



Dear Readers

The Seven Seas Tattler sails into November with a poignant reflection on Remembrance Day, tracing the silence of the eleventh hour back to the thunder of the First World War. From the trenches to the treaty table, this piece honours not only the fallen but the fragile peace they left behind.

For those drawn to the strange and ingenious, we journey to Thiers, France, where knife-makers once worked upside down—yes, literally—with dogs curled on their legs for warmth. It's a tale of grit, companionship, and craftsmanship that defies belief yet is true.

History buffs will revel in our feature on the Commodus Passage, the newly reopened imperial tunnel beneath Rome's Colosseum. Once a secret route for emperors to enter the arena unseen, it now invites modern visitors to walk in the shadow of spectacle and power.

We take a look at a digital age scam chillingly named "Pig Butchering", unpacking the language and psychology behind one of the most manipulative cybercrimes of our time.

In the Football Corner, Howard Cohen put us on the pitch, Premier League rivalries heat up as Chelsea face Wolves under the lights, and Tottenham clash with Manchester United in a high-stakes showdown.

And for a touch of cinematic charm, we profile the inimitable Walter Matthau, whose gravelly wit and offbeat elegance made him a legend. We highlight his lifelong friendship with Jack Lemmon, it's a tribute to Hollywood's oddest—and most enduring—couple.

We pedal into northern hemisphere autumn with a dispatch from the Club Secretary, whose cycling and hiking adventures through the Umbrian hills and across the UK and remind us that camaraderie, competition, and a good pub at the end of a frosty ride are the true markers of the season.

And before we set off, a heartfelt welcome to our new members—may your journey with us be full of discovery, laughter, and good company. To all those born in November, we raise a toast.

So, pour a cold one or a warm drink, settle in, and enjoy the issue.

Jonathan and Colette

Message from the Club Secretary

Dear Members

I am glad to be able to say that I am back in Simon's Town again and the summer feels like it is just trying to raise its head above the horizon. I had a fine time in the UK and Europe for the last month and a half seeing old friends and making new ones and enjoying the best of life above the equator. I arrived at the end of summer in England to balmy evenings sitting outside my local public house and left as the trees were burning with colour and the leaves were beginning to cover the lanes with a blanket of red and gold. There were pork pies and warm beer galore! It was a good job that the trip included a 42Km walking marathon for charity and a four-day hiking holiday in the beautiful Umbrian hills of Italy or I would be returning much heavier, if happier.

Come join me for a pint at The Club and I will be happy to bore you with the details! But after a month and a half the red dust did its job, and it was time to return to Africa. It is good to be back! Jumping straight back into the Secretary's job we had our October Committee meeting on Tuesday 21st and it was interesting to hear how the Club had fared whilst I was away.

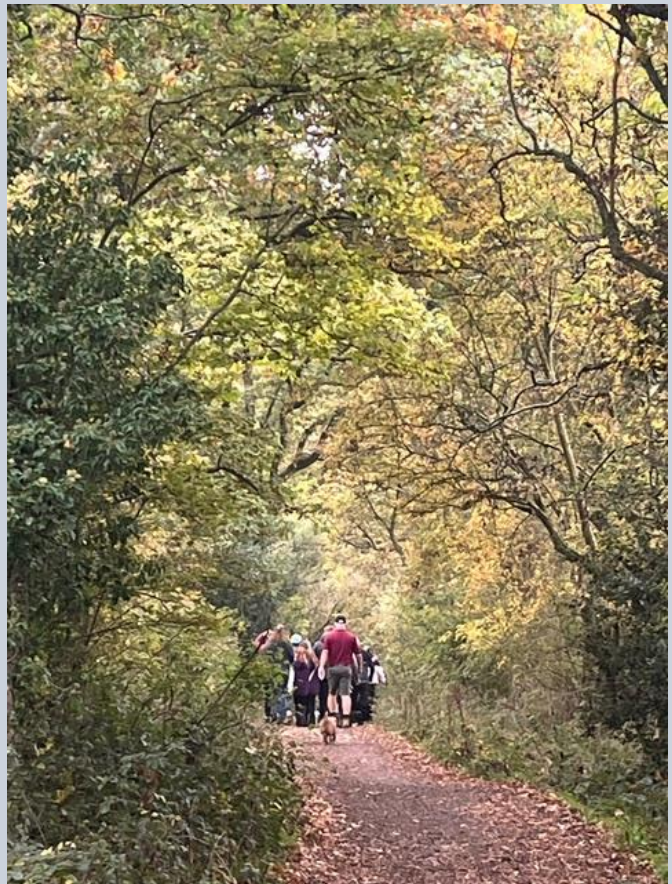
Glen had, as ever, kept a tight ship and the Club looks as fine as ever. In fact, we have had compliments to that effect from a long term but occasional visitor who made a point of saying that he was always impressed with the way that the Club is turned out. Well done to all the staff for making that so!

Our treasurer Doug stepped in for me to help Jonathan run the Quiz last month – thank you Doug - and by all reports it was a great evening. The Friday evening draws have unfortunately not been so well attended. Whilst I know you were missing my sparkling personality it is difficult to judge just when we will be full and when not, but I encourage all of you to come down and enjoy our beautiful facilities with your friends and families.

The next big function as I write this will be the Potjie competition and feast on Saturday which will no doubt have been won by some worthy winner by the time you read this. Well done to the victor whoever you are.

Rob Beal has another great event planned for the end of November so watch carefully on your emails and WhatsApp for the news.

I look forward to seeing you all soon – hopefully many of you on Saturday!
Cheers for now
Euan



STOP PRESS

The Potjie competition went well. More will be reported on later, but the winners were Alan and Craig, second came Gale and Euan followed by 3d placed Sean and Waltie.

Congratulations.

Editorial

LONG TOUR

Unless you have been living on another planet, all rugby fanatics will know that next year there will be an incoming "long tour" by The All Blacks. Okay, not the 20 game tours of yesteryear but still 8 matches!

South Africa will host New Zealand in August and September 2026. The All Blacks kick off the tour against the DHL Stormers in Cape Town on Friday, 7 August and take on the Hollywoodbets Sharks, Vodacom Bulls and Lions, to complement a four Test series against the Springboks. Wow!



Rugby's Greatest Rivalry, an alternating quadrennial tour between South Africa and New Zealand, was confirmed on the 16th of October marking a defining new chapter for the intense rivalry between the sport's most successful and storied nations.

Next year marks 30 years since New Zealand's last major tour of South Africa, where the visitors embarked on an eight-match schedule, culminating in a historic 2-1 Test series win. In the reciprocal 2030 iteration, South Africa will conduct their first professional era tour to New Zealand. See the schedule below:

RUGBY'S GREATEST RIVALRY SOUTH AFRICA, AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2026	
DHL STORMERS v ALL BLACKS 7 AUGUST 2026 DHL Stadium, Cape Town	LIONS v ALL BLACKS 25 AUGUST 2026 Ellis Park, Johannesburg
HOLLYWOODBETS SHARKS v ALL BLACKS 11 AUGUST 2026 Hollywoodbets Kings Park, Durban	SPRINGBOKS v ALL BLACKS 29 AUGUST 2026 DHL Stadium, Cape Town
VODACOM BULLS v ALL BLACKS 15 AUGUST 2026 Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria	SPRINGBOKS v ALL BLACKS 5 SEPTEMBER 2026 FNB Stadium, Johannesburg
SPRINGBOKS v ALL BLACKS 22 AUGUST 2026 Ellis Park, Johannesburg	SPRINGBOKS v ALL BLACKS 12 SEPTEMBER 2026 Venue to be announced
greatest-rivalry.com	

Mark Robinson, CEO of New Zealand Rugby added: "The rivalry between the All Blacks and the Springboks is fierce, but it's also steeped in history and respect. Rugby's Greatest Rivalry is everything that is great about traditional rugby tours whilst finding new ways to offer more for fans to see and engage with. All eight matches during this tour will be a showcase of our sport for fans, whether they are in New Zealand, on the ground in South Africa, or across the globe."

Back-to-back Rugby World Cup winning Springbok captain Siya Kolisi said: "This is going to be something huge and something this generation will never forget. These are the tours we've only heard of. To experience this for the first time, where it's like a Lions tour, is unbelievable for us as a group."

The rivalry? Here is a brief video. Click on the image below.



What's for Tee?

Younger people are used to watching the kicking tee being brought on when a team is about to kick for goals and conversions. They might not even know what us older folk experienced before such tees were in use.



Prior to 1991 (yes, the plastic tees have been around for well over 30 years!), when the kicker elected to aim for the poles, one would run a (normally young) fellow with a little bucket of sand which was used to create a tee. This was at higher levels of the game. At lower levels the kicker would first heel or kick the turf, create a divot and then shape a tee on which to place the ball. All very inconsistent and imprecise.



The change followed what had happened in golf many years earlier. A plastic wooden tee was used by golfers in the mid 20th century, and wooden tees were used over 100 years ago.

The first wooden tee was invented in 1899 by Dr. George Franklin Grant, who patented it but did not commercialize it. Widespread use didn't begin until the 1920s, when Dr. William Lowell began mass-producing his "Reddy Tee," a wooden peg tee that is similar to those used today.

Tattler - Slow learning?

Cricket Bats in 2025

An article by Keanan Hemmonsbey caught my eye - here are some extracts

It has been dubbed “the cricket bat emergency”, as the price of bats has skyrocketed over the past few years. According to the managing director of D&P Cricket, Paul Borst, a top bat from this leading manufacturer has “at least doubled” in price in the past 10 years.

But it’s not because of a shortage of willow, the wood used to make bats, as many have suggested. Rather, the global growth in the sport, largely facilitated by the boom of T20 cricket, has meant that an increasing number of companies are trying to have a bite of the cricket bat production pie, starting all the way from the willow.



Ruggles, a director at JS Wright & Sons, attributed the increase of prices throughout the manufacturing process to the “raw material price in the UK”.

“The price of trees – trees just cost more. There’s more competition for trees,” he said. “This has meant that the best-quality cricket bat available in South Africa can cost upwards of R20,000”.

“What’s changed cricket big time is the IPL [Indian Premier League],” said David van der Walt, the master craftsman behind Black Widow Manufacturing, which specialises in handcrafting quality English willow cricket bats and other cricket equipment.

Van der Walt is the foremost bat maker in South Africa. Black Widow is one of only three companies in the country that receive English willow clefts – raw blocks of wood – from JS Wright & Sons. The others are D&P Cricket and Brian Bands Sports.

“Suddenly, the interest in world cricket has gone through the roof and there’s massive demand for bats,” Van der Walt said.

“I was travelling to India back in 1999, 2000 and India made English willow bats, but mainly only for export. Very little was sold in India,” Borst said.

“Now, with the growth of the expat community out of Asia and the growth in the middle class in India, India can make English willow bats and sell all it has in India. There’s been a massive spike in demand based around the growth of wealth in India.

“There’s been an increased requirement for English willow, which has led to more demand for the trees, which has led to prices going up. And you see a reaction now.”

Most companies, including popular brands like Kookaburra, have their cricket bats made in India and just plaster their own brand stickers on the bats. It’s an extremely common practice.

The cricket bats found in Sportsmans Warehouse in South Africa, for example, are mostly made in the same factories as Sunny Gold’s in India, which make about 400 bats a day. However, they are sold with different brands’ stickers on them.

The demand for new cricket bats from professional cricketers has increased dramatically as well, born from T20 and the power hitting that has come with it.

“Geoffrey Boycott probably had one new bat every three years,” said Borst, referring to the former English Test cricketer who started his career in the 1960s and was one of the country’s most renowned opening batsmen.

“Herschelle Gibbs maybe had four or five bats a year. Now, the modern equivalent, Virat Kohli, probably has 50 to 60 bats a year. The guys play more cricket. They practise more.



Football Corner

State of The English Premier League



Premier League

The vicissitudes of the EPL league have never been more starkly demonstrated than the month under review. Last month Liverpool were five points clear at the top of the log and cruising. Unbeaten, though their performances were not entirely convincing, they looked to be in control of their fortunes. Arsenal were second looking rather ragged and struggling to find some rhythm and cohesion. Crystal Palace and Chelsea filled the balance of the top four. As of writing this column Arsenal top the table, two points clear of Sunderland, Man City and Man United make up the balance of the top four both on sixteen points, Bournemouth and Liverpool share fifth and sixth spot both on fifteen points. The balance of the log is tightly bunched and anything is possible in the lead up to Christmas. Arsenal are thus four points ahead of the chasing pack.



It has been a period when some significant and peremptory management changes have been made. Evangelos Marinakis is the owner of Notts Forest, a colourful Greek billionaire who made his fortune in shipping, media and football. He is also the owner of the Greek club Olympiakos and acquired ownership of Forest in 2016. His career, not least his football ownership has been littered with all manner of controversy and a flood of litigation which he has managed to deflect with consummate skill. His tenure as Forest owner has had no shortage of drama and controversy. Steve Cooper was appointed manager of Forest in 2021 when they were bottom of the Championship. He managed to guide them to promotion in 2022 and following a string of poor results was sacked in December 2023.

Marinakis is a hands-on owner who is seen at most games and seems to rule by edict. A bewildering array of random players were acquired during Cooper's tenure, and he seemed to have no say or

input in the hiring process. He struggled with his burgeoning squad and lost 13 games on the trot. A day after he was sacked, he was replaced by Nuno Espirito Santo. This pattern of hiring and firing managers in peremptory fashion would repeat itself several times. Nuno enjoyed a successful period at Forest. On the final day of 2023 / 2024 season Forest beat Burnley 2-1 and survived relegation from the EPL. The 2024/2025 season was a show case season for Forest who ultimately finished seventh and qualification for the European League. Nuno who has a definite style of football which requires a certain blend of players. He publicly disagreed with Marinakis and his transfer policy and three games into the new season was shown the door. Nuno's mistake was to cross swords with Marinakis, something few people have managed successfully.

In stepped Ange Postecoglou most recently of Spurs where he rather fortunately secured European competition despite a historically poor domestic season. He was sacked in September 2025. It would be hard to imagine a manager more unsuited to taking over at Forest than Ange who inherited Nuno's squad and his style of play. Perhaps Marinakis has the answer, but he is staying mum. Ange made his name playing aggressive, offensive high press football with a stubborn devil may care disregard for the niceties of a secure solid defensive base. When it worked it was exhilarating football, when it failed it was dismal. Unfortunately, it failed more often than not. Nuno's style was the complete antithesis. He placed the emphasis on a rock-solid defence, eschewed a high press and was happy to concede possession to the opposition. His methodology was further built on turnovers converted into lightning strikes with two speedy wingers being able to feed a six-yard box physical striker who would be the primary source of goals. It worked very effectively until teams worked out a strategy to counter the system. Nuno had no plan B.

Ange was never going to convert Nuno's squad into a team who played Angeball and thirty-nine days into his tenure he was summarily dismissed having failed to win any of his eight matches in charge. In stepped the rainbow man Sean Dyche, a manager better suited to the Forest style. Good luck Sean! Just to complete the picture, Nuno is West Ham's new manager, Graham Potter having been directed to the exits. Potter is off to manage the Swedish national team on a short-term contract. Nuno is struggling at the Hammers who fill one of the three relegation spots, and I doubt he will survive the season. Such is the perambulations of football managers.

What has happened to Liverpool ? They started the season in fine fettle winning their first five games on the bounce. Though they did not look imperious to a discerning eye - there were some defensive frailties papered over and a feast of chances scorned, they were playing with self-belief and a touch of arrogance, particularly on the part of their irritating manager Slot. There have been no curtain calls this month. Crystal Palace, Galatasaray, Chelsea, Man United and Brentford have all humbled the mighty scousers with a thumping win over Eintracht Frankfurt being the only break in a dreadful litany of losses. Perhaps I will be afforded the parochial indulgence of using the Man United game as an illustration of some of the issues causing Liverpool's woes. United were away to Liverpool and Anfield bayed for blood from the get-go against the mortal cross city foe. Before the faithful had eased into their seats after stirring a rendition of the club anthem Liverpool were 1-0 down. A sweet Amad assist found the irrepressible Mbeumo down the right channel. Liverpool were caught napping, Konate out of position, Van Dijk flapping and a collision with Mac Allister did not help their cause. Whilst Mac Allister was nursing his wounds Amad took a smart assist to a flying Mbeumo down the right flank who evaded Kerkez to score before the clock had reached two minutes. Liverpool complaints about a possible free kick for the collision were correctly waved away by Michael Oliver and VAR. You can't expect a free kick for a collision between your own players. Mac Allister continued the game in a comical black pixie like Biggles bonnet. He was never the same again and was hooked in the second half.

Once Liverpool regained their composure, they placed United under sustained pressure and created a host of plausible, realistic opportunities to equalise. Gapko was a constant menace finding space and creating assists but United were resolute with de Ligt and Maguire conspicuous in a determined defensive line. This season Liverpool have struggled to convert possession, pressure and space into goals. Salah's lack lustre out of sorts form has not helped. The choice Slot has had to make between Izak, who has not hit his straps and Ekitike who has been excellent, has not assisted the cause. My view is that playing both is not an option that will work though Ekitike is the more versatile player and could possibly fill a 10 role. Gapko has been consistently a driving force offensively, but he too has often found his radar misfiring. Defence has been Liverpool's real Achilles heel. The two young full backs Bradley and Kerkez have much to learn and have been caught out of position or lacking a yard of pace against the league's best wingers or wing backs. Van Dijk is just not the same player he was and spends too much time directing the traffic and scolding his centre backs and too little time aligning his position and taking care of his own responsibilities. Konate has been all over the place at times and frequently exposed as he was for Mbeumo's goal. Gravenberch has not had a poor game in the middle, but Mac Allister has looked vulnerable as the defensive mid fielder.

United continued their low block and quick breakaway play when a turnover was forced, though they played too deep to make this an effective strategy. The long balls worried the Liverpool defence who were peppered relentlessly with them. Maguire was particularly effective winning the first ball and the tactic unsettled the fragile Liverpool defence. United have never looked comfortable at set pieces this season and it came as no surprise when a pinpoint Szoboszlai corner was nodded across the six-yard line by Chiesa and finished off by Gapko, Liverpool's best player. 1-1 and game on. Liverpool found themselves tested six minutes later when a razor-edged Fernandez corner was headed home by the Maguire who had threatened to score with his head throughout the game. 2-1 to United and that is the way it stayed. It was an important game for both teams. Quite apart from the intense rivalry between the teams three points and a win was critical. United took away the spoils from Anfield in a determined resolute performance. One hopes it infuses their self-belief for the battles ahead. Alarm bells are ringing for Liverpool particularly given their ambitions and spend this season. They need to regroup ; up their tempo tighten their defence and invest in a new radar system. That done they will be a factor in the second half of the season. They have so much individual quality in the squad particularly offensively. It is the sum of the parts that Slot has to work on. Christmas has to see them playing like they can.

Arsenal have asserted themselves in all respects in the last month. There is no secret to their ambitions this season which are to win the league and reach the competitive stage of the Champions League. They look the part which is built on their defensive platform of the two full backs Calafiore and Timber and their two imperious centre backs Saliba and Gabriel. It is the finest back four combination in the EPL and if there is better in Europe I have not seen them. The result is that they can dictate their games, and the offense have the security of attacking without fear. With their captain Odegaard out injured their mid field of Rice, Zubimendi and Eze are potent and complement each other intuitively and incisively. Up front Gyokeres is improving with every game and Saka and Martinelli or Trossard provide the guile and speed down the flanks. Arteta has imbued the necessary fight and self-belief in the team and has them playing his way. He deserves great credit for his determination and belief in his team. The Gunners also have the most dangerous set piece set up this season and score a bucket from their well-orchestrated, physical approach. It is a potent weapon in their armoury. Gunners supporters have a right to be ambitious this season and silverware is within their sights.

It is no fluke that Bournemouth are fifth in the table. Their young manager Andoni Iraola is one of the finest of his generation. A gifted player who had an extensive career in La Liga playing over five hundred games for Athletic Bilbao, he also played for Spain. He was a combative right back with good passing skills which is reflected in the type of football he expects his team to play. His style of play is for his team to run whether in possession or out of it, wear down their opposition and turn the ball over with speedy wingers and sharp inter passing in the build-up. Bournemouth score goals, they have effective strikers in Evanilson and Kluivert, but Antoine Semenya is their standout player. A physical domineering forward with a large engine, tireless runner, good feet, surprising speed for a big fellow, he has an eye for space, creates assists and does not hesitate to shoot when the occasion warrants it. Without doubt a player to watch. Bournemouth will do well to retain his services as there will be suitors knocking on the door. Senesi and Diakite [who resembles Moises Caicedo's younger brother !] are tough no-nonsense defenders and Truffert who replaced Kerkez looks an even better prospect at left back. A team to be taken seriously, one hopes they are able to finish in one of the European spots.

In the nether regions Notts Forest, West Ham and Wolves make up the rear. All three will struggle, two have recently installed managers and I doubt the Wolves boss will last until Christmas. All is not lost, but there are no miracles in this toughest of all leagues.

Yours in football,
Howard Cohen

The latest in F1

(Our thanks to our racing guru, Jim Page)



Formula one is at the smart end of the silly season. Anyone who watched the Mexico (say it, Me-hi-co) race will tell you. (I didn't, I was all worn out from helping Ted out at the Cape Town hill climb). Anyone who doubts team orders may take a refresher course after watching the McLaren circus. Hands up from anyone who saw George Russel incognito in the stands during quali. Did anyone else witness Yuki Tsunoda drive the 60-year-old Honda RA272 (winner of the 1965 Mexico GP) around the circuit? (sad to say I didn't).

The Mexico event seems to have brought about a sea change in the McLaren team focus – to bring a British driver to the world championship, even at the risk of handing Max another world title. Frankly the internal politics of the team seem to be the greatest benefit to Red Bull, as the two teammates (albeit not great mates it would seem) battle for team leadership and consequently championship lead. From an historical perspective, the antipodean challenger is the most unlikely winner, somewhat sad given the team's roots. However, the team boss seems to favour the brit. Somewhat disappointing some may say...

The controversy over a number of questionable decisions by the stewards seem to point to the head of the FIA, Mohammed Ben Sulayem. MBS has made a number of controversial decisions/statements during his term in office, even to the point of declaring the contenders for his position "ineligible" due to the strict FIA rules for eligibility. Seems democracy isn't a thing in motorsports. (the extent of this issue is being taken to the French legal system, as the FIA is based in France) Hold on for the metaphorical storming of the Bastille!

Another current issue creating some concern is the matter of a "budget cap breach" over their 2024 finances – seems that both Ferrari and McLaren are in the clear. In current terms, should a team damage a chassis in late season events and need to manufacture a new tub, that may lead to a "financial breach", even though no technical advantage may be assumed to have occurred. Less of a concern to our followers in South Africa – Apple TV has procured the rights to F1 broadcast in the USA. Supersport/ Mnet will continue to show the circus for 2026!

China's dazzling drone light show

Imagine more than 11000 drones flying in tight formation forming various 3-d graphic images. It set a new Guinness World Record for the "largest aerial image formed by drones".

Watch the video by clicking on the image below:



Did you know?

The technical name for goosebumps is 'piloerection'. This familiar sensation is the result of nerve cells triggering the muscle cells in the skin near your hair follicles to contract. Typically, changes in temperature or sudden appearances of scary stimuli prompt the reaction.

LSD was discovered accidentally after its inventor touched his face and hallucinated. Unlike many drugs, the first time a human ever tripped on acid was recorded first-hand by a scientist. Swiss chemist Albert Hofmann, curious about the "not unpleasant intoxicated-like condition" that overcame him after an accidental exposure, set up a rigorous experiment to test the drug's effects on himself.

Most kangaroos are left-handed.

Octopuses have three hearts.

Bats give birth upside down.

Polar bears have black skin.

In 1994 the Fabergé Winter Egg was rediscovered and sold at a Christie's auction in Geneva, setting a world record for a work by Fabergé at R18.9-million. The Winter Egg, with a current estimated value of more than R464-million, is set to go on auction at Christies in London this December.



The Winter Egg is a Fabergé egg, one of a series of fifty-two jewelled Easter eggs created by Russian jeweller Peter Carl Fabergé. It was an Easter 1913 gift for Tsarina Maria Feodorovna from Tsar Nicholas II, who had a standing order of two Easter eggs every year, one for his mother and one for his wife.

Parthenogenesis is a natural form of asexual reproduction in which the embryo develops directly from an egg without need for fertilization. In animals, parthenogenesis means the development of an embryo from an unfertilized egg cell.

(From Ancient media)



A solitary female Komodo dragon stunned her keepers by laying **11 eggs** all on her own. This rare 'virgin birth' produced eight healthy, all-male babies. It's a built-in survival plan for when a female gets isolated, allowing her to single-handedly start a new colony.

The Old Man of Hoy

(From **World Archaeology**)

Off the northern coast of Scotland, rising dramatically from the Atlantic Ocean, stands the Old Man of Hoy, one of the tallest sea stacks in Europe. Formed about 400 years ago through relentless wave erosion of the red sandstone cliffs of Hoy Island in the Orkneys, this 137-meter-high monolith is both geologically young and strikingly fragile. Once connected to the mainland, it was gradually isolated by the sea, leaving a solitary pillar that seems impossibly balanced against the crashing waves.

Its layered sandstone walls reveal bands of geological history, stacked like the pages of a book, while its slender base testifies to the constant gnawing of wind and surf. Climbers scale its near-vertical sides, and from the summit, adventurers are rewarded with an unparalleled view of the endless ocean and rugged coast. To the eye, it looks almost surreal—an obelisk of nature, defying gravity at the edge of the world.

Tattler suggests that the isolation is tidal



Oktoberfest - 2025

Oktoberfest is a regional festival with high international attention though most guests still came from Munich itself or the surrounding area. On the middle Saturday, around 30 percent came from abroad, compared to an average of around 21 percent.



Oktoberfest in Numbers

- **Visitors:** 6.5 million (2024: 6.7 million, 2023: 7.2 million)
- **Beer:** 6.5 million litres according to estimates by Oktoberfest landlords (2024: 7 million, 2023: 7.4 million)
- **Food:** An increase of around 5 to 6 percent (excluding chicken)
- **Wiesn lost and found office:** 4,500 items of lost property (2024: 3,500, 2023: 3,250)
- **Stealing beer mugs:** 116,000 beer mugs collected (2024: 98,000, 2023: 115,600)

Oktoberfest Explained

The first Oktoberfest was held in 1810 to celebrate the marriage of Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen. It was the surprising prototype of what would become every beer fan's favourite festival. Held in late September and early October, Oktoberfest (called "Wiesn" in German) is the largest folk festival in the world.

Click the image alongside to view more about its history!



'Pig Butchering' Scam (Source 1440 Daily Digest 15 Oct)

The Justice Department announced yesterday it had seized roughly \$15B in bitcoin from a cyber fraud operation, marking the largest forfeiture in the department's history. The scheme is linked to Prince Holding Group, a Cambodia-based multinational conglomerate.

Authorities allege CEO and Chairman Chen "Vincent" Zhi forced trafficked workers to forge online relationships with victims before persuading them to transfer cryptocurrency into sham investment accounts—a tactic known as "pig butchering". Zhi was indicted yesterday in New York federal court on wire fraud and money laundering charges; he remains at large as of this writing. The US and the UK also imposed economic sanctions on Prince, with the US designating the company a transnational criminal organization.

Americans lost at least \$10B last year to Southeast Asia-based scams, with operations like Prince playing a major role, according to the Treasury Department. A separate February analysis found deposits into pig butchering scams surged nearly 210% from 2023 to 2024, while scam revenues grew almost 40%

Tattler - Ever wondered about this expression?

Digital Slaughter: The Language of Scams

What's in a name? "Pig butchering" isn't just grotesque—it's the scammers' own term. Borrowed from the Chinese phrase *shā zhū pán*, it likens victims to pigs fattened for slaughter.

The grooming game Scammers spend weeks or months building trust—posing as romantic partners, financial advisors, or friendly investors. The goal? Get the victim to "fatten up" their account.

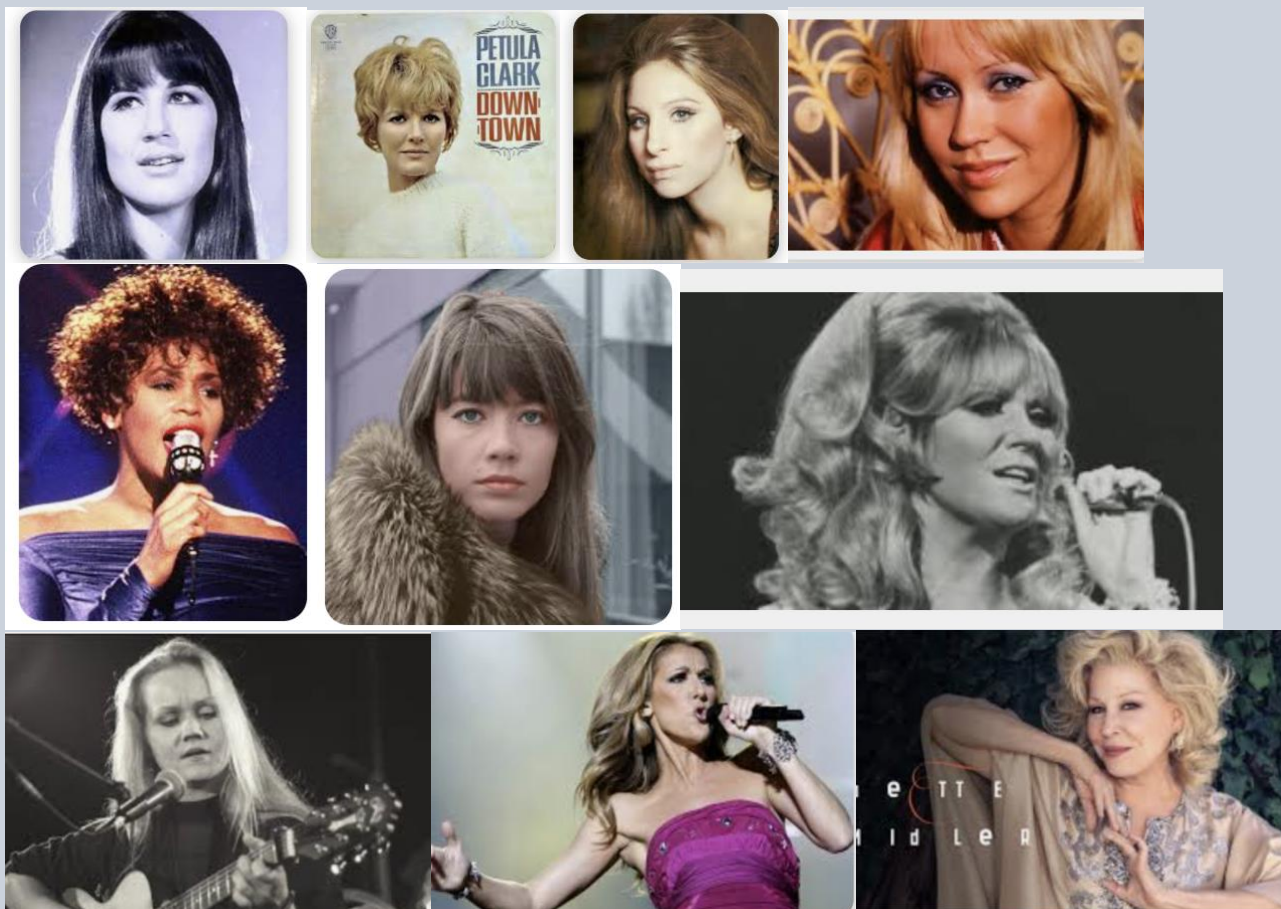
The slaughter Once the victim invests heavily in a fake crypto or trading platform, they're cut off. No withdrawals. No refunds. Just silence—and vanished funds.

Your Favourite Female Vocalists

Last month Tattler's editors each selected their top 10 female vocalists. We requested members/readers to submit their choices. We are delighted to share some responses with you. Thank you, John, Sean and Euan. Incredible to see the different musical tastes and how the ladies in each list still make sense!

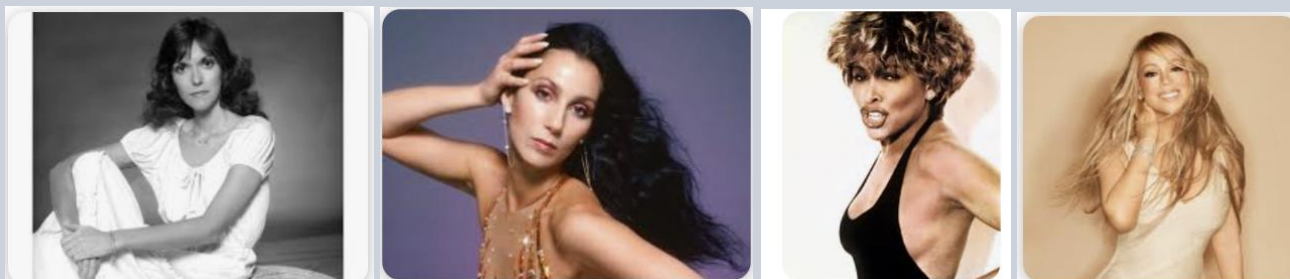
List from John Winter

Judith Durham	Purity and clarity of folk harmonies, her voice like a bell;
Petula Clark	Her voice is a stroll down the Champs-Élysées in spring;
Barbra Streisand	A master of phrasing ;
Agnetha Faltskog	Soprano of ABBA, carries Scandi melancholy and pop fizz;
Whitney Houston	What can one say?
Francoise Hardy	Françoise Hardy whispers Parisian cool rather than belts;
Dusty Springfield	Dusty Springfield is all velvet and smoke;
Eva Cassidy	Gone too soon, left behind an aching beautiful voice;
Celine Dion	The diva of emotions;
Bette Midler	Theatrical and earthy, sings with a wink and a tear.



List from Sean Gourlay

Karen Carpenter	Her voice is a velvet ribbon—low, warm, and intimate;
Cher	The eternal chameleon;
Tina Turner	Raw energy and resilience. Gravel and fire;
Mariah Carey	A vocal gymnast with a five-octave range;
Dolly Parton	The storytelling queen. Twang and wisdom of a many lived lives;
Tracy Chapman	Quiet power. Her voice is a protest, a prayer, and a poem;
Celine Dion	Appearing again, and rightly so;
Barbra Streisand	Also recurring, and deservedly. She's a gold standard;
Whitney Houston	Another repeat, and again, no surprise;
Amy Winehouse	A torch singer for the age. Voice is bruised, bold, and utterly magnetic





List from Euan Smith

Stevie Nicks
 Florence Welch (Flo+ the Machine)
 Kirsty MacColl
 Eva Cassidy
 Debbie Harry (From Blondie)
 Janice Joplin
 Amy Winehouse
 Sinead O'Conner
 Adele
 Kate Bush

The high priestess of mystic rock. Her voice is sand and silk;
 Florence is the tempest in the cathedral. Soaring, trembling;
 Funny, poignant, and unmistakably real. Never showy, sincere;
 Eva Cassidy: Appearing again and rightly so!
 Punk's ice queen with a pop heart. Cool, detached, and magnetic;
 A primal scream in human form. Whiskey-soaked and soul-bared;
 Another repeat, and again, she belongs. Her voice is vintage vinyl;
 Ethereal and fierce. The ache of Ireland and fury of truth-telling;
 The torchbearer of heartbreak balladry. Rich and resonant;
 The avant-garde enchantress. Otherworldly.



A Music special

Tattler - Maybe Carlos Santana has been around longer than we think?

This video is a delightful mashup of vintage charm and Latin rock swagger—Laurel and Hardy, the kings of physical comedy, dancing in perfect sync to Carlos Santana's "Oye Como Va." It's a surreal yet oddly harmonious pairing! Enjoy by clicking on the image to watch.



Art Corner

Thank you, dear readers, for your recent submissions—it's thrilling to see what sparks curiosity and creativity across our Tattler readership.

We're turning this into a regular feature, and that means YOU are officially invited to join in. We want to hear from you.

Just two or three submissions a month will keep this corner of the newsletter vibrant and surprising with lots to learn to boot!

Digby Thompson submitted his favourite.



District Six at Night by Don Madge

Don Madge—full name Donald James Madge—was a South African artist. Born in 1920 and active until his death in 1997, he was known for evocative landscape paintings and atmospheric depictions of South African scenes. His work often captured rural environments, village life, and moody urban vistas, rendered with a sensitivity to light and texture that made his canvases quietly compelling.

Madge's paintings have appeared frequently at South African auctions, with collectors appreciating his ability to capture the essence of place into pastel and oil.

Pieces like District Six above and Waenhuiskrans and Elsiesrivier Township reflect his deep engagement with local geography and social texture.

Submitted by Euan Smith



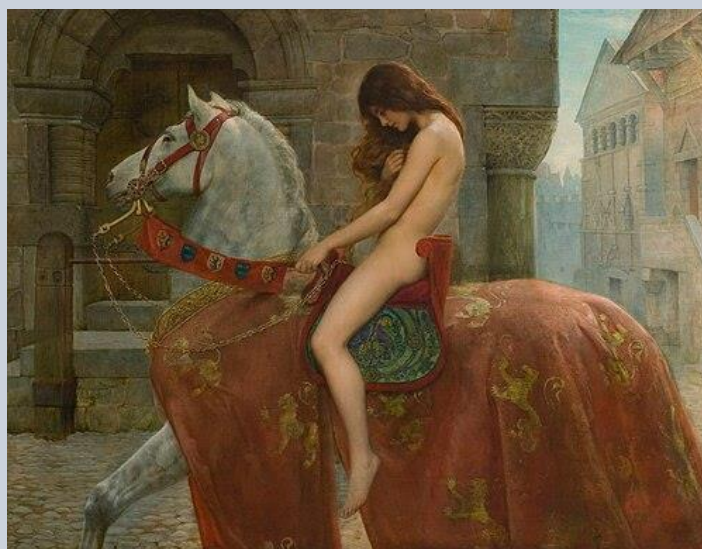
The School of Athens - Raphael

The School of Athens by Raphael is not just a fresco—it's a philosophical theatre in pigment. Painted between 1509 and 1511 in the Vatican's Stanza della Segnatura, it was commissioned by Pope Julius II as part of a grand decorative program.

At its heart stand Plato and Aristotle, engaged in silent debate: Plato gestures skyward, holding Timaeus, symbolizing idealism and metaphysics; Aristotle points earthward with Ethics, grounding philosophy in empirical observation. Around them are many of the ancient thinkers—Socrates, Pythagoras, Euclid, Zoroaster, Diogenes, and even Heraclitus.

What makes the fresco extraordinary is its architectural illusion—a vast classical hall inspired by Bramante's designs for St. Peter's Basilica. The composition is symmetrical yet dynamic, with figures arranged like a frieze across the steps, each absorbed in their own intellectual pursuit. Raphael even includes a self-portrait, tucked discreetly at the far right, wearing a black beret.

Submission from Sean Gourley



Lady Godiva by John Collier

John Collier's *Lady Godiva* was painted in 1897. It stands as one of his most iconic works, blending Pre-Raphaelite aesthetics with Victorian moral symbolism. The painting's date places it firmly in the late 19th century, a time when historical and mythological subjects were often used to explore themes of virtue, sacrifice, and social justice.

The painting depicts the legendary ride of Lady Godiva, the noblewoman who, according to folklore, rode unclothed through the streets of Coventry to protest her husband's oppressive taxation of the townspeople. Collier captures the moment with haunting serenity: Godiva sits on a white horse, her long auburn hair cascading to modestly veil her nudity. Her head is bowed, not in shame, but in solemn resolve—a gesture of quiet defiance.

The background is subdued, allowing the figure of Godiva to dominate the scene. The horse is rendered with classical grace, and the architectural elements evoke a medieval town without overwhelming the central figure. Collier's use of soft lighting and naturalistic detail—especially in the textures of hair, skin, and fabric—heightens the emotional impact.

Submission from John Winter



Coquelicots by Claude Monet

Les Coquelicots—Claude Monet's 1873 masterpiece, often titled *The Poppy Field near Argenteuil*. It's a quintessential Impressionist work, painted during a period of creative flourishing after Monet settled in Argenteuil, just outside Paris. The painting captures a breezy summer day, with poppies blooming across a gently undulating field, and two pairs of figures—likely Monet's wife Camille and their son Jean—strolling through the landscape.

What makes this canvas so evocative is Monet's treatment of light and colour. The red poppies aren't meticulously detailed; they're dabs of pigment, almost abstract, yet they pulse with life. The sky is pale and expansive, the trees soft and feathery, and the figures blend into the scene as if nature itself were absorbing them. It's not a portrait of a place—it's a feeling.

Painted in 1873, *Les Coquelicots* was exhibited at the first Impressionist exhibition in 1874, making it not just a visual delight but a historical landmark.

Knives and Companions - Strange but true

(From Reddit)



These craftsmen, known as ventres jaunes or “yellow bellies” (named for the yellow dust from the grindstones).

The city of Thiers, cradle of French knife-making, was the epicentre of this profession. The city’s defining asset was the Durolle, a fast-flowing river whose energy powered the cutlery workshops.

The town’s rugged landscape also contributed; inhabitants, accustomed to working on the rocky, steep terrain, laboured in the fields in summer and crafted blades in winter, with a determination that propelled the industry forward.

In 1902, in the knife-making workshops in France, a scene as strange as it was ingenious could be seen: men working upside down on stone benches, sharpening their knives.

It wasn't a treat. This position prevented their backs from bending after long hours of work and allowed them to bear the weight of routine without being disused by pain.

But there was an even more surprising detail: next to them, lying on their legs, were resting dogs that kept them warm. The animals shared the fatigue, metallic dust, and constant hum of sharpening stones, becoming inseparable companions for the day.

It was hard work, little recognized, but behind every sharpened knife was a life upside down, literally. Men suspended upside down, with the faithful company of a dog on their knees, keeping alive a tradition that today seems incredible, but was an essential part of the art of French knife-making.

Ironically, while Thiers produced blades for most French regions, it had no signature knife of its own until 1994, when the distinctive “Le Thiers” model was introduced.



"Green Eggs and Ham."

In 1960, Bennett Cerf, the founder of Random House, slid a fifty-dollar bill across the table and dared Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, to do something most thought was impossible.

The bet was simple but difficult: write an engaging children's book from start to finish using only 50 different words.

Cerf didn't believe it could be done. At the time, that \$50 wager was worth over \$500 in today's money, showing how serious he was about the challenge.



Dr. Seuss accepted the bet. He was no stranger to writing with constraints, having previously written "The Cat in the Hat" with a limited vocabulary of 236 words, but this was a far more demanding task. He worked tirelessly on the project, reportedly finding the strict limitation to be an immense creative struggle. He filled pages with drafts, searching for the right combination of his 50 chosen words to tell a complete story.

Finally, on August 12, 1960, the result was published: "Green Eggs and Ham." The book used exactly 50 unique words, with 49 of them being just one syllable. Seuss not only won the bet but also created a literary masterpiece. "Green Eggs and Ham" went on to become one of the best-selling and most beloved children's books in history, teaching generations of children to read through its clever repetition and simple rhymes.

The Colosseum in Rome

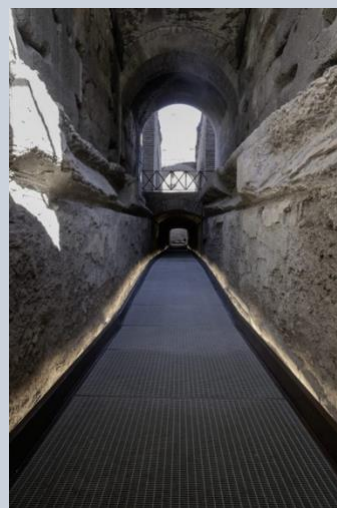
Tattler - I am sure that many of our members/readers would have visited the Colosseum. Now, a new attraction!

Once secret Emperor Commodus' passage to Roman Colosseum opens to public
By Andrea Rosa and Giada Zampano

ROME (AP) — For the first time in nearly 2,000 years, visitors to Rome's world-renowned Colosseum will have the opportunity to walk through a hidden imperial passage that once allowed Roman emperors to reach the ancient amphitheatre unseen.

The once-secret corridor — known as the "Commodus Passage" and named after the Roman emperor turned into a pop icon by Ridley Scott's movie "Gladiator" — opens to the public on October 27, marking an extraordinary milestone in archaeological preservation and access.

The walls were originally marble-clad. Photo: Simona Murrone / Colosseum Archaeological Park. Archaeologists at the Colosseum Archaeological Park explained that Roman emperors would use the passage to enter the arena unseen and protected, leading them directly to their reserved honour box overlooking the games.



The passage was named after Emperor Commodus, who ruled alone between 180 A.D. and 192 A.D., when it was initially discovered in the 1810s. Commodus was known to be passionate about gladiators' games and history relates that while he was passing through the tunnel, someone attempted to assassinate him but was unsuccessful.

At the passage entrance, archaeologists discovered remnants of decorative elements directly related to arena spectacles, including depictions of boar hunts, bear fights and acrobatic performances. These artistic elements provided a fitting prelude to the brutal entertainments that awaited beyond, they noted.

Detail of the stucco in the Commodus Passage at the Colosseum. Photo: Simona Murrone / Colosseum Archaeological Park.

Watch a video here by clicking on the image to the right.

The passage was first rediscovered in the 1810s, but only recently underwent full restoration.



As of October 2025, visitors can now walk the same route emperors once used, offering a rare glimpse into the private rituals of Roman power.

The Colosseum in Rome is the largest ancient amphitheatre ever built, with a capacity of up to 80,000 spectators and nearly 2,000 years of history. It remains one of the most iconic symbols of Roman engineering, entertainment, and imperial power. Built between 72–80 AD under Emperors Vespasian and Titus. Originally named the Flavian Amphitheatre, after the ruling dynasty. Constructed on the site of Emperor Nero's artificial lake, reclaiming land for public use.

Size & Structure

Height: ~48 meters (157 feet)

Length: ~189 meters (620 feet)

Width: ~156 meters (512 feet)

Area: ~24,000 square meters

Levels: 4 tiers of seating, plus underground hypogeum

Capacity

Could hold 50,000 to 80,000 spectators, depending on the event.

Seating was strictly hierarchical—senators, nobles, citizens, women, and slaves had designated zones.

Events & Entertainment

Hosted gladiator battles, animal hunts (venationes), public executions, and mock naval battles (early on, before the hypogeum was built).

Exotic animals included lions, elephants, crocodiles, and bears—many imported from Africa and Asia.

Hidden Features

The hypogeum, a two-level underground network, housed animals, gladiators, and stage machinery.

The newly reopened Commodus Passage allowed emperors to enter discreetly from outside the Colosseum.

Engineering Marvels

Featured 80 entrances, allowing rapid crowd movement.

Used concrete, travertine limestone, tuff, and brick-faced walls.

Included retractable awnings (velarium) to shade spectators.

Cultural Legacy

Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980.

Named one of the New Seven Wonders of the World in 2007.

Today, it attracts over 6 million visitors annually.

Restoration & Preservation

Damaged by earthquakes, stone robbing, and pollution over centuries.

Ongoing restoration includes the arena floor, underground chambers, and imperial passageways.

Club Managers Report

100 Club Winners October 2025

100 Club Winners October 2025.

Mr R.S. Burchell – R300

Mrs A. Manning – R300

Mrs A. Stannard – R300

Lt E. Noble (Ret) – R1000

Birthdays November 2025.

We wish the following members a very Happy Birthday. May the year ahead be filled with good health and happiness. For this edition we have global news “breaking stories” on the corresponding dates.

Lt G.M. Munro – 02 November.

1986 US hostage freed in Beirut: David Jacobsen, held for 17 months by Islamic militants, is released, marking a turning point in Middle East hostage diplomacy.

Mr A.J. Ritchie – 10 November.

1995 Ken Saro-Wiwa executed in Nigeria: The environmental activist and writer is hanged alongside eight others, sparking global outrage and sanctions.

S Lt J.R. Potgieter – 12 November.

1980 Voyager 1 captures Saturn’s rings: NASA’s probe sends back vivid images from nearly a billion miles away, deepening humanity’s view of the cosmos.

Cdr M.G. Jardine (Ret) – 13 November.

1985 Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupts in Colombia: A lahar buries the town of Armero, killing over 20,000 people in one of Latin America’s deadliest natural disasters.

Capt K.B. Wise (Ret) – 14 November.

1990 Milli Vanilli scandal breaks: Producer Frank Farian admits the pop duo never sang on their hit album, triggering a Grammy revocation and media frenzy.

Mrs A. Stannard – 16 November.

1922 Tutankhamun’s tomb opened: Howard Carter enters the burial chamber in the Valley of the Kings, igniting global fascination—and tales of a pharaoh’s curse.

Mr D.C. Le Roux – 18 November.

1978 Jonestown Massacre in Guyana Over 900 members of the Peoples Temple, led by cult figure Jim Jones, died in a mass murder-suicide at their compound in Jonestown. The tragedy included the assassination of U.S. Congressman Leo Ryan and remains one of the largest losses of American civilian life in a non-natural disaster. The event shocked the world and became a grim symbol of cult manipulation and ideological extremism.

S Lt B.E.J. Klocke (Ret) – 20 November.

1945 Nuremberg Trials begin: Twenty Nazi leaders face justice for war crimes, inaugurating a new era of international law.

Me W.E. Eiserman – 23 November.

2009 Maguindanao massacre in the Philippines: Fifty-seven people, including 34 journalists, are killed in a politically motivated ambush—the deadliest attack on media in history.

Cdr R.W. Henderson (Ret) – 27 November.

1990 John Major becomes UK Prime Minister: After Thatcher’s resignation, Major wins the Conservative leadership and steps into Number 10.

R Adm (JG) A.A. Cole (Ret) – 29 November.

1981 Actress Natalie Wood drowns off Catalina Island Hollywood icon Natalie Wood was found dead in the waters off California after a night aboard a yacht with husband Robert Wagner and actor Christopher Walken. Her death, officially ruled accidental, sparked decades of speculation and reopened investigations, becoming one of Hollywood’s most enduring mysteries.

Mr S. Bothma – 29 November.

29 November – 1947 UN votes to partition Palestine: Resolution 181 passes, dividing the territory into Jewish and Arab states—laying groundwork for decades of conflict.

Capt J.F. Gower (Ret) – 30 November.

1966 Barbados gains independence: The Caribbean Island nation formally severs ties with Britain, becoming a sovereign state.

Aye, Glen

October Quiz

The monthly Seven Seas Quiz took place on the 8th of October. A few of our regulars were unable to attend, but we still had 4 teams. The contest was close with only 5 points separating 1st and 4th place.

Teams in action.



The eventual winners, by just 2 points, the Questionables receiving their token prizes.

My thanks to Doug for his excellent assistance, Chris for his splendid service and all the team members.

The November quiz will be held on the 12th. We would love to see a few new faces! Please remember that entry is free, friends and family are welcome, and we strive to start at 19h00 and finish by 21h00

A set of questions from the October quiz below (answers elsewhere in Tattler)

- 1) Which gender baboon is larger?
- 2) In the French language nouns are either masculine or feminine, and this gender is inherent to the noun. Le chapeau:(the hat) is which?
- 3) Which human has the longer colon?
- 4) Whose (human) bodies are typically more energy-efficient and have a higher body fat percentage, which historically provided an advantage during periods of food scarcity?
- 5) Which gender in humans has the denser skull?
- 6) Lagomorphs (rabbits and hares) are known for having larger males or females?
- 7) Bluejays - which gender is smaller?
- 8) Which gender typically have two X chromosomes (XX)
- 9) Which gender comprised the band "Destiny's Child"?
- 10) Triplewart Seadevil anglerfish : which gender is parasitic, attaching to and merging with the much larger gender, a dramatic form of sexual dimorphism.



Interesting snippet from Euronews

Britain's King Charles III and Pope Leo XIV have prayed in public together in a historic moment, marking the first time in 500 years that leaders of both the Church of England and the Catholic Church have taken part in a joint service.

King Charles III has become the first head of the Anglican church to pray in public with a Pope in a move aimed at forging closer ties between the Church of England and the Catholic Church. The historic meeting is highly significant and symbolic as it comes almost half a century since the Reformation - the Church of England's split from the Vatican.

Maritime, Naval and Military

WB UVAD Included in MDA Space Solutions for RCN's I Star Program

Source: Canadian Defence Review 14/10

More on "uncrewed" vehicles



UVAD Technologies Inc. (UVAD) announced that its wholly owned subsidiary UVA Dynamics Inc., has been selected by MDA Space Ltd., as part of the company's contract award to equip the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN)'s Halifax-class ships with up to six new Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS).

UVAD will provide UAV Field Service Representatives, Technicians, and Engineering Support. The Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (ISTAR UAS) project will significantly enhance the RCN's ability to detect and monitor potential maritime threats, both at home and abroad.

"UVAD is honoured to be part of the MDA Space Ltd team in delivering critical capabilities of Uncrewed Aircraft Systems to the Royal Canadian Navy," said David Birkett, President and CEO of UVAD. "Being part of this project is a true testament to the strong expertise UVAD brings to the global aerospace and defence sector." By extending the Navy's situational awareness and operational reach, the advanced technology of the RCN-ISTAR UAS will support Canada's naval missions and provide the RCN with critical expertise in uncrewed systems and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations.

A Reflection on Remembrance Day

Written by Colette Patience

The Silence That Speaks Volumes

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, a hush falls across major cities, villages, and fields. It is not emptiness—it is memory. This is Remembrance Day, once known as Armistice Day, marking the moment in 1918 when the guns of the First World War finally fell silent. Across the Commonwealth and

beyond, people pause to honour those who gave their lives in service—not only in the Great War, but in every conflict since.

Observed in countries like the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and many others, Remembrance Day is a solemn ritual of collective mourning and gratitude. Two minutes of silence, wreaths laid at cenotaphs, and the wearing of red poppies—symbols inspired by the blooms of Flanders fields. The poppy, immortalised by Canadian doctor John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields*, has become a global emblem of sacrifice and hope.



But what are we remembering?

The First World War, often called The Great War, was a cataclysm that reshaped the 20th century. It involved over 30 countries, including all major European powers, and drew in colonies and allies from every continent. Between 1914 and 1918, more than 70 million military personnel were mobilised. Of these, an estimated 10 million soldiers died, alongside 7 million civilians.

The war was fought not only in trenches but across oceans. Over 5,000 ships were sunk, including merchant vessels, troop transports, and naval warships—victims of mines, torpedoes, and surface attacks. The German U-boat campaign alone devastated Allied supply lines, sinking thousands of tons of shipping and bringing the war to civilian shores.

The end of the war did not bring peace, but a fragile armistice. The Treaty of Versailles in 1919 redrew borders, dismantled empires, and sowed the seeds of future conflict. Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Turkey, and Imperial Russia collapsed. Germany, humiliated and economically crippled, would later become the crucible for another global war. Yet amid the ruins, new nations emerged, and the idea of international cooperation took root—leading eventually to the League of Nations, and later the United Nations.

Remembrance Day does not glorify war. It honours the ordinary men and women—soldiers, nurses, sailors, stretcher-bearers—who bore extraordinary burdens. It remembers the silence of letters never sent, the empty chairs at family tables, the names etched in stone and memory.

In November, as poppies bloom on lapels and memorials are brushed clean, we do not merely look back. We listen. To the silence. To the stories. To the promise that such sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Sneaky ? (not your average "bird-brain")

Yes, it's true and verifiable: China has developed bird-shaped surveillance drones as part of a program known as "Dove." These drones mimic the flight and appearance of real birds to conduct covert surveillance.

China's "Dove" Program: Bird-Shaped Surveillance Drones

China's "Dove" drones are part of a classified military and civilian surveillance initiative that began around 2017, developed by researchers at the Northwestern Polytechnical University in Xi'an. These drones are designed to look and fly like real birds, complete with flapping wings, making them extremely difficult to detect by radar or the naked eye.

Key Features:

Size & Shape: Roughly the size of a pigeon, with realistic wing movement and silhouette.

Flight Mechanics:

Uses a flapping-wing mechanism rather than rotors, allowing it to blend into flocks of birds.

Surveillance Capabilities: Equipped with high-resolution cameras, GPS, and data links for real-time monitoring.

Stealth: Their biomimetic design makes them nearly invisible to traditional detection systems.

Deployment:

These drones have reportedly been tested or deployed in at least five provinces, including Xinjiang, where surveillance is especially intense.

They are used for public security, border monitoring, and crowd observation, though exact operational details remain classified.

Strategic Implications:

The Dove drones represent a leap in biomimicry and espionage technology, blending aeronautics, robotics, and AI.

They raise concerns about privacy, civil liberties, and ethical boundaries in surveillance—especially as similar technologies begin to emerge globally.

Sources:

South China Morning Post – China's Dove Surveillance Drones

BBC Future – The Rise of Bird Drones

The Guardian – China's Bird Drones



This month in History - November 1975

(50 years ago)

GENERAL

4 Nov - Cuba's leader Fidel Castro ordered 650 troops to Angola to support the Marxist MPLA government in its war against UNITA and South Africa.

7 Nov - A team of psychiatrists concluded that former kidnap victim turned criminal, Patty Hearst, was competent to stand trial.

11 Nov - Angola became independent after five centuries of being ruled as a colony of Portugal. The last High Commissioner, Admiral Leonel Cardoso, had ordered the Portuguese flag lowered at sundown the evening before, and that the ships, transporting the remaining Portuguese troops, leave Angolan waters by midnight. At Luanda, poet Agostinho Neto was sworn in as president.

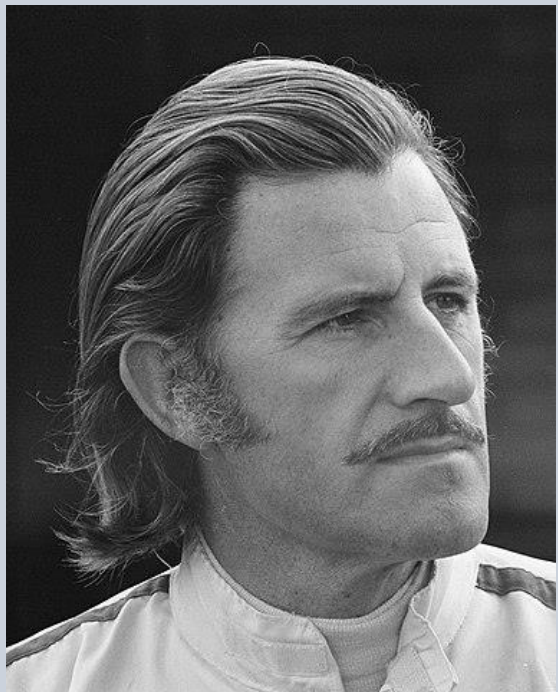
16 Nov - The Third Cod War began between the United Kingdom and Iceland and would last until June 1976.

20 Nov - Former California Governor Ronald Reagan entered the race for the Republican presidential nomination, challenging incumbent President Gerald Ford. Afterward, Reagan flew to Miami, where he was confronted at his motel by a 20-year-old man holding a pistol, which turned out to be a plastic toy replica of a .45 caliber revolver.

22 Nov - The U.S. Navy missile cruiser USS Belknap (CG-26) collided with the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67), killing seven people on the Belknap and one on the Kennedy.

27 Nov - The United Kingdom announced plans for limited home rule for Scotland and Wales, with each to have their own elected unicameral legislatures and control over local government services, in what was seen as a plan to thwart independence movements in both countries.

29 Nov - Graham Hill, 46, English race car driver, twice Formula One World Champion (1962 and 1968), and 1966 Indianapolis 500 winner, was killed along with five other people when his Piper Aztec airplane crashed into trees before coming to a rest on a golf course at the London suburb of Barnet.



Sport

Rugby - (all of November) - Australian Tour

Scores and results list Australia's points tally first.

	Date	Opponent	Location	Result	Score
Match 1	29 October	Oxford University	Iffley Road, Oxford	Won	36–3
Match 2	1 November	Cardiff	Cardiff Arms Park, Cardiff	Lost	9–14
Match 3	4 November	Llanelli	Stradey Park, Llanelli	Drew	28–28
Match 4	8 November	London Counties	Twickenham, London	Won	26–11
Match 5	12 November	Midland Counties (East)	Welford Road, Leicester	Lost	8–11
Match 6	15 November	Ulster	Ravenhill, Belfast	Won	30–25
Match 7	19 November	Edinburgh	Myreside, Edinburgh	Won	10–9
Match 8	22 November	North-East Counties	County Ground, Gosforth	Won	22–21
Match 9	26 November	Gloucestershire-Somerset	Bristol	Won	15–6
Match 10	29 November	Swansea	St. Helen's, Swansea	Won	12–6

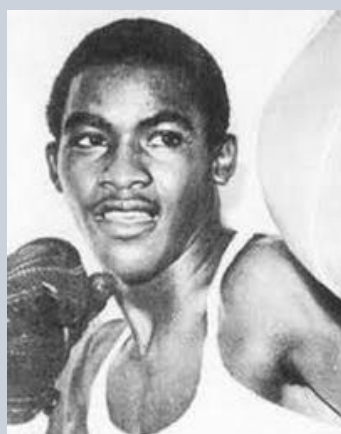
3 - 9 – Nov - Tennis. Stockholm. Singles won by Adriano Panatta, doubles by Hewitt and McMillan

7 - 10 Nov - Cricket Currie Cup - WP and EP draw - Some of the players in action - Bezuidenhout, Wilkins, Pollock, Bestall, McEwan, Barlow, Ackerman, Kirsten, Lamb, Swart!

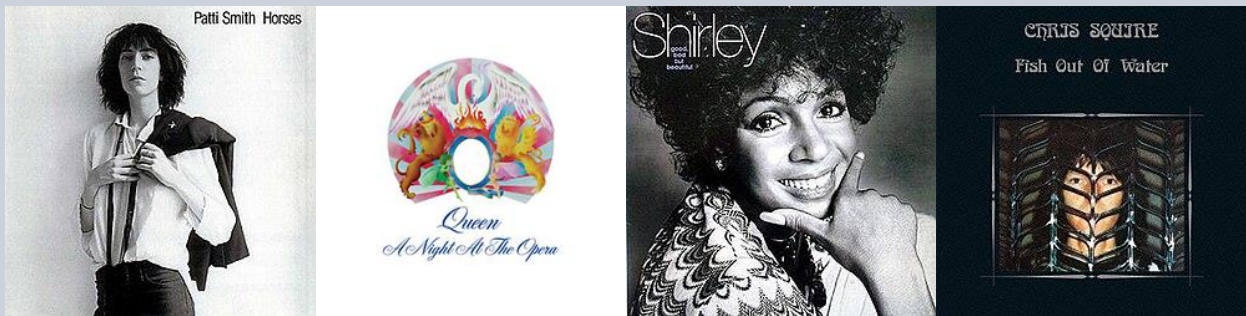
8 - 10 Nov - Currie Cup Cricket - Rhodesia and Natal draw. And some more big names - Richards, Fotheringham, Woolmer, Trimbourne, van der Bijl, Procter, Davison, du Preez, Jackman!

14 - 17 Nov - Transvaal and Natal draw - And some more big names - Dyer, Rice, Irvine, McKenzie, Kourie
(Tattler - look at the team SA could have had based just on the above names!)

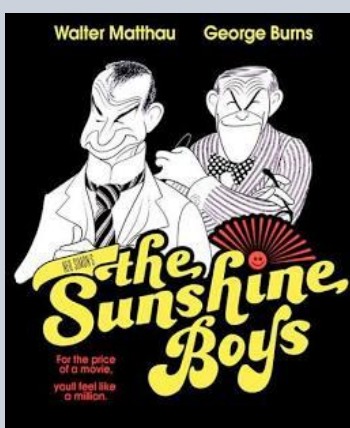
13 Nov - Boxing - The Bahamian Elisha Obed wins the WBC Junior. Middleweight world title when the Brazilian Miguel de Oliveira does not come out for the 11th round.



Music



Movies



Walter Matthau: The Grumble Beneath the Glory

If gravel had a voice and sarcasm wore a fedora, it would sound like Walter Matthau. Born Walter John Matthrow on October 1, 1920, in the Lower East Side of New York City, he came from the tenements with a crooked smile and a gift for comedic timing that would one day make him one of Hollywood's most lovable "funnymen"

Matthau's parents were Eastern European immigrants—his mother a sweatshop worker, his father a peddler who vanished from his son's life early.

Young Walter grew up tough, smart, and streetwise. He attended Seward Park High School, where he reportedly played Shakespeare while dodging spitballs. His first stage gig was in the Yiddish Theatre District, where he earned \$2 a night playing roles like "Boy Who Yells Fire."



World War II interrupted his ascent as an actor. Matthau served as Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Forces, flying missions with the 453rd Bombardment Group. He earned several medals, including the Air Medal and European–African–Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, though he later joked that his greatest wartime achievement was learning to smoke cigars while parachuting.

After the war, Matthau studied at the New School for Social Research, where he honed his craft alongside future legends. Marlon Brando before becoming the brooding face of method acting, studied at the New School. His time at the school helped shape his revolutionary approach to performance. Tennessee Williams The Pulitzer Prize–winning playwright (*A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Glass Menagerie*) took classes at the New School in the 1940s. James Baldwin though more closely associated with The New School in the late 1940s and early 1950s, Baldwin was part of the same postwar wave of artists and thinkers who found refuge and inspiration there. W.H. Auden, the British poet taught at the New School during the 1940s, offering courses in literature and poetry that attracted a wide range of aspiring writers and thinkers. The New School in that era was a crucible of modern thought—where psychoanalysis, existentialism, Marxism, and avant-garde art collided in the smoky lecture halls and late-night cafés. Matthau’s sardonic wit and literary leanings seem right at home in such company.

His Broadway breakthrough came in the 1950s, culminating in a Tony Award for *A Shot in the Dark* (1962). But it was his film career that turned him into a household name. His breakout role was in *The Fortune Cookie* (1966), opposite Jack Lemmon—a partnership that would span ten films, including *The Odd Couple*, *Grumpy Old Men*, and *Out to Sea*. Matthau’s signature style was a blend of deadpan delivery, hangdog expressions, and a voice that sounded like it had been marinated in bourbon and gravel. He won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor and a Golden Globe, though he often claimed awards were just “doorstops with better PR.”

Matthau married twice—first to Geraldine Johnson, then to Carol Marcus, a witty writer and actress. Their marriage was a cocktail of banter, books, and occasional brawls. They had a son, Charles Matthau, who followed his father into film.



Odd Couple, True Companions

They met on *The Fortune Cookie* (1966). Lemmon thought Matthau was “a slob.” Matthau thought Lemmon was “a priss.” They became inseparable.

Lemmon’s Toast “He was the brother I never had—and the roommate I never wanted.” Their banter was real, and their affection deep.

Ten Films, Chemistry from *The Odd Couple* to *Grumpy Old Men*, their onscreen magic was built on offscreen trust. They never rehearsed—just reacted.

During a BBC interview, Matthau appeared via satellite to say, “I love you, Jack.” Lemmon teared up. So did the host.

They’re buried near each other in Westwood Village Memorial Park, Los Angeles. Even in eternity, they’re neighbours.

Lemmon on Matthau’s Craft “He could make a line funny just by not saying it.” Timing, tone, and that gravelly drawl—pure Matthau.

Walter was famously frugal. He wore the same battered coat for decades and once tried to haggle with a Beverly Hills maître d'. He also had a literary streak—he read Chekhov, adored Twain, and kept a library that rivalled his liquor cabinet.



His real surname was Matthow, but he added the “au” for flair.

Walter Matthau and Barbra Streisand did not get along well. The set of *Hello Dolly* was apparently like a war zone. Matthau reportedly told Streisand she had "no more talent than a butterfly's fart".

He claimed his middle name was “Foghorn,” though no birth certificate confirms this.

He was a chess enthusiast, often playing against grandmasters and losing with style.

He had a lifelong fear of flying, despite his wartime service.

Matthau passed away on July 1, 2000, in Santa Monica, California, at age 79 of a heart attack. His death marked the end of an era—one where actors could be grumpy and glorious, cynical and sincere, all in the same breath. His friend Jack Lemon died a year later at age 76.



And, 100 years ago -November 1925

4 Nov - Italian Socialist deputy Tito Zaniboni, an expert marksman, was arrested in a room at the Dragoni Hotel, which he had reserved across from the Palazzo Chigi, with the intent of shooting Benito Mussolini with a telescopic-sight rifle when the Italian Prime Minister was scheduled to come out to the balcony to make a speech.



Zaniboni and his target, Mussolini

7 Nov - Several Italian opposition leaders were arrested in connection with the assassination attempt on Benito Mussolini.

11 Nov - Howard Carter and an autopsy team began the unwrapping of the mummy of Pharaoh Tutankhamun. The process was exceedingly difficult due to the extreme fragility of the bandages and the resinous coating that held the mummy fast inside the sarcophagus.

12 Nov - The British submarine HMS M1 sank in the English Channel with all 69 of its crew after it was hit by the Swedish ship SS Vidar



15 Nov - The film *The Phantom of the Opera*, marking the debut of Lon Chaney as a horror film star, made its nationwide debut in the United States, opening in New York. Chaney, who did his own makeup, surprised audiences with his transformation into the Phantom, with the most realistic portrayal of a monster than had previously been seen on stage or on film.



27 Nov - A state funeral was held at Westminster Abbey in London for Queen mother Alexandra. The kings of England, Denmark, Norway and Belgium marched behind the casket in the procession.

Tattler – Laugh

Comedy Video - The wonderful Michael McIntyre (On Sport)

Click on the image below:



Bonus - Compilation of Michael's Best Jokes About Babies and Toddlers

Click on the image to the right:



- 1) M
- 2) M
- 3) F - By about 10cm
- 4) F
- 5) M
- 6) F
- 7) E - The males and females in these bird species are physically identical.
- 8) F
- 9) F
- 10) M

ANDY CAPP

by Smythe



The 6th grade science teacher, Mrs. Parks, asked her class, "Can anyone tell me which human body part increases to ten times its size when stimulated? No one answered, so the teacher pointed at a student at random.

Little Mary protests the dirty question

Little Mary stood up, crossed her arms and said, "You should not be asking sixth graders dirty questions like that! I'm going to tell my parents, and they will go and tell the principal, and then he'll fire you!"

Mrs. Parks ignored her and asked the question again, "Let's try that again. Which body part increases to 10 times its size when stimulated?"

Little Mary's mouth fell open. She pointed at her teacher and yelled, "You're gonna get in big trouble!"

The teacher continued to ignore her and said to the class, "Anybody?"

Finally, Billy stood up, looked around nervously, and said, "The body part that increases 10 times its size when stimulated is the pupil of the eye."

Mrs. Parks smiled and said, "Very good, Billy,"

She turned to Mary and continued, "As for you, young lady, I have three things to say: One, you have a dirty mind. Two, you didn't read your homework. And three, one day you are going to be very, very disappointed."



The Pastor's Ass

The Pastor entered his donkey in a race, and it won. The Pastor was so pleased with the donkey that he entered it in the race again and it won again.

The local paper read:

PASTOR'S ASS OUT FRONT.

The bishop was so upset with this kind of publicity that he ordered the Pastor not to enter the donkey in another race.

The next day the local paper headline read:

BISHOP SCRATCHES PASTOR'S ASS.

This was too much for the bishop, so he ordered the Pastor to get rid of the donkey. The Pastor decided to give it to a Nun in a nearby convent.

The local paper, hearing of the news, posted the following headline the next day:

NUN HAS BEST ASS IN TOWN

The bishop fainted. He informed the nun that she would have to get rid of the donkey, so she sold it to a farmer for \$10.

The next day the paper read:

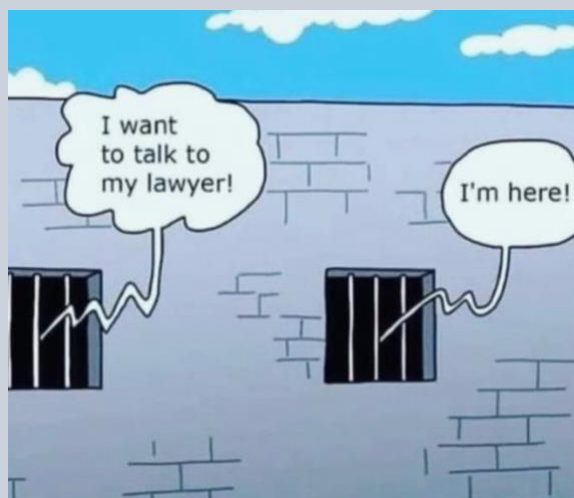
NUN SELLS ASS FOR \$10.

This was too much for the bishop so he ordered the nun to buy back the donkey and lead it to the plains where it could run wild.

The next day the headlines read:

NUN ANNOUNCES HER ASS IS WILD AND FREE...

The bishop was buried the next day.



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.