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# The trivia of four Norman knights

Tony Cavanagh, quiz master

What do the following questions have in common? Who was the youngest person to win a match in a Grand Slam tennis single's event? Name the first Australian-born person to win a Victoria Cross? Who was the first rugby league fullback to score a try in a test match?

The accepted answers to these questions in standard reference sources have been found to be incorrect by contestants in the *Deakin University Library Trivia Challenge*.

The challenge has been running in various guises since 1991. In that time, around 1250 questions have been asked, with few duplications. Contestants are given plenty of time to answer the questions and may use any sources of information they like. Sounds easy? Well, no team has ever scored one-hundred per cent in any of the fourteen quizzes.

The questions come from many sources, but not from other trivia quizzes. I have learned to mistrust the obvious, 'everyone knows that', answer. The classic example was the question 'How did King Harold die at the Battle of Hastings in 1066?' 'Everyone' knows that he was shot in the eye with an arrow, but only one team thought to check it. And they found that Harold lived for several hours after being struck by the arrow and actually died when disembowelled with a spear during an attack by four Norman knights.

I am always amazed at the extraordinary lengths some teams will go to find answers to questions. I once asked a question about the origin of the quotation usually (but wrongly) attributed to Malcolm Fraser — 'Life wasn't meant to be easy'. One team rang Malcolm Fraser for the answer! Teams use ABN, CD-ROM and database searches, the web and that often neglected asset, the telephone, to follow up leads, as well as the library's reference and book collections. In this small way, a trivia quiz can be seen as a reference exercise. However, I have been disap-

pointed with the relatively small number of libraries and librarians, especially reference librarians, who have taken up the challenge. We run two quizzes each year and I would be delighted if more libraries participated.

To whet your appetite, following are a selection of questions from previous quizzes. The prize for the first correct entry will be a copy of George Brownhill's *Illustrated guide to Geelong and district*, second edition (Geelong, Deakin University Press, 1990). Contestants who have participated in previous challenges are ineligible for the prize but may submit answers if they wish.

1. What is the southernmost point on the mainland of South America?
2. Who was the youngest person to win a match in a Grand Slam tennis single's event?
3. In which Conan Doyle story did Sherlock Holmes first 'die'?
4. What was the name of the first animal to star in an animated cartoon?
5. Where were the original commando training camps set up in Australia during World War II?
6. Who was the first person to ride a bicycle from Perth to Melbourne and what year did he do it?
7. In the Arthur Upfield book *Mr Jelly's Business*, what was Mr Jelly's business?
8. How many times do the words 'Five dollars' appear on the 1992 Australian (plastic) \$5.00 note?
9. Which of these bushrangers never existed — Captain Moonlite, Captain Melville, Captain Starlight, Captain Thunderbolt?
10. The tune of the British National Anthem *God save the Queen* is also used as the national anthem of which other country?

Send your answers to Tony Cavanagh, Document Delivery Librarian, Deakin University, Geelong 3217, e-mail [tonyc@deakin.edu.au](mailto:tonyc@deakin.edu.au) ■

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