved to Los Angeles and worked as a gofer in MGM's animation department before diving into acting. His first film role was in *The Cry Baby Killer* (1958), a B-movie produced by Roger Corman. For years, Nicholson hovered on the fringes of Hollywood, writing scripts (*The Trip*, *Head*) and appearing in psychedelic oddities.

His breakout came with *Easy Rider* (1969), where his portrayal of a boozy lawyer earned him his first Oscar nomination. From there, he became the face of the 1970s antihero: *Five Easy Pieces*, *Chinatown*, *The Last Detail*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975), which won him his first Academy Award.

Nicholson's range was staggering. He could be terrifying (*The Shining*), charming (*Terms of Endearment*), hilarious (*As Good as It Gets*), or sinister (*The Departed*). His turn as the Joker in *Batman* (1989) was so iconic that he reportedly earned over \$50 million from backend deals.

He also directed films (*Drive, He Said*, *Goin' South*, *The Two Jakes*) and wrote screenplays.

Nicholson married actress Sandra Knight in 1962; they divorced in 1968. He never remarried but had high-profile relationships with Anjelica Huston (a tempestuous 17-year affair), Rebecca Broussard, and Lara Flynn Boyle. He has six children, including actress Lorraine Nicholson and actor Ray Nicholson.



He was famously close to Marlon Brando—they lived next door in Mulholland Drive’s “Bad Boy Row”—and shared friendships with Warren Beatty, Roman Polanski, and Hunter S. Thompson. He was also a fixture at Lakers games, sitting courtside in his signature sunglasses and devilish grin.

Nicholson is a collector of art, particularly 20th-century American painters. Nicholson began acquiring art in the 1960s, around the time his acting career was gaining momentum. He’s known to favour modern and contemporary masters, with a taste for pieces that evoke psychological depth and visual drama. His collection reportedly includes works by: Pablo Picasso, Tamara de Lempicka, Andy Warhol, Willem de Kooning, Henri Matisse, and Ed Ruscha – These artists represent his appreciation for abstraction, colour, and American modernism.

Nicholson’s homes—especially his Mulholland Drive estate—have been described as a “museums of mood,” with art on nearly every wall. He’s never flaunted his collection publicly, preferring privacy and personal resonance over prestige. Friends say he buys what moves him, not what’s fashionable.



His collecting style is emotional, and deeply personal. He’s drawn to pieces that challenge or unsettle, much like the characters he’s played. He once said, “I resist all established norms. That’s what I do.” That ethos extends to his art choices.

He’s known for his love of golf, jazz, and writing—he kept journals throughout his career. He’s also a notorious night owl, often working late into the night and sleeping until noon. He refused to use email, preferred handwritten notes, and was known to memorize entire scripts before rehearsals began.

Nicholson retired quietly after *How Do You Know* (2010), citing memory issues. He’s one of only three male actors to win three Academy Awards and holds the record for most Oscar nominations for a male actor—12 in total.

Though he’s retreated from public life, his impact remains truly seismic. Jack Nicholson didn’t just play characters—he embodied them.

Jack Nicholson’s quotes are as sharp, mischievous, and layered as his performances.

On Acting and Fame he said “I don’t want people to know what I’m actually like. It’s not good for an actor.”

“When you look at someone long enough, you discover their humanity.”

On Life and Philosophy he said “The minute that you’re not learning, I believe you’re dead.”

“I used to think that one day I’d get it all together. Now I realize that it’s never going to happen.”

On Love and Relationships he said “I’m not hard to get along with. I’m just impossible.”

“There’s only two people in your life you should lie to... the police and your girlfriend.”

About Himself he said “I’m a kind of a paranoiac in reverse. I suspect people of plotting to make me happy.”

“I hate giving advice because people won’t take it.”

AS AN ASIDE:

Some of Hollywood's brightest never set foot in a lecture hall—and still earned top marks in charisma, talent, and cultural impact.

Tom Cruise – After high school, he briefly considered priesthood before diving into acting. *Top Gun* and *Mission: Impossible* made him a global icon.

Jennifer Lawrence – Dropped out of middle school to pursue acting. She's now an Oscar winner and box office powerhouse.

Johnny Depp – Left school at 15 to become a rock musician, then pivoted to acting with *21 Jump Street* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Cameron Diaz – Signed with Elite Model Management at 16 and never looked back. Her breakout in *The Mask* launched a stellar career.

Mark Wahlberg – Dropped out at 14, later earned his GED. From rapper to Oscar-nominated actor and producer, his reinvention is legendary.

These stars prove that passion, grit, and timing can rival any diploma.

AND, 100 YEARS AGO - OCTOBER 1926

2 Oct - The first television transmission was made by Scottish inventor John Logie Baird in London. Baird's camera captured the 32-line vertically grayscale scanned image of the head of a ventriloquist's dummy, which he had nicknamed "Stooky Bill".

3 Oct - The American aircraft carrier USS Lexington was launched.

26 Oct - Held in the United States for the first time since the world's foremost international airplane race had been inaugurated in 1913 in England, the Schneider Trophy competition was won by an American pilot who would become famous in World War II for leading the bombing of Tokyo. U.S. Army Lt. Jimmy Doolittle flew a Curtiss R3C seaplane at a record speed of 232.57 miles per hour (374.29 km/h).

28 Oct - The mummified remains of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun were found. about 3,250 years after his death as English Egyptologist Howard Carter opened his tomb, almost three years after discovering it.



Tattler – Laugh

A former Marine Corps Sergeant took a job as a high school teacher.

Right before the school year started, he injured his back and had to wear a plaster cast under his shirt. The students didn't know.

On the first day, he walked into the noisiest, rowdiest class in the school - the kind that eats new teachers alive. The kids, knowing he was a former Marine, were already planning to test him.

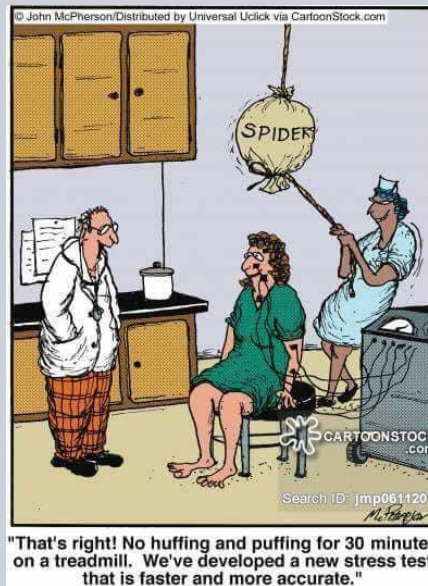
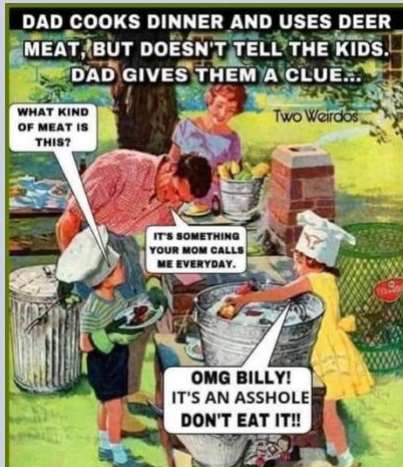
The Sergeant calmly opened the window, sat at his desk, and when a breeze blew his tie around, he casually picked up a stapler and stapled the tie to his chest.

The room went dead silent.

The rest of the year? Let's just say discipline was never an issue again.

Your comedy video of the month - Billy Connolly

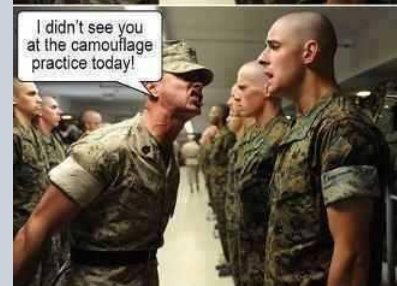
(Warning - very rude, lots of swearing!)



- 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



Caught my wife doing burnouts AGAIN!!

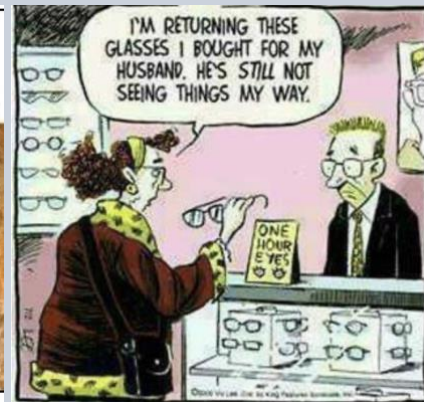
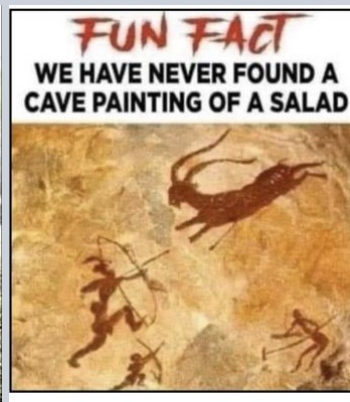


Older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for.

It is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

SO THERE!!





**A study just released says
that if you drink coffee in
the nude you're much less
likely to spill it**

**Did a little
mechanics work
today.

Put a rear end
in a recliner.**

He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?"
He said "No," but some people are breaking into my garden shed and stealing from me.
Then the police dispatcher said "All patrols are busy. You should lock your doors and an
officer will be along when one is available"
George said, "Okay."

He hung up the phone and counted to 30. Then he phoned the police again.
"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you
don't have to worry about them now because I just shot and killed them both. The dogs are eating them right
now." and he hung up.

Within five minutes, six Police Cars, a SWAT Team, a helicopter, two Fire Trucks, a paramedic, and an
ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence, and caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the Policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them !"

George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available !"

(True Story)

I LOVE IT!

Don't mess with old people

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.