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7th FEBRUARY 1970

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To: The editor G.I.P.

The Bridge Club. The Bridge Club is recovering well from the Christmas, or end of year, doldrums. Last Thursday we had four full tables which made for a very enjoyable evening - Very encouraging for the committee. With any luck we'll have enough regular players, by the 12th of March, to enter for the English Bridge Union Charity Challenge Cup.

The Rubber bridge sessions on Mondays are proving popular - The Grand Slam snowball kitty now stands a £1.6.10d; the yarborough kitty at 13/5d. A penny a hundred is the normal stake and the table money has been reduced to 1/6d. Beginners are welcome at the Rubber Bridge sessions and are guaranteed instruction: The aim of the club being to encourage and improve the standard of Contract Bridge at GAN.

The club hope to enter for the E.B.U. Charity Challenge Cup on Thursday 12th March (we trust the Skua rocket firings wont keep our three Radio Sonde members away) - But a requirement is a field of five tables! The entry fee is only 5/- a player and included in the price is a Book, containing all the hands, with analysis by such great Bridge writers as: Terence Reese, Rix, Marcus, R.A.Priday; Eric Milnes, Jack Kelly, Albert Benjamin, Harold Franklin, G.C.H.Fox, Alan Hiron, Jack Marx and Victor Molla. That's real value for money! Hurry and join so that you can get in some practice before that date.

Ian Galletti

Notices

1. FEAF Art Exhibitions: Entry Forms are available from the Education Section. Now's the time to finish that model, complete that sketch, take that photograph. Entries must be handed in to the Education Officers by the end of February.

3. Gan Show: Will all those interested in taking part in a new show give their names to Sqn Ldr Lambe or Flt Lt Truelove. A meeting will be held once the script is completed. Names in advance will help to determine what sort of show will be presented.

4. Brain of Gan Quiz: Thursdays 2015. The Draw was as follows:

Thursday 5th February: Hittadu V SAS Flight

Thursday 12th February: Commcen V Sigs

Thursday 19th February: Police V MCS

(Although the Police withdrew in haste from the Inter-Section Quiz they may still enter for the Brain of Gan individual trophy).

Thursday 26th February: ATC V Met

Thursday 5th March: Fire V Army

Thursday 12th March: SHQ V MPBW

Thursday 19th March: Supply V Sgts Mess

Thursday 26th March: Officers Mess V Movements

Each week the person with the highest individual score will go forward to the play-offs which will begin on 2nd April.

First Day Covers and Stamps. On sale Wednesday 11th February 1970, 5d, 9d, 1/- and 1/6 stamps depicting architecture together with the special BFFO First Day Cover. There are only 150 FDCs and the stamps are in short supply.

First come - First served.

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THE STATION MEDICAL CENTRE LAMENT

Illegible forms, in a horrible state,
Unsigned, no history, name, place, or date.
"What do you want me to test for? "I cry
"Fill them in properly, else I shall die! "

Blood comes in tubes labelled red, white, or blue,
Look at the samples and see they won't do.
"Haemolysed, late, insufficient" I cry
"Send a good specimen, else I shall die! "

Aeromeds, come by day and by night,
Twenty-five ONE "A"s will be all right?
"Negative, you must be joking! "I cry
"Surgical cases please, else I shall die! "

"Please see this man, he's just about dying."
Too much G.C. and satisfying."
"You can't bed Maldis with Pakis." I cry
"Issue out French letters else I shall die!"

Just one of six Maldis arrives for operation,
One's pregnant, four are on Mosqui vacation.
"Ignorant, lazy, discourteous, "I cry
"ONE keen Paki, please, else I shall die! "

(With apologies to the editor of the Lancet)

Cutti Didi

Have you heard:

A clockwork orange was recently found in the R.M.C.

It felt run down and could not find its way back to the
Education Centre!!

Look at it this way

There are two things which few men will admit to doing badly, and the other one is driving a car. Say to a chap that he would be better to give up golf and take to knitting, and he will argue in a good-humoured fashion that after all his handicap has come down to 22 in only seven years. Tell him he is a rotten bridge player, and he will shrug and say he only plays for fun. But suggest to him that he is not really a very good driver, and you have made an enthusiastic enemy for life.

The obvious truth is that there are more bad drivers than I care to think about. How about the chap who tried to do a U-turn on the M4, misjudged his entry into the forbidden track across the central reservation, so backed off and did a three-point turn instead? Or the bright spark who was driving pretty fast in fog by following the white line, but when the white line split because a dual carriageway was coming up, didn't know which way to turn, and drove up the grass in the middle? Both are utterly, dismayingly, frighteningly true cases.

Such complete disregard of danger flabbergasts me. Being a devout coward, I wouldn't have dared to do anything so risky. Yet those were probably fairly ordinary chaps, not reckless daredevils or suicidal manic depressives. They merely had the supreme confidence that nothing could happen to them, as long as they were behind the wheel of their current pride and joy. Had you caddishly accused them of the heinous crime of rotten driving, they would probably have upped and sloshed you with the jack handle - presuming they knew where to find it.

Give a man a few lessons on how to pass a driving test - not how to drive well; that's quite another matter - and he gets elephantiasis of the eye. The smallest, meekest individual, with a 28-inch chest and biceps like a harvest mouse takes on the mental stature of Samson when seated in his mighty Minor 1000. It's probably a hangover from the days when the kingpins of society were the knights in armour, galumphing along on their massive horses, practising for the jousts by spitting a few peasants on their lances, or dallying with dolly damsels for light relief. The knights were pretty safe from retaliation in their iron combinations, and this gave them a terrific sense of superiority. Only when they met one of their own kind was any hurt likely to come to them, and then in the nicest way, prefaced by courtly words and graceful gestures.

Those days are gone. You can be sitting behind a whole circus of mechanical horses, and comfortably surrounded by enough tinfoil to fit the entire Round Table out in ye olde chivalrous gent's trendy gear, but the peasants (or pedestrians - same thing) have certain rights these days; the other knights of the road are liable to clobber you if you make a wrong move, to the accompaniment of rude words and coarse gestures; and the damsels, be they never so dolly, are not to be dallied with while in motion.

Cars are pretty safe these days, despite various outcries to the contrary. (N.B. That statement does not apply to certain American cars, which have all the handling qualities of a pregnant whale.) Putting an extra bit of padding here and there, changing the door locks, and fitting headrests, won't prevent incompetent twits from hitting things. If passably maintained, a car will go exactly where it is put, and stop in a reasonable distance when required. It is the driver who puts it where it shouldn't go, and who fails to stop it before some more solid object does, who puts up insurance premium for the rest of us. If you are still with me, it's time you got rid of that comfortably detached feeling. "It couldn't happen to me" are very fashionable last words.

Me? I've always regarded myself as a pretty average driver. Average? In a class which ranges from Graham Hill to some cack-handed ninny with two left feet? Really Cato, how vague can you get?

CATO

HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR INCOME TAX

The Prices and Income Board report will mean big increases in salary for many of us. In order to see how much more we shall be in pocket we need to work out carefully how much tax will be due.

The purpose of this brief article is to explain how to calculate your tax bill according to 1968-69 legislation.

1. Firstly, and most importantly, check your allowances:

a. Personal Allowance:

Single	£220
Married	£375

b. Child Allowance

i. For each child not over 11 years of age on 6th April 1969 £115

ii. For each child over 11 but under 16 on 6th April 1969 £140

iii. For each child over 16 at the beginning of the tax year and who is receiving full-time education £165

c. Dependent Relatives(possible) £110

d. Life Assurance Premiums

i. If premium is less than £10 - Full premium

ii. If premium is from £10 - 25 £ 10

iii. If premium is more than £25 - 2/5 of premium

e. Mortgage Payments

Your tax inspector will be notified of the amount of interest payable and will make the necessary deductions.

f. Earned Income (after deductions): 2/9 up to £4,005

g. Uniform allowance (officers) £ 46

2. Add these up. For example, a married man with two young children and his wife not working might qualify for allowances as follows:

a. Personal £340

b. Children (2 @ 115) £230

c. Life assurance £ 40

(2/5 of premium of £100)

£610

3. Now deductions (still subject to the 2/9th law) for such things as Flying pay, part-time teaching, Trade or Technical qualification pay, Children's allowances, Education allowance(home), Marriage allowance, Separation allowance

4. Total for tax on an income of £1,000 p.a.

1000 less 2/9 = 773

Less allowances = 610

163

Plus deductions 300 = £463 taxable

a. 1st £100 @ 4-0d = £20 b. 2nd £100 @ 6-0d = £30

c. Subsequent £ 268 @ 8.3d = £110 - 11

Total tax bill = £160-11-0

5. Check DC1 T380/1968 RAF for further details as to how to work out your code number.

6. No short article can be either accurate or wholly informative. But as we shall soon be wanting to work out how much more pay we're actually getting, it's worth working out your own tax position and then checking with the Tax Office to see if your code is correct. Query if you disagree: never pay more than you need.

I spent last weekend in the beautiful country home of the Duke and Duchess of Mildew as I had promised to visit our old-age pensioners and see what additional fodder they might require. It's our duty to help the aged - they are sadly unprovided for in this welfare State. The Duke, I know for a fact is down to his last cellar of champagne, when that is gone the wretched couple will have to drink claret - a poor reward for their services to the state.

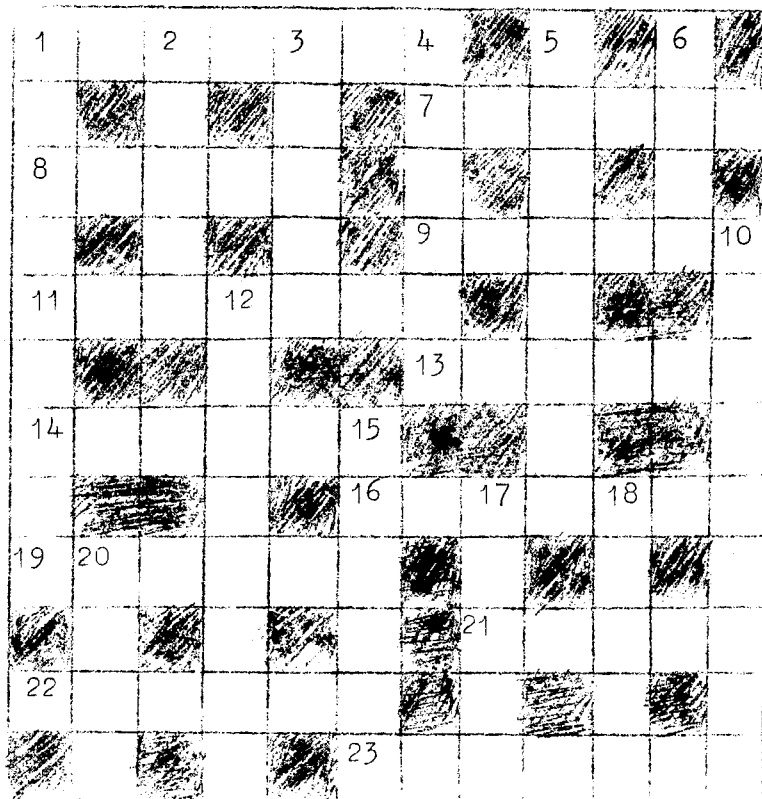
The Duchess, Flossie to her friends, was, for three days, lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Victoria. She was dismissed in disgraceful circumstances having been accused of placing potassium iodide pellets on the Royal Lavatory Seat. The Queen's retorts were heard throughout Osborne, causing one valise of the late Prince Albert to somersault into the meringues. Such distress. The Queen thought the apocalypse had arrived and telephoned for the Archbishop. The Archbishop, seeing the Queen in such disarray, waving a pair of smoking velvet unmentionables over her head, thought she had become deranged, fell on his knees and called for Heavenly intervention. The arrival of the Fire Brigade, summoned by an hysterical flunkey, accompanied by premature discharge from the Chief Officer's hose, convinced Her Majesty that the great flood had come. Her attempts to climb the chandelier, assisted by John Brown her bibulously faithful attendant, seemed fated. The Imperial foot wedged firmly in the first bracket leaving the Queen dangling upside down facing the American ambassador who had just been announced. His Excellency, who evidently thought some strange ritual was in progress, removed his breeches and sang 'America the Beautiful' in astonishing falsetto, much to the Queen's amazement as she confused him with the Archangel Gabriel personally calling to announce the judgement.

All this was blamed on Flossie, who was dismissed in disgrace. Only now can the truth be told. The pellets were supplied by an anarchist named Rakov. He had hoped that their spontaneous ignition by the pressure of the Royal personage would send the Queen quickly to that Heavenly nest for which she daily prayed. Untrue it is that he was in the pay of Mr. Gladstone. Flossie's part was that of the innocent dupe - a role played by the many throughout history.

Flossie's life thereafter was one of shameful decline. Removed in haste from her grace and favour apartment, she took lodgings in Basingstoke where she was obliged to take in boarders. Few stayed longer than thirty minutes - evidently the air did not agree with them. But fortune did smile. One of her guests was the Duke of Mildew who, seeing a picture of himself with Flossie, thoughtfully taken by her great friend Mavis (now Lady Cowpasture), agreed to marry her that day. And so a Duchess was born. Such a sad tale; but what a felicitous outcome. Such an inspiration to us all.

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CROSSWORD



Clues Across

Clues Down

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Punishment by suspension? (7). 7. These aren't the ones you want (6). 8. He's relatively useful in a small financial difficulty (5). 9. The sort of girl who makes a runaway marriage (6). 11. Something gets thrown out when this operates (7). 13. Making money out of something you've seen (6). 14. You can see the wine and where it comes from (6). 16. May go to a priest's head (7). 19. Represent in one of the inside pictures (6). 21. I have nothing on the Irishman in the courtyard (5). 22. They give guidance to the high-ups (6). 23. Turn a red nose to give support (7). | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grip on things at home? (9). 2. There's room for a statue here, perhaps (5). 3. Fatuous in bringing the pet round? (5). 4. Rule the country (6). 5. Something simply killing in the way of car controls? (8). 6. You won't find this man in prison (4). 10. A lot of talk about reforming a Rome girl (9). 12. Makes possible door-to-door progress in the big house (8). 15. Certainly not acute when it comes to figuring the angles (6). 17. Quick to make a drip look different (5). 18. You might spend an instructive hour with him (5). 20. Live up to a very bad principle (4). |
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Solution To Last Week's Crossword

- ACROSS:- 2, Horse-laugh; 7, Lie; 8, Resident; 10, Curve; 11, Unlearn; 12, Basin; 15, Us-age; 17, Ar-bit-er; 18, Mo-tif; 19, De-law-arc; 21, Ego; 22, Referendum;
- DOWN:- 1, Blackboard; 2, Hearts; 3, Rare; 4, Easing; 5, Address; 6, Gin; 9, Tenderfoot; 13, Imitate; 14, Decade; 16, Anthem; 18, Men-D; 20, Eve.

