

## **The Answers! How did you do?**

1. **TRUTH RIDES ON TWO WHEELS!** Critical Mass cyclists really did try to block the Queen's route to the Opening Ceremony. Police arrested three protesters as Her Majesty's carriage approached the stadium. The cycling activist group had planned the disruption for months, creating genuine concern among security officials tasked with ensuring royal punctuality.

2. **DIGITAL SABOTAGE CONFIRMED!** Hackers actually targeted the National Grid on the eve of the Opening Ceremony. Officials thwarted what could have been a lights-out disaster! Security experts later revealed this was one of several cyber threats monitored throughout the Games, with digital defences working overtime to protect Olympic infrastructure.

3. **SPRINT SCANDAL? FICTION!** Thankfully, no one tampered with Usain Bolt's or Mo Farah's urine samples. While Olympic doping controversies are sadly real, this particular sabotage attempt against two of the Games' biggest stars never happened, allowing their legendary performances to stand untarnished.

4. **TERROR THREAT WAS REAL!** The IRA at the time were constantly probing security services with threats. During the Olympics, authorities investigated numerous credible warnings. The invisible security operation behind the Games was far more extensive than most spectators ever realized.

5. **RUSSIAN BLACKOUT PLOT? PURE FICTION!** While Archer's villains attempted to cut power during the ceremony, no evidence suggests Russia targeted the stadium's generators in reality. The actual Olympic power supply was heavily protected, with multiple redundancy systems in place to prevent any interruption to the global broadcast that captivated billions.

6. **NERVE GAS NIGHTMARE? THANKFULLY FALSE!** The Chinese nerve gas attack during the Closing Ceremony exists only in *END GAME*, not Olympic history. Archer's fictional scenario, however, highlights very real vulnerabilities officials worried about. Chemical weapon threats were among the scenarios security teams prepared for, but thankfully, no such attack materialized.

7. **ATHLETE ABDUCTION? NEVER HAPPENED!** The kidnapped Russian athlete storyline is entirely fictional—no such dramatic international incident occurred during London 2012. While Olympic Village security was tight, Archer's imagination explores what might have happened had determined adversaries targeted individual competitors. Thankfully, all athletes remained safe throughout.

8. **THAMES DRAMA ACTUALLY HAPPENED!** A taxi driver really did abandon his cab on Tower Bridge and jump in protest into the Thames on the eve of the Opening Ceremony. Thankfully river police rescued him. This bizarre incident caused traffic chaos and was in protest of the Olympic Games Lanes which cabbies were banned from using.

9. **FLAG FIASCO CONFIRMED!** Officials genuinely displayed South Korea's flag before North Korea's football match against Colombia, causing the team to refuse to play for over an hour! This diplomatic blunder delayed the game at Hampden Park and created international headlines. Olympic organizers issued a formal apology for the mix-up that nearly derailed the match.

10. SHOTS REPORTED! A volleyball team did report gunfire targeting their coach. However, on this occasion the 'shots' turned out to be far from lethal bullets – be sure to read *END GAME* to find out what they really were, we wouldn't want to spoil anything. This incident underscores the myriad of threats, real and imagined, that security teams confronted throughout the Games.

11. FATHERS 4 JUSTICE FLYOVER? FICTION! No activist aircraft approached the stadium during Closing Ceremony. This dramatic flight of fancy exists only in Archer's imagination. While airspace over Olympic venues was heavily restricted and patrolled by fighter jets, no such activist incursion occurred, though security planners had prepared for similar scenarios.

12. SECURITY SCRAMBLE CONFIRMED! The government genuinely deployed 3,500 additional troops days before the Games when G4S security staffing fell catastrophically short. This last-minute military deployment made headlines worldwide and cost G4S millions in penalties. Soldiers became an unexpected but welcome presence at Olympic venues, saving the security operation.

13. TRAGIC SUICIDE? PURE FICTION! The heartbreaking story of a French athlete taking his life after his fiancée's abduction is entirely from Archer's imagination. While the Olympics have seen their share of personal tragedies over the years, this particular tale exists only within the pages of *END GAME*.

14. CELEBRITY TORCH APPLICATION CONFIRMED! Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie really did apply to carry the Olympic torch. While they didn't get to carry the Olympic torch, they did contribute to the spirit of the Games by hosting a star-studded event the V&A in honour of the late Mohammed Ali, which raised funds for the charity, Sports for Peace.

15. CABBIE PROTEST HAPPENED! London taxi drivers genuinely staged demonstrations against Olympic lane restrictions that prevented them from picking up fares near venues. The protest snarled traffic around Parliament Square as drivers expressed fury over rules they claimed devastated their livelihoods during what should have been a lucrative period.

16. 7/7 TRAGEDY. The day after London won the Olympic bid, terrorists struck London's transport system in the devastating July 7, 2005 bombings. This tragic attack killed 52 people and injured hundreds more. The shadow of this event hung over Olympic planning, strengthening the resolve to deliver a safe Games seven years later.

17. FLAME EXTINGUISHER CAUGHT! A man was actually arrested for attempting to douse the Olympic torch as it travelled through Gravesend, Kent, on its way to the stadium. The 17-year-old sprinted from the crowd before security tackled him and the torch relay continued uninterrupted despite his soggy protest attempt.

18. SAND PIT MURDER? FICTION! No bodies were buried in the Olympic long jump pit. This grisly post-Games discovery exists only in *END GAME*. While Olympic venues have seen many surprising post-Games uses, becoming crime scenes isn't usually among them. The sand pits were removed intact, with no macabre secrets hidden beneath.

19. STADIUM DEAL CONFIRMED! West Ham United really did secure the Olympic Stadium for just £2.5 million annual rent—a controversial legacy arrangement. This hotly debated deal saw taxpayers shouldering most conversion costs while the Premier League club gained a world-class venue at a fraction of market value.

20. TUBE TRAGEDY? FICTION! No police officer was pushed under a train during the Games. This dramatic incident is purely from Archer's thrilling plot. While London Transport Police maintained heightened vigilance throughout the Olympics, they thankfully never encountered this particular horror scenario.

21. COUNTERFEIT SECTION? FICTION! No special stand was reserved for holders of fake tickets. This amusing scenario is pure Archer invention. Olympic organizers took counterfeiting extremely seriously, employing sophisticated security features in official tickets. Anyone caught with fakes was turned away, not given special seating!

22. ROYAL SKYDIVE SHOCK! One billion people around the world watched enraptured as the Queen "parachuted" into the Opening Ceremony with James Bond. This spectacular royal stunt, featuring Her Majesty's acting debut alongside Daniel Craig, caused such shock that surely medical assistance was required for some overwhelmed fans. Archer asks that anyone who felt woozy at the sight of the monarch plummeting through the sky to get in touch!