

LEAGUE MATCHES THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2015

QUESTIONS BY THE FINGERPOST

First Verbal Round

- Whose second symphony is known popularly as *The Resurrection*?
Gustav Mahler
- Which is the county town of West Sussex?
Chichester
- Who is the only South African to have won the FIA Formula 1 world drivers' championship?
Jody Scheckter
- Until his death in 1989, who voiced the insouciant cartoon character Bugs Bunny?
Mel Blanc
- Which collective noun for swans is specific to a group of swans on the water?
A regatta see note 1
- Who was the mother of the English king Richard II?
Joan, Countess of Kent
- Which present day country was known formerly as Upper Volta?
Burkina Faso
- As of February 2015, at what weekly earnings level do employees start paying national insurance?
£153.01 (accept '£153')
- Who wrote the novel *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* on which the 1960 film of the same name was based?
Alan Sillitoe
- Which alcoholic beverage was advertised with the slogan: 'Stays sharp to the bottom of the glass'?
Harp
- For what invention were John Bardeen, Walter Brattain and William Shockley co-recipients of the 1956 Nobel Prize for Physics?
The transistor
- Who had a horse called Incitatus?
Caligula
- How is the Institute for the Works of Religion commonly known?
The Vatican Bank
- Born Flora May Flannagan in Melbourne, Australia, what was the stage name of this star of British music hall?
Florrie Forde
- Which World War II operation had the code name Jericho?
The bombing of Amiens prison

16. *The Singing Butler*, a painting that depicts a couple dancing on a beach flanked by a maid and a butler each holding an umbrella, is a work by which artist?

Jack Vettriano

17. What was the title of the 1964 film starring Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton that focused on events in the life of Henry II?

Becket

18. Only two British men have won the UCI World Road Racing Championship. Mark Cavendish is one, name the other.

Tommy Simpson

19. Identify 'Darwin's Bulldog'.

Thomas Henry Huxley

20. To within two years, in which year were the notorious Pendle Witch Trials conducted?

1612 (accept 1610 to 1614)

21. As of 2014, which golf course on the British Open Championship rota boasts the shortest hole?

(Royal) Troon **see note 2**

22. Which animal, native to Britain, has the Latin name *Martes martes*?

Pine marten

23. What is the main ingredient of the Turkish dish *imam bayildi*?

Aubergine **see note 2**

24. In which year did Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay finally close as a federal penitentiary?

1963

25. Which town or city was the birthplace of the pioneering British aviator Amy Johnson?

Kingston-upon-Hull (or 'Hull')

26. Which battle features in the title of the poem that opens with the lines: '*Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note, As his corse to the ramparts we hurried*'?

Corunna

27. According to the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, what did my true love send to me on day eight?

Eight maids a-milking **see note 3**

28. Which UK river flows through the centre of Norwich?

The Wensum

29. What was the forename of the brother of the notorious Kray twins who terrorised London's East End in the '50s and '60s?

Charles (or Charlie)

30. With what means of transport is the British scientist Sir Christopher Cockerell most commonly associated?

Air Cushion Vehicles (accept 'ACVs' or 'Hovercraft')

First Written Round

**There is no theme, other than the blisteringly obvious!
Colourful lives? Identify (forename and surname required):**

31. The Red Priest. Italian composer 1678–1741.
Antonio Vivaldi
32. The Silver Fox. English snooker player born 1943.
David Taylor
33. The Grey Eminence. French political advisor 1577–1638.
François Leclerc du Tremblay (accept 'François Leclerc')
34. The Blue Boy. English ironmonger 1752–1805.
Jonathan Buttall **see note 4**
35. The Brown Bomber. American heavyweight boxer 1914–1981.
Joe Louis (also accept 'Joseph Barrow')
36. The White Rabbit. English SOE agent 1902–1964.
Forest Yeo-Thomas
37. The Yellow Emperor. Chinese potentate circa 2698–2598 BC
Xuanyuan Shi (also accept 'Youxiong Shi' or 'Huang Di') **see note 5**
38. The Black Pearl. American-French cabaret artiste 1906–1975.
Josephine Baker (also accept 'Freda McDonald')
39. The Crimson Flash. Australian professional sprinter 1881–1965.
Arthur Postle
40. The Green Goddess. English fitness guru born 1939.
Diana Moran

Second Verbal Round

41. Until his death in 1989, who voiced the myopic cartoon character Mr Magoo?
Jim Backus
42. Who is the only New Zealander to have won the FIA Formula 1 world drivers' championship?
Denny Hulme
43. As of February 2015, at what weekly earnings level does the rate at which employees pay national insurance drop from 12% to 2%?
£805
44. Which World War II operation had the code name Pegasus?
The evacuation of Arnhem survivors
45. Born Matilda Alice Powles in Worcester, England, what was the stage name of this star of British music hall?
Vesta Tilley

46. What was the title of the 1968 film starring Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn that focused on events in the life of Henry II?
The Lion in Winter
47. Who had a horse called Bucephalus?
Alexander the Great
48. Identify 'Balfour's Poodle'.
The House of Lords
49. *The Dying Swan*, a fantasy portrait of the ballerina Alicia Markova, is a work by which artist best known for his paintings of Asian women?
Vladimir Tretchikoff
50. What is the main ingredient of the Arabic dish *baba ghanoush*?
Aubergine see note 2
51. To within two years, in which year were the notorious Salem Witch Trials conducted?
1692 or **1693** (accept 1690 to 1695)
52. Which town or city was the birthplace of the pioneering British aviator John Alcock?
Stretford (also accept 'Trafford') see note 6
53. With what means of transport is the British scientist Dr Eric Laithwaite most commonly associated?
The linear motor see note 7
54. Which present day country was known formerly as Kampuchea?
Cambodia
55. Who was the mother of the English king Edward IV?
Cecily Neville
56. Whose fourth symphony is known popularly as *The Tragic*?
Franz Schubert
57. In which year did Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay first open as a federal penitentiary?
1934
58. For what discovery were Francis Crick, James Watson and Maurice Wilkins co-recipients of the 1962 Nobel Prize for Medicine?
The structure of DNA
59. Which battle features in the title of the poem that opens with the lines: '*It was a summer evening, Old Kaspar's work was done*'?
Blenheim (in *After Blenheim* by Robert Southey)
60. What was the forename of the mother of the notorious Kray twins who terrorised London's East End in the '50s and '60s?
Violet
61. Which animal native to Britain has the Latin name *Vulpes vulpes*?
(Red) fox
62. According to the song *Green Grow the Rushes O*, what are 'your eight O'?
Eight for the April rainers see notes 3 and 8

63. Only two Englishwomen have won the UCI World Road Racing Championship. Mandy Jones is one, name the other.

Beryl Burton

64. How is an Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See commonly known?

A Vatican embassy

65. Which UK river flows through the city of Peterborough?

The Nene

66. Who wrote the novel *A Kind of Loving*, on which the 1962 film of the same name was based?

Stan Barstow

67. Which alcoholic beverage was advertised with the slogan: '*Refreshes the parts other beers cannot reach*'?

Heineken

68. Which collective noun for swans is specific to a group of swans in flight?

A wedge [see note 1](#)

69. Which is the county town of East Sussex?

Lewes

70. As of 2014 which golf course on the British Open Championship rota boasts the longest hole?

(Royal) Troon [see note 2](#)

Second Written Round

71. What was the final, completed film to be directed by the acclaimed British director David Lean?

A Passage to India

72. Born in Lord Street, Stockport on 25 September 1887, how has Harold Pyott found his way into the *Guinness Book of Records*?

As Britain's smallest man

73. In the world of wine, to what is the term *en primeur* a reference?

Wine futures (the purchase of a vintage several years ahead of bottling and release onto the retail market)

74. Which National Trust Property is home to the Fox Talbot Museum?

Lacock Abbey

75. *I Want to be Loved by You* was the signature tune of which singer, thought to be the inspiration for the cartoon character Betty Boop?

Helen Kane

76. How is *Literae Humaniores*, an Oxford University undergraduate course in classics, popularly known?

Greats

77. The journalist William Howard Russell, generally acknowledged to have been the first war correspondent, is credited with the coining of which well-known expression?

The thin red line

78. Who was the first female to be a commentator on the BBC's *Match of the Day*?

Jacqui Oatley

79. Until its demise in the second half of the 20th century, 'puddling' was an industrial process for the production of which commodity?

Wrought iron (accept 'bar iron', but not simply 'iron')

80. In the sitcom *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin*, what was the middle name of the title character?

Iolanthe

Spares

1. What is obtained from the plant *Camellia sinensis*?

Tea

2. What was the OED's 2014 'New Word of the Year'?

Vape

3. On a bottle of champagne, what is indicated by the words 'Blanc de Blancs'?

A white wine made exclusively from white grapes

4. What is the meaning of the Scottish expression 'bidies-in'?

A cohabiting couple

5. What notable first in July 1938 is credited to the German Anderl Heckmair?

Leading the first successful ascent of Eiger north wall

6. Whose funeral service at Père Lachaise Cemetery on 14 October 1963 was attended by an estimated 100,000 mourners?

Édith Gassion (accept 'Édith Piaf')

7. What is a person who is suffering from *lethologica* unable to do?

Remember the word, name or phrase that he or she wants

Notes

1. In addition to the given answers there are at least seventeen other collective nouns for swans (see below), so it's *possible* there could be other, equally-correct answers to one or both of these questions. For example it's difficult to see 'flight' referring to swans that are anything other than airborne.

Ballet, bank, bevy, drift, eyrar, flight, flock, gaggle, game, gargle, herd, lamentation, sownder, squadron, team, whiteness, whiting.

2. Whilst not against the rules, many teams dislike questions in which both halves of the pair have the same answer.

3. The question-setting guidelines state that paired questions should be of similar difficulty.

4. Buttall is generally regarded to be the subject of Gainsborough's famous painting *The Blue Boy*.

5. The question paper contained a note to QMs advising them to use their discretion and common sense. QMs shouldn't be expected to adjudicate as to whether an answer is 'correct enough', so this sort of question/answer is probably best avoided.

6. As Trafford is neither a town nor a city it seems rather generous to accept it as a correct answer.

7. 'The Maglev rail system' is an equally acceptable answer.

8. Other acceptable answers are 'April Showerers', 'Brave/Bold Rangers' and 'Archangels'.

[Return to homepage](#)