



Monthly Newsletter

November 2005
Volume 4 Issue3

President's Bumblings!!



Hello All,

November rolls on in and at last the weather seems to be drying up a bit - maybe!

I hope those of you who made the voyage out to Dorado enjoyed the "Taste of the Commonwealth" evening. Emily and I certainly did and what great food you all cooked up. Thanks to those that cooked and to your hard working committee for the effort they put in. Those that went early missed the fascinating sight of Anil teaching the salsa to anyone who came near him. Men only, that is! For future events we now have venues through to the end of this year, but we need your help in the new year, so please tell us if you're willing to give us a home for future events.

The next event, a wine tasting evening at Bottles, is tentatively scheduled for Monday 28th November at 7pm. This is still to be confirmed so we will be contacting you with more details in the near future.

I've had a lot of comments about the Sudoku quiz that Chris Aylward puts in the Newsletter. These seem to vary from excellent, give me more, to impossible, how do you start? All I can say is that Chris is a grandmaster at Sudoku and should be stealthily approached at any BCS event, when she is reportedly willing to give a masterclass. While we are with the Aylwards, I would like to forward our sympathies to Neil on the sad loss of his mother.

On the subject of quizzes, my congratulations to Richard and Carol Gonsalves on winning the quiz prize for being the first correct entry. Presentation at the next event! The answers are below for those who got stuck.

Finally, as I was sitting on the beach today, looking out on a beautiful blue sea, I was thinking how lucky we all are, living on the "Isla de Encanto". Five minutes later I was soaked by another downpour! Best thing is that here, you get soaked and dry out. In Britain, you get soaked and catch a cold! Such is life. See you soon, Lawrie

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Please note the change of Date

Christmas Brunch will be on **Sunday 11th Dec** at 12 noon at the home of Chris and Neil Aylward in Dorado.

Math Puzzler

Without using a calculator—You are driving a bus from London to Milford Haven in Wales. In London, 17 people get on the bus. In Reading, six people get off the bus and nine people get on. In Swindon, two people get off and four get on. In Cardiff, 11 people get off and 16 people get on. In Swansea, three people get off and five people get on. In Carmarthen, six people get off and three get on. You then arrive at Milford Haven. What was the name of the bus driver? Answer at the bottom of page 3.

Answers to October Quiz

1. SPiced hAM
2. Not a place, or literally, nowhere
3. Mother of Exiles
4. Victor
5. Yes, but the tears don't roll down their cheeks!
6. Clark Gable, Mel Gibson, Clark Gable, Errol Flynn
7. Mexico
8. Flags

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY OF PUERTO RICO

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY LEVELS

The British are feeling the pinch in relation to recent bombingsthe level has just been raised from 'miffed' to 'peeved'. Soon though, the levels may be raised yet again to 'irritated' or even "a bit cross". Londoners have not been a "bit cross" since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies all but ran out. Terrorists have been re-categorized from "tiresome" to "a bloody nuisance"... the last time a "bloody nuisance" warning level was issued was during the Great Fire in 1666.

Be aware that the French government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from RUN to HIDE. The only two higher levels in France are Surrender and Collaborate. The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing their military capability.

It's not only the French that are on a heightened level of alertthe Italians have increased their alert level from "shout loudly and excitedly" to "elaborate military posturing". Two more levels remain, "ineffective combat operations" and "change sides".

The Germans also increased their alert state from "disdainful arrogance" to "dress in uniform and sing marching songs". They have two higher levels ... "invade a neighbour" and "lose".

Seeing this reaction in continental Europe the Americans have gone from "isolationism" to "find another oil-rich nation in the Middle East ripe for regime change". Their remaining higher alert states are "attack the world" and "beg the British for help".

Finally here in middle England, we've gone from "pretend nothing's happening" to "make another cup of tea". Our higher levels are "remain resolutely cheerful" and "win".

The Gunpowder Plot

This November 5th is the 400th anniversary of the botched attempt to blow up the House of Lords during the opening of parliament. In 1605, a group of Catholic conspirators plotted to assassinate King James 1 of England (and VI of Scotland). They hid kegs of gunpowder in the cellars of the chamber where the king and the rest of the political elite would assemble. One of the conspirators, Guy Fawkes, was tasked with the igniting of the powder which would have destroyed the building and killed everyone present. It is Fawkes' effigy that is burned on November 5th bonfires to this day.

The plot failed because the government was tipped off in time and it was later discovered that the gunpowder had decayed during its storage, rendering it harmless. But these fatal weaknesses were contingent, however, on one accident of history: the postponement of Parliament. It had originally been scheduled to meet on October 3rd, and only the lingering traces of bubonic plague in London made it sensible to put off the occasion for a month. If this had not happened perhaps the course of English history would have been very different.

Interestingly, the country estate, Ashby St Ledgers, where it is thought that the plot was devised by Robert Catesby and fellow Catholics, was recently bought for close to 10 million pounds by the Crown Estate, which manages the Monarch's property interests.

What's in a Name?

The Germans and Danes went to court because of their significant domestic production of "feta" cheese, which they wanted to preserve. The judges decreed that "feta" is too closely associated with its acknowledged Greek roots for the name to be divorced from its geographical background. Under the same PDO heading, the Commission also protected Parma ham, French Champagne, and, in Britain, at least 25 products, including Shetland lamb, Whitstable oysters and Newcastle brown ale. But Yorkshire pudding is deemed to be a generic term and does not have to be made in Yorkshire to qualify to use the name.

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Sudoku News

Super Sudoku . Mega Sudoku. Well I expect it had to happen! Why stick to a 9 by 9 grid? Why not make it even more difficult and frustrating by making the grid larger? Hence Super Sudoku which has a 12 by 12 grid and Mega Sudoku which is 16 by 16. I bought a book with some of these new puzzles in them while back in the UK last month and eventually managed to solve a Super but still working on a Mega after 3 days. So for this month here's a Super Sudoku to solve(this one is for you Gill). The rules are the same as those for the regular sudoku but this time you have to use the numbers 1 to 12 once and only once in each row, column and smaller 3 by 4 grid. Let me know by e-mail chirsadorado@prtc.net if you'd like me to send you an example of a Mega. On the right is the answer for last month's puzzle. Enjoy

				4	11				10	12	
12					3	6	5	11			
11			3			1	12				
	4		5	2		8		1	11		
	6	8						2			12
	11	12	1							8	6
4	1							7	8	10	
7			6						1	2	
		10	12		2		7	6		3	
				3	1			10			8
			11	5	10	2					1
	5	7				12	9				

8	7	4	1	6	3	5	9	2
6	9	2	5	8	4	1	3	7
1	3	5	9	2	7	4	8	6
7	4	1	2	3	9	6	5	8
2	8	9	7	5	6	3	1	4
5	6	3	4	1	8	2	7	9
3	2	6	8	7	5	9	4	1
4	5	7	6	9	1	8	2	3
9	1	8	3	4	2	7	6	5